

## DIAGNOSIS: FLIRTER

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### Synopsis:

Two unattached seniors find chemistry at a doctor's office in the aftermath of 2020.

### Characters:

FLORENCE (50 - 60ish+)

RICHARD (50 - 60ish+)

*(At rise: FLORENCE is seated next to an empty chair as RICHARD enters)*

DICK

Excuse me, anyone sitting here?

FLO

The Invisible Man.

DICK

Ha. Is he reading this magazine? *(Picks up magazine on chair and sits)* Or are you?

FLO

I don't have x-ray vision.

DICK

Very funny. You've got kind of a science fiction theme going on.

FLO

*Life* has kind of a science fiction theme going on. Glad we survived 2020 and people don't all look like bandits anymore.

DICK

Can't argue with that.

FLO

Were you planning to argue?

DICK

No, just planning to read this magazine. *(Reading)* Geez, why is the print is so small? I can't read this damn magazine. Sorry, darn magazine.

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FLO

No need to censor your speech; I'm not a prude.

DICK

Good to know, because my name is Dick. It can be a little off-putting. Not a popular name anymore. Perfectly good name for decades and now suddenly it's a big joke. Tell a millennial your name is Dick and just watch their face contort trying to keep from snickering. Well, the laugh is on them when they're my age and they try to tell someone their name is Apple or Pomegranate or whatever the hell it is. Sorry, whatever the heck it is.

FLO

Still not a prude.

DICK

Good.

FLO

Maybe you could introduce yourself as Richard.

DICK

When you've been a Dick all your life it's hard to change.

FLO

That was my husband's problem.

DICK

His name was Richard, too?

FLO

No.

DICK

Sooo, then I take it you're divorced?

FLO

I'm a widow. Hate that label. Sounds like I'm a spider. Married twenty-nine years.

DICK

Wow, that's great. Twenty-nine years.

FLO

Only one of them, happy.

DICK

Oh. (*awkward pause*) Which one?

FLO

Which one what?

DICK

Which one of the 29 was happy?

FLO

Thirteen.

DICK

Wouldn't have guessed that. Well, they say 13 is an unlucky number but not for you. No sirree, one happy year. That sounds...adequate.

FLO

And you?

DICK

I'm sort of a widower/divorcee combo.

FLO

How does that work?

DICK

Well, I was in the process of getting a divorce when she died.

FLO

That's kind of handy; what I mean is, I don't know whether to say I'm sorry or congratulations.

DICK

Thank you, I think.

FLO

It sounds complicated.

DICK

It was. I was divorcing her on the grounds of infidelity, but she denied it.

FLO

How did she die?

DICK

She had a heart attack during sex with her lover.

FLO

Ooh. No social distancing there.

DICK

Nope.

FLO

Probably not wearing masks either.

DICK

Probably not.

FLO

Still, a happy ending.

DICK

How so?

FLO

You would have been granted the divorce.

DICK

Yes, but of course no need under the circumstances.

FLO

Right. Well, you saved money on court costs anyway.

DICK

Not everyone could find the bright side to a heart attack infidelity story during a pandemic. I like that about you.

FLO

I try to stay positive. Especially about relationships.

DICK

I think you proved that. I mean the 29 years and all.

FLO

You win a few, you lose a few.

DICK

Twenty-nine is definitely a few.

FLO

Twenty-eight.

DICK

Oh right, you had that one good year. But I've got to hand it to you, the divorce rate among seniors has never been higher.

FLO

I don't like the term *senior*. I prefer to think of myself as *mid-century modern*.

DICK

You look modern. But still, a lot more *modern* marriages are falling apart lately. I'm sure the pandemic didn't help, either. You know, confined quarters, bickering and all the stress. At least you stuck it out together.

FLO

Yes, stuck is the right word. It's a little more accurate than adequate.

DICK

Do you think you'd be able to do it again?

FLO

Do what again?

DICK

Get married. What did you think I meant?

FLO

Wasn't sure. Afterall, we're at a doctor that treats private parts, and I'm not a prude.

DICK

Right.

FLO

Do you think you'd be able to do it again?

DICK

What?

FLO

Get married.

DICK

Oh, I wasn't sure since you're not a prude.

FLO

My husband was a prude.

DICK

My wife was a hussy.

FLO

It would help to know these things in advance. People should wear badges.

DICK

Now they just wear tattoos.

FLO

I remember when only sailors had tattoos. Now grandmothers have them.

DICK

You don't like tattoos?

FLO

It's not that I don't like them, but, well, take two buildings: one is an expensive mansion and the other is a dilapidated tenement. Would either building look better, covered in graffiti?

DICK

Probably not.

FLO

That's how I feel about tattoos.

DICK

I see your point. And gravity certainly takes its toll on tattoos.

FLO

Gravity is our enemy. If only we didn't need it, to keep from flying off the planet.

DICK

Being hurled into outer space is an ongoing concern of mine.

FLO

Mine too. Also, global pandemics and sagging neck skin.

DICK

What about piercings?

FLO

Back in the day if you had an accident and got some metal stuck in your eyebrow or nostril, you'd rush to the emergency room to get it removed. Now people pay to have it inserted.

DICK

I remember when it was called shrapnel. So, you're not a fan.

FLO

I'm not a fan of self-inflicted pain. Reminds me of my marriage.

DICK

Hey, I know how you feel about tattoos and gravity but I don't know your name.

FLO

It's as bad as yours.

DICK

I thought we agreed my name is only bad because times have changed. It used to be a popular name: Dick Van Dyke, Dick Cavett, Dick Gregory, Dick Powell, Dick Shawn, Dick Clark; there were a lot of Dicks in the old days.

FLO

There certainly were.

DICK

Dick Butkus, there's a tough name.

FLO

Mine's not exactly a day at the beach. When I was growing up, names like Kathy and Suzie were popular. Florence is like something out of the Dark Ages. My mother was a nurse. Thanks, Florence Nightingale.

DICK

Well, it doesn't get the hoots and snickers like Dick does.

FLO

Oh no? Try being a teenage girl with the name Flo. I was the butt of every joke in hygiene class.

DICK

Well kiss my grits.

FLO

Very funny. Like I've never heard that before. Thanks, 80s sitcoms.

DICK

Hey, don't knock the 80s, it was a great time to be a modern senior with shows like *The Golden Girls* and *Murder She Wrote*.

FLO

And catchphrases like "kiss my grits." The name Flo is a curse, no pun intended.

DICK

Hey, I just realized something – our names are even funnier under the circumstances.

FLO

What circumstances?

DICK

Dick and Flo at the Urologists office.

FLO

Hadn't thought of that. Great. It's almost like Kismet.

DICK

We should start dating just so we can tell people how we met.

FLO

We should. Wait, is that a joke or are you flirting with me? I can't tell because I'm out of practice. Twenty-nine years out. Plus, a year off for social-distancing.

DICK

It was a joke but now that you mention it, it's not a bad idea.

FLO

Not a bad idea isn't the same as a good idea.

DICK

So, you don't think it's a good idea?

FLO

I didn't say that.

DICK

I forget what I was saying.

FLO

I think it was about dating.

DICK

Right. I think we should.

FLO

Why?

DICK

Because we've been in isolation for a year, and we have a lot in common.

FLO

Like what?

DICK

Bad names, bad spouses, and the same Urologist.

FLO

That's something.

DICK

Look at it this way, we could try using one of those online senior dating apps, but what are the odds we'd have so much in common with someone else?

FLO

You might find someone else with a bad name.

DICK

But not the same Urologist.

FLO

True.

DICK

Besides, I've seen you. Without a mask.

FLO

So?

DICK

No mask, no trick photography, no photoshop. I can see you and I think you're attractive.

FLO

You can't see very well. I mean you couldn't read that magazine.

DICK

Forget about the fine print. I like what I see.

FLO

I'm still not sure, but that sounds like flirting. Were you a flirt when you were married? Is that why you had trouble with your wife?

DICK

Flirting isn't doing. Doing is doing, and she did. I didn't.

FLO

I didn't either. I could have. But I didn't. I'm not a prude *or* a hussy.

DICK

Me neither!

FLO

Good, we have that in common, too. But I should ask, and I will ask because I'm not a prude: you're at the urologist for an ordinary problem? Nothing exotic?

DICK

Very ordinary and only slightly embarrassing.

FLO

Good, me too.

DICK

I kind of lost the thread but it sounds like we're relatively healthy and oddly compatible. So, now we don't have to pay a fee for a dating service or worry about getting stabbed on a blind date.

FLO

That sounds good.

DICK

Does this count as our first date?

FLO

A Urologist's office?

DICK

It has atmosphere. Just kidding. I'll take you to the best cafe in town after we pee in a cup.

FLO

That sounds romantic.

DICK

You know, the lockdown was pretty tough, but at least it kept you out of circulation so I could be the first one to ask you out.

FLO

A post-pandemic pick-up line? You *are* a flirt. But I give you points for originality.

DICK

Thanks. I'm just glad we got all the embarrassing stuff out of the way *before* our first date.

FLO

That's true. By the way, if we're going on a date, I should probably know your last name.

DICK

Johnson.

FLO

Dick Johnson? I'm Flo Rivers.

(BLACKOUT/CURTAIN)