

Act 1Scene 1

SETTING: Overcrowded grocery store.  
Over crowded mostly by product rather than people, but everyone who is there knows each other. As HE (STEVE) and SHE (KATE) walk through, and pick up groceries for their families, they greet whoever walks by, in between sentences.

HE

First things first, fruits and veggies.

(They both walk into the fruits and veggies section and begin picking out some onions.)  
There's going to be a dance at the church hall Saturday night.

SHE

I know. Why are you telling me? Need a date or something?  
(Pointing at a different case of veggies nearby.)  
Carrots.

HE

Um. No. I mean. I. I. I didn't say that.

(HE walks in the opposite direction of her to some oranges, far enough away where he can still hear her.)

SHE

Oh. So, you finally got Mary Jones.

HE

Where did you get that idea? What do you mean "got Mary Jones".

SHE

Well, you brought it up to me, so you must've asked her first.

HE

I barely know Mary Jones, your school schedule is free on Saturdays, so I figured I would mention it.

(Pointing.)

Arugula.

SHE

So you are asking me.

HE

No.

SHE

Well, then you'd better go ask Mary Jones.

(Pointing.)

Squash.

HE

Fine.

(An old woman approaches and squeezes his arm.)

OLD WOMAN

Stevie, honey, I heard your father wasn't doing so well. What happened?

STEVE

Hey, Mrs. Simmons, um. Yeah he just hurt his back. I've been home for the past few weeks trying to help out around the house.

(He holds up a bag he's collecting as proof.)

MRS. SIMMONS

I see, well if you ever need anything we're only two doors down.

STEVE

Yes, I remember.

MRS. SIMMONS

Glad to see you haven't missed a chance to ask for help from your partner in crime, though.

(Addressing "SHE".)

Hi, Katie, how are you, dear?

KATE

Hi, Mrs. Simmons, I'm good, how are you?

MRS. SIMMONS

Oh, you know, back hurts here, house leaks there. Can't ever be too careful huh? How's school?

KATE

It's good! I'm one semester away from being able to apply for some substitute teacher roles. I want to check out the education scene before I settle down on daycare.

MRS. SIMMONS

I remember when I used to babysit you two when you were that age, sharing toys and taking baths together. Now you're all grown up and taking care of my grandkids, how time flies. Well, you two lovebirds- I mean, darlings have fun shopping. Oh, fresh strawberries!

(She brushes past Kate. There is a moment before the two continue shopping.)

STEVE

Cabbage.

KATE

Not that it matters, but how are you planning on getting to the dance with a date who isn't embarrassed of your old, busted-up truck?

STEVE

It's not just a truck, it's a project. And I won't be taking that to the dance either. Don't worry about it.

KATE

(She scoffs in disbelief)  
How are you getting there at all then?

STEVE

Why do you care?

KATE

I call bull.

STEVE

I'm an engineer, Kate, I have friends with cool cars. I rented a Camaro. A convertible. From a friend. A white one. Eight cylinders. A Z28.

KATE

And you didn't ask Mary Jones to go with you?

STEVE

No. Maybe I'll ask her tonight. Do you think she'll say yes?