

FIVE DATES

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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.

PRIMARY CHARACTER TYPES:

Hattie: Jennifer Garner; Carrie Underwood; Gabrielle Union;
Henry: Will Estes; Matthew Gray Gubler; John Krasinski;
Maggie: Regina King; Shakira; Joanna Garcia;
Jill: Mandy Moore; Sharon Leal; Jennifer Hudson

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 online dating a try and is contacted for 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. 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 repeatedly calls her by the wrong name. 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. Henry is in the process of giving online dating a try, too. Amongst his handful of experiences is a cougar who's had one too many plastic surgeries and is old enough to be his mother, an athletic twenty-something with an energy level that could light up Manhattan, and a school teacher whose bent toward muteness and yes and no answers, gives the term introvert an all new meaning.

Even though Henry seems like a good guy, Hattie's friends have trouble getting past the fact that, "He mows lawns!" To further add to their he's- not- good- enough argument, Henry is spotted at one of Hattie's book signings as well as at their church with a woman who appears to be his wife along with two small children. Now on board with her besties reservations, Hattie becomes incensed with his seeming deception and confronts him.

But, after learning what appears to be is not the case at all, this author decides not to judge a book by its cover. Henry good-humoredly proposes that her pay back for falsely accusing him is that the two have to commit to having five dates. Henry reasons that after five dates, you'll know if you have enough in common for five more. Hattie agrees. The biggest challenge will be how to accomplish this with your best friends and protectors watching and giving their play-by-play analysis of every move.

Henry's very intentional in making each date outrageously fun, unique and meaningful. They take the time to go beyond the superficial and in doing so, Hattie discovers that there is much more to his life than mowing lawns. Much more. A dating experience beyond her wildest dreams, Hattie is blown away.

After five dates, with Henry on bended knee and presenting Hattie with the perfect gift, a pair of binoculars, the two happily commit to checking the "to be continued" box. And, the next chapter begins!

