

AN UNEXPECTED DATE

by
Hal Ames



A rooster crowed and it echoed over the valley announcing the beginning of a new day.

Garth got up and got dressed. He went to his kitchen and prepared a simple breakfast of toast, dried sausage, and coffee.

He gazed out the window at the rising sun as it lit up the fields of corn. It would not be long before he would be harvesting the corn. Then he would be very busy.

As Garth was looking out of the window, he saw an older black car turn onto his drive. Dust flew up behind the car as it neared his house.

Garth set his coffee cup down on the table and went to the door to meet whoever was in the car.

Just as he opened the door, the car pulled up in front of his house. The car's windows were dirty so it was difficult to see who was inside.

Garth reached the first step of his porch, when the door of the car opened and out stepped the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. He felt awkward as he stared at her while she approached him.

“Are you Garth Smith?” the beautiful lady asked.

“Yes, I am,” Garth answered.

“Hi, I am Jillian Rogers. I represent the Agri-Corn Company and I have some

information I would like to give to you,” Jillian introduced herself.

“Come on in. I have some fresh coffee. Would you like some?” Garth invited Jillian to enter the house while he held the door open.

They went to the kitchen, sat down at the table, and began to talk.

Jillian began the conversation, “Mr. Smith...”

“Please call me Garth. Mr. Smith was my dad,” Garth interrupted with a smile.

“OK, Garth,” Jillian grinned. “We have a new product we would like for you to test for us. It is a new organic fertilizer that has proven to increase production of corn by up to twenty-five percent,” Jillian explained why she had come to his house.

Garth did not hear a word. He was too distracted by her appearance.

“Does that sound good to you?” Jillian asked.

“Ah... yeah. I guess,” Garth said a little surprised.

“What do you think? Would you like to try our new fertilizer?” Jillian asked.

“I suppose that would be alright,” Garth answered still not listening to what she was talking about.

Garth thought for a moment, and then he said something he did not plan, “Would you go out to dinner with me tonight?”

“Dinner? Ah ah..... I guess so. What would you like to do?” Jillian answered surprised at the question.

“Can we meet at Lilly’s Diner on route fifty-six, say at six o’clock?” Garth suggested.

“OK, we can talk about your order over dinner. That sounds good. I will meet you at six. Thank you for the coffee,” Jillian responded as she put her papers back into her bag.

Garth showed her to the door and waved as she drove off.

All day long, all Garth could think about was the lady in the black car. He did not finish all of the things he had planned to do. He thought it would be OK to do them the next day.

He spent a long time preparing for the dinner. He took a long shower, picked out the clothes he was going to wear and practiced what he was going to say to her when he saw her again.

Garth had never had a girlfriend. He liked to be alone most of the time. He would go to town every Friday night and join his friends at the town center to listen to music, but he was not very good with the ladies. He was pretty shy. He surprised himself that he had even asked Jillian to dinner.

Garth left at five-thirty so he would not be late. He pulled up in front of Lilly's Diner and took a deep breath. He now felt funny about inviting her to this place. Everyone knew him here. He never came to the diner on Wednesdays. They would be surprised to see him.

He walked up to the door and when he walked in, Lilly, the owner, greeted him.

"Hey Garth! What are you doing here on a Wednesday? Boy do you look sharp. Got a date tonight?" Lilly teased Garth.

"Kind of like that," Garth replied.

Everyone in the place looked over at Garth in surprise.

Garth's face turned red as he slid into his normal booth.

"What can I get for you?" Sally the waitress asked.

"Just give me two menus please. I will order later," Garth said, not looking up and still red in the face.

As he sat there, he began to get more nervous. He was having second thoughts about the whole thing.

Sally brought the menus. Garth hid behind his menu so that he did not have to look at the eyes that were staring at him.

He looked over his menu and standing next to the table was Jillian.

Garth jumped up, hitting his knee on the edge of the table.

In obvious pain he said, "Sit down Jillian. It is nice to see you this evening,"

"Are you OK?" Jillian asked as she slid into the booth.

“I’ll be OK in a moment,” Garth responded, holding his knee and once again red in the face.

Garth was pretty embarrassed at his clumsiness in front of Jillian and all of his friends.

“Is this a good place to eat? I’ve never been here before,” Jillian asked as she looked around the diner.

“Yeah, I come here pretty often. I usually get the special. I’m not sure what that is tonight. I usually only come here on Fridays before going to the town center. Lilly is really nice and she is a great cook,” Garth said while still rubbing his knee.

Jillian picked up the menu and turned the pages looking at the meals.

Jillian smiled.

“I think I’ll have the special. Pork chops sound great. I think I’ll have a Coke as well,” she said and then set the menu onto the table.

Garth waved at Sally to come take their order.

“Are you ready to order?” Sally asked smiling at Garth.

“Yes. We would both like the special. I’d like a cup of coffee and the lady would like a Coke,” Garth gave the order to Sally.

“Who’s the lucky lady?” Sally asked as she first winked at Garth and then smiled at Jillian.

“This is Jillian Rogers. She’s a representative of.... Who are you with?” Garth asked.

“I’m with Agri-Corn,” Jillian answered looking up at Sally.

Sally walked away, but all of the eyes in the diner were on Garth and his guest.

Jillian took out her papers and began to talk about the organic fertilizer.

Garth could not take his eyes off of her.

Jillian explained the product, the cost and what Garth should expect as a result of using the product.

Garth just nodded his head.

Dinner came, and then the conversation changed to more personal things. They talked for three hours. They laughed and shared stories about friends and family. Garth had never been so relaxed with a woman before.

Jillian looked at her watch and said, “Oh my goodness, I didn’t realize that it was so late. I have to get home!”

“Can I stop by next week and bring the papers for you to sign?” Jillian asked.

“Of course. That will be great.” Garth answered.

“I’m sorry I have to go. My husband is waiting for me. He hates it when I have such late appointments. See you next week,” Jillian said.

She then slid out of the booth and said goodbye to Sally and Lilly.

Lilly went over to Garth.

“So, how did it go?” Lilly asked.

Garth gave a short answer, “She’s married.”

With that, he walked out of the diner and drove home.



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VOCABULARY: (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. gaze _____ | a. food for plants |
| 2. harvest _____ | b. list of food to buy |
| 3. second thoughts _____ | c. side tracked, inattentive |
| 4. fertilizer _____ | d. daily low cost meal |
| 5. distracted _____ | e. unbalanced, awkward |
| 6. diner _____ | f. look, stare |
| 7. menus _____ | g. close one eye |
| 8. special _____ | h. gather, reap |
| 9. clumsiness _____ | i. reconsider, doubts |
| 10. wink _____ | j. small restaurant |

TRUE / FALSE:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Garth was a farmer. | T / F |
| 2. Garth grew tomatoes and onions. | T / F |
| 3. Garth had toast, sausage and coffee for breakfast. | T / F |
| 4. A new red car drove up the drive. | T / F |
| 5. Jillian worked for Agri-Corn. | T / F |
| 6. Garth was very popular. | T / F |
| 7. Jillian sold corn seed. | T / F |
| 8. Garth and Jillian went to Lilly's Café. | T / F |
| 9. Sarah was the waitress. | T / F |
| 10. Jillian was married. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. What did Garth grow on his farm? _____
 - a) rice
 - b) cows
 - c) soy beans
 - d) corn

2. What color was the car that Jillian was driving? _____
 - a) green
 - b) blue
 - c) black
 - d) red

3. Where did they eat dinner? _____
 - a) Lilly's Diner
 - b) Agri-Corn café
 - c) Garth's house
 - d) McDonald's

4. What did Garth hurt when he got up to greet Jillian? _____
 - a) his arm
 - b) his knee
 - c) his head
 - d) his feelings

COMPREHENSION: *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. What crowed to announce a new day?

2. What product was Jillian selling?

3. What drink did Garth offer to Jillian?

4. What time was the date for dinner?

5. What was the name of the waitress?

6. What did Jillian order for dinner?

7. What day did Garth usually go to the diner?

8. What did Garth usually do on Fridays?

9. What company did Jillian represent?

10. Who would be upset if Jillian was home late?
