

Conspiracy of Love

By

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A 9/11 Truther goes out on a blind date. What could go wrong?

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CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
Mathias	A man obsessed	30s-50s	M
Jan	His blind date, seemingly normal	30s-50s	F

Set: A Table in a restaurant

Time: Now

JAN is sitting at a restaurant table, peering at a menu when MATHIAS rushes in.

MATHIAS

Jan?

JAN

Mathias?

MATHIAS

Yes. Sorry I'm late. Would you believe it, I got the address wrong.

JAN

That can happen.

MATHIAS

It's a terrible way to start a blind date.

JAN

Don't be nervous. Thierry and Alex said we had a lot in common. I'll give you the benefit of the doubt.

MATHIAS

Thanks. Just like the mainstream media gives the benefit of doubt to the "Official Story" of Nine Eleven.

JAN

Excuse me?

MATHIAS

The pasta here is supposed to be great.

JAN

What did you say?

MATHIAS

You've got very pretty eyes, Jan.

JAN

Thank you.

MATHIAS

They're sparkly. They remind me of the fact that Osama Bin Laden is still alive and hiding in Davos.

JAN

What?

MATHIAS

Am I being too forward? I can't help myself. You're very pretty and—

JAN

What do you mean, Bin Laden's alive?

MATHIAS

It's a well-known suppressed fact. Should I order some wine?

JAN

Bin Laden is dead. They have tapes. They made a movie.

MATHIAS

I don't want to get into an argument so soon after we've met.

JAN

Good.

MATHIAS

Who wants an argument on a blind date?

JAN

Exactly.

MATHIAS

It's not your fault you're narrow minded and brainwashed. You can't help following the herd.

Beat

JAN

Oh, look at the time. I really have to go.

MATHIAS

But we haven't ordered.

JAN

I have this thing. And I uh ... well... need to do this thing... now.

Jan gets up to leave.

MATHIAS
(crushed)

You're not even bothering to make up an excuse.

JAN

Sure I am. Enjoy your life. I gotta go.

Jan is about to leave.

MATHIAS

God, you compliment a girl and you're automatically a sexist pig.

JAN

That's not the problem.

MATHIAS

You're just like the Nano-thermite particles that were found throughout the World Trade Center dust.

JAN

Nano-thermite.

MATHIAS

Nano-thermite particles.

JAN

I'm like Nano-thermite particles. How ... I can't believe I'm asking this... how am I like Nano-thermite particles?

MATHIAS

They prove that the Trade Center was blown up before the planes hit.

JAN

And?

MATHIAS

And they never found the black box from Flight 93 and --

JAN

How am I like the Nano-thermite particles!

MATHIAS

Those black boxes are supposed to withstand -

Jan grabs Mathias by the shirt.

JAN
(screams)

How am I like Nano-thermite particles!

MATHIAS

I don't know. I'm not good at riddles.

Jan releases Mathias and takes a deep breath.

JAN

I was leaving. I forgot that I was leaving, but now I remember. So, bye.

MATHIAS

If you're going can you at least tell me why. You owe me that. Are you leaving because I said you were pretty?

JAN

No. That's OK.

MATHIAS

Oh. I thought that was it. Is it something I've done?

JAN

Yes!

MATHIAS

You're implying that there's a connection between an event that I took part in and your leaving. I'm not seeing it at all. It feels random. It's you, isn't it.

JAN

Stop talking about Nine Eleven!

MATHIAS

What do you mean?

JAN

I don't want to hear your crazy Nine Eleven talk. Is that so hard to understand?

MATHIAS

I hear you saying that you don't want to talk about Nine Eleven. Am I hearing you correctly?

JAN

Yes. And, also, don't say I'm narrow minded and brainwashed.

MATHIAS

I don't talk about Nine Eleven all the time. Do I? ...

JAN

You do.

MATHIAS

OK, OK. I was just a little preoccupied. No more politics tonight. OK? If I promise to focus on you and me the rest of the evening, will you promise to stay?

JAN

Of course! Oh, wait, why did I say that? You're still crazy.

MATHIAS

C'mon. Alex insisted we have a lot in common. You don't want to disappoint Alex, do you? Worst thing, you'll have a nice dinner. And maybe, just maybe, we're right for each other.

JAN

Well, it's true. My evening's already shot.

MATHIAS

Exactly! It can't get any worse!

JAN

We've bottomed out.

MATHIAS

Nowhere to go but up.

Beat

JAN

Don't make me regret this.

Jan sits down.

MATHIAS

I'll be good. I promise. I won't mention Nine Eleven for the rest of the night. I'll be as silent as the stealth jets that shot down Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. Oh, sorry.

JAN

That's strike one. Actually strike two.

MATHIAS

I will talk about something else.

JAN

Please.

There is a long pause. Mathias starts to say something, then stops. He starts to talk again, then stops. He looks at the menu and holds it up.

MATHIAS

Menu. This is a menu. -- I mean, did you get a chance to look at the -

JAN

I'm quite familiar with the menu. You were late. I was waiting for you. Remember?

MATHIAS

Sorry. You know why I was late? That's a funny story

(stops abruptly)

-- oh. Never mind. Order. Food. What do you want to order?

JAN

I'm thinking of getting the crab salad.

MATHIAS

Did you say, "controlled demolition of the towers?"

JAN

(stiffly)

No. I said crab salad.

MATHIAS

My bad.

(beat)

You're not gonna leave are you?

JAN

I'm really trying, Mathias. In fact, to show I'm trying, I'm going to change the subject. Do you have any hobbies? No! Don't answer that!

MATHIAS

Do you have any hobbies?

JAN

I like to travel.

MATHIAS

Where was your last trip?

JAN

Holland.

MATHIAS

I've always wanted to go. I love Rembrandt. And tulips.

JAN

Don't forget windmills.

MATHIAS

I'm tilting at them all the time.

They laugh.

JAN

Where was your last trip?

MATHIAS

First lower Manhattan, then Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Then Arlington, Virginia. Oh. Sorry.

JAN

This is not working.

MATHIAS

After I took soil samples from the Pentagon I went to DC.

JAN

I like DC

MATHIAS

Me too. All the Memorials. The Smithsonian.

JAN

I love the Smithsonian! They have such an amazing collection.

MATHIAS

Oh my god! They have the original Star Spangled Banner.

JAN

That takes my breath away.

MATHIAS

Me too.

JAN

And they have this fantastic art museum.

MATHIAS

I love that. And did you ever make it to the Holocaust museum?

JAN

The Holocaust museum?

MATHIAS

Yeah. The Nazis the Jews. The Holocaust.

JAN

The Holocaust? You believe that crap?

BLACKOUT