

VALUES VOTERS

Written by
Justin Shady

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

GENEVIEVE and KADEN (both 30s), two young professionals who have just met on their first date, sit across from each other in a nice restaurant. Done with their meals, they casually sip glasses of wine as they near the end of a bottle.

Based on the swooning looks on their faces, they seem to be hitting it off.

GENEVIEVE

I'm so glad we did this.

KADEN

No kidding. Honestly, I'd lost all faith in online dating. But then....

GENEVIEVE

This.

KADEN

(smiling)

Yeah. This.

A beat passes as they longingly look at each other. Kaden finally breaks the staring contest by dividing up the last remnants of wine between their two glasses.

KADEN (CONT'D)

Should we order another bottle?

GENEVIEVE

(flirtatiously)

Maybe. First, I need to make sure you're worthy of a second bottle.

KADEN

Ooo, consider me intrigued.

GENEVIEVE

I mean, sure, I know where you were born, where you went to school, where you work... but now I want to get down to the important stuff.

KADEN

Shoot.

GENEVIEVE

Let me think.... Okay, how about this: If you hadn't become an investment banker, what would you want to be doing for a living?

KADEN
Oh, that's easy. Stand-up comedy.

GENEVIEVE
(impressed)
Interesting. What kind of stand-up?

KADEN
I love it all, but I'm especially a big fan of Bill Cosby.

The look on Genevieve's face turns: "Uhhh...."

KADEN (CONT'D)
Growing up, my parents just loved his live stuff, his show.... So, yeah. I grew up on Bill.
(impersonating Bill Cosby)
And his Pudding Pops!

Again, Genevieve's face: "Oh, no."

KADEN (CONT'D)
(thinking)
For more contemporary comedy... oh, I love Louis C.K. He's so funny.

Genevieve's face: "What?"

KADEN (CONT'D)
That said, if I couldn't cut it in comedy, I'd try my hand at music; probably R&B or hip-hop. Not sure if I could perform as well as my favorite artist, R. Kelly, but I think I've got an ear for producing like my man Russell Simmons.

Genevieve's face: "Is this guy fucking serious?"

KADEN (CONT'D)
I also used to have this childhood dream of getting into the movie industry. I mean, who knows, maybe I'd wiggle my way into producing, like Harvey Weinstein or Brett Ratner. If not producing, then maybe directing. I love the films of Roman Polanski, Paul Haggis... those types of guys. Or maybe I'd try acting. Here's something not a lot of people know about me.
(leaning in, quietly)
(MORE)

I've memorized every line of dialogue ever uttered on-screen by my favorite actor: Morgan Freeman.
 (quoting, as Red from *Shawshank Redemption*)
 Andy Dufresne was my friend.

Genevieve's face: "Oh, shit. This guy *is* fucking serious."

KADEN (CONT'D)
 If I end up being a crappy actor, I'd probably transition into fluffy journalism, like Matt Lauer and Charlie Rose. Those guys are cool.

Genevieve's face: "Oh, no. Matt Lauer."

KADEN (CONT'D)
 And then if all else fails, if I'm terrible at everything that came before it, well... I don't mean to brag, but I can whip up a mean-ass spaghetti alla carbonara...
 (beat)
 ...like my chef idol: Mario Batali.

Genevieve's face: "This date is over."

A WAITER (40s) approaches--

WAITER
 Will that be all this evening?

KADEN
 Actually, I think we're going to order another bottle of--

GENEVIEVE
 Just the check, please. Thanks.

The waiter nods and walks off.

A look on Kaden's face: "Oh. Okay. Guess I misread this."

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)
 Sorry, it's late, and--

KADEN
 It's fine. Next time.

GENEVIEVE
 Sure.

A long awkward beat passes, then--

KADEN

So what about you? If you hadn't gone into higher education, what do you think you'd be doing?

GENEVIEVE

Oh. Ummm... I don't know. I might have gotten into law. As a kid I always wanted to be a judge.

KADEN

Wow. Ambitious.

(beat)

So what do you think about this whole Brett Kavanaugh, Supreme Court situation?

GENEVIEVE

Oh, as a staunch conservative, I think all five of those women are totally lying. I don't believe a word they say.

KADEN

(relieved)

I know, right! Like, what type of person doesn't open up to everyone immediately after a confusing and tragic event happens to them?

GENEVIEVE

A liar. That's who.

As the waiter brings the check to the table--

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)

(to Waiter)

You know what? We *will* do that second bottle of wine.

The waiter nods, takes back the check, and then walks off.

While he's gone, Genevieve and Kaden fall in love with each other all over again. They stare at one another, until--

KADEN

I'm really glad we did this.

GENEVIEVE

Me, too.

The waiter returns with a new bottle and pours them each a glass. They raise their glasses as the waiter walks off--

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)
To party over principles.

KADEN
To party over principles. And
literally everything else. Cheers.

GENEVIEVE
Cheers.

They cheers with a CLINK, take long sips from their glasses,
and then stare into each other's eyes... *as they dream about
the start of their awful, hypocritical future together.*

THE END