

SHOULD'VE LIED

by Japheth Gordon

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Jake and Shayna sit on the couch, typing on their phones.

JAKE

He says they're going to the 7:15 showing. Should I tell them we'll be there?

SHAYNA

Sure. Whatever.

JAKE

If you don't wanna go we don't have to.

Beat.

JAKE

You okay?

SHAYNA

What are we?

JAKE

Uh, we're humans? Teenagers? I'm not sure what you're--

SHAYNA

I mean, what are we? Are we 'dating'? Are we officially a couple? I know we're always together, but we have no label.

JAKE

(confused)

And we need a label?

SHAYNA

Look, I like you, obviously, but it's getting awkward not knowing what to call this. Like tonight, we're going to the movies with two other couples. That's six people. Couple, couple, and whatever-we-are!

JAKE

Okay, calm down. Does a silly label mean that much to you?

SHAYNA

Yes. It does.

She holds out her phone.

SHAYNA (CONT'D)

Look, Marissa and Rachel both have profiles that say "Taken". I want that.

JAKE

Of course you do. You're a girl.

SHAYNA

What's that supposed to mean?

JAKE

Nothing...just that girls always want try to trap you with 'commitment' when things are going good.

SHAYNA

First of all, no one is 'trapping you'. And if things are so *good*, why not make it official?

JAKE

It's hard...

SHAYNA

It's not that hard.

JAKE

No offense, but you have no idea how hard it is. Us guys are pre-programmed to try to get with every female we see. It's how the species survived so long.

SHAYNA

Please. Girls get tempted just as much as guys.

JAKE

Not even close. Why do you think more guys cheat than girls?

SHAYNA

Because we're mature enough to make smart decisions.

JAKE

Yeah right. How 'bout cause you're already getting you're fantasy? Every girl wants that one special guy...Prince Charming to be with her forever.

SHAYNA

Some guys want monogamy too.

JAKE

No. No they don't. Most guys lie, tell you what you want to hear then pretend to be happy until they cheat. (beat) Listen, Shayna, I'm trying to be honest with you because I really do like you. We have so much fun together. Everyday you make me smile, but if I said I WANT to be with only one girl, I'd be lying. And you deserve better than liar.

SHAYNA

Thank you. Thank you for your honesty. (beat) Get out.

She stands and ushers him out the door.

JAKE

What?

SHAYNA

You wanna play the field? The feild's out there. So bye!

JAKE

But I was being honest--

As she slams the door on him:

SHAYNA

You shoulda lied!!!