

STRING THEORY

Two People. One Proverb. Infinite Possibilities.

V. 7

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CHARACTERS

LILY Female, cis/het, 15-30 years old.

ROGER Male, cis/queer, 15-30 years old.

SETTING

A grassy area in a park in the New York burbs. The time is current.

NOTES

A “/” indicates an overlap in dialogue. A “-” indicates a cutoff, whether of the thought or of the line.

Audiences should see every moment of performance, including costume and scene changes. Unless otherwise indicated, avoid blackouts wherever possible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To the many Lilys and Rogers that have crossed my path, thank you. Your lessons and memories are invaluable.

For my husband, who revolutionized my understanding of a soulmate.

For the Mugs, who revolutionized my understanding of soulmates.

And for you, wherever you are. May you find a soft place to land.

Scene 3: A Season of Firsts

A few weeks later. Lights rise to find LILY pacing. Enter ROGER.

ROGER

Hey- are you okay? I got your text-

LILY

Aaron asked me out.

ROGER

Hey! That's great! You seem really / uptight about it.

LILY

I've never been on a date before.

ROGER

Okay.

LILY

I've never held hands with another person before.

ROGER

That's a lie.

LILY

You don't count.

ROGER

Geez, okay.

LILY

I've never kissed anyone before.

ROGER

Well, there's a first time for everything.

LILY

No, Roger! I cannot let my inexperience absolutely ruin my chances with Aaron. What if he's the one?

ROGER

Oh my God, Lil. It's a first date. It's not that serious.

LILY

Yeah, okay, but imagine how nice it would be to NOT mess this up?

ROGER

I guess.

LILY

I was doomscrolling this morning, and there was a video about the best way to shape your mouth when kissing.

ROGER

You really can't make this stuff up, can you?

LILY

They said the best way to get the right shape was to kiss an orange. Can you believe it? Practice kissing an orange and you'll be the best kisser around.

ROGER

That's ridiculous.

LILY

I know. That's why I texted you.

ROGER

Because...Lil, you can't be serious-

LILY

You're my best friend, Roger. I wouldn't ask if I thought I could do this on my own.

ROGER

No one goes around practicing for this kind of thing. I promise.

LILY

But you've kissed tons of people!

ROGER

And?

LILY

You have to know what you're doing!

ROGER

It's instinctual, Lil! You don't need to practice this!

LILY

Please, Roger? I can't get feedback from an orange.

Beat.

ROGER

Alright. ONE kiss. But this stays between us. And you better cherish every ounce of this feedback.

LILY

Absolutely.

ROGER

First thing's first-

LILY

Wait!

She needs to take notes. She indicates when ROGER can continue.

ROGER

First thing's first- the work starts long before the date. Clean teeth, fresh breath, and chapstick. Always. And none of that flavored junk, either. Carmex is your best friend.

LILY

Carmex. Got it.

ROGER

When he goes to kiss you-

LILY shoots her hand in the air.

ROGER (CON'T.)

...do you have a question?

LILY

What if I want to initiate?

ROGER

Okay, look. That doesn't really matter.

LILY

But what if I want to?

ROGER

Then initiate!

LILY

How do I initiate?

ROGER

Oh my God, you just do. Okay? You feel it and you just do.

LILY

Feel what?

ROGER

Lily!

LILY

You're right. Sorry.

ROGER

Like I was saying: when he goes to kiss you, or you go to kiss him, whoever initiates, you need to make sure you're both connected.

LILY

Literally?

ROGER

Figuratively, but literally works, too. Just make sure you're on the same page, okay?

LILY

And I'll know because...

ROGER

Because you'll feel it. The butterflies in your stomach. The excitement. Heart racing. Your hands will probably sweat.

LILY

Great.

ROGER

If you want him to kiss you, you have to let him know. Look in his eyes. Look at his lips. Look back in his eyes. Make the connection.

She does as he says. It's...interesting.

ROGER (CON'T)

Now, what did that video teach you about kissing?

LILY

It said to use pressure. Light pressure, but pressure. And to never lead with your tongue.

ROGER

Good. That's good.

LILY

And it said not to pucker, and not to leave your lips closed.

She makes a half-open mouthed kiss shape.

LILY (CON'T)

Like this.

ROGER

Uh-huh. Yeah, you can relax a bit.

She adjusts her mouth. It's still not right.

ROGER (CON'T)

Okay, not quite like that, either. Just- uh...just let them kind of...

He leans in and kisses her. It is quick and gentle. LILY takes several moments to process.

LILY

That's...

ROGER

That's it. You've just had your first kiss. Congratulations.

LILY

Wait, wait, wait. There's gotta be something- That's it? But-

ROGER

But what? One kiss, that was the deal.

LILY

But there was no...*(she makes various explosive sounds. Fireworks, explosions, kabooms, etc.)*.

ROGER

Huh?

LILY

I just expected there to be more...*(explosive sounds)*. Ya know?

ROGER

Oh, you wanted passion.

LILY

Yes!

ROGER

See, you should've asked for that the first time.

LILY

Roger!

ROGER

Passion comes from feelings, Lily. You can't just conjure up some passion and throw it on a kiss. That comes from connection. And time.

LILY

I'm sorry but we have to do this again.

ROGER

What? No! I agreed to one kiss. That's it.

LILY

Well, according to you, whatever we just did wasn't really a real kiss because it didn't have any passion.

ROGER

This is pedantic.

LILY

Roger.

ROGER

Fine. We can try again if it would make you feel better about your date.

LILY

It would make me feel better about my date.

ROGER

Okay. Then you try this time. (*LILY and ROGER do each action as ROGER says them.*) Initiate. Make the connection. Eyes, lips, eyes. Feel the chemistry.

LILY

I feel...something.

ROGER

Here. Hold my hand.

They hold hands.

ROGER (CON'T)

Mhmm. Sweaty.

LILY

I'm nervous.

ROGER

It's just me.

When the time is right, they kiss. It is once again brief, though different than the first. ROGER pulls back. LILY goes in hard for another. They kiss repeatedly, giving further and further into the moment each time. After a bit, they reel back.

ROGER

Uh...

LILY

Wow.

ROGER

So...yeah. That. I would definitely do that.

LILY

You're sure?

ROGER

Uh-huh. Yup. One-hundred percent.

LILY

Do uh...do you think maybe...you know, before my date, just to make sure I've got it down-

ROGER

We could, uh, practice again?

LILY

Just as, like, a warm-up.

ROGER

Yeah. Yeah, for sure. I, uh...I wouldn't want you going on your date feeling nervous or anything.

LILY

No, no. That would totally ruin it.

ROGER

Totally.

LILY

Great. So uh...maybe we meet here...tomorrow? At like four-ish?

ROGER

Four-ish. Yep. Got it. Sounds good.

LILY

Awesome.

ROGER

Yup.

LILY

See you then.

ROGER

Yup.

Lights fade.

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