The Astronomy Lesson

ADAM – 20, college student, nerdy

JASON - 20, college student, overly confident

BRITTANY – 20, college student, attractive

(ADAM is looking through telescope in field at night. JASON enters)

JASON

Hey, Adam. Whatcha doing?

ADAM

Homework.

JASON

Really? This doesn’t look like homework.

ADAM

It’s for my astronomy class.

JASON

Cool! I didn’t know that had classes in that here.

ADAM

Of course they do. Why wouldn’t they?

JASON

Can you do star charts?

ADAM

Sure, I learned that last semester. Are you interested in astronomy?

JASON

Absolutely. Can you do mine?

ADAM

Do your what?

JASON

Star chart. I was born on July 19th. That makes me a Cancer.

ADAM

No, no, Jason. You’re confused. Astronomy, not astrology.

JASON

Yeah, that’s what I said. My girlfriend is a Capricorn and…

ADAM

Dude, I’m studying the physical stars and planets. You know, the once in the sky.

JASON

Oh, those. Okay, never mind.

ADAM

Yes, those. I love the night sky. I could look at it for hours.

JASON

I never gave it much though.

ADAM

Man, you don’t know what you’re missing.

JASON

 If you sit out here night after night instead of going to parties, you don’t know what you’re missing.

ADAM

I’m not much of a party guy.

JASON

Somehow, I’m not surprised by that. What’s so special about the stars and planets?

ADAM

Everything. With a good telescope you can see so much. You’re watching history. Didn’t you ever lie in a meadow and stare at the stars?

JASON

Nope, can’t say I ever have.

ADAM

That’s too bad. Where did you grow up?

JASON

Chicago. I’ve seen the skyline a million times. Pretty sure I’ve never been in a meadow. We did go to the planetarium for field trips when I was in elementary school. Where are you from?

ADAM

A small town in Wisconsin. There wasn’t much to do after 9 at night.

JASON

So you lay around in a field staring at the sky? Sound kind of boring. Did you at least bring a girl with you?

ADAM

Uh, no. What would be the point?

JASON

Are you for real? Are you sure that you don’t know anything about astrology?

ADAM

I know that ancient people saw patterns in the stars and used them to tell stories. That’s how they came up with the astrological signs. Of course, it’s more complicated than that and the signs are different for…

JASON

(Interrupting) Can I take a look?

ADAM

Sure. It’s really interesting.

(JASON look through telescope, moves direction without ADAM noticing)

JASON

Now that is interesting. Wow.

ADAM

See? I knew you’d like it. There’s so much that we can learn from the starts. Just last night I saw…

JASON

I didn’t even know that was possible.

ADAM

What was possible? What are you looking at? Hey, you moved it? Are you looking in a window? Are you a peeping Tom? That’s illegal!

JASON

What that girl is doing should be illegal. I never knew star gazing could be so stimulating.

ADAM

Stop it, Jason. It’s wrong we’re invading someone’s privacy. Give it back now.

JASON

In a minute. I want to see what they do next. Wow! You gotta see this.

(ADAM looks through telescope)

ADAM

I won’t. It’s wrong. It’s immoral. It’s, it’s…oh boy, how does she do that?

JASON

With lots of practice.

ADAM

I really should stop looking. I mean, I have homework and stuff and, and…

JASON

It’s no worse than watching porn online. Please tell me you’ve at least done that.

ADAM

Not really. My parents kept a pretty tight lock on the internet and it always felt wrong somehow.

JASON

Well, my friend, it’s obviously time we broadened your horizons.

(ADAM stand and paces)

ADAM

I don’t know. I always figured that I’d meet the right girl and things would happen naturally.

JASON

Jesus, now you sound like a high school girl. A real man doesn’t wait around for the right moment. A real man goes out and makes it happen.

ADAM

You don’t mean that you’d force her, do you? I could never do that.

Jason

Of course not. Now that’s illegal and immoral. It’s just that you’re not gonna find too many willing girls hanging out in a field looking at the stars.

ADAM

I suppose that’s true. But it would be nice to find a girl with the same interests.

JASON

Good luck with that. Most college girls are interested in watching the Kardashians and getting their nails done. I’m sure there are a few science nerds like you but they’re probably dogs.

ADAM

Looks aren’t everything.

JASON

Yes, they are. Who told you that? Your mother?

ADAM

(Awkward pause)

Well…

JASON

Do not take advice from your friggin’ mother! Man, it’s a good thing I’m here to help you. Once I’m done with you the girls will be all over you.

ADAM

You really think so? I mean, I don’t want a bunch of them. I just want one special girl to talk to and spend time with.

JASON

There you go talking like some teenage girl again. You want a large group to choose from. That way the odds are in your favor. It’s all about statistics.

ADAM

Is that how you ended up with Alyssa?

JASON

Absolutely. We met at a frat party and I made sure that she saw me talking to other girls. I kind of nodded at her and she was at my side the whole night. The rest is history.

ADAM

It was that easy? I thought she was dating that guy on the second floor. What’s his name?

JASON

Yeah, she was dating Colton but I won her over.

ADAM

So it did take work. You make it sound like she threw herself at you.

JASON

Alright, maybe she didn’t at first, but I caught her eye and not because I was sitting in a field with a periscope.

ADAM

It’s a telescope. Periscopes are on submarines.

JASON

Whatever. You know what I mean. Have you met any girls that wiggle your twig?

ADAM

Wiggle my what? Oh, yeah, there’s a couple in my astronomy class.

JASON

Good, good. And what have you done to get their attention?

ADAM

Nothing really. We’re all there in the pursuit of knowledge and…

JASON

Oh my God. What are you, forty? If you go around talking like that, you’ll never hook up with any girl.

ADAM

Damn, I’m hopeless. Can you help me?

(ADAM takes out notebook)

JASON

I’ll try. First thing you do is compliment her looks. They eat that up. Are you actually taking notes?

ADAM

(Writing) Yeah, I don’t want to miss anything. Go on.

JASON

Next, ask her what her major is. Basically, get her to talk about herself. She’ll be so flattered she’ll be putty in your hands.

ADAM

It’s that easy?

JASON

There’s more but I think that enough for your first lesson.

(Brittany ENTERS)

BRITTANY

Hey, Adam.

ADAM

Oh, hi Brittany.

(JASON pulls ADAM aside)

JASON

Dude, who’s this hottie?

ADAM

Someone from my astronomy class. One of the dogs you mentioned.

JASON

Hell, she’s no dog. Go on and practice what I taught you with her.

ADAM

Here? Now? I don’t think I can.

JASON

This opportunity just dropped in your lap. Don’t blow it.

ADAM

Okay. (to BRITTANY) I’m working on the assignment professor Seidler gave us. Um, you look very nice tonight.

BRITTANY

Thanks. You look good, too.

ADAM

(whispers to JASON)

Now what?

JASON

Keep the conversation going. You’re doing fine.

ADAM

Have you finished the assignment?

BRITTANY

Just about. Do you mind if I look through your telescope?

ADAM

Be my guest.

(BRITTANY looks though telescope)

BRITTANY

Let me adjust this a little. Hey! Are you guys looking in windows?

ADAM

Of course not. It must have slipped. Let me fix that.

BRITTANY

Wait a minute. I know that girl. She lives down the hall. Alyssa something.

JASON

Alyssa?

ADAM

We really couldn’t see anything.

BRITTANY

I thought you weren’t looking.

ADAM

We weren’t. well, maybe by accident but we stopped.

JASON

There are a lot of girls named Alyssa. It must be a different one.

BRITTANY

What’s he talking about?

ADAM

His girlfriend’s name is Alyssa. (to JASON) I’m sur it’s a coincidence. It’s a common name. Do you want me to look?

JASON

No. yes. Maybe. Oh, hell, I don’t know. It can’t be her. She told me that she was going to the library tonight.

ADAM

Then it must be a different girl. Relax.

BRITTANY

I know the guy, too. His name always makes me think of a gun but I can never remember what it is. Let me think...

JASON

Colton?

BRITTANY

Yes, that's it. (JASON sits down and moans) Adam, is your friend okay? Do we need to call 911?

ADAM

No, I think he's just had a bit of a shock. Jason, dude, maybe you should go back to the dorm. You can ask her tomorrow.

JASON

I, I guess so. I've been played. I feel like an idiot.

ADAM

I'm sure there's a logical explanation. See you later.

(JASON exits)

BRITTANY

Wow, that sucks, I shouldn't have said anything.

ADAM

It's not your fault. He would have found out eventually.

BRITTANY

I suppose so. You know what I'd like to do? I'd like to lie in this meadow and look at the stars.

ADAM

You would? So would I. We could, um, do it together.

BRITTANY

That's a great idea. Want to walk me back to my dorm room to get a blanket?

ADAM

Sure. Let me grab my stuff. Maybe afterwards we can get some ice cream.

BRITTANY

Maybe. You're awfully sweet, Adam. I've been trying to get up the nerve to talk to you.

ADAM

You have? A beautiful girl like you must have lots of guys hanging around.

BRITTANY

Mostly guys like Jason. They're not my type. I prefer men with brains and good manners.

ADAM

(picks up telescope)

So my mother was right.

BRITTANY

What do you mean?

ADAM

Nothing. Just thinking out loud. Ready to go?

BRITTANY

Just about. (kisses ADAM on cheek) Now I'm ready.

ADAM

(tosses notebook aside)

So what's your sign?

CURTAIN