THE MAN OF YOUR DREAMS

By Seanna Tucker

Characters: Gina — Played by Dana

 Sam — Played by Dawson

 John — Played by Kyle

 Danielle — Played by Christen

SETTING: A club.

AT RISE: The club is pretty empty save Danielle and Gina,

who are just barely dancing in the middle of the room, both looking around awkwardly while trying to talk. John enters from upstage right, wearing an apron carrying a broom. He puts the broom in the janitor’s closet, located downstage left.

JOHN

Hey guys.

DANIELLE

Everything closed up?

JOHN

Yep — boss said we can hang for a bit longer, but everyone else is gone for the night. *(John takes off the apron and tosses it in the janitor’s closet)* So where is the guy? Did he already ditch?

DANIELLE

No, so shut the fuck up.

GINA

He’s in the bathroom.

JOHN

Damn. So is he giving off stalker vibes? How well do you know him, Gina?

GINA

Well —

DANIELLE

Don’t answer that. Look, in this day and age of TinderFucks and MeetCutes, going on a date with someone you met online is hardly as scary as everyone makes it out to be — you could even meet the man of your dreams. So shut the fuck up, John.

JOHN

With guys like that Mr. Darcy running around —

*(Sam enters and walks over to Gina. He instinctively puts his hand on her back.)*

SAM

Mr. Darcy?

GINA

Oh! Hey, this is my friend John. He works here and he’s letting us all chill for a bit before we head out.

*(John and Sam shake hands, sizing each other up.)*

SAM

Good to meet ya. So what’s this about Mr. Darcy?

DANIELLE

*(rolls her eyes)* It’s that new serial killer. They’re pretty sure they caught him, so there’s nothing to worry about.

JOHN

Oh, yeah. “Pretty sure.” Sounds convincing to me.

GINA

What’s this guy do?

DANIELLE

Pretty gruesome shit, actually. He’s killed 10 women so far. He likes that whole fucking “death from a thousand cuts” Chinese thing, so he likes to slice and dice body parts while the woman is alive.

GINA

How have I not heard of this guy?

JOHN

They only released information a couple of days ago — they’re being extra careful because they weren’t sure the cases were connected.

DANIELLE

But as I said, they caught the guy, so it’s no big deal.

JOHN

Riiiiight. *(Beat)* So how’d you guys meet, Sam?

SAM

*(sighs)* CharmingPrince. It’s that new dating app. It’s a little obnoxious, actually —

GINA

What do you mean, obnoxious?!

SAM

Puhlease. John, check this out.

*(Sam takes out his phone and looks like he’s texting. Birds start tweeting)*

JOHN

What the hell is that noise? *(Scoffs)* Is it morning?

*(Gina giggles and playfully nudges John.)*

GINA

It’s just the app, silly.

JOHN

*(Smiling)* What kind of shit notification noises does that app have?

SAM

It’s supposed to be... fairytale noises.

*(John bursts into laughter)*

Dude, trust me. I know.

GINA

Well, you wouldn’t have met me if you didn’t use it.

SAM

THAT is the one silver lining.

*(Sam playfully tickles Gina, who squeals and runs away. Gina stops in front of John and Danielle. She’s clearly distracted by Sam.)*

GINA

Um...Sam and I are going to…go uh...check on something. We’ll be outside for a minute!

SAM

*(Smiles)* Right this way. Have I told you that you look beautiful, by the way?

*(Sam and Gina exit upstage left. Sam lightly puts his hand on Gina’s back, guiding her out the door as Gina giggles. John stares after them in anger.)*

DANIELLE

Oh, get over it, already.

JOHN

I’ve been friendzoned.

DANIELLE

This isn’t the 90s. Don’t ever use that term again.

*(An alarm goes off on both of their cell phones.)*

DANIELLE

What’s that?

JOHN

Mr. Darcy strikes again.

DANIELLE

What kind of shit serial killer goes by “Mr. Darcy,” anyway? He was a jackass.

JOHN

The kind who wishes he got the girl in the end.

DANIELLE

*(Snickers)* Sounds like you.

*(Her snicker slowly turns into a hysterical fit.)*

JOHN

What the hell is your problem?

DANIELLE

It’s just...it’s you! Mr. fucking dependable. Mr. Cries At Chick Flicks. Mr. I can’t even fucking tell the girl I’ve been in love with for five years that I have feelings for her. As if you could ever be a serial killer — you’d have to have some sort of balls —

*(Suddenly, John grabs Danielle, pulling both her arms behind her back with one hand and putting his other hand over her mouth.)*

JOHN

All I have to say about that, Danielle, is that there’s a lot of shit you don’t know about me.

*(At this moment, Sam and Gina enter. They’re smiling and laughing, disheveled. Once they see John and Danielle, Sam and Gina immediately run over to them. John let’s go of Danielle, who rushes to Gina. Sam instinctively puts his arm on Gina’s shoulder.)*

SAM

Woah, woah, woah. Is everything okay over here?

GINA

John, what the fuck is wrong with you?!

JOHN

Hey — hey, guys, we were just playing around. Right, Danielle?

DANIELLE

No, we were not just playing around. What was that?

JOHN

Look, I’m — I’m sorry. I was just joking around and I guess I took it too far.

DANIELLE

You’re damn right you did.

SAM

John, I don’t know you very well, but if I see you touch her like that again, I’ll —

*(Alarm on everyone’s phone goes off again. Gina takes her phone out and begins reading. Sam puts his hand on Gina’s shoulder and stares at John.)*

GINA

A woman’s body was found...two doors down! They’re evacuating every building on the block in case he’s still at large. I’m sorry, Sam, it looks like we’ll have to continue our date another time.

SAM

Oh...that’s too bad. I was really enjoying this.

*(They all head for the door. John lingers behind them, Sam walks ahead of them.)*

DANIELLE

*(Scoffs)* Which part? Rescuing me from my crazed friend over here?

SAM

Actually —

*(Sam reaches the door first and locks it.)*

SAM

This would be my favorite part.

GINA

What are you doing?

*(Bird sound from phone repeats. Gina reaches for her phone. Sam snatches it from her.)*

SAM

Ah, ah, ah. Here, let me read it to you. *(Beat as he reads. Danielle walks closer to Gina).* Stop right there, Danielle — give me your phone, too. And don’t get any closer to Gina.

(*Danielle hesitates, looking at Gina. Sam pulls a knife from his pocket and plays with it in front of Danielle. She finally hands over her phone)*

SAM

It’s an alert from CharmingPrince. They would like to inform all female customers that someone has gotten past their “extensive” background checks and “scientific” surveys. He has been using this app to track, stalk, and harm their female customers.

DANIELLE

Let me guess. Darcy, is it?

SAM

Great job, Danielle. I’m almost impressed at your powers of deduction.

DANIELLE

And let me also guess why you’re not intimidating or threatening John, here.

JOHN

Oh, of course you would think I have something to do with this.

GINA

What are you talking about?

DANIELLE

I don’t see him taking *your* phone.

SAM

I don’t think I need to. Do I?

JOHN

What do you mean?

SAM

You know what I mean. Don’t you hate how much Gina’s been flirting with me all night?

JOHN

Well —

SAM

And man...wouldn’t it piss you off to find out we had sex right behind the bar you work at, in a dirty alley way that you probably walk down every single day?

*(Sam grabs Gina, pulls her head back by her hair)*

Doesn’t it suck to be attracted to someone who doesn’t even notice you’re there?

GINA

John...what is he talking about?

SAM

Yes, John, what am I talking about? Are you going to tell your little ingenue the truth?

JOHN

I...I love you, Gina.

GINA

John...I can’t — .

JOHN

Of course you can’t, right?

GINA

What?

JOHN

You better grab their purses, Darcy. Danielle carries a lot of shit on her.

*(Sam tosses Gina to John. He forces her to sit down on the ground. Gina starts to cry. John takes their purses and goes to the Janitor closet.)*

DANIELLE

So what dumbass literary name are you gonna go by? Captain Nemo? Dr. Jeckyll? No, no, wait. Better stick with the Jane Austen theme, right?

JOHN

I always did like Captain Wentworth.

*(Danielle buckles over laughing. John, tired of her laughter, gets up and grabs the broom from janitor’s closet. He swings at her head and knocks her out.)*

JOHN

Fuck you, Danielle.

*(John grabs some rope from the janitor’s closet. He leans over Gina and starts tying her arms and legs together).*

SAM

Here I pegged you for a lightweight.

GINA

*(Crying harder)* John, please don’t do this.

JOHN

Don’t do what?

*(Beat.)*

Why couldn’t you just like someone who was in front of you, Gina? Why? Can’t you fucking people open your goddamn eyes and see the guys in front of you? I’ve been standing right in front of you for five years, and I’m tired of it. I’m tired of being ignored, or fucking yelled at because I looked at a woman’s ass, or told my life is easier than everyone else’s. Guess what, it’s not!

GINA

And that gives you the right to, what, kill me?! Because I wouldn’t fuck you?! Come the fuck on, John. Grow up. Not every woman you wave your dick in front of is going to want to be with you. Maybe I wanted something more.

JOHN

MORE THAN WHAT? A lowlife, right? More than someone who cleans up at the local bars? Someone who wears a suit?

SAM

Hey —

*(Danielle starts to wake up)*

JOHN

Shut up, Darcy. What do you want, Gina? What needs to be waving around in front of you for you to fall in love with it?

GINA

Maybe I would have fallen in love with you, John, if you had just, I don’t know, SAID SOMETHING. I’m sick and tired of guys just standing around expecting us to just *know*. OR, if you do come right out and say something, the moment we reject you, you turn into fucking psychos.

SAM

Not to interrupt this little lover’s quarrel, but I have shit to do here, *Captain*.

JOHN

Oh, right. Sorry. Get the other one, will ya?

*(John tosses the rest of the rope over to Sam. John puts on his apron, grabs an axe from the Janitor’s closet, and walks toward Gina.)*

JOHN

Oh, Gina, you don’t know how much of a psycho I can become…

*(John begins to swing the axe, when he’s suddenly kicked in the back of the knee, stumbling. He turns around and Danielle is awake.)*

DANIELLE

Gina, run!

*(Gina struggles in her ropes until they loosen enough for her to get up, her arms still tied together. Sam wrestles Danielle to the ground. John watches Gina momentarily in shock from being pushed over— he finally gets up and rushes after her. Danielle overpowers Sam, knocking him unconscious. She stands with Sam’s knife in her hand. She raises it overhead in a classic slasher film pose as she advances on John, who is preoccupied with Gina.)*

DANIELLE

You know, I fucking hated all of her books, anyways.

*(Danielle swings the knife down on John as the lights go out.)*