

AN UNEXPECTED DATE



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CASTLIST

PENELOPE WINDSOR: Spoiled rich girl (11)
RAYMOND WINDSOR: Penelope's father
SARA THOMPSON: Single mother
NIKKI THOMPSON: Sara's daughter (16)
CONNOR THOMPSON: Sara's son (12)
KATE THOMPSON: Sara's daughter (8)
NORA THOMPSON: Sara's baby (>1)
MS DOROTHY/MR EDWIN: The Windsors Maid/Butler
WAITER/WAITRESS
NASTY STUDENT 1
NASTY STUDENT 2
THE OFFICIATOR
AUNT SALLY

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SCENE 1

Play starts at the rich girl's mansion where she is livid because her dad said she couldn't have a pet peacock. Penelope screams and storms on stage. Raymond rushes after her.

RAYMOND: Penelope, you don't need a peacock. You already own three ponies. Plus, a peacock is an exotic animal, it can't survive here.

PENELOPE: I. Don't. Care. I want a peacock!

RAYMOND: How about a different animal? One that's sensible and can survive in these climates?

PENELOPE: Fine. I WANT A FLAMINGO!

Penelope storms off. Raymond takes a moment, sighs and walks off stage

SCENE 2

At a small, unappealing house, the furniture, etc is old and worn. Three kids and mom are on stage doing chores (dusting, sweeping, folding laundry).

SARA: I'm sorry that you guys have to do all the chores, but with my job and your dad leaving us, this is the only way.

NIKKI: It's okay mom, we know how hard you work.

SARA: I just wish there was a way for me to give you kids more.

CONNOR: No mom, we have everything we need.

SARA: *(Sighs)* It's time for bed kids.

Kate and Connor give Sara a hug

KATE: Goodnight Mom!

CONNOR: Goodnight.

SARA: Goodnight kids.

Kate and Connor walk to their room

NIKKI: I'll sleep on the floor tonight mom, you can have the couch.

SARA: No, no, I'm fine! You go to sleep.

NIKKI: Okay, goodnight.

SARA: Goodnight honey.

Nikki goes to the couch, lights fade

SCENE 3

Raymond and Penelope are walking to the park.

PENELOPE: Father, where are we going?

RAYMOND: We're going to the park.

PENELOPE: What if my dress gets dirty!?

RAYMOND: Before your mother passed you loved going to the park. Can we not worry about dresses today and just have fun?

PENELOPE: Okay Father.

They walk past Sara and the kids playing in front of their house.

PENELOPE: Father look! Is that their house? It looks just like our barn.

RAYMOND: Penelope! You can't say that.

PENELOPE: But it's true, just look at that place.

Sara and the kids hear Penelope's comment and look shocked. Raymond walks up to Sara.

RAYMOND: I'm so sorry that you and the kids had to hear that.

SARA: Oh it's no problem, she meant no harm, plus, we're kinda used to it by now.

RAYMOND: This isn't like her, really I'm sorry.

CONNOR: *(mumbling)* I'm sure...

RAYMOND: Wait, you look very familiar. I definitely know you from somewhere.

SARA: I was just thinking the same thing.

Raymond and Sara take a moment to look at each other.

RAYMOND: /Sara Thompson?!

SARA: /Raymond Windsor?!

PENELOPE: *(shocked)* You know each other?

SARA: We do! We went to high school together! Oh my goodness Raymond! It's been so long!

RAYMOND: It's been way too long! You look great.

SARA: Thank you!

RAYMOND: Wait, is that little Nikki?

SARA: Yeah it is! She's all grown up now!

Sara nudges Nikki playfully and Nikki pushes her away.

NIKKI: *LITTLE* Nikki?

RAYMOND: Yeah! I remember when your mom brought you to prom! You were just a baby! So adorable!

Nikki rolls her eyes.

PENELOPE: FATHER! Can we *please* go now? I'm bored and this place stinks.

RAYMOND: Penelope, give me a minute.

SARA: Oh it's okay, we should probably be heading inside now, I need to get supper started.

RAYMOND: Oh okay, well, we should definitely catch up sometime.

SARA: Yeah for sure!

RAYMOND: Here, write your number on this.

Raymond hands Sara a pen and notepad.

SARA: Okay! (*writes phone number, hands back the pen and notepad*) Here you go!

PENELOPE: Father! Let's go!

RAYMOND: I better go, can't keep this one waiting for too long. She's something else.

SARA: Oh it's okay, I have one the same way.

Sara points toward Kate.

KATE: MOM!

Sara and Raymond laugh.

SARA: Well, I'll see you around Raymond.

RAYMOND: Bye Sara.

Raymond sends Sara a "Hi!" text as he walks away, Sara smiles at her phone as she walks off stage.

SCENE 4

Split stage. Sara is getting ready for her date with Raymond on stage right, Raymond on stage left. Sara is looking for something to wear with her kids. Raymond is trying different ties while Dorothy (maid) is dusting the room.

RAYMOND: Dorothy, which tie do you prefer?

DOROTHY: I think both look great on you sir—

Penelope storms into the room.

PENELOPE: MAID! Feed my ponies! They're hungry and they're being way too noisy.

DOROTHY: Yes Penelope.

Maid scurries off stage. Lights go down on Raymond and up on Sara as she searches her closet for something to wear.

SARA: Oh my, I have nothing to wear!

NIKKI: Why don't you wear this, it's so cute!

Nikki hands Sara a dress.

SARA: I can't wear that, I got it at the thrift store! Raymond is a man of wealth, he'll know!

KATE: Mom, you'll look great.

NIKKI: He won't care what you're wearing no matter how much you spent on it.

CONNOR: Are you sure? He's super rich.

SARA: Yeah he is. Let's just hope Nikki's right.

Lights down on Sara and up on Raymond.

RAYMOND: What do you think hun?

PENELOPE: What are you even getting ready for?

RAYMOND: Do you remember that lovely lady we met on our way to the park yesterday?

PENELOPE: *(mumbling)* Oh, that ugly one.

RAYMOND: What?

PENELOPE: Nothing. Yes, I remember her.

RAYMOND: We're going to the coffee shop to catch up this afternoon.

PENELOPE: *(rolls eyes)* Sounds fun.

RAYMOND: What has gotten into you recently, Penelope?

PENELOPE: Nothing Father.

Penelope storms out.

RAYMOND: I was just wondering what tie I would wear.

Raymond sighs and continues to decide on a tie.

SCENE 5

At a coffee shop, Raymond looks nervous as he waits for Sara. A couple of students are sitting by the entrance. A waiter walks up to Raymond's table.

WAITRESS: Hey Sir! Are you ready to order yet or do you need a few more minutes?

RAYMOND: Oh I'm just waiting on someone. She should be here any minute, then I'll be good to order.

WAITRESS: Oh alright! I'll be back!

RAYMOND: Thank you!

Waitress walks off stage. Sara rushes in looking flustered. She scans the room looking for Raymond. The students sitting near the door take notice and talk about her. Sara does not notice, but Raymond does.

STUDENT 1: Oh man, just look at this lady.

STUDENT 2: That dress.

STUDENT 1: Looks like something my grandmother threw away last year.

STUDENT 2: It probably is that dress. She looks like she would go dumpster diving for clothes.

The students laugh at their nasty comments. Sara finds Raymond and walks towards him. Raymond pays attention to only Sara.

SARA: I'm so sorry I'm late, I couldn't get Nora settled with Nikki.

They hug.

RAYMOND: Oh that's ok! I remember when Penelope was that young, a fussy one she was. Oh, how I miss those days.

SARA: They grow up so fast.

RAYMOND: They really do.

Awkward silence as they both think of something to say.

SARA: How is she doing by the way? Penelope that is.

RAYMOND: Um, I'm not really sure. She's been a little different lately. Getting mad, storming off on me. I feel like nothing I do is ever good enough for her.

SARA: I understand exactly how you feel. It's like I can never give my kids everything they deserve, no matter how hard I try.

Sara and Raymond share a moment (realize they like each other)

RAYMOND: Since Penelope's mom died, I've been trying to fill the void of grief so that she never has to feel the pain. Spoiling her, buying her anything she wants. Which probably isn't the best approach but I can't seem to think of another way. I just want her to always be happy.

SARA: Oh I'm so sorry to hear about Penelope's mom. That must've been so hard for you both. You are doing a great job taking care of Penelope all by yourself. I can tell she is very happy.

RAYMOND: Thank you. Sara, you are doing a fabulous job of taking care of your kids as well. But, if you don't mind me asking, what happened to the kids' father?

SARA: I actually ended up marrying Griffin, from high school, but he left us before Nora was born.

RAYMOND: You seriously married Griffin?! (*quickly covers his mouth as if what he said shocked himself*) I didn't mean that, honestly. It's just that, he was something else, in high school at least. You were always too good for him.

SARA: Oh, it's okay, believe me, I understand.

RAYMOND: I'm sorry he left. We both know how hard single parenting can be.

SARA: Yeah it's tough. Ever since he left, I've been trying my best, but it's honestly really hard for the kids without a father figure around and money is tight. I've been working two jobs and it's definitely taking a toll on our lives. Nikki has been awesome, she really stepped up to the plate and is so helpful, especially with Nora.

RAYMOND: She seems like a really great kid.

SARA: She really is.

Raymond holds Sara's hand as a sign of solidarity.

Beat.

Waiter walks back to the table to take their orders.

WAITRESS: Are you guys ready to order!

RAYMOND: Yes we are! Ladies first.

SARA: Oh you're such a gentleman. I'll get a vanilla latte, please.

RAYMOND: Oh my gosh, that's what I always get!

SARA: Oh no kidding!

RAYMOND: We'll get two of those, please. And you know what, we'll get two scones too, on me.

SARA: Oh Raymond, you don't have to pay for me!

RAYMOND: It's alright Sara, my treat.

They smile at each other.

WAITRESS: Alright, so that's everything?

RAYMOND: Yup that's all for me. Sara?

SARA: Yes, that's everything. Thank you.

RAYMOND: Oh, one more thing. Could you let those two by the door know that their drinks are paid for? Just add it to my bill.

WAITRESS: Oh no problem! I'll be back in a minute.

Waitress walks to the table with the students to tell them their drinks are paid for. The students are visibly embarrassed. The waitress walks off stage.

SARA: That was nice of you.

Beat.

RAYMOND: Remember when we were in high school?

SARA: Yes of course. Those were some of the best days of my life. Why?

RAYMOND: It's kind of embarrassing but, I've always had the biggest crush on you, ever since the tenth grade, but I never got the chance to tell you because you were with Griffin.

SARA: Really! I never would have guessed. I wish you told me. Honestly, I had a little crush on you too but never thought I had a chance so when Griffin showed interest, I decided to move on.

RAYMOND: Really? I never would've thought.

Waitress brings them their coffee.

SARA: Thank you so much!

RAYMOND: Thank you!

WAITRESS: My pleasure, let me know if there's anything else you guys would like.

RAYMOND: We will.

Waitress walks off stage.

RAYMOND: You know what, I'm really glad we crossed paths again, even if it was because my daughter was being mean.

SARA: *(laughing)* Me too!

Lights go down

SCENE 6

Someone walks across the stage with a sign that says six months later. The Windsors are waiting at the Thompson's door for Christmas dinner.

RAYMOND: I really want this to go well tonight. I really like Sara, you know that right honey?

PENELOPE: Yeah I know, you haven't stopped talking about her for the past 6 months.

Penelope rolls her eyes.

RAYMOND: Just, please be nice in there, ok?

PENELOPE: I'll try.

Raymond knocks on the door, Sara opens it up.

SARA: Welcome! (*hugs Raymond*) Sorry for the mess, just trying to tidy up.

RAYMOND: Oh goodness no, don't worry about that. This is perfect, you have a beautiful home.

Connor walks on stage but doesn't notice Penelope and Raymond.

CONNOR: I put Nora to sleep, mom. But I still can't find Fluffy.

SARA: Thank you, Connor! And don't worry, he'll show up.

Connor looks at Penelope and Raymond in disgust. Penelope and Raymond walk into the house.

SARA: Kate's just setting the table.

PENELOPE: Why is *she* setting the table? Is your maid on vacation?

KATE: What's a maid?

PENELOPE: You don't know what a maid is?

SARA: We don't have a maid.

PENELOPE: You don't have a maid? So who feeds your ponies?

KATE: We don't have any ponies.

PENELOPE: You don't have any ponies?

RAYMOND: Penelope!

Raymond nudges Penelope.

CONNOR: (*sarcastically*) No. We don't have ponies.

SARA: Okay everyone, dinner is getting cold! Have a seat! I made sure we had enough for all of us!

Everyone takes a seat around the table, except for Penelope.

PENELOPE: I don't think I can sit down, this cushion is very dirty, it might ruin my new dress.

Thompson kids share a look.

RAYMOND: You'll be fine Penelope, just sit down please so we can enjoy this beautiful meal.

Sara uncovers the chicken on the table.

PENELOPE: Ew! What is that? That looks weird.

CONNOR: Well you look weird.

SARA: Connor!

RAYMOND: It's okay Sara, Penelope should be a little nicer.

Penelope rolls her eyes.

Awkward silence.

A hamster runs across the stage, Penelope sees and jumps onto her chair.

PENELOPE: Ah! Father! Help! There's a rat!

KATE: What! Where?

Kate stands up to look for the hamster.

RAYMOND: Penelope, please sit down.

SARA: Oh no! I'm so sorry! Kate lost her hamster, I think we just found him.

KATE: There you are Fluffy!

Kate catches him in a container.

PENELOPE: That's her pet?

KATE: *(as she walks off stage)* You have to stop leaving your cage, Fluffy!

SARA: I'm so sorry about that.

RAYMOND: It's okay Sara, don't be, please.

Sara looks relieved.

Awkward silence.

RAYMOND: So... Nikki, how old are you now?

NIKKI: 16, why?

RAYMOND: That's about the age you get your driver's license, isn't it?

NIKKI: *(sadly)* Yeah.

RAYMOND: What's wrong? Getting your license is so exciting! It gives you so much freedom!

NIKKI: Well, we don't have a car right now and won't be able to afford one anytime soon so it doesn't even matter.

RAYMOND: Well, I just got a new car if you ever want me to take you for a drive.

NIKKI: *(excitedly)* Sounds fun, I'll let you know!

Sara smiles at Raymond. Kate comes back and plops in her seat. Raymond pats his pockets panicked that he may have lost something. When he finds it he sighs with relief.

RAYMOND: Um... Sara, kids, there's something I would like to say.

Raymond stands and walks toward Sara.

RAYMOND: Sara, the past few months have been amazing.

Beat. Raymond gets on one knee. Sara covers her mouth. The children are in shock.

RAYMOND: After we lost Penelope's mom, I never thought I could feel this way about anyone ever again.

Beat. Connor and Penelope look like they might scream. Nikki looks as shocked as Sara. Kate is bouncing in her seat.

RAYMOND: I guess what I'm trying to say is... will you—

SARA: YES! Yes!

Sara wraps her arms around Raymond.

The kids all looked shocked.

NIKKI: Wow.

PENELOPE: You can't be serious.

RAYMOND: Yes Penelope, we're being serious.

CONNOR: *(laughing)* Good one guys! You really got us for a second.

SARA: Connor, this isn't a joke.

PENELOPE: This is outrageous. YOU WILL NEVER BE MY MOTHER!

Penelope storms out. Raymond runs after her.

RAYMOND: Penelope, wait!

Awkward pause

SARA: Well, that went well...

NIKKI: We're happy for you mom, really.

SARA: Thank you, Nikki.

Nikki nudges Connor to say something

CONNOR: *(sarcastically)* Yeah mom, we're thrilled.

KATE: Yay! Mom, can I be the flower girl?

Lights go down.

SCENE 7

At Raymond's mansion where he is hosting a New Year's Eve party. There are friends and family. Raymond's sister Sally is there. Raymond and Sara come up to the kids who are separated by family and don't look like they are having fun.

RAYMOND: Cheer up kiddos, it's a party!

Raymond does a cringy dad dance.

ALL KIDS: Stop!

The kids look at each other because they realize they did something in unison.

SARA: You guys are going to be siblings soon! Are you excited? You have to learn how to get along.

CONNOR: Of course, I'm not excited!

Connor storms off stage.

RAYMOND: I'll go talk to Connor.

SARA: Thank you.

Raymond runs off stage after Connor. The kids go to one side together without Penelope. Sara approaches Penelope.

SARA: Are you enjoying the party, sweetheart?

PENELOPE: Well it's not as good as last year. When it was just me and my father.

SARA: I know this will take some getting used to—

PENELOPE: I will never get used to this. Aunt Sally!

Sally walks up to Penelope and Sara.

SALLY: What is it, Penelope?

PENELOPE: Tell my father that I am not feeling well and I want everyone to leave.

Sara looks upset. Sally gives her a look.

SALLY: You will have to tell your father yourself. Go wait with the other kids. He'll be back shortly.

Penelope walks away towards the other kids but sits on the floor by herself.

SARA: What am I doing wrong, Sally?

SALLY: Nothing at all. Listen, when Penelope's mother died, Raymond was lost. I've never seen my brother this happy.

SARA: I just want her to like me.

SALLY: Raymond doesn't even know what to do with her half the time. I think that's why he spoils her so much. He gives her what she wants, not what she needs.

SARA: *(Looking at her own children)* I know exactly how that feels.

SALLY: Give it some time. Maybe having some kids her own age around will help her.

Sara and Sally continue to talk. Kate approaches Penelope who is sitting alone, awkward silence.

KATE: So, what's your favorite animal?

PENELOPE: Why do you care?

KATE: I don't know. I just do.

Kate sits next to her.

PENELOPE: Well, I like peacocks, but, um, I also like ponies, mostly because I have three.

KATE: You have three ponies?!

PENELOPE: Yup!

KATE: You're so lucky.

Beat.

KATE: By the way, why do you talk like that?

PENELOPE: My mother was British.

KATE: Oh. Well where is she?

PENELOPE: She died.

KATE: Is that why you need my mother?

PENELOPE: I don't need your mother! Or any of you!

Awkward silence.

PENELOPE: Plus, everyone I know talks like this. They're not poor, like you.

Pause.

KATE: Well, I can talk like that too. *(British accent)* I'm Kate, and I have three ponies.

PENELOPE: No you can't! You don't have three ponies! You don't even have one!

KATE: Ponies are my favorite animal though!

Connor comes back on stage and walks up to the girls mid-conversation. Nikki notices Connors return and joins them. Raymond enters and joins Sara and Sally, observing the children.

KATE: What are your ponies' names, anyway?

PENELOPE: Buttercup, Star—

CONNOR: I don't like ponies, horses are way cooler.

Nikki speaks quickly before Penelope has the chance to say something.

NIKKI: I heard you love peacocks, Penelope. I love peacocks too. I like their colorful feathers.

PENELOPE: Peacocks are my favorite! I asked my dad to get me one but he said no. So unfair!

CONNOR: Yeah, maybe because you already get everything you want. You want a peacock and already have three ponies! We would never in our lives get a pony, let alone three.

PENELOPE: Really? I thought everyone could have all those things.

CONNOR: Nope, just you and all the other rich people out there.

PENELOPE: Hey! I'm...

Silence. All the kids look at Penelope and wait for her to say something.

PENELOPE: I'm sorry if I've been mean. I thought I was better than you guys because I have money, but now I'm realizing that that's not the case. We are more alike than I thought.

NIKKI: Yeah we are!

All the kids laugh together and are now friends. Sara, Raymond and Sally walk over to join the kids.

RAYMOND: Oh look at you guys getting along! This is awesome!

SARA: Guys, it's almost time for the countdown!

They all run to the party. Countdown from 10 for the New Year starts. Penelope runs over and grabs party supplies off the table and hands them to the kids.

PENELOPE: Here you go!

The countdown continues.

ALL: Happy New Year!

Everyone cheers.

RAYMOND: Happy new year gang!

Raymond pulls everyone in for a group hug.

They smile, lights go down.

SCENE 8

Person with a sign that says "3 months later" walks across the stage.

Split stage. Raymond and Sara are getting ready for their wedding. All girls are on Sara's side. Connor is with Raymond.

Lights up on Sara and the girls.

NIKKI: You look so beautiful!

SARA: Thank you so much Nikki. You girls look amazing too.

KATE: Thanks, Mom! Look how my dress twirls!

Nikki spins Kate.

SARA: Wow Kate!

DOROTHY: I'm going to go get your veil for you, Miss. Is there anything else you need?

SARA: Oh no it's okay. I can go grab it.

DOROTHY: No dear, you stay put. I'll be right back.

Dorothy quickly walks off stage.

SARA: Oh, okay.

Beat.

SARA: Wow, I am not used to this kind of treatment. I could definitely get used to it.

NIKKI: Me too!

Sara and Nikki both laugh.

PENELOPE: Dorothy is awesome isn't she. She does whatever I ask!

SARA: Yeah she is pretty cool!

Lights go down on the girls, up on Raymond. Connor is struggling to tie his tie.

RAYMOND: Do you need some help with that?

CONNOR: No, I can do it.

RAYMOND: Are you sure, you look like you're struggling a little.

CONNOR: Fine.

Raymond walks over and begins to tie his tie.

RAYMOND: I'm really excited to marry your mom, you know?

Connor ignores him.

RAYMOND: Listen, you don't have to like me but I just want you to know, I love your mom and I'll never hurt her, or you kids, okay?

CONNOR: Okay.

Raymond continues to tie his tie.

Lights down on boys, up on girls. Sara fixing her hair and makeup. Nikki is holding Nora, helping Kate with her dress and Kate is still twirling and playing with her dress.

Dorothy fixing Sara's dress.

SARA: Oh my, I'm starting to get nervous.

NIKKI: It's okay mom, you'll do great!

Penelope slowly gets up and walks over.

SARA: Okay guys, how's my makeup?

PENELOPE: Do you want my honest opinion?

SARA: *(shocked)* What do you mean? Is it that bad?

PENELOPE: No it's not bad, I just think I can definitely fix it, if you'd like.

SARA: I'd love that, Penelope!

Penelope grabs makeup and helps Sara.

DOROTHY: Here's your veil, the makeup looks great, dear.

PENELOPE: Thanks to me.

Sara and Dorothy laugh.

Lights go down on Sara and up on Raymond. Raymond is just finishing Connor's tie.

RAYMOND: There you go. All done!

CONNOR: Thanks, Raymond.

RAYMOND: You're welcome Connor.

CONNOR: You know. I'm really happy my mom is marrying you, even though I don't show it.

RAYMOND: Thank you, Connor. I'm happy she's marrying me too.

They both laugh.

RAYMOND: Alright Connor, it's showtime.

Lights come up on Sara, lights are up on both sides.

SARA: Okay girls, I think we're ready.

*Music begins to play as the girls line up, everyone is fixing up their clothes and hair.
Sara and Raymond walk towards each other to the center and the officiator walks from
the back to the center.*

OFFICIATOR: Do you, Raymond, take Sara to be your lawfully wedded wife?

RAYMOND: I do.

OFFICIATOR: And do you, Sara, take Raymond to be your lawfully wedded husband?

SARA: I do.

OFFICIATOR: I now pronounce you husband and wife.

KATE: Yay!

Kate throws her flower petals at Sara and Raymond.

Everyone laughs.

End.