

The States Collection – Maryland – Under the Boardwalk  
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CAST: 4 (2 male, 2 females) oh – and they’re Blue Crabs. They probably sideways. But you decide.

Barry (ageless) male; amiable blue crab; best friends with Callie and Stuffy  
 Callie (ageless) female; equally amiable blue crab; best friends with Barry and Cake  
 Stuffy (ageless) male; best friends with Barry; awkward crab  
 Cake (ageless) female; best friends with Callie; a shy crab

PLACE: Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, by the ocean, under the boardwalk

TIME: Autumn night

SYNOPSIS: BARRY tries to hook up his best friend STUFFY with CALLIE. CALLIE tries to hook up her best friend CAKE with BARRY.

TAGS: comedy, romantic comedy, Valentine’s Day, talking “animals” (okay, they’re crabs)

Lights up on BARRY with STUFFY.

BARRY

You’re going to love Callie. We’ve been best friends since we met at the rock pool last year. I can’t believe I haven’t introduced you two before.

STUFFY

You know Barry, I’ve always had a hard time with crustaceans of the female persuasion. They’re intimidating.

BARRY

That’s the thing with Callie – she’s super easy-going! I mean – she has her quirks – but what crab doesn’t have quirks? You’ll be fine. Just – whatever you do – don’t start dancing. You know you can’t dance.

(Meanwhile on the other side of the stage we see CALLIE with CAKE.)

CALLIE

Come on, don’t be shy. Barry is super-sweet. You just need to see past the hard shell of his.

CAKE

I don’t pierce shells well. You know that.

CALLIE

No worries – this is just a meet and greet and eat.

(The CRABS come together.)

BARRY

Let's get the intros out of the way. I'm Barry and this is Callie – my best friend...

CALLIE

And this is my best friend Cake/

BARRY

Cake? Like in *Crab Cake*?

CAKE

No! Like in sweetie pie cakes!

BARRY

And this is Stuffy!

CALLIE

Like in Stuffed Crabs?

STUFFY

No! Stuffy because I like to eat. A lot.

BARRY

So ... Callie ... I think you have a lot in common with Stuffy.

CALLIE

Oh good. Do you like sunsets?

STUFFY

Sunrises.

CALLIE

Eating oysters?

STUFFY

Clams. But you know what we really have in common? We're both crabs!

BARRY

There you go! I knew you two would hit it off.

(Silence.)

CALLIE

Soooo Barry. I know how much you like Cake.

BARRY

Not really. Never did have a sweet tooth. Sushi?

CAKE

Can't do the sticky rice.

CALLIE

I know! I know! You both love seaweed.

(BARRY and CAKE make the "YUCK" face.)

I mean – you both hate seaweed! It's a match made in heaven!

(Silence.)

BARRY

Sooo... how about those Orioles?

CAKE

Those birds are so aggressive.

BARRY

I meant the baseball team.

CAKE

What's baseball?

(BARRY looks at CALLIE. As in... "This is never going to work.")

CALLIE

Shall we picnic? I brought mussels.

CAKE

Cake.

BARRY

Sushi.

STUFFY

Were we supposed to bring something?

BARRY

I told you!

STUFFY

Sometimes I don't hear so well. The truth is blind dates make me nervous and when I'm nervous...

(STUFFY does a most awkward dance. HE could dance like an Egyptian, do “the jerk,” “tap dance” – whatever suits your cast.)

CALLIE

What is he doing?

BARRY

Oh Stuffy! Don't do that. You know that isn't your best talent... Stuffy....stop!

(And suddenly CAKE gets up and joins STUFFY. SHE is as awkward as he is  
And just like that – the couple that should be together is together.)

CALLIE

It's a match!

BARRY

Not the match we were looking for. They're together and we're still single. What do we do now?  
This claw gets good reception. Bet we can catch a baseball game.

(CALLIE starts to dance. The awkward mating dance that STUFFY and CAKE did.)

BARRY (cont'd)

Callie? Don't do that? It's silly ... it's ... ohhh Callie! I never saw you like this before! Ohh  
Callie!

(BARRY joins in the dance.)

END OF PLAY