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## The Love

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# The Love

This one-act is an exploration of the idea of the “Three Loves” which is an idea that a person will fall in love three times in their lifetime. The three loves are (1) The Love That Seems Right, (2) The Difficult Love, and (3) The Love That Lasts. I had added a fourth kind of love that is reflective of my own experiences which I am calling “The Good On Paper” Love. The main character in the one-act is confronted with all of the important loves from her past as she reflects on the relationships which brought her to the person that she has chosen to spend the rest of her life with.

## CHARACTERS

Annie Stanton

Michael Harris

Henry Manning

Max Garner

Tanner Bellview

Brenda Bellview

## SCRIPT

*(The play opens with a table set with a beautiful candlelight dinner with a chair on either side of the table. ANNIE sits in the chair on stage right. MICHAEL sits in the chair on stage left. The couple is dressed nicely and looks very happy and in love. There is an elevated platform upstage with a white sheet hanging flat.)*

MICHAEL

So, Annie... Annette...

ANNIE

Yes, Michael? *(laughs, mocking his serious tone)*

MICHAEL

We've been together now for almost four years.

ANNIE

We have... *(sits up straighter in anticipation of the proposal)*

MICHAEL

You really are the love of my life

ANNIE

Wait!

MICHAEL

What's wrong?

ANNIE

Nothing is wrong! I just have to pee and I don't wanna be holding in my pee when you, I mean when we get... just wait one minute! *(exits stage left)*

MICHAEL

*(Pulls a ring box out of his pocket and looks at it. HENRY enters stage right and walks towards stage left. ANNIE enters stage left and they bump into each other.)*

ANNIE

Oh! I'm so sorry!

HENRY

My bad, really

ANNIE

Wait, do I know y— Henry?

*(Stage lights go black, spot on ANNIE, shadow scene is performed behind the white curtain.)*

ANNIE

Henry Manning was my first boyfriend. I was fifteen, he was sixteen. He sat behind me in sophomore algebra, Mrs. Sipe's class, Harrington High School. We dated for three months and I was convinced that he was my soulmate. My mother said to slow down. S, she said, "Ddon't lose your head," but I had already lost my heart. He was tall and smart, and he never had food in his braces, and he always remembered to text me goodnight before he went to sleep. Until one day he didn't. I said, "It's fine, as long as he holds my hand in the hallway tomorrow," but then he didn't. I cried that night as tears blotted the ink where I had written "Mrs. Annie Manning." He broke up with me two days after we hit three months. He said, "Iit's not you, it's me," but what he meant was, "It's not you, it's Amanda Harvey Stewart." When I saw him holding her hand I wanted to die. I said I'd never love anyone again because how could I ever love anyone more than I'd loved Henry?

*(Stage lights come up)*

HENRY

I'm sorry, do I know you?

ANNIE

Annie Stanton, we went to high school together

HENRY

Oh my god! Annie! Of course!

ANNIE

This is so random! How are you? How have you been?

HENRY

I've been great! I'm a CPA now

ANNIE

Wow, that's so... interesting. Hey, do you still keep in touch with Amanda Harvey Stewert?

HENRY

Amanda Harvey Stewert? Wow, I haven't thought about her since...

*(notices ANNIE looking at him knowingly)*

*(ANNIE and HENRY part and ANNIE returns center stage to the table)*

MICHAEL

Hey, who was that?

ANNIE

That was Henry Manning

MICHAEL

Like, your first boyfriend? Wow... funny running into him here... now... tonight... on this date

ANNIE

Why is that so funny?

MICHAEL

I just think it's interesting that tonight of all nights— never mind

ANNIE

*(Looks at audience, winks)*

So, where were we?

MICHAEL

Right, so, we've been together for almost four years and you're the love of my life—

*(MAX enters stage right and approaches table)*

MAX

*(Interrupting MICHAEL)*

Hey folks, I'm Max, I'll be your waiter tonight. Do we wanna start off with some drinks?

MICHAEL

Actually, if you could just give us a sec—

ANNIE

Max?

*(Stage lights go black, spot on ANNIE, shadow scene is performed behind the white curtain.)*

A week after we graduated High School, my girlfriends and I went down to the local pool for a swim. I was all grown up and had just bought my first bikini. My mother nearly fainted when she saw it, but I felt like such a woman. I went to get a soda from the snack bar and there he was. Bare-chested and bronze, 18, and looking for some summer fun. Max Garner, every girl at Harrington High knew about Max Garner. And that day, Max Garner knew about me. He had me sneaking out of my window that same night, and every night of that all summer. He was the first boy to ever tell me he loved me. He gave me my first sip of beer, my first cigarette, my first... time. We started fighting all the time. Huge blowouts that ended in screaming and tears. After a few months, my dad caught me sneaking back in and chased Max down the driveway with a baseball bat. He said he was a bum and forbade me to see him again, but I was a grown-up woman in love. I told myself we were perfect together, never mind the fighting and the pressuring and the fact that I never even saw him during daylight hours. That's just how Max was. Eventually, the days got shorter and I packed up for college. Max never even said goodbye, I doubt he'll even remember me now.

*(Stage lights come up)*

MAX

Annie Stanton! Wow! Look at you!

ANNIE

*(To audience)* I stand corrected

MICHAEL

Um, who's this?

MAX

Annie and I go way back

ANNIE

We dated a little before I left for college., Max, this is my boyfriend Michael

MAX

You're a lucky man. Annie Bananie is one wild little thing

ANNIE

*(Horried)* Wow

MICHAEL

*(Sarcastically)* This is great

ANNIE

Max, we're gonna need a few more minutes

MAX

You got it baby girl

MICHAEL

*(Exaggeratedly)* Bye Max!

*(MAX exits stage left)*

MICHAEL

He seems like a catch

ANNIE

Okay, when you're 17 and he's got a leather jacket and a job not a whole lot else matters! We  
were just kids

MICHAEL

So that is now two of your ex boyfriends. This restaurant is shaping up to be a great choice!

ANNIE

I'm sorry babe. Just keep saying what you were saying before

*(TANNER and BRENDA enter stage right)*

MICHAEL

*(Sighs)* Okay, it's been four years, you're the love of my life and my best friend—

TANNER

Annie?

MICHAEL

For the love of god! *(drops head on table)*

ANNIE

This isn't happening

*(Stage lights go black, spot on ANNIE, shadow scene is performed behind the white curtain.)*

So, still reeling from my unfathomable Max heartbreak, I decided that I would never date another bad boy. Enter Tanner Bellview, a painfully sweet and totally harmless history major who wanted to teach high school, have two kids, a dog, and a ranch-style house in a small quiet town in New England. He was my best friend on campus but it was soon obvious he wanted



more. I guess I did too. I just wanted someone safe, the anti-Max. I took him home for my first fall break and I've never seen my parents so happy. He was incredible. Kind and thoughtful and mature and oh my god I've never been so unattracted to anyone before. He was everything I thought I wanted, on paper it was perfect. We made so much sense and it was infuriating because our families were so happy, our friends were so happy, he was so happy, but I was so bored. I broke the poor guy's guys heart in a Starbucks before our eleven o'clock psychology class. We said we could go back to being friends, but that didn't really work out.

*(Stage lights come up)*

TANNER

Annie, I haven't seen you since graduation! How are you!

ANNIE

I'm great! This is Michael, Michael this is Tanner Bellview from college

MICHAEL

How's it going, man?

TANNER

Oh, this is my wife Brenda

BRENDA

Hi Annie, Tanner's mentioned you before. It's great to meet you

TANNER

Oh, honey! Um, it's not like it sounds. I don't talk about you I just—

ANNIE

Tanner, it's okay. Brenda it's so great to meet you

BRENDA

You know, we've got a little boy at home too

ANNIE

Good for you guys

BRENDA

Yeah, Tanner is an amazing teacher and his life turned out great, you know

ANNIE

*(Quietly)* Oh my god

TANNER

Thanks hon, um, yeah. I turned out great!

ANNIE

You really did Tanner, I'm glad

TANNER

Thanks Annie. *(awkwardly)* Okay well, it was nice running into you!

MICHAEL

*(Strained)* Have a great dinner you two!

*(TANNER and BRENDA exit stage left)*

MICHAEL

I hate this restaurant

ANNIE

I'm sorry my love, I don't know why this is happening

MICHAEL

Clearly the universe is trying to sabotage this date so maybe—

ANNIE

No! Not sabotage! This date is going perfectly!

*(MAX enters stage left)*

MICHAEL

Annie just stop—

MAX

Alright guys, are we readywe ready yet?

ANNIE

Max, ha. Not quite

MICHAEL

I can't do this *(gets up and exits stage right)*

ANNIE

*(Stands to chase after him) Michael! (stops and sinks back into her seat)*

*(Stage lights go black, spot on ANNIE.)*

Michael Vincent Harris, I never saw coming. Four years ago I went for lunch with some friends and he walked in. We had nothing in common. Different tastes in music and movies, he played video games and I read books. He liked going out at night and I was an early to bed/early to rise kinda girl. We had different backgrounds, different values, different expectations for our lives... but in less than three days we had both decided that no matter how much we disagreed on, we could both agree that we wanted to make it work. I fell in love with him faster than I would have liked, but there was no stopping it. I am safe, comfortable, and happy. We weren't made for each other and written in the stars, but we chose each other and continue to choose each other every day. Henry, Max, Tanner... they may be my past, but Michael is my future.

*(Lights come up)*

Michael! Wait! *(gets up again to run after him)*

MICHAEL

*(Enters from stage left)* Annie! I'm sorry honey. That wasn't fair of me

*(ANNIE and MICHAEL meet)*

ANNIE

No! I'm sorry! This is not how I wanted tonight to go at all

*(HENRY, MAX, TANNER enter stage left and stand in a clump)*

MICHAEL

No Annie, I was mad because seeing all of your ex's just reminded me that I didn't get to be the first man to love you, kiss you, hold you. But I will be the last. And that matters much more.

*(gets down on one knee)* Annette Maria Stanton, my love, my best friend, marry me?

ANNIE

Yes... yes I will!

*(MICHAEL and ANNIE embrace and the curtain falls)*

Written By:

Elizabeth Burzumato