

## THREESOME

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three plays  
three monologues  
prologue and epilogue

by  
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(EXCERPT)

## ONE

*The Girl alone onstage.*

### GIRL

Rhett Butler holds Scarlett O'Hara. She resists for a moment but finally gives up, and they kiss passionately. I'm not sure if it happened that way in the movie, but that's the way I remember it... And I haven't seen it again, so as not to break the spell. That evening, facing the mirror, I passionately kissed my hand, fighting back for a moment, of course, but finally giving up and accepting the wonderful kiss. I was ten. Romeo and Juliet's kiss was softer, kinder... Riskier... And my outstretched arm was the handsomest Romeo I had ever kissed, and in the mirror I was Juliet, a girl, a girl in love. In real life I'm a woman that's past the age where she's supposed to fantasize with movies. But the world is nicer there, and kisses are kisses, and love is love... Even if it's all a lie... Because problems are solved, and endings can be happy, or sad, but they're endings, they don't stretch and stretch and stretch, like in real life... Because I haven't had an ending for years, happy or sad. I want that kiss. Is that too much to ask?

*(Pause.)*

Clark Gable, the actor who played Rhett Butler in "Gone With the Wind" suffered from Gingivitis, which made his breath very unpleasant. Vivien Leigh, who played Scarlett O'Hara, couldn't stand him, because of both his awful breath and unpleasant personality. In Shakespeare's time, Juliet was played by a man, since women weren't allowed to act.

*(Pause.)*

But in the movies two characters kiss, and that is love. And sitting there, in the dark, on my seat, I'm a part of that love, and we're together. So if I choose to live a fantasy and believe that everything I see in the movies is true, who has the right to tell me otherwise? No one.

And if I never grow tired of kissing fantasies, it's because I know that those characters and I have become an unbreakable trio. And even though those kisses will never be real, at least they'll be mine forever.

**FOUR**

*Kevin's apartment.*

*Mike and Kevin are getting dressed for Mike's wedding.*

MIKE

Come on, Kevin! It's the bride who's supposed to be late.

KEVIN

There's still time. Besides, don't forget this is Carla we're talking about. If she says she'll be there by eight, don't expect her before nine...

MIKE

Or nine thirty.

KEVIN

Right. I never picked a tie. Could you?

MIKE

Yeah.

*(Browsing the ties.)*

So you're getting married.

KEVIN

Don't remind me...

MIKE

This marriage of yours, I tell you... Jessica's driving me nuts. She doesn't say it, but somehow she's always reminding me that there's a huge difference between "girlfriend" and "fiancée".

KEVIN

So? When?

MIKE

No! No, thanks.

KEVIN

Jessica loves you.

MIKE

Yes, and I care for her. A lot. But... I'm not the marrying type.

Single till death. KEVIN

I thought you'd be too. MIKE

Well, now you see. KEVIN

Yes, I see. MIKE

It's unexpected. Catches you by surprise. KEVIN

Catches you? Traps you? MIKE

Well, in this case I like to be trapped. KEVIN

I can see that. MIKE

Besides, I'm happy. KEVIN

Really? MIKE

Of course... Why do you ask? KEVIN

I'd be terrified. MIKE

(*Beat:*)  
But those are my fears, not yours. You seem fine.

I am. KEVIN

I know. MIKE

I'm really fine. KEVIN

I'm sure you are. MIKE

Why would you think I'm not? KEVIN

No reason. MIKE

I love Carla. I want to marry her. KEVIN

So? MIKE

So what? KEVIN

So there's nothing to say. It's all fine. MIKE  
*(Handing him a tie:)*  
I'd say this one.

Let me see. KEVIN  
*(Checks it:)*  
Perfect.

Like everything. MIKE  
*(Beat:)*  
Get dressed already!

What do you mean, everything? KEVIN

What? MIKE

You just said everything's perfect. KEVIN

Well, it is, right? MIKE

Yes, of course. KEVIN

At least for me. (*Beat.*)

That's lucky. MIKE

Because you are alone, Mike... I always see you alone. KEVIN

You know me. MIKE

You have Jessica, but you're alone. You have me, but you're alone. And I know why that is. KEVIN

I do too. MIKE

Why? KEVIN

I'm a loner. MIKE

No. KEVIN

I've always been-- MIKE

That's not it. KEVIN

Then what? MIKE

You're afraid of commitment. KEVIN

Commitment. MIKE

Yes. KEVIN

I'm afraid of commitment. MIKE

KEVIN  
Exactly. Every time a girl gets too near, you manage to push her away and avoid committing to her. Same thing with your friends, or with me. Think about it, Mike: You and I have been friends since childhood, but you've always kept your distance. You've never told me how you feel.

I always tell you how I feel. MIKE

Do you? What do you feel for me? KEVIN

You know that. MIKE

Tell me. KEVIN

You're my best friend. MIKE

You see? Even now, you can't open up. I love you. KEVIN

I know. MIKE

And I feel comfortable saying it, Mike. I love you. KEVIN

I know. MIKE

Do you love me? KEVIN

Are you turning gay? MIKE

I'm not kidding. KEVIN

Of course I love you. MIKE

Give me a hug. KEVIN

Kevin... MIKE

Give me a hug. Go on. KEVIN

It's-- MIKE

Don't argue, dammit! KEVIN

*Mike approaches him. Kevin hugs him, Mike returns the hug. They draw apart.*

Now, do you see how much I care for you?

I do too. MIKE

Right, but I'm not afraid to show my feelings. I'm not afraid of commitment. KEVIN

No, definitely not. MIKE

And who's happier? KEVIN

You, definitely. MIKE

That's right. KEVIN

And Carla, of course. MIKE

Sure. KEVIN

She's marrying a happy man. MIKE

Happy. KEVIN

Happy, happy. MIKE

So happy that I don't care that you're mocking me. KEVIN

I'm not mocking you. MIKE

Of course you are! And I know why... KEVIN

Why? MIKE

You know that. KEVIN

No Kevin, I really don't. MIKE

Because remaining single makes you think that you're better than me. KEVIN

It does? MIKE

Yes, of course. KEVIN

MIKE

Why better?

KEVIN

Because you own your life, you decide everything...

MIKE

And you?

KEVIN

Me and Carla stop being just me and Carla, and we become a couple.

MIKE

What about me and Jessica, don't we qualify as a couple?

KEVIN

How long did it take you to go from "dating" to "girlfriend"? In your mind you're always two separate individuals. Totally free. No commitments. And that's why you feel superior. What you don't realize is that I want to lose that freedom. I want her beside me.

MIKE

So that you won't be alone, like me.

KEVIN

That's what makes you and I different.

*Pause.*

MIKE

Tuck your shirt in.

KEVIN

How do I look?

MIKE

Good.

KEVIN

I'm ready to get married--

MIKE

So it seems.

KEVIN  
This whole wedding thing... If it weren't for Carla I'd be a total wreck.

MIKE  
She's not anxious?

KEVIN  
No, she's fine.

MIKE  
That's good.

*Pause.*

KEVIN  
Can I ask you something?

MIKE  
Sure.

KEVIN  
What is it with Carla?

MIKE  
What is what?

KEVIN  
I don't know. Do you dislike her?

MIKE  
No.

KEVIN  
No?

MIKE  
No. Not at all.

KEVIN  
It's just that... When we talk about her, you get that look.

MIKE  
What look?

That one. Right now. KEVIN

I don't-- MIKE

Whenever I talk about Carla you look away.  
(Beat.) KEVIN  
Look at me!

I'm looking at you! MIKE

How do you feel about Carla? KEVIN

*Pause.*

I don't know what to say. MIKE

Just say it. KEVIN

*Pause.*

I'm... Indifferent. MIKE

What do you mean? KEVIN

I never think about her. One way or the other. MIKE

Indifferent-- KEVIN

It doesn't mean I hate her. MIKE

So what does it mean then? KEVIN

MIKE

I don't hate her, I don't like her... She just means nothing.

KEVIN

But I love her.

MIKE

I know.

KEVIN

And to you she means nothing.

*Mike shrugs.*

Jessica, for instance, she's pretty, beautiful actually, but I feel that she's not very smart.

MIKE

Not smart.

KEVIN

It's not an insult, it's an observation. Don't take it the wrong way.

MIKE

You think she's stupid.

KEVIN

Yes. No. A little. Hey, don't get mad.

MIKE

I'm not. She's a bit stupid.

KEVIN

I know. The thing is, I have something to say about her.

MIKE

Plenty.

KEVIN

Whatever, it's something... Tell me what you think, Mike. You're supposed to be my best friend.

*Pause*

MIKE

*(Very kindly, not meaning any harm, but still hurt:)*

Carla is like the perfect accessory for company gatherings, with loads of charm, very little personality and even less brains than Jessica, if that's at all possible. I think that you got engaged because you were afraid to be on your own, and she seemed willing to become the ideal wife that you've always wanted... I'm almost certain that you're getting married because it complements your new position as manager, and not because you love her, or out of a sense of commitment... And we both know that in a month or two you'll end up screwing any other girl that really turns you on, unlike your future wife. So you and I are not that different.

*Pause.*

KEVIN

That's what you think.

MIKE

That's what I think.

KEVIN

And you say it now? A few minutes before my wedding?

*(Beat.)*

You're supposed to be my friend.

MIKE

I am your friend--

KEVIN

No, you're--

MIKE

Because no matter what I think, I'm willing to stand by your side. Be your best man. Toast to your happiness. Eat the cake.

*Pause.*

KEVIN

You're right, you know?

*(Beat.)*

About everything.

MIKE

I know you, Kevin.

Well... KEVIN

Well... MIKE

*Long silence. Mike approaches Kevin and hugs him closely.*

How do I look? KEVIN

You look fine. MIKE

Time to get married. KEVIN

Time to get you married. MIKE

*Mike straightens Kevin's tie. Kevin does the same with Mike's.*

## **FIVE**

*The Other Guy alone onstage.*

### **OTHER GUY**

The movie's called "Torch Song Trilogy", I can't remember the name of the star, but we first see him as a drag queen removing his makeup after a successful show, and talking to the camera. He tells of his romance with a deaf man, and how he only learned one sign in his language: "I love you".

*Makes the sign.*

I love you. I saw the movie when I was twelve or thirteen, and back then I was in love with my best friend. He didn't know I felt this way... And since I couldn't tell him, I decided to teach the sign to his girlfriend, so that when she showed it to him, I could somehow pretend that it was coming from me. It was the opposite. It was my sign, but she used it without distinction, like a game, a joke! She walked around spreading I love you's, my I love you's, to everyone she met!

*Makes the sign many times, violently. Pause.*

My friend moved some time later. And when you're thirteen, moving to another state is like dying unexpectedly. You hardly ever see each other again, except for birthdays. He never knew, of course... The girlfriend got bored of spreading my "I love you's" in less than a week, and I dived into a state of loneliness that lasts until now... I've had my chances, but I'm not sure that I'm ready to feel again, as if that game of scattering my feelings had left me... Empty. I just don't want to be weak again. And so it's been, from thirteen to almost thirty. I haven't shown the sign to anyone else, and I keep waiting... But this time I won't share it, I refuse to give it away and create some sick threesome in which I end up losing again... This time I want us to be two... Just us...

*He is about to do the sign again, then stops.*

I don't have many left... And it's so sad when you do it alone...