Coordinate Me

a short play

by
Jason Pizzarello

Contact:
Jason Pizzarello
917-414-4837
jasonpizzarello@gmail.com

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CHARACTERS

LEROY, late 20s/30s
DEE, late 20s/30s
MARCY, 20s/30s
TOMMY, 20s/30s

PLACE

Dee and Marcy's modestly furnished two-bedroom apartment.

TIME

Evening.

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Leroy and Dee stand in front of her couch. They're dressed to go out.

LEROY

Nice place.

DEE

Thanks.

LEROY

Do you wanna go out?

DEE

Out? Like--

LEROY

Oh. Like out. Out. Outside. We could stay in. You wanna stay in?

DEE

I thought-- Yeah I thought we were staying in. Second dates are difficult. I thought you wanted to stay in. I thought you said--

LEROY

Yeah. I did. Yeah. I just wanted to make sure you didn't change your mind. I mean, that I didn't.

DEE

Have you?

LEROY

Changed my mind? No.

He looks at his watch.

DEE

You have somewhere to go.

LEROY

No.

Leroy sits.
Dee sits.
Space between them. They look at the gap.
She moves closer.
He moves closer.

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She moves closer again.
He moves away.
She's confused.
She moves away.
He moves closer.
He moves closer.
He moves closer.
She puts a pillow between them.
He moves away.
She removes the pillow.
The original amount of space is between them again.

DEE
Should we?

LEROY
Turn on the TV? Netflix or something.

DEE
Netflix or something, huh. That's your idea.

LEROY
No. Well, yes. But no.

DEE
I don't have Netflix. We could basic cable and chill, if that's a thing. Are you okay? You're sitting very upright. Like on alert. Like you're about to bark or something.

He relaxes his shoulders. Too much.
He straightens up. It's unnatural.
He's confused but tries a few more positions.
She wants to fix him.

DEE
Can I--?

She tries to adjust his posture. As soon as she touches him, he flinches.

DEE
Oh. Sorry.

LEROY
It's fine. Ya know your posture isn't great either. You're like--

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He does an imitation of her.

DEE

What? That's not--

LEROY

Here--

He tries to adjust her.
She tries to adjust him.
They're very hesitant to touch each other.
A knock at the door. They both jump back.

LEROY

Expecting someone?

DEE

No. Are you?

LEROY

Uh. Yeah. Actually. Yeah. I mean-- *(He looks at his watch.)*

DEE

You're expecting someone at *my* apartment?

LEROY

Possibly.

He goes to the door and opens it. Tommy is there eating a piece a pizza. He walks in.

TOMMY

Leroy? And you must be Dee. Hey how's it going?

He wipes his greasy hand on his shirt and holds it out to shake. She doesn't accept.

DEE

I'm sorry who is this.

LEROY

This is Tommy.

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TOMMY

I'm Tommy.

She waits. They don't offer anything else.

TOMMY

You guys good? You ready?

DEE

Ready for what?

TOMMY

You tell me.

DEE

(to Leroy:) What is this?

LEROY

This is Tommy. He's. Well, he's my intimacy coordinator.

DEE

He's your what?

LEROY

Intimacy coordinator. Is that okay? I'd feel more comfortable if he was just kinda assisting. It won't be intrusive. I promise.

DEE

Won't be intrusive for what?

TOMMY

For intimacy.

DEE

Tommy, why don't you just finish your pizza while we sort this out.

LEROY

He's very good at what he does.

TOMMY

I'm very good at what I do.

DEE

You've used him before?

LEROY

No but he comes highly recommended. He's got like four and half stars.

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DEE
Stars on what? You know what I don't wanna know any more.

TOMMY
Look, Dee, I can see you're feeling uncomfortable and that's why I'm here.

DEE
I can't believe you brought an intimacy coordinator to a date. Don't you think that's a little presumptuous?

LEROY
I should have told you-- I was going to tell you-- but I felt like that might be presumptuous. I figured it'd be better to just get things going--

DEE
--*Get things going with that*? Your little pillow dance and bad posture?

LEROY
Hey that's not fair. I'm trying to be respectful.

TOMMY
That's exactly right. Mutual respect is the cornerstone of what we're going to focus on--

DEE
Shut up! And wipe your mouth.

TOMMY
Do you have any scented candles?

DEE
No!

LEROY
I'm sorry okay. I misjudged the situation. I really like you and I didn't wanna mess it up. It was stupid. I'll ask him to leave.

TOMMY
No refunds.

DEE
No. It's fine. Actually, it's totally fine. Yeah, actually I have an intimacy coordinator, too.

LEROY
You do?

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TOMMY

You do?

DEE

Yeah. *(Shouting off to another room:)* Marcy! Hey Marcy!!

Her roommate Marcy comes out of another room, eating a large sandwich.

MARCY

Everything alright? Was I being too loud?

DEE

No. Too loud? What were doing?

MARCY

Nothing. Nevermind.

DEE

This is Marcy. *My* intimacy coordinator.

MARCY

I don't know what that means but I thought you'd never ask.

TOMMY

(Wiping his hand again:) Hey how ya doin? I'm Tommy.

MARCY

(Wiping her hand:) Hi. So you're looking to get intimate?

TOMMY

No. Not for the next ten minutes anyway. I'm working.

MARCY

Yeah me, too.

DEE

(to Leroy:) Ten minutes?

LEROY

Is that too much or too little?

DEE

I guess we'll find out.

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TOMMY
Shall we get started?

DEE
I've never felt more frightened in my life.

TOMMY
That's totally natural.

LEROY
I think we're just supposed to pretend they're not here.

TOMMY
No, that's not true at all.

LEROY
Oh.

TOMMY
We're here.

MARCY
Yeah we're definitely here. Where are the cameras?

DEE
There are no cameras!

TOMMY
Yeah, that's an extra charge. Upfront.

LEROY
No cameras. C'mon give it a chance. It's not like it was going that great before. We're just going to sit and chill and that's it... *(He sits.)* ...and the rest is up to you.

TOMMY
And me.

MARCY
And me.

DEE
Yeah this isn't going to work!

MARCY
Was it something I said? Because I didn't say anything yet.

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TOMMY
You have a way of saying a lot by saying very little.

MARCY
Thank you.

TOMMY
You're doing great.

MARCY
I'll just take it one step at a time.

TOMMY
Exactly.

Leroy and Dee look at each other. What is happening?

LEROY
Why don't *you* guys sit, and we'll stand.

TOMMY
Okay, yeah good idea. *(to Marcy:)* Okay?

MARCY
Sure yeah.

Tommy and Marcy sit. Leroy and Dee stand.

DEE
And why don't you sit a little closer...

Tommy and Marcy seem okay with it. They move closer.

DEE
Good. Everybody good?

Tommy and Marcy nod.

DEE
A bit closer. Arm's length.

They move closer.

TOMMY
(to Dee:) Hey you're really good at this.

MARCY
Yeah better watch out she's coming for our jobs haha.

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DEE
And then Marcy. You put your arm up here. Stretch it back. And then swing it across to here.

Marcy does. And she hits Tommy across the face.

TOMMY
Hey!

MARCY
Oh sorry! I was just doing what she told me.

TOMMY
(to Dee:) You're not a fight coordinator!

LEROY
No, but I am. Let's try it again. This time from the other side.

DEE
Good idea.

LEROY
It'll be more believable.

TOMMY
It was plenty believable.

MARCY
Thank you.

TOMMY
(Standing:) I don't think you guys understand about intimacy. It's not supposed to hurt.

MARCY
Not without permission.

LEROY
It's almost like we need an intimacy coordinator.

TOMMY
We do!

MARCY
I'm an intimacy coordinator.

TOMMY
Yeah but like someone that's not us.

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DEE

I agree.

MARCY

Are you firing me? You know I was in the middle of a pretty good sandwich.

TOMMY

Yeah I know what you mean. I barely finished my slice.

MARCY

You wanna get something to eat?

TOMMY

Yeah I do. Do you wanna go out or--?

MARCY

We could. Or I got more sandwiches in my room. And other stuff.

TOMMY

That works.

Tommy and Marcy go into her room and shut the door.
Leroy and Dee are left alone in front of the couch again.
They sit.
Leroy moves a little bit closer. She stops him.

LEROY

What about if I start over from that part where I was really stupid but I really like you and I sit with more normal posture?

DEE

Yeah that works.

She moves closer to him.
He moves to closer to her.

Black out.

The end.

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