

Title: Speed Dating—Once Every 3 Years

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Prompt: “falling in love with a place you’ve never been, or a person you’ve never met. 2 scenes, 40 minutes (+10 for every scene).” –Cues Challenge, 7-13-05

Notes: 409 words, 3 scenes (or thereabouts), 20 minutes. No named pairings, but not based on reality either. No warnings. Rated: PG, because no one should do this in real life because of the danger. [/psa]

She’s wearing her best dress. Light green and floating: the dress her mother always told her she looked good in. He’s not sure how dress for these types of things, but his friends won’t let him stay out of it. They brush past each other, clothes touching slightly with no real contact. He grunts his apologies and moves away, looking for someone pretty to stare at for the rest of the night. She exchanges emails with one of the nicer men she meets and heads home for another night alone.

It’s been two and a half years since he’s been on a date with a real female. A friend takes pity on him and gives him the email of a girl he met so long ago, he can’t recall how they met. But he promises the boy that she’s really sweet and funny to talk to. A group chat via instant message and the introductions have been made. They make plans to chat again the next night.

They speak by email. They speak like they’ve known each other for a lifetime, though they’ve met only briefly in their two lives. She tells him all about her family. About the way the baby of the family has the most leeway and the most pressure. She tells him about her brother’s baby boy, her mother’s heart attack, her father’s fatal accident. She describes herself in pictures and music and funny quotes she reads online. She writes him poetry that he tells her is posted up around his house to make him smile when he reads it. She says it’s a little piece of her to brighten his day.

In return, he tells her about his painting business. Nothing says ‘hard worker’ like a man who paints houses for a living. He tells her about his passion for books and how he collects rare stamps and how he’s always wanted to travel to Grenada to see the Alhambra and travel to Gibraltar on a clear day to see all the way to Morocco. He tells her about his younger brother’s mischief as a youth. He listens when she’s down and cheers her up with inane sweet talk.

And, when someone suggests that they should meet, neither see a reason not to do so. They’ve told so much about each other already, they can’t help but recognize the other.

When they meet, it only reinforces how they have become more than ‘chat buddies’.