

From Zoodate

by Don Zolidis

FRANCIS, a female lobster

HERMAN, a male lobster

FRANCIS, a female lobster, scuttles to the table and sits.

HERMAN, a male lobster, enters shortly.

FRANCIS

You must be Herman.

HERMAN

Guilty as charged. I look like my profile pic.

FRANCIS

You're like the only lobster that actually looks like their profile pic.

HERMAN

And you look kinda like yours.

FRANCIS

I used a little mood lighting. Sue me.

HERMAN

No no – you look really nice.

FRANCIS

Thank you.

HERMAN

I like your claws.

FRANCIS

These little things? They get the job done. You've got some great claws.

HERMAN

I know. I work on them a lot.

FRANCIS

That must be a lot of time in the gym.

HERMAN

Yeah. But you know – you gotta put in the effort.

FRANCIS

So true.

HERMAN

Oh man this is great. I was so nervous about this date.

FRANCIS

You were nervous?! *I* was nervous! I kept thinking, what if he just attacks me for invading his territory?!

HERMAN

No I don't do that. Some guys –

FRANCIS

It happens.

HERMAN

I know. Some guys are horrible. But I'm a nice lobster.

FRANCIS

That is so good to hear.

HERMAN

Can I just say that um... I feel really comfortable with you right now?

FRANCIS

Wow.

HERMAN

No I'm serious. I feel safe sharing my emotions. Like I don't even need this protective shell.

FRANCIS

I love a guy who can share emotions.

HERMAN

It's just... I've been having a hard time since my Mom was caught in a lobster trap... and I thought that maybe I would never be able to get out there again, you know, without being scared that I was going to get trapped too. So it's a really big deal for me to actually go outside my lair and meet someone – this is the first time I've done it. But... I feel like it's worth it, because you seem wonderful.

FRANCIS

That's so beautiful.

HERMAN

Oh man I'm gonna cry.

FRANCIS

You can cry if you want. I want to have an emotionally mature relationship.

HERMAN

Yeah. Especially since...

FRANCIS

Since what?

HERMAN

I was watching this popular television show called Friends. And they said it was a known fact that lobsters fall in love for life – and old lobsters walk around holding claws. So... what if you're my lobster?

FRANCIS

I think I am your lobster.

They have a moment.

Let me just take a moment to check on my phone whether or not that television show was accurate.

HERMAN

Television would never lie to us.

Francis is googling lobsters on her phone.

FRANCIS

Oh.

She looks at it.

Oh boy.

HERMAN

What does it say?

FRANCIS

Um...

She scrolls.

Ew. Oh no.

HERMAN

What's it say about lobsters?

FRANCIS

So uh... if we fall in love –

HERMAN

Which I think we're totally doing.

**(If the realities of lobster reproduction are too horrifying for your community, you may skip the next few lines and jump right to the molting. But these are facts. #facts)*

FRANCIS

Yeah. Um... so the first thing that happens is that uh... the lady lobster...

HERMAN

That's you.

FRANCIS

She urinates on the male lobster's face.

HERMAN

I'm sorry what now?

FRANCIS

And then she runs away. And then comes back the next day.

HERMAN

With flowers and a note of apology?

FRANCIS

Nope she um... she urinates on his face again.

HERMAN

Are you serious?!

FRANCIS

It's google! It's not lying!

HERMAN

I am not doing that! We're going to fall in love and we're going to be together forever and we're going to grow old together and –

FRANCIS

Ew.

HERMAN

What?!

FRANCIS

I don't think I want to fall in love.

HERMAN

What happens next?!

FRANCIS

Well first I gotta molt.

HERMAN

What's that?

FRANCIS

That's where I shed my outer shell and become like a fleshy blob that can't move.

HERMAN

That's not cool!

FRANCIS

You don't have to go through it!

HERMAN

Well I am not into fleshy blob people!

FRANCIS

If you really loved me, you would love me when I'm a fleshy blob unable to support myself!

HERMAN

I'm not into any of this! This is super gross!

FRANCIS

Love is gross!

HERMAN

Do I need to feed you?

FRANCIS

No I'm totally able to feed myself when I'm a gelatinous beanbag creature. YES YOU NEED TO FEED ME.

HERMAN

Oh man.

FRANCIS

Then you feel me with the end of your legs. Which is actually where your taste buds are.

HERMAN

On my legs? We are weird, man.

FRANCIS

So you're kind of like... tasting me, I guess?

HERMAN

GROSS. NOPE that's a big bag of NOPE RIGHT THERE. Not doing it!

FRANCIS

I didn't make these rules!

HERMAN

Well I'm not doing any of this!

FRANCIS

And then afterwards the female lobster just leaves.

HERMAN

What.

FRANCIS

I just go on and find a new dude.

HERMAN

WHOA. So we're not together forever!? I have to feed you and taste you when you're all gross and slimy and you leave as soon as you look nice again?!

FRANCIS

We're together for a couple of days. That's it.

HERMAN

That's not the commitment I'm looking for! I want you to be my lobster!

FRANCIS

Well being your lobster is super gross!

Short pause.

HERMAN

Maybe we can just hold claws and not do any of the other stuff?

FRANCIS

I don't think I'm ready to molt anyway.

HERMAN

I would still love you if you molted.

FRANCIS

Really?

HERMAN

But I'm not gonna taste you with my feet.

FRANCIS

That's the nicest thing anyone's ever said to me. And you know what? I'm not even gonna pee on your face.*

**This line can be cut.*

HERMAN

I'd like that.

They scuttle off, claw in claw.