

FIVE DATES

Screenplay by: Donna Douglas Walchle/donnadhere@gmail.com

LOGLINE: When a children's book author gets a subscription to an online dating service for her birthday, she finds her experience is nothing short of a reality series and becomes more convinced than ever that she's meant to be single.

TAGLINE: There's always a frog pond in route to the castle.

SYNOPSIS:

Hattie Fisher is a cute, energetic, successful children's book author and songwriter. She's also happily single and lives with her golden retriever, Utah. Her best friends since childhood, Jill and Maggie, both married, have decided its time for Hattie's single status to be transformed into marital bliss. And so, for her 30-something birthday they give her a subscription to an online dating service called, Happily Ever After.

Maggie, a film producer shoots Hattie's profile video to upload. Jill, in between being a mom to five children under nine, is on hand to do makeup and wave her pompoms.

Reluctantly, Hattie gives, Happily Ever After a try and agrees to three dates; one with a dentist, one with a minister and one with an attorney. The dentist invites her to a comedy club but fails to tell her he is one of the performers. From the stage he announces that they are on a blind date and instructs the follow spot operator to nail Hattie with the blinding light. The audience applauds wildly, embarrassing Hattie and making her feel like a punch line without authorization.

The minister asks her to meet him at his church where upon arrival, she learns that he is conducting a funeral- his mothers. She is horrified and feels compelled to reschedule, when suddenly he bursts through the sanctuary doors. He informs her that they will be joining a couple hundred congregants in the fellowship hall for lunch because its been catered and will be better than spending money at a restaurant.

Her third and final date is with an attorney. He is handsome, stands to greet her when she arrives at the restaurant and then proceeds to take business calls all night. He uses a stop- watch, pen and note pad to log his billable hours. Each time he completes a call he tries to pick up where they left off, but each time calls her by the wrong name. Her experiences are nothing less than rich fodder for a really cheesy reality series.

Hattie declares to all that she is meant to be single. It's uncomplicated and peaceful and that is how she prefers living her life. However, shortly after the declaration, she meets, Henry Holt while he is mowing her neighbor's lawn. He's handsome, well-spoken, kind and seems like a decent guy. But, as her best friends point out, "He mows lawns!"

To further add to their he's- not- good- enough argument, Henry is spotted at one of Hattie's book signings and at her church with a woman who appears to be his wife along with two small children. Hattie is incensed at his seeming deception and lets him know about it in no uncertain terms.

However, sometimes what appears to be the case is not the case at all. The truth can change everything and when it does, Henry proposes that he and Hattie commit to having five dates. His reasoning is that after five dates, you can learn a lot about a person and know if there's enough there to commit to five more. It's just that simple.

PRIMARY CHARACTER TYPES:

Hattie: Jennifer Nettles; Jennifer Garner; Gabrielle Union; Blake Lively;

Henry: Harry Connick, Jr. Will Estes; John Krasinski; Jake Gyllenhaal; Matthew Gray Gubler;

Maggie: Priscilla Shirer; Regina King; Shakira; Joanna Garcia

Jill: Mandy Moore; Sharon Leal; Jennifer Hudson