

The Amazing Adventures of Action Jack and Obvious Girl!  
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Dinner Date Excerpt

Context: after once again successfully vanquishing his nemesis, ACTION JACK and his sidekick OBVIOUS GIRL relax at a local bar. Or at least, Jack's trying to relax.

OBVIOUS GIRL

Action Jack? You seem unhappy. Wasn't today a success?

ACTION JACK

Sorry, Obvious Girl. I'm a little preoccupied. Things aren't going so well with Cynthia.

OBVIOUS GIRL

Your girlfriend Cynthia... aww, gee. You know, it's been weeks since I've seen her!

ACTION JACK

Yeah... She never comes out to watch our climactic showdowns anymore. And the other week, over dinner...

SFX: Tinkly music leads us into...

Flashback time. Cynthia is waiting for Action Jack at a restaurant. He is almost an hour late. Again.

CYNTHIA

(sighs)

Mmmm-hmmmm.

ACTION JACK

Sorry I'm late, sweetheart. Trouble down at the bridge.

CYNTHIA

What, did the Mayor lose a gold button?

ACTION JACK

Emerald, actually. But thanks to my ultravision, I spied it out in no time at all! And then flew here as fast as possible!

CYNTHIA

Of course.

ACTION JACK

Which as you may recall, is super fast! I soared through the sky like a majestic eagle to get to you!

CYNTHIA

And I drove here in rush hour traffic to get to you. On time.

Awkward silence.

ACTION JACK

So...

Another awkward silence.

ACTION JACK (CONT'D)

You look very--

CYNTHIA

I'm glad you wer--

ACTION JACK

What?

CYNTHIA

No, sorry, you were--

ACTION JACK

What were--

CYNTHIA

You were saying something?

ACTION JACK

I was just, going to say... you look nice this evening.

CYNTHIA

Oh. Thanks.

ACTION JACK

Is that a new dress?

CYNTHIA

No.

ACTION JACK

Oh.

Awkward silence reprise.

ACTION JACK (CONT'D)

Well, you do look nice.

CYNTHIA

Thanks. My big meeting was today, so...

ACTION JACK

Meeting?

CYNTHIA

At work? With the school board?

ACTION JACK

(obviously not remembering)

Yes... yes, of course!

CYNTHIA

(sighs)

Of course.

So awkward.

ACTION JACK

Did it go well?

CYNTHIA

Not particularly, no. They're slashing our budget even further... I'm going to have fifty kids in my class next year! Forget any individualized attention... there's no way I can effectively teach under those conditions.

ACTION JACK

I'm sorry. But you know, it's like they say, every cloud has a silver lining!

CYNTHIA

Really? Where?

(No response. She sighs.)

I wish there was a silver lining. Then I could sell it to buy some updated textbooks.

SFX: Action Jack's superhero pager goes off.

ACTION JACK

Ah, jeez. It's

ACTION JACK (CONT'D)

-the mayor.

CYNTHIA

-the mayor.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

Of course.

ACTION JACK

Look, I'm sorry, but you know I have to go.

CYNTHIA

Seriously? Again? You're supposed to be off duty.

ACTION JACK

There's no off duty for heroes... I'm Action Jack, not Occasionally If It's Convenient Jack.

CYNTHIA

It's never a serious crime... she probably just needs help counting her ridiculous stacks of money. Can't Obvious Girl take this one?

ACTION JACK

(derisive laugh)

Obvious Girl? Please, she--

(remembers he's recounting this story to Obvious Girl)

--is certainly a very talented, and, um, capable hero in training... but she's a sidekick. Guild rules won't allow her to take a call without supervision.

CYNTHIA

Right.

ACTION JACK

I'm sorry.

CYNTHIA

This always happens.

ACTION JACK

I can't help--

CYNTHIA

No, no, I know. Honor, duty, yeah.

(sighs)

As long as you're there, could you maybe at least mention how underfunded the school is now? If she could just give a fraction of what she spends on caviar alone--

ACTION JACK

Cynthia.

CYNTHIA

Right. Right. Of course. That would be unprofessional.

ACTION JACK

You know I can't take advantage of how my job gives me proximity to the Mayor. It would completely betray her trust. There's a time and a place.

CYNTHIA

That's never now and here.

SFX: The superhero pager goes off again.

ACTION JACK

I...

CYNTHIA

I know.

ACTION JACK

I'll see you soon.

CYNTHIA

Sure.

SFX: Flashback music tinkles again.

OBVIOUS GIRL

Golly. It sure sounds like you two are in a rough patch.