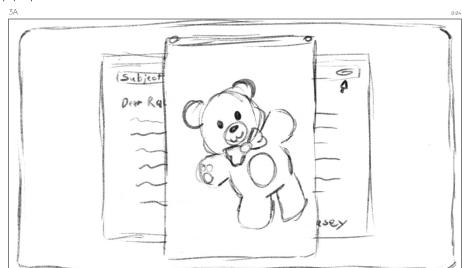


He sent me a message over the site,

View of Computer screen, message pops up



and he actually included this little picture of a teddy bear with the message, and I'd put in my profile that I was looking for a big cuddly bear

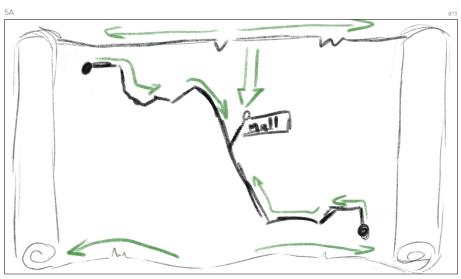
Mouse cursor clicks on attachment symbol, and an image of a teddy bear opens with a squeak noise. Teddy tilts back and forth (jerky, like an early gif animation)

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and it's like "alright, he's paying attention, he's worth a shot."

Words appear as they are spoken



C: Yeah, actually, there was a mall basically exactly between us. R: We decided to try and meet up in the middle.

Map unfurls frommiddle of screen. On Attic starts at PA dot. One at NJ dot, both meet in middle, and flag labeled "mall" drops in from top of screen



We decided to meet up at the book store, then went from there and just,

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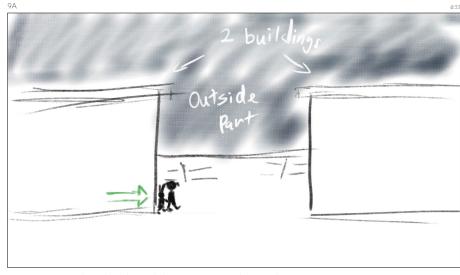
y'know kinda wandered around the mall, kinda having a charming first date.

Both walking across screen with stores in background



Eventually we decided to start making our way over to the part of the mall that had the restaurants, but

Casey thumbs toward sign. Rachel nods.



C: the thing with this one is it's actually got a little outside part between the two halves--R:



so when we go outside, I just kinda realize, y'know, we're outside, the stars are shining

Both slowly walking forward. Casey looks up, eyebrows raise.



... (pause)

Freezeframe on previous image. Hole opens in top left of page, pushed open by paws



I recognize now this was probably creepy as

Freezeframe, except for circle, where Present Casey looks at viewer and explains realization

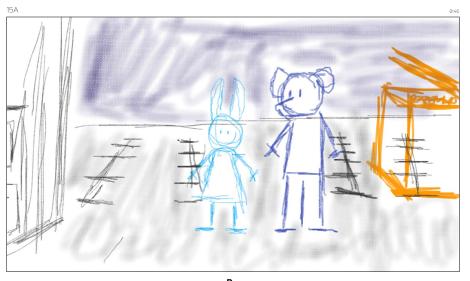


censor bar over mouth

14 et

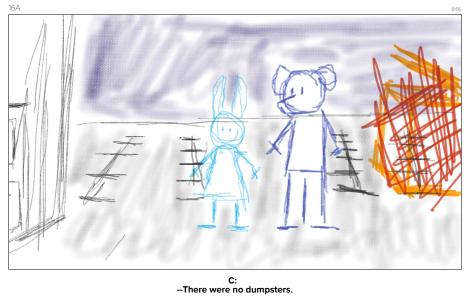
and I definitely could have shot myself in the foot with this--

Freezeframe, except for circle, where Present Casey looks at viewer and explains realization

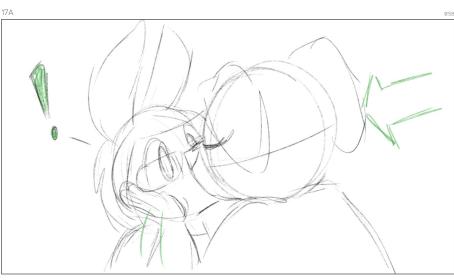


R: Because for me -- I'm looking around like, alright, I'm with a guy I just met. Alone. At night. In a parking lot. I think there's a dumpster nearby--

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scribble out dumpster



And suddenly he goes in for the kiss... I was shocked at first

Casey leans in, and hand comes up Exclamation point appears



but, then he looks at me and says "I've been wanting to do that since I met you."

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Rachel smiles, lowers eyelids

And... all was forgiven



So, yeah, we get to the restaurant, have a nice first date meal...

mouths moving, as if talking. Casey's tail wags, Rachel lifts fork



then the check comes.

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Now, I'm thinking, ok, I'll be a gentleman. I said, "here, lemme get this."

hand with wallet comes up on screen, words appear as spoken

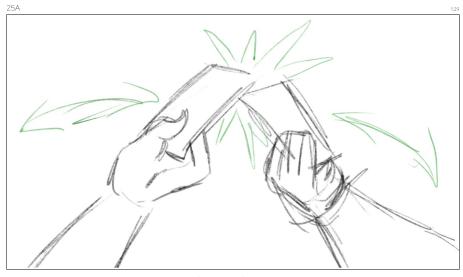


And for me, we always split checks or at least negotiate who's going to pay the check for any given meal in my family.

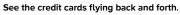
Sitting and talkinging, Rachel raises hand as talking



-- Negotiate like it's a sword battle. See the credit cards flying back and forth.



2 unknown hands clashing cards together





Yeah and so, I figure I'm going to offer to pay.

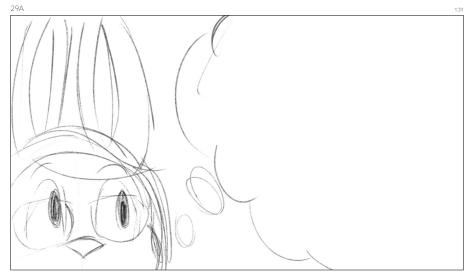
Thought bubble starts small, then "blows up" to cover 1/2 screen, revealing thought image



He says "I'll pay," and

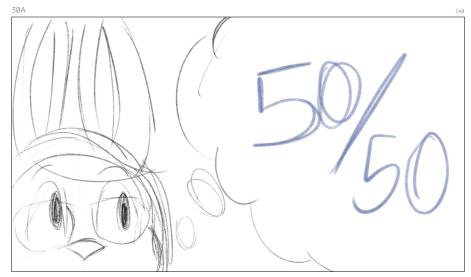


I say, "Well, how 'bout I pay."



I was expecting him to say,

thought bubble blows up

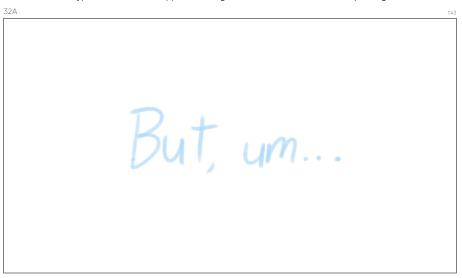


Well, how 'bout we go 50/50?



We go dutch for our first date."

Sketchy version of Rachel and Casey dressed in stereotypical Dutch clothes appear in thought bubble, with windmill and tulips in bg

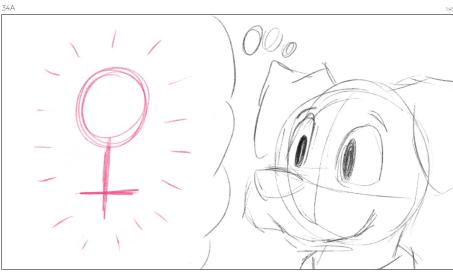


Words appear as spoken

But, um...

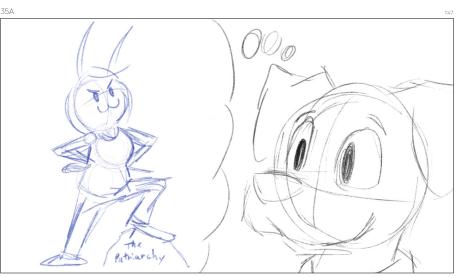


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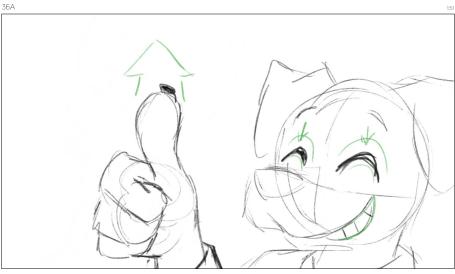
As far as I was concerned, y'know, I'm a feminist over here,

female sybol appears in thought bubble



so ok, if you want to have power and authority of paying for the first date, then more power to you. Let's go for that.

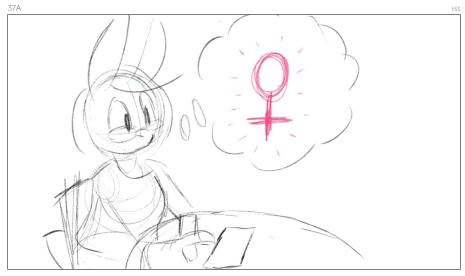
thought bubble blows up from Casey's head, showing a sketchy image of Rachel looking powerful (Captain Morgan pose), and her foot on a stone labeled "the patriachy"



then more power to you. Let's go for that.

Casey's eyes close as he smiles. Hand in "thumbs up" pose rises from bottom of screen.

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female sybol appears in thought bubble

I'm a feminist and a woman of my word

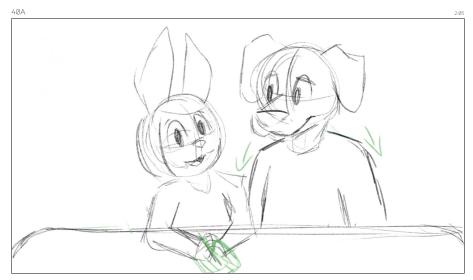


so I did pay for our first date.

thought bubble pops. Rachel takes card from back pocket, and puts ontop of bill

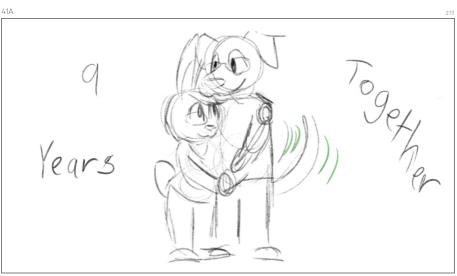


I've been paying for it ever since, 'cause every time we get to tell that story she gets to bring up how I let her pay on our first date in its entirety, but--



But the thing is, it's just another one of those funny little things that happened on our way to where we are now,

Casey returns to relaxed position. Rachel talks and unfolds her hands



'cause we've been together since then. 9 years together,

Words appear as spoken. Casey's tail wags



and 3 1/2 years married, and uh...



Phrases appear as each of them speak

No Regrets X2