

MATT AND MADDIE'S MAGICAL DATE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. MATT'S HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

MATT ARNOLD, 17, vain heartthrob of his high school drama department sits with his MOM and DAD across the table from him. The parents look over brochures and paperwork.

MATT

Why? They're the best theatre schools in the country. I can get in.

Parents look at each other and hesitate.

DAD

Theatre rarely has a future, son. You should aim for something more realistic.

MATT

Some people make a decent living out of this, dad.

DAD

If you get lucky.

MOM

Do it for fun, but not a career. We're only looking out for you, honey.

INT. BLACKBOX THEATRE -DAY

Matt runs a scene with his rival, JORDAN DEAN, 17, an equally vain heartthrob. Hair perfect. Model looks.

MATT

It's not good enough. Do it again.

JORDAN

It's fine, Matt. You just wanna suck up to Ms. Whitaker -- again.

MATT

You should try it sometime. Maybe you'd get the lines right for a change.

JORDAN

If you'd stop overacting with
stupid pauses all the time, I
could.

WHISTLE BLOW

The boys react to MADDIE JENSEN, 17, whose face is filled
with anger, with a whistle.

Maddie is the theatre department stage manager. Always
dresses in blend into the wall casual.

MADDIE

Take five!

MATT

But...

MADDIE

FIVE!

Maddie storms off.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

BECCA MONTGOMERY, 17, sits under an array of lights and
cameras recording an interview with two REPORTERS.

Becca sits with the glimmering smile and glow of a TV star.

REPORTER #1

What's it like to be back?

BECCA

After years on television, it will
be fun to spend my last semester
back here in my hometown high
school. Kicking back and just being
normal again.

She leans back, flirts and smiles -- this girl has no clue
what normal is.

SIDE HALLWAY

The boys rush down the hallway, filled with anger, then stop
upon seeing the interview.

MATT

I can't believe she's back here.

JORDAN
Hot as ever.

Maddie arrives.

MADDIE
She wasn't always hot. Was kind of
a geek.

The boys turn to her.

MADDIE (CONT'D)
I've known her since kindergarten.

MS. WHITAKER rushes in crazed. Sunglasses on, clipboard in
hand. She addresses Matt and Jordan.

MS. WHITAKER
Are my Rosencrantz and Guildenstern
ready to strut their stuff?

MATT
Ms. Whitaker, what do you know of
the Teen Artists Awards?

MS. WHITAKER
It's a big deal. Casting directors
and producers abundance. Spielberg
and Tarantino are coming, I hear.

MATT
I'd kill to be killed in a
Tarantino flicks.

MADDIE
I'd kill to see that.

Matt and Maddie snarl at each other.

BACK TO BECCA

REPORTER #2
Who's your escort for the Teen
Artist Awards? Your boyfriend on
"Heartthrobs in Bungalows?"

BECCA
Alas, Todd Weinstein and I are no
more. Religious duties. He's going
on a Mormon sabbatical.

REPORTER #1
He's Jewish.

BECCA

I know. So sweet of him to do that.
I'm sure one lucky boy here will go
with me. But, who will it be?

INT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Matt hops out of his car.

Maddie zips up to him and hands him a card.

MATT

What's this?

MADDIE

A sympathy card for Becca. She lost
her grandfather. Thought I'd grab
you before the phalanx of girls hit
on you.

MATT

Phalanx?

MADDIE

It's a Roman...

MATT

I know what a phalanx is. Who uses
a word like that?

Maddie hands over a pen.

MADDIE

Me. Sign. And don't screw it up
this time.

MATT

What are you talking about?

MADDIE

You signed the sympathy card to me
about my dad with "Happy Birthday."

MATT

No, I didn't.

MADDIE

Yeah, you did.

Matt signs.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

You know, this would be a great chance for you with Becca. Be her date for the Teen Awards thing.

(BEAT)

Nah, even you wouldn't go that low.

MATT

What are you talking about?

MADDIE

She's vulnerable. You get some flowers. A gift. Tell her you're sorry. Could be her date for the Teen Awards.

INT. BLACKBOX THEATRE - DAY

Becca holds a card. Matt gives her flowers.

She hugs him with an over-the-top hug.

BECCA

Thank. Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Jordan enters with a big sympathy card, cookies, and sympathy balloons.

JORDAN

For you.

BECCA

Oh, my. You two are so sweet. Adorable little sugar cubes.

Maddie enters, surprised to see Jordan.

Becca hands everything to Maddie.

BECCA (CONT'D)

Put these balloons in water or something.

Becca gives Jordan a big, over-the-top hug.

Jordan sneers at Matt over Becca's shoulder during the hug.

BECCA (CONT'D)

It's so sad.

She sits down. Matt takes one hand, Jordan the other.

BECCA (CONT'D)
The worst part are my grandad's
children. Poor things. The youngest
one is six, I think.

MATT
Six?

JORDAN
Way to go, grandad.

BECCA
Did you think I meant....?

Becca bowls over with a high-shrill laugh only a mother could
love.

BECCA (CONT'D)
No, my grandfather used to do a
magic show for sick children from a
hospital ward. He did a forty-five
minute magic show for the kids
every year. He did it Sonny Bono.

Maddie returns.

BECCA (CONT'D)
He loved it and the kids loved him.
So sad.

Becca gives a melodramatic sigh.

MATT
I do magic.

BECCA
Get out.

MATT
It's been awhile, but I know a few
tricks.

BECCA
I bet you do. You know, if you
could do the show, I'm still
looking for a date for Awards
Night.

Matt beams with delight.

JORDAN
I know magic, too. I'll do it.

BECCA

You do?

Becca flirts with Jordan.

BECCA (CONT'D)

You guys are so talented. Which one
do I choose?

Becca cuddles up to Jordan.

MADDIE

Why not a competition? See who's
the better magician.

BECCA

Perfect. A head and shoulders
battle.

MADDIE

Head to...never mind.

BECCA

Yes, to the victor goes the...

MADDIE

Three weeks and see who's the best?

JORDAN

Deal.

MATT

Deal.

BECCA

Done!

Becca scoots off.

JORDAN

(to Matt)

Game on.

Jordan rushes off.

MADDIE

(aping Matt)

I do magic.

MATT

I do. A few tricks anyway.

MADDIE

She said forty-five minutes.

MATT
I'll figure it out.
(uncertain)
Somehow.

Matt turns to go.

MADDIE
I can help.

Matt spins around with curiosity.

INT. MADDIE'S HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Matt and Maddie stand over a trunk of magic equipment.

MADDIE
My dad was a magician. This was his
trunk of illusions. He refused to
call them tricks. Illusions.

MATT
Do you know how to do any of these?

MADDIE
No. I wanted to keep it all special
and magical. So, I never learned.
First time I've opened this since
he died.

Matt pulls out a pamphlet marked "Torn and Restored Newspaper
Illusion."

MATT
What's this?

Maddie snatches the pamphlet from him.

MADDIE
His signature illusion. He was
famous for it. He rips up a
newspaper right in front of you
then restores it. It's pretty dope.

MATT
Best way to kick Jordan's butt.

Matt reaches for it.

MADDIE
No way. It's a special illusion
from my dad. Let it stay that way.

Maddie takes the pamphlet, puts it in a folder, then buries it in the trunk.

MATT

You were gonna get me that script
for the one-acts?

MADDIE

Yeah. I'll be back.

Matt waits for her to disappear, takes the pamphlet out of the folder, drops it in his knapsack, then buries the folder at the bottom of the trunk.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

A small crowd of high school students stand around a table where Jordan performs card tricks.

Matt runs into the crowd to find Becca seated next to Jordan as he performs another trick.

The fans cheer the completion of a trick.

Jordan takes in the adoration, then smirks at Matt.

Becca grabs Jordan's arm and snuggles up to him.

BECCA

That was amazing.

JORDAN

Just amazing as you.

Becca sees Matt and Maddie.

BECCA

Jordan's looking pretty impressive,
Matt.

Becca ruffles Jordan's hair and skedaddles.

Matt rushes up to Jordan.

MATT

What are you doing?

JORDAN

What you think, genius?

MATT

The competition's in two weeks, not
now.

JORDAN
Just warming her up, Matty boy.

Becca returns.

BECCA
I just heard the best news. The showrunner from Heartthrobs and Bungalows is going to be at the Awards Night. He's casting for his next show and looking for teenage boys. I may put in a good word in for the winner.

Becca chuckles and sashays away.

Jordan laughs at Matt and runs off.

Matt fumes.

INT. MADDIE'S HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

A table set-up for magic. Matt finishes one illusion.

Maddie applauds.

MADDIE
That was pretty good.

MATT
It's gotta be perfect for Becca.

MADDIE
That stuck up, no talent...

MATT
TV star.

MADDIE
Have you seen that show?

MADDIE (CONT'D)
Trevor...I...I just can't see you anymore. The tanning bed accident is just too bad an omen.

MATT
You're jealous of us.

MADDIE
Us?

MATT

Actors. We go onstage and do what you techies can't do.

MADDIE

You'd be nowhere without us techies.

MATT

They come to see me.

MADDIE

You? Just you?

MATT

Us actors.

MADDIE

You think you own the school, don't you? You and Jordan.

MATT

I never said that.

MADDIE

You don't have to. I see how everyone fawns over you, even the teachers.

MATT

Can we work on this please?

MADDIE

Do you even know about the kids at this ward?

MATT

They're kids, what's the big deal?

MADDIE

Kids with rare diseases. Many terminal. I was one of them. That's why I know.

MATT

I didn't know that.

MADDIE

I don't talk about it much. I'm in remission, but at any moment it could--. I'm not expected to live past my twenties.

Matt finally listens.

MATT

I'm sorry.

MADDIE

Thank you.

Both look at each other, maybe for the first time.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

We should work on something new.

MATT

Yeah, we should.

INT. MADDIE'S HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY - MOS

SERIES OF SCENES

A.) Matt and Maddie work rope trick successfully and hi-five.

B.) The two work on a trick involving water and they splash each other's faces and laugh.

C.) They sit together, eating a snack and talk.

D.) Matt leaves at night and fist bumps with Maddie. All smiles with each other. As Matt leaves. Maddie smiles with satisfaction. Matt on the other side of the garage door pauses in thought and smiles.

INT. BECCA'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Upper-class, pristine living room. A large room of the well-to-do

Becca and Maddie watches the guys compete.

COMPETITION MONTAGE

Two tables of magic illusions for the competitors.

Jordan performs a rope trick that Becca enjoys.

Matt with Maddie as his assistant an illusion. Jordan scowls upon watching, but applauds when Becca applauds.

Jordan does his illusion and Becca eats it up.

Matt does his illusions with Maddie.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. BECCA'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Jordan does another illusion and Becca CHEERS. Matt looks on and appears dejected by Jordan's success. Jordan walks over to Matt.

JORDAN
(smug)
Your turn.

Matt takes a deep breath and stands up, but waves Maddie to stay seated.

Matt starts the newspaper illusion.

Maddie sits stunned and angry.

Matt performs the illusion of tearing up a newspaper and restoring it.

Becca and Jordan drops their jaws astonished.

Maddie fumes.

APPLAUSE

BECCA
That was amazing. You get the magic show and the award's dinner date with me. I'll get info about the superfluous night.

Becca gives Matt a peck on the cheek and scoots off.

Jordan nods to Matt his begrudging respect, then leaves.

Maddie darts up to Matt.

MADDIE
You stole my father's illusion.

MATT
I didn't steal it. We won. That's what you wanted, right?

MADDIE
I said we're not using it.

MATT
Then I would have lost.

MADDIE

It's always comes back to you,
doesn't it? You don't give a damn
about me, my feelings at all.

Maddie storms out of the house.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

Several young children watch Matt perform. All enamored.

In the audience sit Maddie and Becca.

As each illusion is performed and the kids cheer, Maddie's scowl flips to a smile.

Matt calls up a CHILD who grabs his crutch to stand and is helped to his feet by a NURSE. The young audience APPLAUD as the child gets to his feet.

Matt performs the Professor's Nightmare illusion where uneven ropes become even and back again. The young audience gawks and smiles.

Matt performs a scarf appearing illusion (Square Circle) for the kids who eat it up.

Maddie is all smiles and applauds.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

Matt takes a deep breath and prepares the newspaper illusion.

MATT

Some people think this illusion is
good, but I think it's
(tearing the newspaper)
Terrible.

The kids snicker.

Matt works the illusion, but a key part drops out ruining the illusion.

A kid picks up the dropped insert and gives it to Matt.

Matt takes it, then stashes the newspaper illusion.

MATT (CONT'D)

I hope you all --. Thanks.

Maddie starts the applause.

An embarrassed Matt runs out of the room.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

Matt runs into a hallway and stops.

He sees Becca and Jordan kissing.

Matt stares at the lovers, then leaves.

INT. HOSPITAL SIDE ROOM - DAY

Matt gyrates with frustration.

Maddie arrives.

MATT

That sucked. Karma wins again.

MADDIE

The show was good.

MATT

I screwed up your dad's illusion.
Karma, huh?

MADDIE

You performed it great at Becca's.
My dad would've approved.

HELEN, a nurse, rushes in.

HELEN

That's the first time Jackie has
smiled in weeks. You made them all
very happy.

MATT

I blew the best illusion.

Maddie walks up to Matt.

MADDIE

They don't care.

HELEN

Your fans want to see you.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

Several kids rush Matt, hug him, and show their adoration.

Matt stands shocked. Helen leans in.

HELEN
You did a great job filling in for
Maddie's dad.

MATT
Maddie's dad? I thought this was
for Becca's grandfather.

HELEN
Who?

Matt points to Becca who stands across the way flirting with
Jordan.

HELEN (CONT'D)
Isn't she a friend of yours?

MATT
No, she's...Maddie's dad?

A LITTLE GIRL enters holding a book.

LITTLE GIRL
Can you read me a story?

MATT
I'll be right there.

Matt heads to

EXT. HOSPITAL PATIO - DAY

Maddie stands outside taking in the scenery.

Matt walks up to her.

MADDIE
You're a big hit.

MATT
This was your dad's gig.

Maddie is surprised, stammers, then comes clean.

MATT (CONT'D)
Why the fake out?

MADDIE
Becca wanted to go out with a
student as a PR stunt.

(MORE)

MADDIE (CONT'D)

"Teen star dates regular high school guy." I bribed her to pick you. I've known her since kindergarten, so I got enough dirt on her to embarrass her for life.

MATT

Why me?

MADDIE

I remembered you did magic. Freshman year you told us when you introduced yourself so I...

MATT

That's not it.

BUSTED

MADDIE

I thought if we worked together you'd notice me for a change. Stupid, I know.

The Little Girl returns and takes Sean's hand.

LITTLE GIRL

C'mon.

MADDIE

Enjoy your date with Becca.

Matt hesitates, then heads back inside.

INT. MATT'S HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

Matt stands before a mirror decked out in his tuxedo with a broad smile.

INT. MADDIE'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Maddie's MOM calls up the stairs for Maddie.

MOM

Maddie, you've got a visitor.

Maddie, dressed in jeans and baggie shirt, comes downstairs. She stops dead in her tracks.

MADDIE

Matt? What are you doing here?
You're supposed to be with Becca at
the...

MATT

She's going with Jordan. I told her
I'm not going. Tonight, I want to
be with you.

Matt hands her the flowers.

MADDIE

I'm helping my Mom tonight.

MOM

Nope. You're not.

Maddie glares at her Mom. She set her up.

MOM (CONT'D)

Bye.

Mom scoots away with a grin.

Matt holds out his hand. Maddie takes it.

MADDIE

Where are we going?

EXT. MADDIE'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Matt walks with Maddie hand-in-hand. They sit on the front
steps.

MATT

Right here. Perfect spot.

MADDIE

You're overdressed.

MATT

That's what happens when you don't
have a great stage manager around.
Maybe I should change that.

Maddie smiles. Matt inches in for a kiss. Maddie pulls back,
then let's him kiss her.

They pull back from the kiss with smiles and watch the
sunset.

FADE OUT.