

LONELY HEARTS

By Rebecca Adler

Grade 5

CHARACTERS

Alyssa- Nurse at Odihn Hospital. Lonely, sarcastic, bossy, talented.

John- Doctor at Odihn Hospital. Cheery, easily angered, old fashioned.

Mr. Elson- Boss of Odihn Hospital. Strict, rich, generous.

Emily- Patient at Odihn and John's cousin. Tired, a bit selfish but also thoughtful.

Person sitting next to Alyssa on the bus. (One line)

Person sitting next to John on the bus/waiter. (One line)

SCENE 1

(Emily lays on a hospital bed at Odihn Hospital, sleeping. Alyssa is getting medicine for Emily, when John walks in)

John: *(Loud)* What happened to Emi-

Alyssa: *(Whispers)* Shh! You'll wake the patient!

John: *(Puts his hands up)* Sorry. What happened to Emily? I thought she just broke her arm, but Mr. Elson said she had a har-

Emily: *(Wakes up)* Heart attack, yeah, yeah. How are you doing Johnny?

John: My name isn't Johnny! And why does everyone keep interrupting me?!

Alyssa: I TOLD you you'll wake her John why are you so loud?

Emily: Uh Hell-oh, your hate for each other is getting in the way of me! Where's my medicine?

Alyssa: I'm so sorry, Emily. Here's your medicine. (*Hands her medicine*) Are you hungry? Can I get you anything?

Emily: A cheeseburger sounds delicious!

John: Cheeseburgers are very fatty Em. You know that is not good for you when you just had a heart attack. (*Sarcastic*) How about Alyssa makes her famous mac n' cheese.

Alyssa: Or Johnny could make you some raw steak

Emily: You guys! Give yourselves a break! You work together and you are going to have to get used to seeing each other every day. I don't even get why you hate each other- was it just hate at first sight?

John: Of course not. We were- (*Looks at Alyssa*) wait what *did* happen to make us like this?

Alyssa: *You* are always being annoying and rude! Nothing happened, just you!

SCENE 2

(*Mr. Elson sits at his desk with his hands folded. Alyssa and John in front of him. John and Alyssa glare at each other*)

Elson: Glad you could make it. What do you think this is about?

Alyssa: Oh No, Mr. Elson! Did something happen to Emily?

John: Alyssa probably messed up someone's medicine.

Elson: Apparently Alyssa cares more about your cousin than you do, John. But nothing happened to anyone and no medicine was messed up. I feel your dislike for each other is getting in the way of your work. If something doesn't happen soon to change this behavior, one of you will have to be fired.

John: *(Silent gasp)*

Elson: The experience here for our patients is already bad, we don't need our doctors and nurses yelling at each other twenty-four-seven.

John: *(Pleading)* Mr. Els-

Elson: No need, Doctor. All I want is an answer. Will this problem be fixed? Or will one of you have to say goodbye? I don't take pleasure in firing you, as you both are very skilled and talented. But there are others who would gladly take your place.

Alyssa: I have an idea Mr. Elson. What if we aren't partners? I could work with another doctor an-

Elson: If you both had a better attitude towards each other, that would not be necessary. If you will work harder and try, just try not to argue in front of patients, I can make adjustments. But for now, I am asking you to try.

SCENE 3

(The bus home from work. Alyssa and John walk in, both on their phones. They sit down as far away from each other as possible)

Alyssa: (*Mumbling*) Dating apps are so complicated. Ooh! This guy seems nice. His name is John. He has a similar last name to my partner at work. Dr. John has a wife though, so it can't be him. I'll text this guy, see if he's nice.

John: (*Whispering to the guy next to him*) A girl found me on this dating app, Luvbirds. And texted me. Her name is Alyssa. She seems nice. Nothing like my annoying partner at work, who is also Alyssa. Besides, she's married. (*Reading while he types*) Hi Alyssa! My name's John. I'm old, 40 years old, but still sharp as a needle.

Alyssa: (*Mumbling*) John texted me back! He seems pretty funny. A little older than me, at forty, but that's okay. (*Reading while she types*) I'm 38, my golden birthday is this year! What do you like to do with your free time? I like hiking and eating out. (I mean, who doesn't?)

SCENE 4

(*Back at work, Alyssa and John are trying to work together in peace and not fight in front of Emily*)

Emily: I'm proud of you Johnny. You took my advice and stopped fighting with Alyssa. I'm betting I'm not the only one who complained to Mr. Boss Man. Did he talk with you?

John: (*Almost yelling*) Yup, Emily- and you also almost got us fired! That is why we aren't fighting, if we do- we'll be fired!

Alyssa: (*Calmly*) If we don't fight, we might be paired up with different partners that don't yell at us all of the time.

Emily: Sounds serious. But something had to be done! I had almost thought of just dealing with it- leaving you bickering buddies to deal with it yourselves. But I didn't. I'm just too nice to do that. *(Flips her hair)*

SCENE 5

(On the bus home from work. Both John and Alyssa are on their phones)

Alyssa: *(Whispering with the girl next to her)* Should I ask him over? Or ask him to go to a restaurant? Or maybe just wait for him to ask me?

Girl next to Alyssa: Take him somewhere, say you'll pay.

Alyssa: Thanks. *(Reading what she types)* Good Afternoon John. Are you free tomorrow? I'm off on Saturdays. We can go to Till-E's Steakhouse. I'll pay!

John: *(Reading while he types)* I'd love to! How about 6:00? But I'll pay.

Alyssa: *(Reading while typing)* It's a date! See you there!

SCENE 6

(Alyssa sits at a table in Till-E's Steakhouse, waiting for John, in a very fancy dress)

Alyssa: *(Reading what she types)* I'm at table 27! Looking forward to your arrival.

(John walks in in a fancy suit and finds table twenty-seven. Alyssa spots him looking at her and they meet each other's eyes. Both are full of shock)

Alyssa: *(After a long pause)* It is you!? Well um, come here I guess.

(John reluctantly sits down with Alyssa)

John: (*Confused*) I had no idea it was you! How dare you pretend to be someone you're not!

Alyssa: (*Mad*) What are you talking about? You're the one who said you are as sharp as a needle!

John: (*Fuming*) Excuse me? I am! But when you were texting me, you were nice!

Alyssa: Ditto! Right back at you!

John: Did you know it was me?

Alyssa: (*Rolls her eyes*) I wouldn't have invited you here if I thought it was you.

John: But I thought you were married!

Alyssa: Of course not. Would I be on Luvbirds if I were married?

John: You do seem like that type of back-stabbing person.

Alyssa: Hey! I don't see why we can't be friends. Like Emily brought up, we have no reason to hate each other.

John: Your right. And I never thought I would ever say that to you, but I also never thought I'd be in Till-E's steakhouse at the same table as you. Let's be friends.

Waiter: Can I get you two anything?

SCENE 7

(In Mr. Elson's office, with a clearly different attitude than last time)

Elson: You both seem happy. Do you know why I brought you here?

Alyssa: I don't know. Did something happen?

Elson: No, everyone is fine. Both of you have been working a lot harder than usual. So I have decided that neither of you will be fired. Instead, you both will be with another doctor or nurse, so that you won't have any problems.

John: Well, um, you see Mr. Elson, Alyssa and I had a good talk last night and now we are friends.

Elson: I was expecting a better reaction. Although I do find that friends stay friends when they don't have to work together. They will get in arguments about work and then not be friends anymore. Also I have already made arrangements so you two could be separate.

John: Alyssa, what do you think?

Alyssa: I think he's right. We may get into fights that will push us back apart. I think it will be better for our friendship to not work together.

John: Alrighty then, thank you Mr. Elson

Elson: John, your partner will be Macy, and you will work with Vyrian, Alyssa.

Alyssa: Thank you Mr. Elson, I appreciate it.

SCENE 8

(On the bus from work, Alyssa and John sit next to each other)

Alyssa: I am glad we are friends now, John. And I hope we can stay that way.

John: *(Slowly)* Me too, Alyssa, me too.