




Love is a Cliché - In a Café 
By 8th Grader Claire Sun

© 2017 Claire Sun and Philadelphia Young Playwrights. For educational use only. Not for sale, production, or performance. If you are interested in producing this play at your school or institution, please contact Info@PhillyYoungPlaywrights.Org to seek permission from the playwright.



CONTENT WARNING:

At times this play contains mature language. Appropriate for ages 13+.

Setting:

An outdoor café table with two chairs, placemats, plates, utensils, a rose in a vase in the middle of the table, a menu propped up on the side

Production Notes:

Whenever music is supposed to be played, it should be the same track over and over again. The song should be romantic, very generic, similar to background music, and should sound like "Be My Romeo Valentine", a clip from audioblocks.com

Boys always enter and exit on stage left unless they are being escorted with a girl into the café on stage right. Girls always enter and exit on stage right unless otherwise stated. The waiter always escorts the new couples to their seats on stage right unless otherwise stated.

Play can be performed with 2-3 girls, 3-4 boys, and one extra actor for the waiter

Characters

Boy: usually an ignorant boy that is madly in love; each scene has a new boy; at least one boy should be wearing a flannel in his scene

Girl: usually a sassy girl that finds Boy to be an ignorant boy that is way too infatuated; each scene has a new girl unless stated otherwise

Waiter: a waiter at a café that is dressed in black slacks, a white dress shirt, tie, and black shoes; can be either gender; preferably androgynous; each scene has the same waiter



Cliché 1 - Boo Friggin Hoo

(BOY and GIRL seated in chairs, sitting, talking, acting friendly, Boy on stage left chair, Girl on stage right chair- gender seating remains constant for all scenes)

BOY

(Obviously nervous)
Hey, can I ask you something?

GIRL

Yeah, sure. Go ahead.

BOY

Well, it's just, you know, we've been friends for a long time, and I really like you, so...

(Wait for music to start)
Will you go out with me?

(GIRL drops fork, wide eyes, sorry expression)

GIRL

Oh. Wow. Um. I'm sorry. It's just... I don't feel the same way. And-

BOY

Are you serious? But you went to the movies with me! Several times!

GIRL

Well, you see... I was kinda broke at the time, still am,
(Small chuckle, try to lighten mood)
and I figured, why not? We're still friends, right? I can pay you back for the tickets and popcorn and everything.

BOY

(Stands up)
Are you kidding me? You've been leading me on for this entire time?

GIRL

(Stands up)
What? No! I just thought you were my friend! Have you not gone to the movies with your friends before?



BOY

(Walks away from chair)

I gave you a stuffed bunny! And a red panda! I'm 27 dollars in the hole now!

GIRL

(Follows him, trying to calm him down)

I'll pay you back! Jesus Christ you're a cheapskate. Besides, giving me gifts isn't that big of a deal, OK? My real friends have done nicer things.

BOY

Well yeah, but when a boy does it, shouldn't that mean something to you?

GIRL

Are you saying that the only reason that a dude would want to be nice to me would be the fact that he likes me?

BOY

N-No, I didn't mean it that way.

GIRL

Then how did you mean it?

BOY

...

GIRL

That's what I thought. I'm out.

(Tiny pause)

Oh, and also, I have a girlfriend.

(Exits)

(Boy is left alone, heartbrokenly exits)

(Music stops)



Cliché 2 - 50/50

(WAITER leads new couple to table, the couple seems very bored with each other, GIRL only looks at phone)

BOY

(Obvious contrast with Cliché 1 Boy, not nervous at all, bored)
Hey, can I ask you something?

GIRL

(Doesn't look away from phone)
You know I hate it when people say that.

BOY

Fine. How long have we been dating for?

GIRL

Almost a week, right?

(WAITER brings out two plates of food)

BOY

Yeah. And you know what I realized?

GIRL

What?

BOY

We're completely incompatible.

GIRL

What're you talking about?

BOY

Let's break up.

(GIRL drops phone on ground, quickly turns to face Boy)
(Music starts playing)



GIRL

(Desperate)

No! Please. Just give it another chance. Please, I'm begging you. I don't care if we're incompatible. I like you.

BOY

I'm sorry.

GIRL

(Sad, softly)

Please. Just... One more chance for me. For us.

BOY

(Pauses for a few seconds in thought)

I'm sorry. I just can't see much of a future for us.

GIRL

(Pissed, coldly, glaring at boy)

You little twerp.

BOY

What?

GIRL

I'm sorry, did you not hear me? I said,

(Louder)

you little twerp.

BOY

Look, I'm sorry. I really am-

GIRL

(Ranting mode)

I don't care! Thanks to you, I owe my friends money now! I dated you for almost an entire week! Only one more damn day! I could've gotten 20 bucks from each person! Do you even understand how many boxes of ramen that could get me? Do you?

BOY

Wait. You dated me for a bet?



GIRL

(Ranting mode continues)

Of course! Honestly! Look at yourself! I'm way out of your league. Did you seriously think that someone like me would even consider you if there was no money involved? I even would've split some of the money with you.

BOY

Are you serious?

GIRL

Yes! I have screenshots of my friends setting up the bet and-

BOY

No. I'm talking about you splitting the money with me.

GIRL

Well yeah. I'm not that heartless.

BOY

(Stares at GIRL for a bit in disbelief)

Let's do it, then.

GIRL

What?

BOY

We pretend to date for one more day, you get the money, and we split it 50/50.

GIRL

(Looks at BOY in awe)

You actually have a brain. Amazing. Let's do it. I'll see you tomorrow.

BOY

Cool. Text me when you get the money, ok?

GIRL

Yeah, yeah. Don't worry.

(Sarcastically, overly sweet)



Farewell, darling.

(Picks phone up from ground, blows a kiss, then exits)

(BOY shakes head with a chuckle, stands up, tries to leave, WAITER forces him to pay, then exits)

(WAITER clears table, then exits)

(Music stops)



Cliché 3 - I Love You <3

(Waiter leads new couple to table, GIRL gets books out, starts writing in notebook, BOY does nothing but stare)

GIRL

(Quickly glances up, then continues writing)
Dude. Stop staring at me. We're here to work.

BOY

I'm sorry, it's just...
(Wait for music to start playing)
I think I'm in love with you.

GIRL

(Doesn't look up, dripping with sarcasm)
Hah. Hahah. Hahahah. You're funny.

BOY

I'm not kidding! You're not like other girls, you're-

GIRL

(Looks up, stops writing, obviously annoyed)
What's wrong with other girls?

BOY

That's not what I meant.

GIRL

Oh really?
(Crosses arms)
Then please, do me a favor and explain to me what you really meant.

BOY

Calm down. Why are you so uptight?

GIRL

A boy I've known for five days just said that he loved me, then proceeded to insult half of the population, and now he expects me to date him.



BOY

Don't you think you're, you know, maybe overreacting a bit? Shouldn't you be happy that someone loves you?

GIRL

(Flat, cold tone of voice)

Being "loved" by a trash can isn't exactly worth celebrating. Now get back to work. We need this done by Friday.

(WAITER brings out a plate of food)

GIRL

(To WAITER)

Thank you.

(GIRL takes a bite, then goes back to writing)

BOY

I won't give up until you love me too, you know.

GIRL

Sadly, restraining orders exist.

BOY

You're seriously friendzoning me?

GIRL

(Make it seem like she likes him)

What? No! I'm sorry you thought I meant it that way.

BOY

I knew it-

GIRL

You see, I'm not friendzoning you. You don't deserve that honor. I don't want even want you around as a friend.

BOY

You're missing out on a once in a lifetime opportunity to get with me, you know. You'll be sorry.



GIRL

I highly doubt that.
(Starts packing up)

BOY

Hey, hey. Where are you going? Leaving already?

GIRL

Yes. I'm going home.

BOY

What's so great about going home when you could stay here with me?

GIRL

I can watch anime at home and here I can't.

BOY

C'mon. Stop playing hard to get.

(GIRL ignores him, exits with bag)

(BOY tries to chase after GIRL, is stopped by WAITER, who makes him pay)

(WAITER clears table, then exits)

(Music stops)



Cliché 4 - Shut Up. I'm Not A Stalker.

Production Notes:

If I were to label GIRL's tone, she's nonchalant and blunt but also slightly pissed on behalf of her friend.

BOY isn't that scared of GIRL, he's just awkward and a social mess

(WAITER leads new couple to table)

GIRL

So? What did you want to ask me?

BOY

(Mumbled whisper)

Did she say anything about me?

GIRL

What?

BOY

(Louder, but mumbled)

Did she say anything about me?

GIRL

Dude, you gotta speak up.

BOY

(Louder, still mumbled)

Did she say anything about me?

GIRL

For the last time, speak up. I don't have all day.

BOY

(Frustrated shout)

Did she say anything about me?

GIRL

(Clearly judging)

Oh. That's it? You're turning into a tomato over that?



BOY

Just answer my question. What has she said about me?

GIRL

Why do you care?

BOY

You can't be serious.

GIRL

But I am.

BOY

You know why I'm asking. Stop playing dumb.

GIRL

(Puppy dog face)
But it's so fun.

BOY

I just... overheard her saying something about me and I wanted to confirm it.

GIRL

What did you hear?

BOY

I think she said something about how she thought I was kinda annoying.

GIRL

(Chuckle, grin)
So you were all worried over that? Well, here's some good news.

BOY

(Brighten up)
What do you mean?

GIRL

(Music starts playing)
You misheard. She definitely didn't say that.



BOY

Oh thank god-

GIRL

She told all of us that you were a stalker.

(Pauses, look for reaction from BOY)

Apparently you won't stop texting her? And you follow her around in the hallways between classes? And when she told you that she met a guy you looked him up on Instagram?

BOY

Shut up. I'm not a stalker.

GIRL

Disagree. But here's the thing: you're bothering my friend. And I don't appreciate it. She doesn't like, she never will, and you're being a creep, ok? I'd suggest that you stay away from her from now on. You know, for your safety and reputation.

(Chuckles at the slightly scared face BOY makes, continues with sugary voice)

God, look at you! I'm kidding, I'm kidding.

(Grins)

If that's all you needed, I'll be going now. Next time you ask me stupid questions like this, I'll be expecting cake in advance.

(Exits)

(BOY sits there, dumbfounded, until WAITER escorts him out)

(Music stops)



Cliché 5 - Ummm. Thanks?

Production Notes:

BOY should awkwardly stutter when he speaks here and there.

(WAITER leads BOY to table from stage left, GIRL jogs up a few moments later from stage right)

BOY

There you are! Finally, I can start breathing again.

GIRL

(Chuckle)

Ummm, thanks? Sorry, we got stuck in traffic. So about the project, how about we split up the questions and work on the presentations when we're done?

BOY

Oh man that's cold. Getting straight into schoolwork?

(Quickly glances down at paper in lap)

I'm starting to lose breath now.

GIRL

(Awkward chuckle)

Stop messing around. We're presenting next Monday.

BOY

No, I'm serious.

(Music starts playing)

You're amazing.

GIRL

(Be an awkward potato and laugh)

Yeah, right. Stop flattering me.

BOY

You've had me at a loss for words.

(Quickly glances down at paper in lap)

I haven't had that experience since forever.



GIRL

(Awkward level to the max, laugh)

Wow. Should I be proud?

BOY

You should be. Nobody has ever done that. Like I just said, you're an amazing person.

GIRL

(Just kidding, awkward level goes up, laugh)

Heheh. Umm.

(Awkward silence for around 5 seconds, GIRL's cellphone beeps- text message)

Oh man. I'm so sorry. I have to go home. My parents want me to babysit again. I'll text you later when I'm done the questions..

BOY

It's fine. Don't miss me too much.

(Quickly glances down at paper in lap)

I know I'll do enough of it for both of us.

GIRL

(Sigh)

Listen. You're really nice, ok? But everything you say sounds kinda scripted and it's a little off putting. Just, as a piece of advice, next time you like a girl, be yourself. God, that sounded clichéd. But it works, I swear. I'm sorry. I hope you have more luck with the next girl, ok? I'll see you on Monday.

(Exits)

(BOY takes a slip of paper from his lap, stares at it for a second, sighs heavily, crumples it and throws it on the ground, then exits)

(WAITER, obviously annoyed, walks over and picks crumpled paper up, reads it, laughs, then walks off stage)

(Music stops)



Cliché 6 - No, Really. I'm Not Lying.

Production Note:

GIRL must cringe/show annoyance every time BOY says a bolded word: every time he refers to her partner as a male

(WAITER leads new couple to table)

GIRL

(Chuckles)

You're kidding.

BOY

Why would I be?

GIRL

You just called me beautiful.

BOY

Your point?

GIRL

Well. I'm not beautiful.

BOY

I'd agree with you, but then we'd both be wrong.

GIRL

How many girls have you charmed with words like those?

BOY

I've only tried with you.

GIRL

Sure. I bet you use these lines on every girl you come across.

BOY

(Music starts playing)

I think that you're the most amazing, wonderful, talented, kind, and beautiful girl that I've ever had the luck of meeting. Every time I



see you smile I can't help but start grinning myself. I could go on for hours just talking about how amazing your laugh is.

(Pauses, look for reaction)

Well? Do you think I use those lines on every girl too?

GIRL

Oh sh-t. Sh-t, I'm so sorry, I really mean it. I thought we were joking around. It's just, I don't feel that way. And... I'm dating someone else.

BOY

C'mon. Ditch that **guy**. Give me a chance.

GIRL

I'm sorry, but I don't like you.

BOY

You've gotta be kidding me.

(Bitterly spitting words out)

You're not even that pretty. Rejecting me with that face? Ugly bitch.

GIRL

(Sarcastic, tries to lighten mood)

And somehow this face is still the prettiest you've ever seen, huh?

BOY

You must think that you're great, huh? Listen, you're just an -

GIRL

(Grin wiped off)

Are you kidding me right now? Is this how you deal with rejection?

BOY

I'm just being honest. I hope your **boyfriend** gets some sense knocked into **his** head soon. I bet **he's** dating you out of pity.

GIRL

(Sarcastically)

Cool, cool, I get it. I'll just leave now, OK? I've got plans with my boyfriend.



(GIRL from Cliché 1 walks up to the table)

GIRL from Cliché 1
There you are. C'mon, the movie starts soon.

(GIRL from Cliché 1 and GIRL walk off together, talking as they exit)

GIRL from Cliché 1
(Jokingly)
Who was that dude? Don't tell me you're actually straight.

GIRL
(Looks at GIRL from Cliché 1 in disbelief)
I've been dating you for almost half a year.

GIRL from Cliché 1
(Jokingly)
What, you might be bi. Besides, I'd hate to have you dump me for a dude, much less a dude who looks like him.

(After the two exit, BOY is left, WAITER escorts him out)

(Music stops)



Cliché 7 - So Many Gentlemen Callers

Production Notes:

GIRL's voice must sound like pure sugar the entire time, and her tone for each line should be about the same every time she repeats it. GIRL and whichever BOY she's with should always be sweet, happy, constantly smiling, and basically the picturesque couple.

(WAITER leads new couple to table, music starts playing)

BOY 1

I'm sorry that I've gotta end our date like this.

GIRL

No, no. It's fine.

BOY 1

Are you sure? I'll make it up to you on Saturday, I promise. It'll be much better than just a walk around town.

GIRL

You really don't have to. Just being with you is more than I could ever ask for.

BOY 1

(Grins)

God you're so sweet. I'm so lucky to be able to date someone like you.

GIRL

(Grins back)

Same for me.

BOY 1

Really. Tell me, then. What do you like about me?

GIRL

Your voice, that adorable face you make when you're embarrassed, the way you laugh. You know, everything. You're not like other guys.

(Pauses)

How's that?



BOY 1

You've just about stolen my heart. And your voice. It's like a thousand violins in perfect harmony.

GIRL

(Giggles)

Thank you.

(BOY's phone beeps, BOY looks at screen)

BOY 1

Damnit. My ride's here. I'll text you later, ok?

GIRL

See you on Saturday?

BOY 1

Of course.

GIRL

I can't wait.

(BOY 1 exits, GIRL takes out phone)

GIRL

(To phone)

Yeah, I'm at the café... No, it's fine if you can't stay long. I just wanna see you for a bit... OK.

(Hangs up phone)

(BOY 2 runs up and sits down)

BOY 2

God I feel like sh-t. Talking to you for like five minutes and then ditching is such a dick move.

GIRL

No, no. It's fine.

BOY 2

Are you sure you don't want me to call my plans off? They can wait.



GIRL

You really don't have to. Just being with you is more than I could ever ask for.

BOY 2

(Smiles dreamily)

You know, I bet I could go on for hours about all of the things that I love about you.

GIRL

(Grins back)

Same for me.

BOY 2

Could I have some examples?

GIRL

Your voice, that adorable face you make when you're embarrassed, the way you laugh. You know, everything. You're not like other guys.

(Pauses)

How's that?

BOY 2

Oh man. That just isn't fair. You're making me never wanna leave you. You're, like, addictive.

GIRL

(Giggles)

Thank you.

(BOY 2's phone beeps, BOY looks at screen)

BOY 2

Well that's my cue to leave.

GIRL

See you on Sunday?

BOY 2

Yep.



Girl

I can't wait.

BOY 2

Bye!

(BOY 2 exits, GIRL takes out phone)

GIRL

(To phone)

Yeah, I'm at the café... No, it's fine if you can't stay long. I just wanna see you for a bit... OK.

(Hangs up phone)

(BOY 3 runs up and sits down)

BOY 3

(Checks pockets)

Oh damn, did you want to eat anything? I don't have money on me right now.

GIRL

No, no. It's fine

BOY 3

You really don't wanna eat anything? I could probably figure something out.

GIRL

You really don't have to. Just being with you is more than I could ever ask for.

BOY 3

I should be saying that about you. Look at me. I've got such a gorgeous girl sitting in front of me.

GIRL

(Grins back)

Same for me.



BOY 3

(Teasingly)

C'mon now. Calling me a girl's a bit much now, right? Besides, there isn't really anything that you'd find attractive, right?

GIRL

Your voice, that adorable face you make when you're embarrassed, the way you laugh. You know, everything. You're not like other guys.

(Pauses)

How's that?

BOY 3

You really shouldn't let me fish for compliments like that, you know. You're too kind.

GIRL

(Giggles)

Thank you.

BOY 3

You're welcome. And if you aren't gonna eat anything, then let's leave. The waiter's giving us dirty looks.

GIRL

Am I gonna see you on Monday?

BOY 3

Yeah, after school.

GIRL

I can't wait.

BOY 3

Hey, hey. I'm not leaving you just yet. Turns out I'm free, so you're stuck with me for the next few hours.

(Couple walks out together)

(Music stops)



Cliché 8 - Dogcalling

Production Note:

GIRL must sound as creepy, condescending, and as offensive as possible. Make those male chauvinists cry. GIRL should give off an offensive, predatory tone, not a passive, seductive one. All motions should mirror those of typical male gestures. BOY must be soft, quiet, passive, and cannot show a backbone.

(WAITER leads BOY to table from stage left, BOY takes out book and phone with earbuds, starts reading after setting the phone down)

(Wait a few moments, make the audience confused but not bored, then GIRL walks out and sits at table with BOY, smoothly grabs book and sets it down)

(Music starts playing)

GIRL

Did ya write this book?

BOY

(Glares)

Please give it back.

GIRL

Why aren't you smiling? C'mon, show me those pearly whites. Life isn't so bad.

BOY

I'm just trying to enjoy a book.

GIRL

(Leans in)

Wow. I didn't realize you were so uptight.

(Pauses)

You know, now that I'm seeing you up close,
(Slowly, while finger-walking up his closest arm)
you have really, really beautiful arms.

BOY

Could you please leave me alone?



GIRL

I'm just saying.

(Leer at BOY, make creepiness/obscenity obvious)

You look like you could handle all of this.

(BOY reaches for book, glares, GIRL moves it out of reach)

GIRL

No response? What, do you think you're too good for me now? What's wrong, sweetie? I'm talking to you, you know.

BOY

Please leave me alone.

(Grabs earbuds and puts them in)

GIRL

(Yanks earbuds out, grins)

Maybe if you give me your number.

(BOY ignores, stays silent, uses the superpower of females)

GIRL

Well, I gotta go. I won't be forgetting you for a long while. Talk to you later, honey.

(Pulls pen out of pocket, writes phone number on cover page, leaves book at table and exits)

(BOY sighs, glares, then gets up and walks away slowly)

(Different GIRL walks in on stage right, passing him)

Different GIRL

(Whistles while staring at BOY)

Hey, baby.

(Whistles, then exits on stage left)

(BOY keeps walking, exits on stage right)

(Music stops)



Cliché 9 - I know.

(WAITER leads new couple to table)

BOY

So, let me get this straight. You're telling me that you've never seen a single Star Wars movie?

GIRL

Yup.

BOY

(Chuckles, grins)
Unbelievable.

GIRL

Is it really that surprising?

BOY

A little.
(Grins)
Well, at least now I have some date ideas.

GIRL

(Grins back)
I can't wait.
(Chuckles)
Aw man. Look at how lucky I am.

BOY

Look at how lucky I am.

GIRL

Oh really? Tell me, then.
(Clasps hands, rests elbows on table, places chin on hands)
How lucky are you?

BOY

(Music starts playing)
I wish you could look through my eyes and see how much you mean to me.
(Clasps hands, places them on table, leans forward)



You're beautiful, talented, smart, kind, and you never cease to amaze me. You're wonderful.

GIRL

(Every word is serious, smiling)

Thank you, I know. And-

BOY

(Yanks hands back, sits back up, almost leaning away)

Wait. What?

GIRL

Um. Do you want me to repeat myself?

BOY

Don't be so full of yourself.

GIRL

What do you mean?

BOY

"I know"? Stop being so self-centered.

GIRL

What? But I'm just being confident.

BOY

Yeah, right. You're just being vain.

GIRL

Are you drunk? I'm agreeing with your compliments.

BOY

No, you're being a bitch.

GIRL

A bitch that's amazing. No. Correction. I'm a beautiful, talented, smart, kind, and wonderful **girl** who's dumping your ass.

(Exits)

(BOY looks dumbfounded, then exits)



(Music stops)



Cliché 10 - Are You On Your Period?

Production Note:

GIRL should have a slightly, barely there condescending tone, but she should not seem conscious of how condescending she's being

BOY is the same boy from Cliché 8

(Waiter escorts new couple to table)

BOY

(Frustrated, not really that angry yet)

I can't believe it! That's the third time this week!

GIRL

Calm down, sweetheart. What happened?

BOY

I was reading here, at literally the exact same table, when a random girl came up and started hitting on me. Look! They wrote their number on the inside cover!

GIRL

(Smiles for a bit)

Aw.

(Wait for music to start playing)

You're cute when you're mad.

(Looks at BOY glaring)

What? Stop overreacting. As long as they don't hurt you, it should be fine, right?

BOY

(Tone gradually gets angrier)

It was really, really creepy. Imagine if you were minding your own business and some dude just walked up to you and told you to smile.

GIRL

Surely it's with good intentions, right? She must've meant well.



BOY

(Angrily)

Are you serious? If it's with good intentions, then why don't girls tell other girls to smile? And it's happened to me so many-

GIRL

Look, sweetheart, I need you to calm down. You're being too emotional and I can't talk to you when you're like this.

BOY

(Straight up pissed)

Don't tell me that. Me getting angry is perfectly acceptable.

GIRL

Jesus Christ. Chill, ok? Are you on your period or something?

BOY

(Almost shouting, obviously is used to the comment)

The f-ck? No! Why can't you just listen-

GIRL

Sweetheart, it's probably nothing, ok? See, this is what I don't get about boys. You're always so emotional and dramatic. Think of it this way: Someone thinks that you're cute. That's a good thing, right?

BOY

(Frustrated)

Not if they're being creepy about it!

GIRL

Calm down, sweetheart. Just ignore it and don't worry your pretty little head about it. And if it really bothers you that much, don't dress like this.

(Gestures to BOY's outfit)

I have to go. I'll see you tomorrow.

(BOY looks at GIRL in disbelief, but stays silent)

(GIRL exits)

(BOY sits for a little bit in thought, then exits. Music stops)



Cliché 11 - Cake

Production Notes:

GIRL is the girl from Cliché 6

*(WAITER leads new couple to table, GIRL orders long list of cakes
Silently, WAITER takes order and walks away)*

GIRL

(To WAITER)

Thank you!

BOY

Are you stupid? You're too broke for for all that food.

GIRL

C'mon. Let me live. Besides, you're just as broke as I am.

BOY

Doesn't change the fact that spending \$20 on nothing but cake is stupid.

GIRL

Your face is stupid.

BOY

You know you love me.

GIRL

Keep on telling yourself that. It might actually come true one day.

BOY

Yeah, right. We all know that you can't get enough of this handsome face.

GIRL

(Dripping with sarcasm, in case you haven't figured it out)
You're funny.

BOY

Thank you. I know.



(WAITER walks up with several cakes, places them on table)

GIRL

Yay!

(To WAITER)

Thanks again!

(Immediately begins eating)

BOY

I have an actual pig in front of me, don't I?

GIRL

You're just jealous cuz you don't have cake.

BOY

I don't even like cake.

(BOY's phone rings, BOY picks it up)

BOY

(To the phone)

Yeah... We're at the café... Fine... Yeah, yeah... Uh huh... Ok...

Bye... Ok... Ok... Fine... Bye

(Hangs up phone)

Mom wants us back home.

GIRL

What? Why?

BOY

Chores.

GIRL

Nooooooo. I don't wannaaaa.

(Pauses in contemplation)

Tell her that I'm studying with my friends, ok?

BOY

Bull. I know you're just gonna hang out with one of your boyfriends.



GIRL

I'll even give you all of this cake as a gift, OK?
(Pushes plates toward BOY, stands up and starts walking away)

BOY

I told you, I don't even like cake!

GIRL

Have fun at home!
(Exits)

BOY

(Shouting to her)
You were adopted!

(WAITER walks over, BOY reluctantly pays, leaves cake on table, and exits, WAITER clears table, then exits)



Cliché 12 - This Is Exactly What You'd Expect

Production Note:

GIRL is the girl from Cliché 3

(WAITER leads new couple to table)

GIRL

Get whatever you want. I'm treating this time.

BOY

But-

GIRL

(Glares)

Don't even try to argue with me on this one. I'm. Paying.

BOY

Fine. But I'm treating you next time.

GIRL

Keep on telling yourself that. It might actually come true one day.

BOY

This is why you're single, you know.

GIRL

No. I'm single because I reject every dude that asks me out.

BOY

Surely at least some of them met your standards.

GIRL

Yeah. Some did.

BOY

Then why aren't you sitting with those guys instead of sitting here with me?



GIRL

(Calmly)
Simple. Because I don't like them.
(Wait for music to start playing)
I like you.

(WAITER walks up, places two cake slices on table)

GIRL

(To WAITER)
Thank you.

(WAITER smiles and exits, GIRL grabs a plate, grabs a fork, takes a bite)

BOY

Are you not gonna pester me for a response?

GIRL

If I have to pester you for an answer, then I wouldn't want one.
(Takes another bite, speaks with cake filled mouth)
I'd hope that you respect me enough to answer me now.

BOY

How are you so calm?

GIRL

(Swallows the cake)
Freaking out isn't gonna make you date me.

BOY

You say that, but I can see your hand shaking.

GIRL

(Shows surprise, quickly hides it, voice trembles a bit)
Well. If that's all you have for an answer, I'll be leaving now. Here.
(Pulls a \$20 bill from pocket and leaves it on the table)

BOY

But what if I don't want you to leave?



GIRL

Then you'd better give me a good reason to stay.

BOY

Hmmm. I think I have a pretty good one.

GIRL

And that would be?

BOY

Well. I like you too.

GIRL

(Pause for a bit, glare)

I hate you.

BOY

What? What'd I do now?

GIRL

You made me sit here, freaking the f-ck out, waiting for an answer, then seemingly rejecting me, just so you could be smooth and act out a scene from a movie?

BOY

Well... yeah. Sorry.

GIRL

I'm not paying for the food anymore.

(Yanks \$20 bill back)

BOY

Doesn't matter.

GIRL

And why is that?

BOY

I plan to take you out on countless dates, and you'd never let me treat you the entire time.



GIRL

You sure about that?

BOY

I thought you were a feminist and all that.

GIRL

(Teasing grin)

Fair enough.

(Beat)

And tell me why I should date a dude like you with a sh-t sense of humor?

BOY

Aw c'mon. Don't be like that.

GIRL

I'm serious.

BOY

You love me too much to resist.

GIRL

Mhm. And you? Why should you date someone like me?

BOY

(Pauses and thinks)

I have no idea.

(Sees GIRL glaring)

I mean, I do know, however, that I'd listen to your music for the rest of my life for you.

GIRL

(Glares)

That doesn't mean anything. K-pop is amazing.

BOY

It's trash. But I'd do it. For you.

GIRL

You're way too full of it.



BOY

You know you love me.

GIRL

Sadly.

(Couple grins at each other, leaves with the \$20 bill on the table)

(Music stops)



Cliché 13 - This Is Exactly What You'd Expect 2.0

BOY 2 is BOY from Cliche 11.

(WAITER leads new couple to table)

BOY 1

Go all out. I'm treating today.

BOY 2

Uh-

BOY 1

(Glares)

Nope. Nope. Nooooope. You paid last time.

BOY 2

(Pauses)

I'm treating you next time.

BOY 1

Sadly, you're just a bit too broke for that.

BOY 2

This is why you're single, you know.

BOY 1

No. I'm single because I reject everyone that asks me out.

BOY 2

Surely at least one of them meets your standards.

BOY 1

I guess a few did.

BOY 2

Then why aren't you sitting with a pretty girl or a handsome guy instead of sitting here with me?



BOY 1

(Calmly)

Well. I don't like them.

(Wait for music to start playing)

I like you.

(WAITER walks up, places two cake slices on table)

BOY 1

(To WAITER)

Thank you.

(WAITER smiles and exits, BOY 1 grabs a plate, grabs a fork, takes a bite)

BOY 2

What? We haven't ordered yet. Yo, stop. Why are you eating?

BOY 1

I have cash. And it's really good.

BOY 2

Do you not want a response to your confession?

BOY 1

If I have to ask you for an answer, then I wouldn't want one.

(Takes another bite, speaks with cake filled mouth)

I mean, I've only got so much dignity left here.

BOY 2

How are you so calm?

BOY 1

(Swallows the cake)

I've got a really, really great poker face.

BOY 2

You say that, but your voice is shaking.



BOY 1

(Shows surprise, quickly hides it, voice trembles a bit)
Well. I have to go. Here.
(Pulls a \$20 bill from pocket and leaves it on the table)

BOY 2

But what if I don't want you to leave?

BOY 1

Don't you dare turn this into a sappy movie scenario.

BOY 2

Too bad.
(Continues with theatrical voice)
I don't want you to leave.

BOY 1

(Sighs)
Fine.
(Plays along)
Well then you'd better give me a good reason to stay.

BOY 2

Hmmm. I think I have a pretty good one.

BOY 1

And that would be?

BOY 2

Well. I like you too.

BOY 1

(Smile, speak with sweet tone)
I hate you.

BOY 2

It wasn't that bad, was it?

BOY 1

You're really bad at acting, you're annoying, and you made me go through a fake rejection just so you could be smooth.



BOY 2

Sorry.

BOY 1

I'm not paying for the food anymore.
(Yanks \$20 bill back)

BOY 2

Doesn't matter.

BOY 1

And why is that?

BOY 2

(Reaches into pocket, pulls out \$20 bill)
I plan to take you out on countless dates, and you'd never let me
treat you the entire time.

BOY 1

Really.

BOY 2

I mean I hope so, for the sake of my wallet.
(Beat)
Won't you get sick of someone like me?

BOY 1

(Teasing grin)
Maybe, if you don't stop calling my music taste trash.

BOY 2

Don't be like that.

BOY 1

I'm serious.

BOY 2

Suuure. You love me too much for that.

BOY 1

Mhm. Don't push it. And you? Will you ever get sick of me?



BOY 2

I would listen to nothing but your country music trash for the rest of my life for you. What do you think?

BOY 1

Think we both know that you're lying.

BOY 2

Try me.

BOY 1

You wouldn't survive.

BOY 2

Honestly, yeah, but it's the thought that counts, right?

BOY 1

You're way too full of it.

BOY 2

You know you love me.

BOY 1

Sadly.

(Couple grins at each other, leaves with the \$20 bill on the table)

(Music stops)



Cliché 14 - Be Your Own Crush

Production Note:

Entire scene has no words

VERY IMPORTANT Make sure that everyone understands that WAITER is 200% happy by himself

(WAITER enters from stage left, carries a tray with a book and a phone with earbuds to the table, and sets it down.

WAITER then takes plates from previous scene and sets them on the tray and pushes the tray to the other side of the table.

WAITER takes off dress top and tie, revealing a t-shirt, sits down at table, takes book, phone and earbuds, and starts reading after putting in the earbuds.

Music starts playing as they put in the earbuds.

WAITER continues reading for one entire minute.

WAITER suddenly jumps a little in their seat, checks phone, pokes phone to turn the music off, music stops, and pulls out their earbuds.

WAITER stands up, pulls dress shirt back on, drapes tie over shoulders, puts everything on the tray, and walks away with it.

Music stops.)

Special thanks and much love to:

Teresa, Will, Louis, Max, Owen, the other Owen, Evie, Lillian, Ishana, Ben, Leo, Josh, Madi, and Geneva for inspiration, feedback, and quotes.

Thank you Dr. Nichols and Mr. Rybnik for everything.