

## Forum Theatre *Meet Cute* Script Excerpt

*He wants to go back to his sketching, but he can feel her looking at him. She's making quite a show of wanting someone to ask, so...*

JOHN (obliging her)  
Bad day?

JANE  
(jumping at the opening)  
You have NO idea.

*John resigns himself to no more sketching. Maybe she just needs a friendly ear, and then she'll back off.*

JOHN  
We've all had them. Sounds like you need a drink?

JANE  
I don't drink.

JOHN  
Neither do I!

JANE  
But we could go get that latte. Then I'll have only been felt up by a new friend instead of a complete stranger.

*John laughs - this has to be a joke. Jane takes it as affirmation.*

JANE (CONT'D)  
Already my day is getting better. I'm Jane.

JOHN  
John.

*They shake hands. John tries to release, but Jane keeps holding his hand.*

JANE  
Hey, weren't you at Kevin DeRusso's party over March Break?

JOHN  
Yeah!

JANE  
Kevin's my friend Syed's boyfriend!

JOHN  
His sister's dating my buddy, Ty.

JANE  
(realizing they're still holding hands) Oh

*Jane finally releases his hand, and without him noticing, smells her hand.*

JANE  
So, how about it? Can I buy you a coffee?

*John hesitates, checks the time.*

JANE (CONT'D)  
Maybe?

*John looks down the block for the bus, and decides the easiest thing to do is put her off.*

JOHN  
We're heading in the same direction anyway, let's just keep talking until the bus comes.

JANE  
Sure. Besides, there aren't really any good coffee shops nearby...I mean...we could go to the Coffee Time.

*John looks less than thrilled at the idea of Coffee Time.*

JANE (CONT'D) (recovering)

Yeah, no, there are always at least three sketchy people there. I never go there unless....

JOHN (surprised)

Wait - you LIKE their coffee?

JANE

Sometimes I get cravings for the eclairs. They're way too sugary, and always a little stale, but every so often, I just need to have one, you know? Sometimes when my mind gets locked on something, I can get a little obsessive until I get it. And now you've got me wanting one. Great. At least now you know what to bring me instead of flowers on our first date.

*John is taken aback.*

JOHN

Who said we were going to have a date?

JANE

Aren't we? Aren't we kind of right now?

JOHN

Are we?

JANE

Yeah, I think we are.

JOHN

Jane.

JANE

John. I'm really glad we met today.

*John is now genuinely concerned and Jane is getting closer and closer to him on the bench.*

JOHN

Yeah -

JANE (cutting him off)

I...um...I probably shouldn't tell you this, but I've kind of been wanting to talk to you for a while.

JOHN  
What?

JANE  
Okay, so, I noticed you for the first time at that party. Everyone was packed into the living room, dancing. I was standing behind beside you. I couldn't see your face, but I could hear you singing along.

JOHN  
Really?

JANE  
It was endearing. You have a nice voice. And your hair smelled good. Oh man, that sounded so creepy....anyway, someone bumped into me I fell into you.

JOHN  
Yes.

JANE  
You smelled like discount body spray. I apologized, but you didn't look at me.

JOHN  
I'm sorry.

JANE  
When school started up again, I was surprised to see we were on the same bus, and then I started to notice we almost always were. Two weeks ago, you wore the same jacket from the night we met, and I knew I had to talk to you. I tried to get up the courage, but I couldn't. So, I found your Instagram feed, through a friend of a friend...oh my god and I accidentally double tapped that pic of you at your birthday party. I freaked out. I almost DM'd you, but I didn't think you'd know who I was.

JOHN  
(quietly freaking out)  
I'd seen you on the bus, too. You were always so into whatever game you were playing on your phone or music you were listening to.

*Jane is overjoyed! He's noticed her too!*

JANE

You were always sketching, but you would keep looking up from it to steal a look at me. So how come our eyes never met? Maybe they weren't supposed to until now. I just think you're so beautiful. I've been hoping we'd get a chance to be alone together.

JOHN

I can't believe this is happening.

JANE

Neither can I. May I? *Jane reaches out to John and takes his hand. He freezes.*