

Just Friends

by

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First Draft

"JUST FRIENDS"

**SCRIPT EXCERPT BEGINS ON THE
NEXT PAGE**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATHY
(singing)
Keith and Sharon, sitting in a tree...

KATHY AND CHARLOTTE
(in unison)
K-I-S-S-I-N...

They rush out the door, as Keith starts to chase them, instead closing the door behind them. Breathing a sigh of relief, he picks up the present, looking at it for a few moments. He sets it down on top of a chest of drawers in front of a framed photo of him, Sharon, Tim, and Jennifer.

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT--NIGHT

Only a few people are sprinkled about the intimate setting of the dining room. They speak in hushed tones, looking small among the grandeur of the room's Chinese architecture. Oriental paintings cover all of the walls.

Over in a corner, underneath a large painting, sit Keith and Sharon, who are all dressed up. Keith smiles, watching Sharon struggle over her meal with her chopsticks. Her plate is full. His is half-empty.

SHARON
Not one word.

He just looks at her innocently. Finally, she gives up, disappointed. She sets the sticks down, reaching for her purse.

KEITH
(picking up his sticks)
Sharon?

He uses the chopsticks to pick up a morsel, offering the food to her. At first she refuses, then relents, accepting the food. She smiles, chewing.

SHARON
You're spoiling me.

KEITH
(picking up more food)
What are friends for?

He offers a second bite, but she refuses. She reaches into her purse and pulls out...a fork. Embarrassed, she digs into her plate. Keith laughs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHARON

Sssh! This is my back-up.

KEITH

Last time I checked, forks were standard equipment in places like this.

SHARON

But I already refused. I can't go back and ask for one now.

KEITH

And you'll never learn to use chopsticks if you keep giving up.

SHARON

Giving up? These little sticks aren't going to get the best of me.

KEITH

That's my girl. And when you've mastered those, you can move up to the king size...

From under the table he pulls up his drumsticks, which he proceeds to use like chopsticks. Sharon busts out laughing. Keith manages to pick up a bit of food, before he laughs, dropping the food.

He reaches for his cup of hot tea.

KEITH (CONT'D)

A toast. To friendship.

SHARON

(picking up her cup)

To friendship. To the best friend a girl can have.

They tap cups and drink. Keith reaches under the table, pulling up Sharon's present. He sets it on the table in front of her.

SHARON (CONT'D)

What's this?

He nods for her to open it. She unwraps it, looking at him for any kind of clue. She opens up the box and pulls out a heart-shaped pendant.

SHARON (CONT'D)

Oh. This is...beautiful, Keith. Thank you so much.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She leans over and kisses him on the cheek. She sets the pendant back in the box.

SHARON (CONT'D)
(continuing)
I don't know what to say.

KEITH
You don't have to say anything. I wanted you to know how much I cared.

SHARON
(smiling)
You're so sweet.

KEITH
(gathering up his courage)
Sharon. There's something else I want you to know.

She looks at him expectantly.

KEITH (CONT'D)
(continuing)
We've been friends for a year now. And we've gotten very close. I mean...you've become very special to me. And...and I want to know...

Sharon is caught off guard as she starts to realize where this conversation is going.

KEITH (CONT'D)
(continuing, nervous)
I guess what I'm trying to say is that I like you. And I want to know if...if we can be more than just friends?

Keith sits there, waiting nervously. Sharon looks at him, her face awash with confusion and surprise. She starts to speak, but stops.

KEITH (CONT'D)
I guess you weren't expecting that.

SHARON
(shaking her head)
Are you serious?

He nods.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SHARON (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Of course you are. I'm sorry. Have I
given you the wrong impression?

KEITH

What?

SHARON

About us. I mean...Oh, Keith. I really
don't know how to say this. I mean I'm
flattered that you feel this way
but...I'm just not ready for that kind of
relationship right now. I mean, why
can't we be just friends?

Keith sits there, stunned, not seeming to hear her. Sharon's
"Can't we be just friends?" line ECHOES over and over as we
cut to:

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

From Keith's POV, we see several girls who have rejected
Keith in the past. We see them in quick succession as they
dog him out:

GIRL #1

(very uncomfortable)

Can't we just be friends?

SMASH CUT TO:

GIRL #2

Me?

SMASH CUT TO:

GIRL #3

Say what?

SMASH CUT TO:

GIRL #4 just sits there, speechless, staring at the CAMERA as
if she doesn't understand.

SMASH CUT TO:

GIRL #5

Look, I'm really not doing any heavy
dating right now. I just came out of a
bad relationship and...

SMASH CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GIRL #6 laughs, as if it's a big joke to her.

GIRL #6
That was funny. You are joking, right?
You're not?

END OF FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

SMASH CUT TO:

KEITH'S POV - OF AN ATTRACTIVE ASIAN TEENAGE GIRL

She sits across from Keith, looking at the CAMERA like the others, and waves her hands to get Keith's attention.

ASIAN TEEN
Excuse me? Excuse me? Would you like me
to clear your table?

KEITH
What? Oh, yeah, sure.

ASIAN TEEN
Would you like your check now?

Keith is distracted as he watches Sharon head for the door.

KEITH
Yeah. Looks like dinner's over.

INT. KEITH'S ROOM--NIGHT

Keith sits on his bed, talking to his Dad, MR. AVERY, who sits on the edge of the bed. The pendant sits spilled half out of the box next to Keith.

MR. AVERY
And you just gave up?

KEITH
What else could I do, Dad?

MR. AVERY
Keith. I think sometimes you take these
things a little too personally.

KEITH
You're not the one who has to watch every
girl you like find new ways to dog you
out. Why is it that girls say yes to the
ones who treat them like dirt, but guys
like me are only good for "friends?"