

IT WASN'T YOU

By Jeff Dunne

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CHARACTERS

DAN	A trans man who underwent the gender reassignment process. Was married to Meg (once named Richard)
MEG	A trans woman who also underwent the gender reassignment process. Once married to Dan (when going by the name Diane).
JACOB	A male-identifying person, lonely and trying to be assertive, but not very good at it.
DELORES	A female-identifying individual with a sharp patience threshold.

SETTING

Any facility where a speed-dating event could be held. Modern day.

SCENE

(Stage is set with a table and two opposing chairs. Beyond the furniture is a sign indicating that this is a Shakespearean Transgender Speed Dating event. The lights come up as a bell sounds, with Meg seated and Dan joining her at the table, extending a hand.)

DAN

Daniel, or Dan if informality pleases thee.

MEG

That balances tremulous upon the spirit of the eve. I am Meg, regardless. Just Meg.

DAN

Thou wouldst think that with three rounds 'neath my girdle, I'd have devised some clever witticism to melt the ice of these chilly moments.

MEG

If that was it, it doth needs work.

DAN

Might I inquiry as to your pronouns?

MEG

She, her, hers, if it pleases you. If not, they're still she, her, and hers.

DAN

Then she, her, hers it shall be. I'll take he, him, his, if it be your pleasure. So is it safe to assume that, like me, your history didst touch upon reassignment, then? If I might ask...

MEG

Four years past. You...

DAN

Five.

MEG

Well and good, although misled, for my intended remark was that there is something familiar of your manner. Are you native of this fair kingdom of Cincinnati?

DAN

Nay. I moved here but two years past. One might say I needed a change.

(Meg smiles, she got the double entendre.)

MEG

Given your presence here, more than one, it would seem. I, too, am a transplant. Hailing from Denver.

DAN

Do tell. *I* subsided in Denver for many a year. And if I may say, there is something rather familiar about your visage as well. Something... ineffable... tantalizing even.

MEG

Almost suggestive, as if our fates were entwined eternal.

DAN

Now there's an axe whose keen edge would surely have broken the ice. So...

MEG

Yes?

DAN

(Pretending it was an answer instead of a question.)

That was far too easy, m'lady.

MEG

Nothing of the sort. I meant, yes, go on.

(Dan smiles. He knew.)

DAN

What entreats your attentions when thou are not engaged in moments of fleeting romance such as this?

MEG

By day, I ply the trade of a carpenter.

DAN

One cannot help but notice a dearth of female carpenters.

MEG

We are few and far between.

DAN

I was once married to a carpenter.

MEG

So apparently there are at least two of us.

DAN

Nay, in truth, this was... before.

MEG

So apparently there's at least one of us. And what of you?

DAN

I'm a representative, with a focus upon the exchanges of services for coin.

MEG

A sales rep. No shortage there, regardless the gender.

DAN

No words more truly spoken.

MEG

In the shadow of irony, would it surprise you to learn that I, too, was once wed, and to a sales rep, no less.

DAN

An engaging coincidence indeed. What field?

MEG

Diane was employed—

DAN

What?!

MEG

I said that—

DAN

Diane?

MEG

Yes. Her name... (*Suddenly realizing...*) Diane?!

DAN

Richard?!

MEG

You've got to be kidding me!

(The shock of finding their exes here has made them forget entirely where they are.)

DAN

What the hell are you doing in Cincinnati?

MEG

Yes, because *that's* the important discovery here. My ex-wife has a penis now, and the startling news is that she's moved to Ohio.

DAN

He's moved to Ohio, thank you, and yes, I do. And, if I may be so bold, it's a much nicer one than yours ever was.

MEG

Still haven't changed, have you? Always ready with the put down.

DAN

Honestly, I think you made the right choice. You never did know how to use it—

MEG

Not like there was much opportunity to practice. If you look in the dictionary under neglect, you'll see—

DAN

Oh, so you want to talk about neglect?

(There is a loud DING, and Jacob enters.)

How many times did I make dinner, just waiting—

JACOB

Didst though not hear the bell, fair gentles. The time has come to amble forth to partners new.

DAN

In a minute.

JACOB

We receive but minutes four with each lovely lady, so I implore thee again to move along.

DAN

Right. *(Turns back to Meg.)* If you think *you* were neglected, what about me?

MEG

When you're working fourteen hours a day in the middle of summer—

JACOB

Ahem!

DAN AND MEG

Shut up!

JACOB

The rules clearly state—

MEG

Good sir, do be saint and remain silent for a moment.

DAN

I knew you were working long days...

(He looks over at Jacob, and realizes he needs to stay within the rules.)

Thou weren't the only soul toiling long past the daylight's fade.

MEG

Forsooth, and I was well aware of the trials *you* faced.

DAN

Then could not a morsel of pity have escaped your miserly lips? The simplest of measures would have filled an empty cup of isolation.

MEG

I thought you knew.

DAN

And how could I have known what lay within your heart and mind?

MEG

You always knew. The knowledge of all things was ever your claim. How oft did your "I'm always right" mantra echo the halls of—

DAN

Why is it so hard for a man to just adm—

(Silence fills the space. Dan looks down at himself awkwardly. Meg opens her mouth to say something, but then closes it again. Jacob looks very conflicted.)

DAN (CONT)
So... What I mean is...

JACOB
Relent.

DAN
Right.

JACOB
(Trying to get Dan to move away.)
If thy intercourse has run its course...

MEG
We still need a moment here.
(Jacob, clearly displeased, takes a few steps back.)

I'm thinking that we might be avoiding the bigger issues here.
(Jacob coughs pointedly.)

We natter of gnats whilest the boar chargeth down upon us.

DAN
A true and piercing assessment.
(There is a moment, as they each regard themselves in their new genders, and then start to laugh. Then whispering so Jacob can't hear.)

MEG
How come you never said anything?

DAN
It's not like you spoke up either.

MEG
My wearing your bras might have been a hint that there—

DAN
You wore my bras?

MEG
And panties. Early explorat—

DAN
(Suddenly understanding...)
So *that's* why they were always stretched out? I thought I was losing weight.

MEG
With the way you hit the fudge ripple? Oh, hon—

(Delores storms in.)

DELORES
What cantankerous demon hath conspired to rip your very wits away?! The system hails clear and simple, my lovelies. The bell rings, the knave ferries on.

JACOB
I tried—

DELORES
Not talking to you. Well?

DAN
Sorry. We had some—

DELORES
Na-na-na!!

(Delores takes Dan by the arm, and drags him away.)

I'm Delores of the county Hamilton, and you'd best commence your silver-tongued ballad of romance midstream, for our moments together are gone by more than half...

(Delores and Dan exit.)

JACOB
Jacob.

(Meg is staring off at where Dan left.)

McBorland. JACOB (CONT)

What? MEG

Jacob McBo... Never mind. JACOB

You know, she always irritated the crap out of me. MEG

Delores of county— JACOB

No... her. Him. Dian— Dan. She... *He* was so stubborn. So single-minded all the time. MEG

(Jacob looks at Meg with an expression of 'are you really telling the truth'.)

What? He was.

Wouldest thou know my thoughts? JACOB

Oh, shut up. MEG

Is it possible that what broiled rancid in the heat of your love— JACOB

I'm two seconds from beating the crap out of you. MEG

Maybe it wasn't really a problem with just him? JACOB

I said I didn't want to know. No means no, Jacob. You men are all alike. MEG

(Dan enters again, makes an "oh my god, that woman is crazy" expression.)

DAN

I think you owe me an explanation.

MEG

I was just thinking the same thing.

JACOB

No she wasn't.

(Dan and Meg simultaneously turn and point "back off" fingers at Jacob, who puts his hands up and steps away from the table.)

DAN

Is it... better?

MEG

Is what better?

(Dan incline's his head to indicate her physical body.)

It's... right. It was never right before. The sense of... disconnect.

DAN

Yeah.

MEG

Same?

DAN

Yeah. You know, the whole time we were married, I always thought it was you. That you just weren't a good fit for me.

MEG

I thought the same thing. But...

DAN

But?

MEG

Now can't help but wonder if maybe it wasn't really a problem with you at all.

JACOB

I told her that.

(They both turn to glare at him.)

Sorry.

DAN

It seems we just weren't such good fits for ourselves.

MEG

So it seems.

DAN

Wouldn't it be funny if it turned out that we really were a great fit for each other, though?

(There is a loud, DING, and lights out)