

**From Zoodate**

*By Don Zolidis*

*SHIRLEY, a female antelope, is sitting at the table.*

*LEONA, a female lion, is sitting at the other table.*

*Both of them have their phones out.*

*Leona looks around, sighs.*

*Shirley notices, is about to bolt.*

LEONA

I'm not looking at you, don't worry.

SHIRLEY

I'm just being cautious – lions, you know. No offense.

LEONA

Just because I'm a lioness doesn't mean I'm trying to hunt you right now.

SHIRLEY

Okay.

LEONA

That's like a stereotype.

SHIRLEY

Sorry – just instinct – I see a lion and I'm like *run*.

LEONA

I get it. I'll turn my face elsewhere if it freaks you out.

SHIRLEY

Same philosophy as my boyfriend by the way. Run. We're supposed to be on a date right now. Not that you care.

LEONA

I'm supposed to be on a date too, honestly.

SHIRLEY

Really?

LEONA

They always do this. Male lions are the worst, let me tell you. "King" of the Jungle my butt.\*

*\*The words "my butt" can be cut from this line.*

*She groans*

SHIRLEY

I've noticed it's usually the females hunting down the sick and the weak.

LEONA

You think? The only thing my man hunts is the remote control. He's like "Leona, where's my antelope carcass?! I'm hungry I can't feed myself let me groom my mane roarrrr."

SHIRLEY

You know I'm an antelope, right?

LEONA

I just used an antelope as an example, I didn't mean to like imply that I was gonna chase you down and rip out your entrails or whatever.

SHIRLEY

Probably cause I'm not old or sick and you wouldn't catch me.

LEONA

Um I can get antelope that aren't old or sick just saying.

SHIRLEY

Okay I just haven't seen it. Usually it's like `oh no the lions are coming' and there's like one dude named Herb in the back who can't run and I'm sure he's tasty or whatever, enjoy.

LEONA

I don't want to get into it.

SHIRLEY

Okay.

LEONA

I'm just so sick of it, you know? I do *all* the work. I hunt the creatures, I make the kills, I rear the young, and Barry just saunters over with his big stupid mane that he spends *all* day on and he's like Roar roar roar I'm king of the jungle meh meh meh and then he eats the best part. I'm so done with him.

SHIRLEY

You think that's bad? You know what male antelope do? They just smack each other in the head. All day. Like this is supposed to be impress me? I'm sitting there like `oh gee the boy who can smash his head the hardest into the other boy is my true love' ugggh. And the spraying?

LEONA

Girl, same.

SHIRLEY

Like all the time.

LEONA

Do I want to smell that? Am I supposed to find your musk *enchanting*? It's gross.

SHIRLEY

You can't even wash it out.

LEONA

I *know*!

SHIRLEY

Oh oh and you know what some of the boys do? They're like HEY LOOK A LION  
AAAAAAAH! And then you're like where where and they try and get with you while you're  
looking.

LEONA

What?

SHIRLEY

I have had this happen.

LEONA

That's pathetic. I would totally eat those antelope.

SHIRLEY

I'd point `em out. I would be like get Jeffrey he's the worst. Eat him. But you know what? Don't  
share any with your boyfriend.

LEONA

Thank you. King of the Jungle. We don't even live in the Jungle! We live in the savannah! But I  
guess it's not cool enough to be King of the Savannah! You ain't even smelled a jungle in your  
life, Barry! If he ever went in a jungle he would freak out like all there's tse tse flies they're  
icky!

SHIRLEY

You should be Queen of the Jungle.

LEONA

Right. Queen of the Savannah.

SHIRLEY

I'd call you Queen of the Savannah.

LEONA

Thank you.

SHIRLEY

You should leave him.

LEONA

He wouldn't even notice. He'd be sitting on the couch watching Lion King for like the thirtieth time – don't even get me started on that trash. And you know what? You are too good for male antelope.

SHIRLEY

I know that.

LEONA

My name's Leona, by the way.

SHIRLEY

Shirley.

*They have a moment.*

LEONA

You wanna get out of here?

SHIRLEY

And do what?

LEONA

I don't know – roam the plains.

SHIRLEY

I would it's just...

LEONA

I'm a lion. I get it.

SHIRLEY

No I'm just –

LEONA

You're prejudiced. It's cool. Whatever. I thought we were having a moment.

SHIRLEY

You seem like a really cool animal, it's just... I only hang out with herbivores. It's safer that way.

LEONA

Well I don't want you to feel unsafe.

SHIRLEY

You have a lot of teeth and powerful jaw muscles.

LEONA

Yeah I can literally break bones with them.

SHIRLEY

See that's what I'm saying.

*Shirley's phone buzzes.*

Hold on.

*She checks her text.*

My boyfriend just texted.

*Reading*

'Hey gonna be late ran into Steve. Then I ran into Steve again. And again. My head hurts. Lol.'

*Shirley is not amused.*

He's gonna keep butting heads with that idiot until one of them falls over. Every time.

*She thinks about it.*

You know what? Let's get out of here.

LEONA

Mean it?

SHIRLEY

Yeah.

*They walk off, hand in hand.*

LEONA

I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

SHIRLEY

Just don't eat me.

*Leona chuckles.*