

(Speaker walks up to listener, fumbling and nervous)

Um... h-hi!

Can I bother you for a second? I-if you're busy I'll leave you alone. I don't want to interrupt you or anything.

You're not? O-okay good. Um... so... I kinda wanted to ask you something kind of crazy... and you're allowed to say "no" there's no pressure or anything, I won't get upset if you don't want to.

S-so um, I've kinda been... *embarrassment noise* n-no, never mind! I just realized how creepy it sounds out loud. Forget it, I'm sorry for bothering you!

No really! It's okay, it's my fault anyway. I'll leave you be!

Are you sure? O-okay... Please don't get mad, I swear I wasn't doing it in a weird or creepy way but... I've been sort of... glancing at you a bit... a lot, actually. I don't know, the first time you talked to me I got really really flustered. And when we talked more I just got so nervous around you, b-but not in a bad way! It was just more like, I was really self-conscious about everything I said, and my heart was beating so fast I could barely speak, but I really loved talking to you and listening to you and being around you... and ever since, I couldn't stop-
inhale I couldn't stop thinking about you... and I heard that there was a cafe that opened up in town recently so I... was wondering if you would... like to go sometime? W-with me? Like, together?

Y-yeah, I guess it's a bit sudden... We don't have to go right now or anything! If you have plans later today then I can wait! Or if you don't want to go I understand...

W-wait really? You'd like to go? Like, right now? Uhhh, wait I wasn't... expecting to get this far, give me a second!

Sorry I was just more mentally prepared for you to say no. But since you've agreed I-I...

Y-yes, I'd love to go right now! Nothing would make me happier!

It's just down the main street, close to the old real-estate office. I can show you the way if you're okay with walking...

Y-yeah! Okay...

(Listener and speaker proceed to walk together)

S-sorry if I'm annoying you. A lot of people get mad at me because I fall apart so easily when talking to people. It's just... I always overthink what I want to say while talking and then I get flustered, and people always get mad at me when I fumble over my words or speak too quickly so... I guess I'm just used to getting attacked whenever I talk.

Am I nervous right now? Uh... yeah I'm, actually borderline terrified right now... It's not because of you! Well, I guess technically it is but... I'm just really really happy right now but... really really nervous that I'm annoying you... or that I'll screw this up...

Well uh... It's because I've... never really been on a date with **another boy/a girl** before. I'm kinda nervous.

O-Oh sorry! Did I call it a date? Augh, I'm sorry I'm sorry that was stupid of me!

Y-you're laughing? Oh...

No it's just um... well... would you be mad if I said you... have a really nice laugh?

Thank you...

Okay we're uh, we're here! Oh, right... I'll pay for both of us so, you can have whatever you want just... please don't go overboard?

H-Hi, um table for two please! The booth by the window if that's okay...

Thank you.

I hope you're okay with a seat by the window, I like having a view of the outside while I drink my coffee.

Nervous looking around sounds

U-Um, everyone's staring at us... why are they staring at us?

Yeah, you're right. I should just ignore them.

Oh, the waitress is coming over.

H-hi, um I'll take a candy-cane medium regular please.

Oh! To eat? Umm... I guess I'll have... uhh... sorry I didn't check the menu before you came over...
can I have a minute? Let my friend order first?

Okay... I guess I'll take the raspberry scone. Thank you.

Um, sorry for throwing you under the bus like that... I kinda panicked and got flustered.

Wh- c-cute? You think it's cute? J-jeez, you're making me blush. Now people are really going to
be staring at me you jerk...

Thank you though. **A boy's never called me "cute" before./I've never been called cute by a
girl before.** It's... a nice feeling.

Why am I getting so flustered? I-I'm not!... Okay well, maybe a little...

W-well, I can tell you if you want it's just... I've... never told anyone this before so... please
promise me you'll keep it a secret?

Okay... so, I'm just... really... REALLY insecure about myself. I don't know why but I've always
just been really bad around other people. I always find myself worried about what they think of
me or what they think of the things I'm saying to them, and I end up panicking and getting
flustered. And then they see that I'm nervous and it makes *me* nervous and I just sink deeper.

**The other boys make fun of me all the time for it. I'm not confident or "manly" like they are,
I'm not really into sports or any other "guy" things... and on top of it all I like other boys...
they always find some kind of way to attack me for being different.**

**I've always been terrible around girls especially. I don't what it is, I just get so flustered...
it's like, even if she's just a friend or a stranger, I always get this thought like, "What if she's
the one?" or "What if she likes me?" and it just makes me even more nervous... I know it's
stupid, but I can't control my thoughts... I don't know how the other guys manage it, acting
all confident and boastful... I don't think I could ever be as attractive as them...**

I've never really talked about it because... I know people like me get made fun of a lot. Like you
know those, "niceguys" memes you always see around the internet where a guy claims he's,
"not like the other boys"? I know people like that really do exist but, it just feels like the guys
that really do lack confidence in themselves and just so desperately want to be understood

aren't given a second thought because some many others use that as an excuse to get attention...

But... I'm... really grateful for you. I know we haven't really talked much but you... well... you're not like the others. You're considerate, and thoughtful. You're willing to give people like me a chance, and that's all I can really ask for! If the world had more people like you in it, things would be so much better. So, thank you... you know for... being you!

Huh? Oh! Thank you for the food! I-it looks grade- great! It looks really good! Thank you again...

... see? I can't form a sentence to save my life.

Still, this looks great!

Hm? Oh, it's medium regular coffee with candy cane flavoured mix. Normally you can only get it around christmas, and it's sooo good! That's why I was so happy when I found out you could get some here!

Hm? You're smiling?

Gh- h-hey! Stop calling me cute! Gah, jeez...

W-well, no it's not that I mind or anything it's just... you make me get more flustered than I already am...

W-well, what did you order then? I was busy reading the menu so, I don't really hear...

Why don't I taste it myself... wait what? Are you offering me a sip of your drink?

Um, uh, well, I... I mean, I guess I don;t mind if you're offering but... are you sure *you* don't mind?

Uh, okay...

Oh wow... yeah unironically it's not really my cup of tea... but I can kinda see why you like it. Here, you can have it back now.

(Time passes)

Th-thanks alot for coming along, I had a really great time! Um... if it's okay with you... I'd love to do it again sometime!

Oh hold on, can we stop on this bridge for a second?

I like to just lean on the edge of the bridge rails sometimes, looking down at the water. Recently I've come to appreciate moments like these where we can just... stop and think. I wish I had some bread with me or something, I like feeding the ducks.

Yeah... like I said, I'm not like the other guys... they're all so cool and energetic and attractive and I'm just... bland compared to them. But... I like who I am, and I guess that's okay. I'm going to be stuck with myself for my entire life so I mean, It'd help for me to learn to accept who I am right?

Hey uh, while we're on the topic... kind of... can I... tell you another secret?

O-okay so... I-I... I kinda... um... today I thought... I mean when you... um...

Sorry! I... I can't do it... I'm just too nervous. I'm sorry... I'm sorry... H-hey, you don't have to take my hand, I'm okay... no on second thought, please don't let go of my hand...

Huh-? A-a hug?

Th-thank you... thank you... that feels a lot better...

What was I trying to say?

I... I... I-like... I have... I asked...

... I asked you out today because I have a crush on you and wanted to spend time with you!

U-uh... I mean... I, I'm sorry, I shouldn't have said that...

... No, no I'm not sorry... I really meant it... I like you... You're not like the others, you're someone who's caring and understanding and smart and kind and- I just really really like you.

A-are you pulling away?

No? You just... wanted to look at my face? Ughhh, it's probably really red...

Huh? Wait why are you leaning... in... wait... wait hold on!

Um, sorry I just... I'm... I'm not really ready for that yet... this is all really sudden and new to me...

Do you mind if I... put my hands on your cheeks?

inhale *exhale*

Okay I'm... I'm ready...

first kiss!

Th-thank you!

That was... probably the best moment of my life...

So, you like me too...?

Ahhaah... Im... oh my... but... why?

S-sorry, I-I'm happy really! It's just... I don't know why you would even...?

Oh... Oh. Thank you. Haaha, I'm so glad I didn't mess this up!

Huh? Uh, yeah... we should... keep walking, yeah.

Ah- your hand!

N-no I like it... I've just never held hands with a **boy/a girl** before... it's nice.

So... is this just a one-time thing or can we be... you know... a couple? **Boyfriends?/Boyfriend and girlfriend**, that sort of thing?

Then... can we go on another date sometime again? I'd love that.

O-okay, sure... that sounds wonderful. I'll text you the details then, when I get a chance...

Oh, my place is about 8 minutes from here... We can split if you... need to go the other way.

Y-you'll walk me home? I'd... love that, actually. Thank you... *kiss*

Do you mind when I kiss you on the cheek? No? Okay... *happy laugh* okay...