

The following is excerpted from

“15 SECONDS”

A Two Character Romantic Comedy

By Ken Levine

A young couple makes eye contact for the first time and it could change both of their lives.

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15 SECONDS

A 10-Minute Comedy by
Ken Levine

SYNOPSIS – A young couple make eye contact for the first time and it could change both of their lives.

CHARACTERS:

LAURA – 20's or early 30's.

JOSH – 20's or early 30's.

SETTING: A bare stage with audio ambience to tell us we're at a party.

15 SECONDS

BARE STAGE -- NIGHT

Party ambience tells us we're at a party. LAURA stands at one end of the stage, drink in her hand. JOSH enters from the other side, also toting a drink. Laura casually glances over and spots Josh. He notices her. They lock eyes and look at each other for a good fifteen seconds. Laura finally turns away. Josh crosses to her. The party ambience slowly fades to allow the dialogue to be clearly heard.

Hi. JOSH

(non committal) Hello. LAURA

I couldn't help notice you looking at me. JOSH

Uh, excuse me. You were looking at me. LAURA

Y'know, if a man and woman make eye contact and hold it for fifteen seconds, one of two things will happen: They'll either end up in bed or in a fight. JOSH

Interesting theory. Yours or did you pick that up from the "Pepe LePew handbook?" LAURA

No. This was from a scientific study. And supposedly it's true. JOSH

Says who? LAURA

Facebook. JOSH

Oh, well, then let me take my clothes off. LAURA

But also my shrink. JOSH

LAURA

You're very creative, I'll give you that.

JOSH

I'm telling you it's true. Certainly as true as anything you hear on Fox News.

LAURA

Men are skittish these days about hitting on women, worried about possible sexual harassment -- so you've devised this scientific come-on. Very original.

JOSH

That's not what I'm doing at all.

LAURA

Of course it is. But it's better than the guy last week who spent a half hour telling me in salacious detail how he makes marinara sauce. "You need ripe tomatoes that you can cup in your hands, and you must stir slowly, allowing it to simmer and bubble." Like I wouldn't get the hint. He did everything but put a condom on a breadstick.

JOSH

Fine. You think I'm a bullshit artist. See you. But you were looking at me for fifteen seconds so I must've meant something.

LAURA

For the record, I thought you might be someone I knew but wasn't sure.

JOSH

Who?

LAURA

Lester.

JOSH

I don't look anything like Lester.

LAURA

You don't know who Lester is.

JOSH

No one these days is named Lester. You were looking at me.

LAURA

Oh get over yourself.

JOSH

(demonstrating) When you wonder if you know somebody you look him up and down, you crane your neck, you squint, you're looking for little traits.

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