

THE WAY THAT YOU ACT

by

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INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

SHANNON is annoyed that the waitress keeps eyeballing her boyfriend GREGORY.

SHANNON

Did you say the way she kept staring at you? She's lucky I didn't punch her in the mouth, the bitch.

GREGORY

Shay, why do you always have to start confrontations?

SHANNON

How am I starting it, when she was looking at you?

GREGORY

You could be the bigger person and ignore it. You don't have to fight the world.

SHANNON

Sorry but, if she's going to be that obvious and drool over you while we're trying to have dinner in this restaurant, then I should say something.

GREGORY

Say what? She's our waitress.

SHANNON

I'll ask for a new waitress.

GREGORY

Shannon, listen, alright, listen...you need to stop this shit right now cause you're getting me pissed off and I took you hear because I want to have a nice night out.

SHANNON

Fine. Whatever.

Pause.

GREGORY

You hungry?

SHANNON

Starving.

GREGORY

Yeah, me too. (beat) I'm ready to eat my hand. This bread lasted two minutes between the two of us. We need another basket or something.

SHANNON

Drink your water. I heard that models drink lots of water in order to prevent themselves from eating, so they don't get fat.

GREGORY

Really? Where'd you come across such wisdom?

SHANNON

From my mags asshole.

GREGORY

Woah, I wasn't saying that to aggravate you, alright? I freaking was really asking. Always so quick to name call.

SHANNON

I'm sorry. I didn't know you were being serious with me. I thought you were making me sound stupid.

GREGORY

You're not stupid babe. You're one of the smartest people I know.

SHANNON

You think?

GREGORY

Of course.

SHANNON

Thanks, baby. (beat) Where is this bitch? You see how she leaves us hanging hear for like fifteen minutes already?

GREGORY

Yeah but have some patience. Drink more water.

SHANNON

You being a wiseass now?

GREGORY

Shannon, why is it that every little thing I say to you is like you're ready for war? I'll tell you what, when the waitress comes back, beat the shit out of her. Okay? Will that make you feel better? So then I can get up and throw down with all the waiters and bus boys in this place with a great big smile on my face because you're driving me crazy. So please, smack the bitch, do whatever you got to do so I can have a reason to go crazy.

Pause.

SHANNON

You don't have to get so upset.

GREGORY

No? I don't have to get so upset?

SHANNON

No, you don't have to get so---

GREGORY

Then stop raising my blood pressure all the time cause once I go off, I'm off. You understand?

SHANNON

Yeah, yeah.

WAITRESS

So sorry about the wait guys, something happened in the kitchen, one of the stoves but it's all worked out. The food is great, it will be worth the wait.

SHANNON

Hope so...

WAITRESS

Can I get you anything else?

SHANNON

Yeah, I'll have another margarita but but one that comes back in the time it takes to make it and bring it here.

WAITRESS  
Uhhh, okaaay. And you, sir?

GREGORY  
Me? I'm fine other than my girl  
being rude. My apologies. We're  
just having a little dispute.  
Nothing to do with you, my  
apologies.

WAITRESS  
No worries.

Waitress walks away.

SHANNON  
Are you serious right now?

GREGORY  
What?

SHANNON  
How could you have just said that  
to that whore?

GREGORY  
You want to leave, cause I'm ready  
to leave?

SHANNON  
How can you go against me like  
that?

GREGORY  
Against you? I've asked you so  
politely multiple times to be nice  
to the girl and what do you do?  
You're nasty. So, now I gave it  
back and we're even. Okay?

SHANNON  
Even? Okay, you want to play  
games, we can play games. We'll  
see.

GREGORY  
Alright, listen. I'm gonna put my  
fist through this table in another  
second. Say one more thing and  
watch what I do. You think I'm  
joking?

SHANNON

Punch the table Greg and embarrass yourself. Won't be the first time you look like---

GREGORY

Shut your mouth. I'm telling you Shannon, shut your mouth.

(beat)

Try to take you someone nice, show you a good time. We both can use a good time and you have to carry on like this. I can't believe it. Even before we left the house, you were starting your shit. Even then! This is what I got to deal with, right? You couldn't just listen to what I said to you about the girl, you had to go off being a wiseass. Just can't respect when I ask you politely to do something out of our own integrity. No. You need to go off and start me up and ruin the night.

Gregory stands up.

SHANNON

Sit down, you idiot. Sit down!

GREGORY

Should I sit down?

SHANNON

Please sit down.

Pause.

WAITRESS

Here comes your margarita. Sir, are you sure I can't get you another beer?

GREGORY

Beer? No, ahhh...I'll tell you what...let me get a shot please. Shot of Jameson.

WAITRESS

You got it.

SHANNON (TO WAITRESS)

Thank you. (beat) You see. I was nice just then and she walked off.

GREGORY

Because she's not blind. She's sees the tension right now and she doesn't want to deal with it. She's just trying to do her job. My mother was a waitress and let me tell you, it's one of the hardest job to do. You're making this lady's night a living hell the way that you act.

SHANNON

The way that I act.

GREGORY

Stop repeating everything I say and actually think about what I say.

SHANNON

...Fine, let's eat before everything get like ice.

GREGORY

I'm not even hungry now cause I'm so aggravated.

SHANNON

Oh please, you can eat a four course meal on your dying breathe.

GREGORY

That's true, actually. You alright?

SHANNON

Yeah. You?

GREGORY

Yeah, let's eat.