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### **SECURE DATING**

INTRO:           The quiet Worcestershire spa town of Malvern has unexpectedly become a hub for cybersecurity experts, after a firm based in the town was given special status by the government as the only company that can certify businesses' cyber security standards. With all these cybersecurity experts around, the Malvern dating scene must be an absolute minefield...

### **FX:                 RESTAURANT ATMOS**

MARK:            Laura! Hi! So nice to finally meet you in person! I'm Mark.

(BOTH AIR KISS)

LAURA:          Oh hello, 'Mark'. Nice to meet 'you'.

MARK:            (BREEZY BUT CONFUSED) Wh- why are you saying my name like that?

LAURA:          Like what?

MARK:            As if it's got air quotes around it.

LAURA: Oh, just, like to be sure before I start bandying 'names' around willy nilly! Actually, before we sit down, can I just check something?

MARK: Sure! Of course. What is it?

LAURA: Are you a robot?

MARK: I'm sorry?

LAURA: Just need to know whether you're a robot or not.

MARK: No, I'm... I'm not a robot.

LAURA: Great! Always better to just ask at the start, I find. Then you can relax and enjoy the date without worrying 'are they a robot!' the whole time.

MARK: (LAUGHS NERVOUSLY) Right.

LAURA: Pffwoah is it just me or is it hot in here?

MARK: I mean I don't... *think*...

LAURA: Can you see a fire hydrant anywhere? Just point out any that you see.

MARK: Sorry, I... can't see any. In this restaurant.

LAURA: Right, of course! Silly me! So! Shall we order?

MARK: Sure.

LAURA: Ooh – that looks good. What does that say?

MARK: It says 'menu'.

LAURA: Fantastic, so you can read words and stuff?

MARK: Yes... Wait, is this some 'robot' thing again?

LAURA: What!? Robot? Who said anything about a robot!? I'm not a robot!  
Are you a robot?

MARK: No... I'm definitely not a robot.

LAURA: Neither am I! We have so much in common. Sorry to keep bringing it  
up. I hope you don't take it personally.

MARK: No, not at all.

LAURA: And is that because you're *not* a person?

MARK: No, I—What? Of course I'm a person! Look, can we maybe talk  
about something else? What kind of thing do you like to do in your  
spare time?

LAURA: I like... having emotions. Do you--

MARK: You know what, I'm sorry, but I think I'd better go. There's clearly  
some issue here—

LAURA: Wait!

MARK: Bye Laura.

LAURA: CAN YOU GO UP STAIRS? CAN I FEEL YOUR FLESH? Well there  
goes another one.

WAITER: Is there something the matter, madame? I can't help but notice  
you've put all of your complimentary bread in the bin.

LAURA: Sorry, but if I don't know who it's from, it's going straight in the trash.

**END**