

BLIND DATE

A MAN SITS AT A TABLE WITH A GLASS
OF RED WINE. HE IS WAITING. A
SMARTLY DRESSED WOMAN ENTERS. HER
NAME IS AMANDA. AMANDA FAIRBORNE

Amanda Excuse me

Kevin Yes?

A Are you Kevin?

K Kevin, yes I am. Kevin. And you are Annabelle?

A Amanda

K Amanda, yes that's it Amanda. Pleased to meet
you Amanda.

A And you

K Would you like a drink?

A Oh, yes please. A dry white wine please. Pinot
Grigio if they have it

K I've got red [he produces his own bottle from
under the table]

A Oh. You've brought your own

K Yes. I have to keep it hidden though. Not
supposed to bring it in, but it's much cheaper

A I suppose it is

K Red OK?

A Well I would prefer white actually

K Have some red

A Well...

K Try it at least

A Ok then

K [he pours a tiny amount] Is that enough?

A Maybe a fraction more

K Can't really afford any more

A Ok. That's fine then

K So here we are then

A Yes

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K You done this much before?

A Um, no, this is my first time

K Oh, a few less than me

A How many have you done?

K 108

A Gosh

K You're a bit of a novice

A I am

K A naïve young newby

A That's it

K Wide eyed and vulnerable? Not sure what to expect? Slightly nervous and yet at the same time excited?

A Something like that

K The first few I did, I was so nervous I wet myself

A Oh dear

K What do you do then?

A I work in advertising

K Oh. What do you advertise?

A All sorts

K Bassetts?

A What. Oh, no, I mean all sorts of products. Soap, cars, beer. We'll do anything for the money

K Like prostitutes

A Um, yes, maybe

K My job's a bit like that

A Really? What's that?

K Leaf sweeper

A Oh

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K Yes, I do all sorts of leaves. I'll do oak, maple, birch, sycamore...

A I see

K Willow, cedar, mahogany, redwood...

A Yes, I get the idea...

K Pine, horse chestnut, larch, poplar

A Very good

K I'll even do yew if you ask me nicely

A I won't

K Some fellas specialise in doing one type of leaf, but I do pretty much whatever falls off. If the business is there, I'll take it. I'm not going to get all ethical, cos if I don't do it, someone else will. Do you know what I mean?

A I do

K Silver birch is the only leaf I won't touch

A Oh really, why's that?

K Something from my childhood. I don't want to talk about it

A Ok, that's fine

K I said I don't want to talk about it

A Yes, I know, I understand

K Alright, alright. My father buried me in silver birch leaves as a joke when I was seven. He went inside and got distracted and didn't come and get me until I was eight and a half. OK, happy now?

A That's awful. How did you survive?

K I ate worms of course, worms. And now I'm addicted to worms. Do you want one [he offers her a tupperware]

A What? God, no. How disgusting

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K No it's not. Birds eat them. Don't call them disgusting

A That's different

K Do you know what I do sometimes?

A What?

K To get more work, I go around and I shake the trees

A Do you?

K I shake the trees to get the leaves to fall off

A I see

K And in the summer, not many fall off at all, so do you know what I do?

A No

K In the night I climb up the trees and I cut the leaves off and throw them down on the ground. I use nail scissors so I don't wake anyone up. You mustn't tell anyone because I'd lose my job and I don't want to lose my job because they give me money

A No, I won't tell

K Good. You seem to be a good lady. Did I mention that I was an axe murderer?

A No you didn't

K I am. A month ago the police raided my house and in the shed they found ten dead axes. I'd chopped their heads off, because I'm an axe murderer see

A Oh yes, very good

K It's like a joke. I murder the axes

A Yes, I get it. You're very funny

K I'm not funny! [pause] I'm hilarious

A You are. You should be on the stage

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K I was on the stage once. The audience was full of doctors. They didn't clap or laugh though. I think they got in free by wearing their doctors coats

A Oh

K Why do buses come in threes?

A I don't know, why do buses come in threes?

K I don't know, I'm asking you

A I thought it was another joke

K No!! It's no joke. They always come in threes. Why do they come in threes, why do they?

A I don't know. They bunch up I suppose

K Like grapes

A Pardon?

K Grapes come in bunches

A Oh yes, and bananas

K And coconuts

A Yes

K But you couldn't get to Streatham Common on a coconut

A No

K So buses are better than coconuts

A I suppose so

K But coconuts have more milk in them

A Yes

K Do coconuts have real milk in them?

A No, I don't think...

K Are coconuts like cows eggs?

A No, it's a different kind of ...

K I'm a serial killer

A Oh, I see, you mean that you chop the heads off weetabix at home?

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K No I mean that I kill people one after the other in a series, usually linked in some way by type of victim, method of death or location of murder

A Oh

K Haven't been caught yet though

A I see

K Do you know why?

A No. Why?

K Cos I don't start til next Tuesday

K Anyway. I've done all the talking. What sort of music do you like?

A Barbara Streisand?

K I don't believe this [he stands] If I've told the agency once I've told them a thousand times: No more weirdos!. [he exits]

[ends]