

FIRST/LAST DATES

By Lila Whelan

28 Plays Later – Play 8

PETER

I gave her a kiss and she said she'd WhatsApp me.  
We'll see.

I gave her my jacket when we walked to the tube.  
There were loads of tourists - a show has just  
emptied out.

I paid for dinner.

She's got a tiny tattoo on her ankle. It's a dolphin.

She thinks face cloth are gross - the texture when  
they're wet freaks her out.

I let her have some of my sticky toffee pudding – I  
didn't like it, bit sickly.

She'd've been a scuba diving instructor in Thailand  
but her dad wouldn't allow it.

Her work's a bit stressful at the moment,  
redundancies. She's only been there a few months  
so she was worried about what was gonna happen.

She didn't check her phone once.

Her dad was in the army, they moved around quite a  
lot growing up.

The waiter slopped the gravy from her plate onto  
her lap when she sat it down. But she didn't,  
complain. She just laughed it off. That was cool.

JO

He'd suggested a little bistro round the corner  
from my work – I work near Leicester Square.

Pricey, but not crazy expensive. I'd never been  
before

I think he was my 11th, maybe 12th date? Since I  
joined that year

I was there first so I got the table and fiddled with  
my phone

When he turned up I went in for 2 air kisses but he  
only went for 1 so I ended up nearly headbutting  
him

He was exactly what I was expecting, blue suit, tan  
shoes, a proper city boy metrosexual

He ordered a cocktail, something with raw egg in.  
It was all frothed up, like scum on a pond.

We talked about work. His work. For a long time.

He hasn't done much travelling, just to Marbella,  
Falaraki. Places like that.

I knocked the waiters arm when he set my food  
down. Gravy all down my lap, it was traumatising

She goes to her family's place in Thailand for Christmas, every year, all ten of them.

I hate wine so I got a cocktail. My sister, Becky, told me that way I could keep pace with her if she was drinking wine.

I clocked her checking me out, yeah I'd say she fancied me too

She looked good, different from her profile. Better, more relaxed. Less duck pout face.

She was drinking a large glass of wine when I finally got there

My sister suggested it, me going on Match, think she just wanted me off her couch

It was my first date since I'd signed up online

I messaged her & she sent me back a smiley face saying 'Don't worry, I'll grab a table'.

I was running late.

His blackberry beeped about five times, but he put it away when he caught me staring.

He's had one job since leaving uni - eight years with the same company

He hates the sea, hates swimming - he nearly drowned when he was young at a friend's birthday party

I always test my dates - I ask to share a desert. If you wanna find out how open, honest, willing to start a relationship your date is, it's a good'a test as any. He passed.

He hates being Ginger - everyone called him Mick Hucknall growing up.

He used to have an ear ring

I offered to go Dutch but he said no. I liked that.

We were in the tube line, me going North, him south - really awkward with all the crowds, it was too really too loud to talk

He kissed me and he said he'd call. I'll wait and see.