

## **The Dress by Matt Deline**

(Scene: Lights up on a room with a bed upstage right, a wardrobe closet upstage center, a full-size mirror downstage left, and a door on stage right. Jason is sitting on the edge of the bed and Claire is standing near the mirror.)

CLAIRE

So what do you think of the dress?

JASON

Huh?

CLAIRE

What do you think of my dress? I think it makes me look fat.

JASON

Don't be ridiculous. You don't look fat at all.

CLAIRE

Don't *look* fat... Jason I feel horrible. I put in all that work to lose weight and it's just come right back to me. It makes me feel sick. I don't even want to go outside anymore.

JASON

You want my honest opinion?

CLAIRE

Yes.

JASON

Do me a favor. Close your eyes, and think of the most beautiful woman in the entire world.

CLAIRE

Okay.

JASON

(walks over to Claire, moves her to face the mirror)

Now I want you to open your eyes and tell me what you see.

CLAIRE

I see... me... What's your point?

JASON

Now it's my turn. I'm closing my eyes and thinking about the most beautiful woman in the entire world.

CLAIRE

Okay...

JASON

Claire... I don't need to open my eyes to know that she is still standing right next to me.

(opens his eyes and begins to walk away slowly)

CLAIRE

Where are you going?

JASON

I'm going to let you think about that for a bit. If you still feel the same, then you don't trust me enough. But know that I mean what I said, every word of it.

CLAIRE

Jason... I... I

(She runs to Jason and stops him once he is in front of the bed and kisses him. Blackout.)

(Lights up on Jason sitting on the bed with his eyes closed and Claire is standing by the mirror.)

Hellooo? Jason? Snap out of it!

JASON

Huh? Oh yeah... what's up?

CLAIRE

My dress? You must like it cause you've been staring at me without making a sound for quite a while now.

JASON

Oh the dress. Right. Its... um.. its nice.

CLAIRE

Yeah. I think so.

(there is a knocking at the door. Claire goes to the door to let in Jeff.)

JEFF

Hey babe. You look great. Is that a new dress?

CLAIRE

(kisses him.)

Yeah. Thanks for noticing. You ready for tonight?

JEFF

Hell yeah I am. I can't wait. Is Jason here?

JASON

Hey Jeff...

JEFF

Hey what's up man! How are you doin'?

JASON

I'm alr--

JEFF

Anyways dude, I gotta get ready. Dont do anything I would. Heh.

CLAIRE

Don't be too long sweetie.

(Jeff exits left)

JASON

Asshole.

CLAIRE

Don't start this up again. I like Jeff. You know that.

JASON

Yeah... it's just. He's a jerk. He doesn't like talking to me ever and just walks away.

CLAIRE

No he does'nt.

JASON

Of course he does. You know he does. It's always "Hey what's up dude" or "Hey what's up kid." and then he finds an excuse to leave.

CLAIRE

He had to go change.

JASON

And he always talks down to me. It's like I'm nothing to him and he knows it. It just really pisses me off.

CLAIRE

Jason. That's not true. He just takes some time to open up to. He just doesn't know you that well yet.

JASON

He barely gives you any attention either. He's a jerk, and he doesn't know how to treat you at all.

CLAIRE

What are you getting at?

JASON

Claire. I love you, I always have. You shouldn't be dating this ass. He only loves himself.

CLAIRE

Jason. I can't do that. You're like a brother to me...

JASON

Oh I know, I know. That's how it always goes. You're just a good friend. You're too nice.

Blah. Blah. Blah. Blah. Blah. I know you better than anybody else in the world.

CLAIRE

But I love Jeff. It's not just knowing somebody better than anybody else.

JASON

Claire, I love you.

CLAIRE

Jason get away from me, you're scaring me.

JASON

Just one kiss. That's all I'm asking. Just one.

CLAIRE

No.

JASON

Please?

CLAIRE

NO.

JASON

(tries to kiss her)

I love you.

CLAIRE  
Jeff! Help!

JASON  
Claire...

CLAIRE  
Jeff, get in here now!

JASON  
I told you. He doesn't care about you... he only cares about himself.

(claire slaps him, backs away and knocks over the stand-up mirror while tearing her dress)

JEFF  
(enters left)  
What's going on here? Jason? Claire.... Who the hell do you think you are?

JASON  
A fool... a god damned fool...  
(exits right, with Jeff following soon after. Blackout)

(Lights up on Claire standing next to the mirror now standing upright.)

CLAIRE  
So Claire... what do you think of this dress?  
I think it looks great.

(Blackout.)