

# Three Knocks

by  
Courtney Keir

## CAST

You  
Them  
Older You  
Older Them

## SETTING

A performance. Make sure there is one VIP seat. Possibly on either end of the room in the very front row but hey I won't tell you what to do.

P.s. For those wondering, "Eehnnhh" is a buzzer sound. Like when people get it wrong on a game show.

P.p.s. You also may want a director's chair onstage as well for any backseat drivers.

YOU *enter*.

YOU *have a letter in your hand*.

YOU *open it*.

**V.O. News Voice 1:** Well world travelers will be happy today-

**V.O. News Voice 2:** The prime minister announced-

**V.O. News Voice 1:** -the travel ban is officially lifted.

**V.O. News Voice 2:** -Borders are now open.

**Y:** (reading from letter) Book a flight immediately and go tell (them/her/him) how you actually feel about (them/her/him).

YOU *pause*.

**Y:** Yeah.

YOU *get your suitcase and start to open it*.

**Y:** Yeah. Yes, I will. Yes. I will get the ticket and pack my stuff and arrive at (their/her/his) door and I will tell (them/her/him) how I really .....Nope.

**OY:** Nope?

YOU *get spooked*.

**OY:** All you're going to say is nope? Come on! It's a grand romantic gesture and we love grand romantic gestures.

**Y:** Who are you?

**OY:** You could do that white signs thing, or a flash mob of some sort? Well wait, I guess you don't know many dancers in the UK.

**Y:** I feel like the occasion is a little too intimate for a flash mob. Wait. Who- Why do you-

**OY:** Look like me? Know that you like cheesy rom coms? Have the same noodle arm gestures? I'm you. But older you.

**Y:** So, I'm dreaming?

**OY:** I think you just need help. I mean think- what's our weak spot?

**Y/OY:** Cheese.

**OY:** Ha! No. But actually.

**Y/OY:** Decisions.

**Y:** I am not horrible at decisions!

**OY:** Wait for it.

**Y:** Alright fine. I am horrible-

**OY:** We-

**Y:** Right. We. Ugh. Why am I, I mean we, why are we doing this together? No offence. I just I do have a therapist? I have friends?

**OY:** Sure, sure but right now you have me so .....I mean valuable resource possibly wasted-

**Y:** We seem more confident now.

**OY:** Yeah, I'd say so.

**Y:** Cool when did that- No. Okay, fine. I guess the good thing is you know the stakes and who's involved and that's why you should know there are a million ways this could go horribly wrong. Right? I mean okay watch, Example A:

*YOU arrive with a suitcase at their door.*

*Three knocks.*

*THEM comes out quickly and quietly.*

**T:** Oh my god, what are you doing here? I missed you so much! Are you in town? So, kind of crazy timing my new partner is actually in there right now and-

*THEM pulls out a ring.*

**Y:** Oh-

**T:** I'm going to propose tonight.

**Y:** -my god. Congratulations!

**T:** But come to our engagement drinks after!

**Y:** That ring is-

**T:** God, it's so good to see your face in person.

**Y:** You picked such a-

**Y:** I'll text you the details. Okay wish me luck!

**Y:** You are a good picker of rings!

*Door closes.*

**Y:** Good luck.

**OY:** Eehhnnhh. You zoomed last week. (They/She/He) would have mentioned if (they/she/he) were seeing someone. Also, we would be a weak playwright.

**Y:** What?

**OY:** Why would (they/she/he) always talk about (their/her/his) dating life with you and then suddenly stop-

**Y:** No, the other thing.

**OY:** (They/She/He) (don't/doesn't) speak like that. That was your voice on (them/her/him).

**Y:** Well sorry (Mx. /Ms./Mr.) Director-

**OY:** I'm just saying the people paid the money to be in the seats so-

**Y:** This isn't a show. This is my life, well my potential life! This is me freaking out about my potential-

**OY:** OKAY! Okay. Show me all your silly reasons-

*OLDER YOU knocks on the door from (their/her/his) seat. THEM opens the door. YOU are standing there with your suitcase.*

**Y:** Surprise!

**T:** No.....wayyy- How are you? This is so surreal.

**Y:** Better now. I missed you.

**T:** I missed you too. Thank god the borders are finally open. And you came to visit me first? I'm honoured.

**Y:** Well, actually I promised myself I would. I have to tell you something.

**T:** Okay.

**Y:** I know when we met, you were attached but even then, I found myself wondering about a potential future with you and then when you guys broke up I wanted to give you that time to heal before I- you know said anything and then I had to move back home but I never stopped thinking about that future. And you. With you. This is maybe not how I wanted to say it. I don't know-

**T:** You- You thought I liked you like that. Eww. Bro. No offence but kissing you would be like kissing my (sibling/sister/brother) if (they/she/he) was like a 5. Oh no, I get it. You're joking.

*THEM starts laughing.... laughing hard.*

**T:** You are hilarious. It's just- You. Priceless.

**OY:** You know what I was going to give you points for the slightly more diverse voices because the "No.... wayyy" was on point but eehnnhh eehnnhh eehnnhh immediately removed from the table. More points deducted. You know (they/he/she) would be way more understanding about how sensitive this situation is. (They're/She's/He's) your friend at the very least. Sure (they/she/he) may not be in love with you but (they/she/he) wouldn't turn into some well whatever that last bit was. Can't you just for one second consider the fact that this possibility isn't off the table?

*Three knocks.*

**Y:** Hey-

**T:** No.....wayyy- What are you doing here?

**Y:** I came to visit you. I hope you don't mind. I just wanted to see you as soon as I could.

**T:** I missed you.

**Y:** I missed you too.

**T:** This is so surreal. I was looking up flights too. I needed to see you in person.

**Y:** You did?

**T/Y:** I need to tell you something.

**T/Y:** You first.

**Y:** Go.

**T:** Look, you've always been such a good friend to me. I would never want anything to ruin what we have but I haven't been able to get the idea of you and me out of my head since the day we met.

*YOU are speechless.*

**T:** You go. Sorry, that was a lot to drop on you before I even invited you-

*YOU kiss THEM.*

**T:** Please come inside.

*YOU and THEM start heading inside.*

**Y:** Stop.

**OY:** I think you mean "Cut"? What? If you have all this time to imagine all the bad possible outcomes you have to consider at least some of the good ones. Also, I genuinely forgot about (their/her/his) "surreal" year. It's like the only adjective (they/she/he) used forever.

**Y:** I don't want to imagine that because if I end up standing outside (their/her/his) closed door crying because I flew to a different country to ruin a friendship because I thought someone like (them/her/him) would be into someone like me at least I will be somewhat prepared. Trust me, this way it won't be as disappointing. I mean, it could even go like this-

*Three Knocks.*

*Silence.*

*Suitcase wiggles.*

*Three Knocks.*

*More Silence.*

*More Suitcase wiggles.*

**OY:** *(in narrator voice)* Ten minutes later.

*YOU slide down the door.*

**OY:** Ten minutes later.

*YOU spring up with an idea.*

*YOU take out your phone and dial.*

*Silence.*

*The phone rings from inside the door.*

*A pause.*

*It keeps ringing.*

*YOU slide down the door again.*

**OY:** Ten months later.

*YOU are dead. The phone is still ringing.*  
(just kidding, about the dead part, not the phone)

**OY:** OKAY! CUT! CUT! Take five everybody! I'll be in my trailer.

**Y:** THIS. IS. NOT. A. SET.

**OY:** God, I liked doing the SpongeBob voice but come on you are being ridiculous. That will not happen.

*OLDER YOU helps YOU up.*

**Y:** Well, this isn't a movie! People aren't just sitting around at home conveniently doing nothing in particular when someone comes to profess their love. Think about it.

*OLDER YOU does.*

**OY:** Okay maybe call to make sure (they/she/he) (aren't/isn't) also thinking of doing a trip somewhere right away but you just need to go for what you want. What are you actually scared of?

**Y:** The other "Please come inside".

*Three Knocks.*

**Y:** Surprise!



**T:** No.....wayyy- What are you doing here?

**Y:** I wanted to see you in person.

**T:** Well I'm honoured. I missed you.

**Y:** I missed you too. I need to tell you something.

**T:** Oh man, it's so surreal you are here. Sorry, go ahead.

**Y:** I know we've been friends for a while now but when I met you that first day in the registration line, you turned around and it was electric. Your eyes met mine and I was distracted by how stunning you were. Your laugh was melodic, your wit sharp. I could listen to your stories for days. I was gone on you since day one but I would have never disrespected you and Lia(m) and then I wanted you to be ready to get out there again. But that first moment of electricity, that connection between us has never ended for me and I guess I was wondering if it ever even started for you?

**T:** Oh wow. Hey, you know I don't- I- You know what? Please come inside. Do you want a tea or?

**OY:** So, you have a slightly hard, slightly awkward conversation and then you take some breathing time and go back to being friends-

**Y:** Or we have said conversation, take a few years of breathing time and then when we awkwardly find ourselves caught in a corner together at a mutual friend's housewarming or wedding and I realize that that breathing time was actually (them/her/him) avoiding me and we can't even make eye contact let alone talk.

**T:** This could be the start of our love story.

**Y:** Don't make (them/her/him) speak to prove your point.

**T:** Calm down baby.

**OY:** Okay sorry, but seriously breathe!

**Y:** Stop. I don't want to do this again. You say you are actually me? Well then you know how much the last one hurt. How it almost ended everything. I don't want to be hurt like that again. I can't get hurt again period. Okay?

**OY:** I get it. I am you. I know what we've been through but you don't know if this is going to go south so-

**Y:** I know things don't work out-

**OY:** Well I'll go over what else we know. The first time you locked eyes with (them/her/him) your stomach dropped and time seemed to suspend. The background noise muted and you listened to (their/her/his) voice, only. You noticed how (they/she/he) pronounced a word slightly differently than you do and then you noticed how you no longer wanted to hear it said any other way. You made effort to work in to the first conversation you were unattached and felt like you had been stabbed when you realized (they/she/he) (were/was). You continued to feel like the "other (person/woman/man)" even though you maintained a very healthy friendship with very healthy boundaries however when (they/she/he) touched your arm the heat of (their/her/his) palm stayed there all day. You worried you were blushing when (they/she/he) talked to you. You received compliments like they were trophies because they were from (them/her/him). When you lie in bed even two years later you can still hear (their/her/his) laugh. It's the most beautiful sound to you. Still. It makes you the happiest you've ever been but also the saddest. When (they/she/he) broke up with Lia(m) you were the first one (they/she/he) called. Your brain immediately imagined what (they/she/he) would sound like moaning your name until you beat that thought from your brain completely and took care of (them/her/him). You watched as the tears turned to a rare smile and then watched that smile get more familiar and even then, you froze. You had to move back. You could have said something but you didn't. You realize that this person is the last person who sent you a song you might like. The last person you cried to about your family drama. You can't lose this person. This person is everything to you. Everything and more. And you are right, there are a million fucking reasons why this won't go well or this wouldn't work but you don't know that for sure. What you know for sure is you feel safe when (they/she/he) (are/is) hugging you and special when (they/she/he) look(s) at you. You feel like everything and more. So, take the chance.

**OY:** Then it could maybe be like-

**Y:** I get it. You already showed me the best-case scenario.

*OLDER YOU comes on to the stage.*

**Y:** Oh really, now you're going to be us? After having nothing but criticism you-

**OY:** *(speaking to audience)* And then I took my own advice, got on that plane and hoped (they/she/he) had the same feelings that I did.

*OLDER THEM comes from their VIP seat to the stage and meets OLDER YOU.*

**OT:** But come on, how could I not fall for (them/her/him). I couldn't believe it when (they/she/he) knocked on the door it was just-

**OY:** I guess you could say it was pretty surreal.

**OT:** Oh god, remember when I only used that adjective for like a year-

**OY:** I do love, I actually recently remembered.

**Y:** So, we do end up with (them/her/him)?

**OY:** Go and find out.

**OT:** Go.

*OLDER YOU and OLDER THEM exit, YOU watch them do so.*

*YOU take a breath and pick up your suitcase.*

**Y:** It might be the start of our love story.

*Three knocks.*

*BLACKOUT.*