Two Unexpected Loves

A Stageplay

by Jeffrey S. Jenkins

> Jeffrey S. Jenkins 4433 N. Stanton St., Unit T25 El Paso, Texas 79902 (303) 919-0820

CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGES	GENDER
Ashley	Kelly's Supportive Friend	18, 48	Female
Colleen	Rob's Wife at Reunion	48	Female
Hank	Jason's Unhelpful Friend	18, 48	Male
Jason	Lead Character Who Is Looking for Love	18, 48	Male
Jenny	An Unexpected Arrival	30	Female
Meg	Lead Character Who Is Looking for Love	18, 48	Female
Rob	Jason's Supportive Friend	18, 48	Male
Sue	Kelly's Unhelpful Friend	18, 48	Female

SCENE ONE.

Mid 1970s. High school cafeteria. The girls -- Meg, Ashley, and Sue -- are wearing their cheerleader uniforms as they have lunch at one table. Meg is facing toward the audience, clearly the focal point of the table. The guys -- Jason, Rob, and Hank -- sit at another table, each wearing blue jeans and tee shirts. Jason is facing the audience and is clearly the focal point of the table. The audience is privy to conversations at both tables, with a back-and-forth spotlight on each table. The participants at each table are aware of the other's presence and their attention is primarily on the other table, but participants are unable to hear the conversation at the others' table.

SPOTLIGHT GIRLS TABLE

MEG

I don't get it, girls. He doesn't know I exist, does he?

ASHLEY

Jason's so shy. I think he'd run and hide if you were to look at him for longer than 5 seconds.

SUE

Maybe he's into guys.

MEG

No, I think he's straight. I've seen the way he looks at Kim, and how he talks to her. He's got the hots for her.

SPOTLIGHT GUYS' TABLE

JASON

Damn, she's fine.

HANK

Meg's out of your league.

JASON

Screw you, Norm. How would you know what league she plays in?

ROB

You'll never know for yourself Jason, if you don't talk to her.

SPOTLIGHT GIRLS' TABLE

MEG

Well, I've wanted him all year. I'm gonna find out what he likes at the party tonight. After graduation Wednesday night, I'll probably never see him again. What have I got to lose?

SCENE TWO

Graduation party at a student's house. Two spaces are visible to the audience. Jason stands in the kitchen, drinks a beer, and talks to Hank and Rob. Meg, Ashley, and Sue are in the living area, taking shots of tequila.

SPOTLIGHT GUYS' CONVERSATION

ROB

Jason, don't be a chicken. Go talk to her.

HANK

Shi-i-i-t, she'll shoot you down so fast.

JASON

Shut up, asshole!

SPOTLIGHT GIRLS' CONVERSATION

ASHLEY

Mmmm, girl, he looks fine tonight. You're right, what have you got to lose?

SUE

Only your dignity. I tell you, the boy is queer and he ain't going to give you what you're looking for.

MEG

Shut up, Sue!

SPOTLIGHT BOTH GROUPS

Meg walks toward Jason, grabs his arm, and turns him toward herself.

SPOTLIGHT MEG AND JASON

Meg gives Jason a huge, 3-second kiss. She comes up for air. Jason is shocked, speechless. Meg turns and heads out the door with Sue and Ashley.

SUE

Told 'ya.

SCENE THREE

The graduates sit, in cap and gown, facing stage right.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the class of 1975.

Every one tosses their caps into the air. Friends exchange hugs. As the crowd begins to disperse, two groups are standing and talking: Rob, Hank, and Jason are stage left. Meg, Sue, and Ashley are stage right.

SPOTLIGHT GIRLS' CONVERSATION

MEG

All I'm saying, Sue, is that you haven't got a clue. It was amazing. He liked it. I wish I had held out longer because he started to use his tongue.

SUE

Girl, if he liked it so much, why didn't he come running after you?

ASHLEY

Awww, cuz he's cute and shy!

SPOTLIGHT GUYS' CONVERSATION

HANK

Okay, may be I was wrong. May be she isn't out of your league, but she isn't very smart.

ROB

Don't listen to him, Jase. He's going to Tech and she's going to Stanford. And damn! She is every bit as she has been since the day you first laid eyes on her. You need to go talk to her.

JASON

Talk to her?

Rob all of a sudden looks shocked. He gestures with his head toward behind Jason, indicating that he should turn around. Jason turns and Meg is standing right in front of him. They take each other's hands.

SPOTLIGHT MEG AND JASON

JASON

That kiss last night. It was...great. I was afraid, though, that you were making fun of me or something.

MEG

'Cuz that's what I do. I go around trying to humiliate people by grabbing them, and kissing them?

JASON

Pretty silly on my part, huh? Well, I liked it. It was nice.

MEG

Yeah, it was. Do you want to come over to my house tonight?

SCENE FOUR

Meg's house is spacious and open. The focal point of the living area is the front door behind the sofa. The doorbell sounds.

MEG

Just a minute!

Meg enters the room. She looks in the mirror and is primping. She opens the door and Jason is there, holding a bouquet of tulips.

MEG

Hi, Jason.

Meg pulls Jason into the room and looks around outside, afraid someone might have been watching.

JASON

I brought you these.

MEG

Oh, thank you. I love tulips.

Meg goes with the flowers to the kitchen, finds a vase, and fills the vase with water. Jason approaches her from behind, turns the water off, and embraces her from behind. Meg turns around.

JASON

Maybe we can finish what we started last night.

He looks into her eyes for a moment before kissing her.

MEG

I think these tulips can wait.

She takes Jason's hand and leads him to the stairs.

JASON

What about your parents?

MEG

They're out for the evening. We have the house to ourselves.

Meg grabs Jason's hand and leads him upstairs.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

SCENE FIVE

High school auditorium, 30-year reunion. Rob sits at a table. His wife, Colleen, sits to his right, Hank to his left, and Jason stage right. All four face the audience.

SPOTLIGHT GUYS' CONVERSATION

JASON

Rob, I'm glad you and Colleen could both make it.

COLLEEN

We're going on three months as empty-nesters. It's a pretty great time for us.

HANK

Jason, do you think Meg's going to be here? I always wanted you guys to get together.

Jason shakes his head in disbelief. Meanwhile, Meg, Sue, and Ashley arrive and make their way into the room.

JASON

If you'll excuse me, I'm going to get something to drink.

Jason bumps into Meg just as he stands and turns. They take each other's hands and look at one another, at first awkwardly, then seriously, and then welcomingly.

JASON

You look amazing! We have some catching up to do.

SCENE SIX

Jason and Meg find a quiet place to talk on the patio.

JASON

You never married?

MEG

No. Can you believe it? What about you?

JASON

For a while there I didn't think it was going to happen, but it finally did when I was in my early 30s. Carol and I were married for 12 years. We have a 14-year-old son who lives mostly with her.

MEG

I'm so sorry. Then you're divorced?

JASON

Yeah, for a couple of years now.

Jason and Meg share an awkward few moments of silence. Jason grins.

MEG

What's so funny?

JASON

Nothing is funny. Just a happy thought.

MEG

What?

JASON

I was just thinking about how often I relive in my mind that evening we spent together at your house. It was the happiest moment of my life.

MEG

I can't disagree. It was pretty amazing.

JASON

Do you really think so? I seem to remember you losing interest pretty soon after. I wasn't sure why. I just assumed it was because we were heading in separate directions for college.

An awkward silence follows, again. Meg smiles.

JASON

What are you smiling about?

MEG

It was an amazing night we shared, wasn't it?

JASON

Yeah, the best!

SCENE SEVEN

Meg and Jason wake up together in Meg's bed, and cuddle.

JASON

Still can't believe you have the same house, same bed. Being in your parents' room is the only thing that's different.

MEG

When my Mom died three years ago, I was going to sell the house, but at the time the market wasn't right to sell, so I just moved in and kept it.

JASON

Well, I enjoyed last night. And I don't mean the reunion. I 'm talking about the sex.

MEG

Yeah, I knew what you were talking about. These past 30 years, we've gotten even better.

JASON

I should say so. You raised the bar last night and brought my game up from here to here.

Jason uses his hands to mark the vast improvement. Meg laughs.

MEG

I guess I bring out the best in people.

JASON

Can I make us some coffee? I'll bet I can find my way around your kitchen.

MEG

Knock yourself out!

Only two or three minutes pass when Jason comes back in.

JASON

Meg, who's with you in this picture?

Jason hands Meg the photo. Meg turns white as a ghost and is irritated.

MEG

That isn't for you to see. You shouldn't be looking through my drawers.

JASON

It was in a kitchen drawer. I was looking for a scoop for the coffee can.

Meg begins to tear up. She buries her head in her hands.

MEG

She's my daughter, Jenny.

JASON

Oh my God, you're kidding. How old is she?

Meg hesitates, not wanting to answer.

MEG

She's 30.

Jason looks at her with shock and disbelief.

JASON

I'm judging from your reaction to all of this, that it can only mean one thing.

MEG

Yes, she's your daughter. Okay? Are you happy? Now will you please leave?

JASON

Gladly, because I wouldn't even know what to say to you right now.

Jason is visibly upset. He gathers his things and storms out.

SCENE EIGHT

Jason's living room. The doorbell rings. Jason opens his door and Jenny stands on the doorstep.

JASON

Wow! You're even more beautiful than in the pictures your mom showed me.

There's an awkward moment.

JASON

I'm sorry. Please come in. You can sit here on the sofa.

Jenny nervously walks in and sits down.

JENNY

I don't even know where we begin.

JASON

Yeah, me neither.

A couple of anxious moments pass.

JASON

Maybe I can start. I can tell you some things about your mother that you've probably never heard before.

JENNY

Oh my God, that would be great.

JASON

We had some red-hot cheerleaders in high school, but your mother was the prettiest. I had the hugest crush on her. We all did. You look so much like she did. I'm sorry, is that totally inappropriate, to tell your daughter how much she looks like his crush from high school?

Jenny and Jason laugh loudly.

FADE TO BLACK.