

JADE is on her second date with BACHELOR at his enormous beach house - he's an extremely rich man who's been very vague about the source of his wealth. While he's not outwardly strange or aggressive, he's had an uncomfortable energy the whole time. Later that night, JADE is alone in his home, and finds a bloody, half-scaled mermaid in a tank in his basement. She tries to find something to help the mermaid back to the ocean, but is caught in the act.

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Jade hears the sliding glass door open and slam shut. She drops to the floor and hides behind the couch. She can hear his footsteps headed towards the living room.

BACHELOR

Jade.

It isn't a question when he says it. There's a stern tone, as if he's trying to compose himself. He waits a moment but Jade doesn't stand.

BACHELOR (CONT'D)

(Angrier)

Jade, get up.

Jade scrambles up, grabbing her sandals. She looks at him but looks away when she sees the wild look in his eyes.

BACHELOR (CONT'D)

Did you go into the basement?

JADE

(Quickly)

No.

She answered too fast. He takes a step forward and Jade takes a step back, but she's against a wall.

BACHELOR

Don't you lie to me. We both know you're not a good liar.

JADE

(Laughs awkwardly)

I'm not lying!

BACHELOR

(Chuckles)

Babe, you left the light on down there.

Jade's eyes widen. She knows she's been caught. She opens her mouth to speak but can't get anything out. Bachelor puts on a smile but the angry look in his eyes stays.

BACHELOR (CONT'D)

Now I'm not mad! I just want to  
talk about what you saw down  
there.

Jade evaluates her options - looking to the left at the knife block in the kitchen, and to the front door on the right. Bachelor catches this glance.

JADE

Is that where all your money  
comes from? Poaching and scaling  
mermaids?

BACHELOR

I know what it looks like, but  
it's a family tradition. They're  
just animals, they don't-

JADE

(incredulous)  
Animals!?

JADE (CONT'D)

(Angry, frantic)  
She's sentient! I can't- You  
honestly think... It doesn't  
matter. You could be skinning  
rats in your basement and it  
would still be wrong. You're  
sick, and-

BACHELOR

(saccharine,  
condescending)  
Oh, sweetheart.

He starts moving around the couch towards her.

BACHELOR (CONT'D)

Don't try to be the hero here.  
It's not a good look for you.

JADE

... What?

BACHELOR

(dismissive)

I know you've always wanted to do  
the right thing and whatever.

Bachelor is moving around Jade's right side, forcing her  
around the couch to the coffee table.

BACHELOR (CONT'D)

But being the hero won't get you  
anywhere. It won't put food on  
the table, it won't get you a  
husband, and it won't make you  
happy.

JADE

You're disgusting. You won't get  
away with this.

He stops moving and his smile twists. His tone drops low.

BACHELOR

I've been getting away with it  
for years. The ocean drowns out  
the screams - no one can hear  
them. No one's going to hear you  
either.

Bachelor rushes towards her. Jade screams and raises her hand  
to throw her sandals at him. He grabs her wrists and holds  
them tight above her head. He pulls her closer, speaking  
directly into her ear.

BACHELOR (CONT'D)

We can forget this ever happened,  
you know. I can take you home and  
you'll never hear from me again.  
It'll just be a bad dream.

JADE

I'll tell everyone. You don't  
want that.

BACHELOR

Babe, while I find your whole  
head-in-the-clouds attitude  
endearing, other people find it  
stupid. No one would believe you.

Jade screams, deep and guttural from her chest. She swiftly kneels him in the crotch, and he releases her wrists as he falls to his knees. While Bachelor is down, Jade shoves a sandal heel in his eye. She steps back.

JADE

Stay the fuck away from me.

Bachelor blindly reaches forward for a moment before taking a few deep breaths. He composes himself and looks at her with his one good eye.

The camera pans around to Jade, who is now holding a large, hardcover copy of THE COLLECTED WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE. It's the copy he claimed was only decorative hours earlier. She holds it above her head, like a weapon.

Bachelor laughs, still looking up at her.

BACHELOR

You wouldn't.

JADE

Try me.

Bachelor pushes himself to his feet but Jade doesn't move. They're locked in a standoff for several seconds. Jade can hear her heartbeat in her ears.

Suddenly, Bachelor rushes forwards with his hands out. Jade swings. She hits the side of his head with disappointing force. He recoils but recovers quickly, so Jade swings again.

And again, even harder this time.

He falls back to his knees, and manages to get one hand on her thigh in a feeble last attempt, and Jade swings one more time. The corner of the book hits his cheek.

Bachelor falls face first into the floor with a resounding thud. Blood seeps from his cheek onto the perfect white tile.

Jade lets out a deep breath she didn't know she was holding in. For the first time since she got here, she can finally breathe.

All we can hear is the sound of the ocean waves and her breath.



## Cascadia Writing Test Dialogue

Fallout: Cascadia is a complete replacement mod for Fallout 4, taking place in Seattle in 2329. The following is the dialogue from my writing test for Cascadia - about a sentient Centaur named Jerry, wandering the Wasteland looking to fix his translating device. After the player completes this task, Jerry asks them for their help in making him human again. This was written as a writing test to join the Cascadia team. It is formatted as a spreadsheet.

Group Name:	NPC Line:	Player Line:	Destination:
START	JERRY	PLAYER:	
	Oh blimey, I say you've done it old sport! My gratitude extends far beyond my vocabulary.	I think there's still something wrong with your voice. I still can't understand you.	VOICE
		Well, you're definitely the smartest Centaur I've ever met.	SMARTEST
		Man, I've gotta lay off the chems!	DICTIONARY
VOICE	JERRY	PLAYER:	
	Oh, pish posh! You wastelanders have no idea the illustrious lexicons we had before the war. Such a pity.	Yeah, yeah, you got anything for me? A couple caps or a dictionary, maybe?	DICTIONARY
		(Say nothing.)	DICTIONARY
DICTIONARY	JERRY	PLAYER:	
	I still require your assistance, ma'am/sir! You see, I used to be a scientist. I wasn't always this wretched beast, and I wish to return to my former, admittedly more desirable self.	[Rude]: Desirable isn't a word I'd ever use to describe you, pal. Shove a book in it. (This ends the conversation.)	START
		[Undecided]: What would you need me to do? Read a bedtime story?	ASSIGNMENT
		[Friendly]: You were a pre-war scientist?	ASSIGNMENT
ASSIGNMENT	JERRY	PLAYER:	

	I worked in Vault 87, on the Forced Evolutionary Virus project. When the nuclear projectiles fell, I was exposed to my own work - and became... This. I've spent hours on days on years researching for a cure, while keeping myself concealed from the harsh and unforgiving world on the outside. I have paid the terrible price for Vault-Tec's experiments, and I need my body and my work back.	So you're the reason for those... Things wandering the wasteland?	WASTELAND
		I'll give you a second chance at life and take you to Vault 87.	SECOND CHANCE
		I'll get back to you on that, Shakespeare. (This ends the conversation.)	START
WASTELAND	JERRY	PLAYER:	
	Unfortunately... I had a hand in it. We did not know the consequences of this experiment, nor did we... Know how horribly wrong the nuclear energy could make it. I've seen first hand what we've done, and as what I assume to be the last surviving, conscious evolution physicist, I want to continue research to correct our wrongs.	That's horrible. I hope you can fix it, we really need it out there. I'll take you to Vault 87.	SECOND CHANCE
		Screw off, smartass. We don't need any more monsters in the wasteland. (This ends the conversation.)	START
SECOND CHANCE	JERRY	PLAYER:	
	Fantastic! Let us be on our way then. (This ends the conversation.)		EXIT
SMARTEST	JERRY	PLAYER:	
	*laughs* That is not a very high standard to be holding me to. I've seen the others, met the others... Even if they could speak, as I can, they would not be able to weave the yarns that I do. Centuries of reading will do	Yeah, yeah, you got anything for me? Caps, or maybe a dictionary?	DICTIONARY

	that to you.		
		Whew, you had me worried. I thought I killed all those things without thinking to ask them what their favorite book was first.	FAVORITE
FAVORITE	JERRY	PLAYER:	
	No, they do not possess the brain function I do. I do not know why I retained mine, when so many of them lost most if not all human functions. I was a scientist, you know, in Vault 87. I worked on the Forced Evolutionary Virus. It is ironic, in a way, that I contracted the very thing I was working on, isn't it?	That's awful. Is there anything I can do to help?	ASSIGNMENT
		I don't think that's the correct definition of irony.	DESERVED IT
		Sounds like you deserved it.	DESERVED IT
DESERVED IT	JERRY	PLAYER:	
	Well, er... In any event, I need your help returning to my former self. All I've been doing during all these years is surviving, and researching. I think I have a serum that will work, if I can get back to my lab in Vault 87, with your assistance.	I need some more information here, pal.	ASSIGNMENT
		No thanks. Sounds like we have enough monsters in the wasteland, thanks to you.	EXIT
		I'll take you to Vault 87.	SECOND CHANCE



## OnlyCans: Thirst Date

OnlyCans: Thirst Date is a highly acclaimed indie comedy game about the Shize soda brand, telling the story of a long line of soda creators as they ruin the planet in their quest for a soda monopoly. Most of the game's narrative is told in a nonlinear way through the thirty-nine "flavor profiles" - which include both company lore and character descriptions for the soda flavors. The following are a few select flavor profiles/item descriptions that set the tone of the game while skillfully conveying the detailed lore behind our silly premise.

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Shize™ Cherry Pop was invented in 1999 to give Shize™ the public rebranding they needed to push past the Tropical Storm scandal of 1998. It was accompanied by the "A New, Sexy Millennium" ad campaign, which boosted the company's stock values by over 200%. So many years later, Shize™ Cherry Pop is still the preferred flavor among college students.

*Shize™ Cherry Pop is sweet, with a flirtatious and rebellious streak you just can't ignore. She's quite the adventurer and never stays in (if she can help it). Her hobbies include knowing every bouncer in town, inventing her own cocktails, cliff diving, and working to end housing inequality. You'll never be bored with Shize™ Cherry Pop - if you can keep up!*

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Shize™ Liquorliscious was a special flavor developed in 2012 as John Shize III's preparation for the final party before doomsday. Doomsday didn't happen, but Shize™ Liquorliscious became the most requested Shize™ flavor in clubs across the world.

*Shize™ Liquorliscious is a partier through and through. They literally cannot stop partying or they'll cease to exist. They know no pain or sleep or fear, making them the ideal partner for any Friday night.*

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Shize™ Thirst Born is the long awaited result of Project S. Decades in the making, John Shize III sacrificed soda from his own collection, personal connections, millions of shareholder dollars, and even his own life to build this prototype - both can and human soul combined in one perfect organism. It was the first of many.

*Shize™ Thirst Born should be approached with caution.  
There will be consequences.  
Please reconsider.*