

## TABLE READ FOR COKE

Koch & James 2021

[A young man walks with a young woman. It's a cool but calm autumn night, and we hear city sounds and walking - audio comes up mid-conversation. It's a first or second date. There is nervous energy and affection. They are enjoying eachothers' company.]

MAN:

I definitely didn't think they were ALL going to die at the end.

WOMAN:

Yeah! bit of a twist at the end there and definitely a bit of a bummer. [...] Ok, so this is me.

[The woman gestures toward the door with a nod of her head. The couple slowly stop walking and turn to face one another, smiling.]

WOMAN:

Hey, that was a really nice time. I actually like hanging out with you.

MAN:

I had fun too! I think you're nice.

WOMAN:

Oh, nice! Ok. Nice!

[The man is slightly embarrassed but still in good spirits. He understands that the woman was just teasing him a bit.]

MAN:

No, I mean... I think you're great. I had a really nice time. ...Look, like, the thing is, I think you're super sexy and I would love to

sleep with you and all that. It's just, I don't feel like I'm in some big rush with you. Just... I'm not trying to be all seductive or something with you. I just mean I really like you. I'm not trying to put some pressure on intimacy and this whole thing.

[The man gestures at the area where they are standing as he says this.]

WOMAN:

That's sweet. I get it. Look, it's late. I had a great night. We had a great night. I also think you're... very attractive. I'm also not in a rush. Let's get together again later this week if you have time.

MAN:

I definitely have time for you!

[The man steps toward the woman and the couple kisses briefly.]

MAN:

Ok so, just text me later... when it's good. Or I'll text you.

WOMAN:

[Smiling and blushing.]

I will.

MAN:

[Putting his hands into his coat pockets, he discovers that he has a can of Coke in his pocket from before the date began with the woman.]

Oh, hey, do you want a Coke?

WOMAN:

What? Do I want coke?

MAN:

No, like, I meant "Coca Cola Classic." I have this can in my pocket. I grabbed it this morning and I just never wanted to drink it today. Like 'HAHA! Is that a can of Coke in your pocket or are you just' ...I'm going to stop talking now.

WOMAN:

Wait, so you've been walking around with a can of Coke in your coat pocket, like, all day?

MAN:

I don't know! Yeah, I guess: 'yes' that's precisely what I've been doing. It's not like a monster or something. It's one of these little cans.

WOMAN:

And now you're, like, offering it to me at the end of a date? And you didn't plan this?

MAN:

Yeah I don't... I just like felt it or discovered it when I put my hands in my pockets. I don't know why I offered it to you.

WOMAN:

That's kind of weird but thanks. No, I don't want a can of Coke right before I go to sleep. But thanks.

MAN:

[shrugging]

I don't know.

WOMAN:

It's cool. You're a little weird and nervous. That's cute. But this would be like the worst ad for Coke probably ever.

[A small, gray alien creature enters the frame and stands near the couple, turning to face them. The couple both look at the alien creature and the alien looks at both of them. Pause a beat. There is recognition and a calm shock from the humans and patience from the alien.]

WOMAN:

I'm sorry. Hello. Are you...

MAN:

- an Alien?

Alien:

Yes, obviously. Hi! What's up?

MAN:

I don't know, Alien, you walked up to us.

Alien:

[Again with patience and calm positivity.]

My name is 4.

MAN:

Excuse me, what?

4:

4. My name is 4. You called me Alien, Human.

MAN:

Oh. Sorry. I'm Tom. This is Lisa.

LISA:

Ugh don't tell it my name!

4:

Relax, I already knew your names. Look, can I have that Coke?

TOM:

What?

4:

The Coke — the can you just found in your pocket. Can I have it? It's like... I don't drink pop all the time, but when you want a Coke, you know? Like, only Coke will do. I was kind of eavesdropping from up there [4 gestures toward the sky] and I heard you had an extra can soooo...

TOM:

You call it pop?

4:

Or soda. Whatever. This isn't my first language, I'm sorry.

TOM:

But did you learn English in Wisconsin or something?

4:

Fuck man. Maybe. Do I sound like it? Look, can I have the coke, please?

[Tom hands 4 the Coke can]

4:

[Opens the can with some ceremony and takes a big, slurping sip.]

Ahhhh God that's good. You know what I'm talking about? Like, that first sip of Coke.

[The three stand and stare at each other for a few moments more as 4 takes another couple sips. Camera pans out. Coke logo fades in. Camera holds on the three, 4 sipping coke while Tom and LISA glance at him and at eachother, confused. Coke logo holds in the foreground. Long hold.]