

LIKE LOVE

A new musical

Book/lyrics: Barry Jay Kaplan
Music: Lewis Flinn

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Barry Jay Kaplan
546 Chapel Street
New Haven, CT 06511
917 301 7235
bjaykaplan@yahoo.com

Lewis Flinn
c/o Jonathan Lomma, WME

CAST

HENRY, 30-ish. (aka Baby Boy)

ARTHUR, 35-ish (aka International Stud)

LOVE/ LOVE/BOY, LOVE/GIRL, LOVE/BARTENDER

SET

The set should be minimal, suggestive as opposed to realistic.

BAND

Piano, bass, and drums. The band should be onstage and collaborate with "Love".

SONGS

1. Love is Coming Soon
2. Lot's of Fun
3. Mexico
4. Thinking about You
5. Love is in the Quiet
6. Reprise Lot's of Fun
7. How're You Doing
8. The Fight
9. Here's to the End
10. How Will I Know
11. Hello/Goodbye
12. Who Said
13. His Song

(Stage is very dimly lit. LOVE emerges from the darkness into the light and sings to the audience.)

SONG: LOVE IS COMING SOON

LOVE
 WELCOME FRIENDS, RELEASE RELAX
 THINK OF APHRODISIACS.
 I AM HERE TO MAKE A MATCH
 ONE PLUS ONE, WE START FROM SCRATCH.
 I ALWAYS WIELD COMPLETE CONTROL
 PLAYING LOVE, A MAJOR ROLE
 AND LOVE... IT'S COMING SOON.

(The lights come up, HENRY and ARTHUR are in bed still dim and smokey. LOVE dings a chime).

HENRY
 Wow.

ARTHUR
 Satisfied?

HENRY
 Mmmm.... Satiated.

ARTHUR
 You give me chills when you say that.

HENRY
 I have never felt anything so...

ARTHUR
 You trying to flatter me?

HENRY
 How'd you get so good at this?

ARTHUR
 Practise, practice, practise. It's a tough job but--

HENRY
 Someone's gotta do it.

ARTHUR

This was never going to happen if I saw you at a club or something.

ARTHUR

I don't do clubs.

HENRY

Yeah, me neither. I mean, you know, conversation with a stranger. Pretending you're interested in things they're interested in. "Oh you like jazz, Judy Garland yeah me too."

ARTHUR

You like Judy Garland?

HENRY

Well, no. I mean yeah. I mean, I was just using that as an example.

ARTHUR

Oh. That's good because she's... you know?

HENRY

I know. Now, if we both hadn't been on that app.

ARTHUR

So...you're "The Big Babe."

HENRY

That's my name. And you are the modest "International Stud."

ARTHUR

And that's no lie.

(They both laugh)

HENRY

'Cause sometimes guys give out the wrong impression. You think you're getting one thing and then you get...something else.

ARTHUR

Right, right.

HENRY

But the truth always comes out. In the flesh.

ARTHUR

Got to love the flesh.

(They resume lovemaking as LOVE comes forward.)

LOVE

THESE TWO STRANGERS MEET AND MATE
SEE HOW THEY COLLABORATE
QUITE A HEALTHY ENTERPRISE
MM THEY EVEN HARMONIZE
IT GETS BETTER, THAT I KNOW
THEN AN ORATORIO
OF LOVE...AND IT'S COMING SOON.

(LOVE withdraws but keeps an eye on the action. Love dings a chime)

ARTHUR

(He's referring to the room.)

I don't usually do hotel rooms.

HENRY

My treat.

ARTHUR

I can chip in.

HENRY

I insist.

ARTHUR

You've twisted my arm.

So...we're done, huh?

HENRY

Uh. Yeah.

(ARTHUR gets out of bed. Looks for his shoes.)

ARTHUR

Write down your number.

HENRY

What?

ARTHUR

Phone number. Email, whatever.

HENRY

Right. I know what you mean. I just ...

ARTHUR

What, you forgot your number?

HENRY

I just thought it was going to be a one time thing. I didn't think..

ARTHUR

Oh listen. Forget it. I was only being polite. Don't give me your number. I don't need your number.

LOVE

OCCASSIONALLY, THERE'S A MIX UP

HENRY

Come on. Don't be mad.

LOVE

ONCE IN A WHILE THERE'S A HITCH

ARTHUR

Good to meet you. Have a nice day.

(ARTHUR gets dressed, looks for a missing shoe)

LOVE

BUT HAVE NO FEARS OR HESITATIONS.
(LOVE "dings" her chime, HENRY responds).

MAMA NEVER DROPS A STITCH

HENRY

Hey Mister International...

ARTHUR

Yes?

HENRY

Wait a minute...

LOVE

MM-HMMM

HENRY

I didn't mean...

ARTHUR

Where's my other shoe?

(ARTHUR continues to look for missing shoe...)

HENRY

We had a great time, right. But I wasn't looking well for anything.

ARTHUR

Who said I was looking for anything? We had a good time, fine. The End.

HENRY

But here's the thing. I was just thinking. A good time.... I mean, it all takes place in the moment. You know what I'm saying?

ARTHUR

A good time is in the moment... Yeah. Whatever.

HENRY

But people always try to hold onto it. Isn't that right?

ARTHUR

Are you trying to make some kind of point here?

HENRY

And then it gets all...you know...not so good anymore.

LOVE

Come on now, focus!

(LOVE shows ARTHUR his missing shoe.)

ARTHUR

Ah ha!

HENRY

All right, so I'm thinking out loud here but...wouldn't you say that we both know how things would give go if saw each other again. I've seen the future and I think you have too. I think we both know how things would go.

ARTHUR

Psychidelic, huh?

HENRY

I GIVE YOU MY NUMBER
YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME
WE MAKE PLANS FOR FRIDAY
THE START OF THE GAME.

SO WE GO OUT TO DINNER
WE CHAT AWKWARDLY
THEN WE COME BACK TO MY PLACE
AND WE DO IT. BUT YOU SEE-

IT'S NOT THAT IT'S AWFUL
BUT IT'S NOT REALLY GREAT
WE MAKE PLANS FOR WEDNESDAY
THEN YOU TEXT I'M RUNNING LATE

SO I'M ALREADY ANGRY
BUT WE DO IT AGAIN
AND NO SURPRISE IT'S DISAPPOINTING

ARTHUR

Umm "Satiated" I'm quoting.

HENRY

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE IT HAD BEEN

ARTHUR

Don't be so sure. I improve with age.

HENRY

THE GOOD TIME WE JUST HAD
JUST CAN'T HAPPEN AGAIN

That's what I meant about not giving out my number.

ARTHUR

OK. You've convinced me. B-bye.

LOVE

I CAN'T STAND TO STAND AND WATCH

(LOVE dings a chime as ARTHUR heads for the door. He fumbles with the door knob, can't open it, frustrated, tries again, still can't.)

MY BELT'S GOT ROOM FOR ONE MORE NOTCH

(LOVE steps in and opens the door, dings a chime, HENRY responds)

HENRY

BUT HERE'S A THOUGHT
WE MIGHT CONSIDER
HELP ME OUT HERE
HEY CLOSE THE DOOR

ARTHUR

What?

HENRY

WE KEEP DOING
WHAT WE'RE DOING
JUST HAVE SEX
AND NOTHING MORE.

LOVE

MM-HMMM

(LOVE gets ARTHUR to turn to HENRY.)

ARTHUR

Just have sex, nothing more?

LOVE

BA-DA BA

(Steps to the side so ARTHUR can exit. ARTHUR reconsiders)

ARTHUR

TO BE CLEAR, JUST SEX?

HENRY

NOTHING MORE

ARTHUR

So how would this work exactly?

LOVE

Maybe no numbers...

HENRY

NO NUMBERS

ARTHUR

NO NUMBERS

HENRY

NO TEXTING

ARTHUR

THAT'S A NO
NO DINNERS

HENRY

NO MOVIES

ARTHUR

JUST SEX

HENRY

THERE YOU GO
THIS IS JUST YOU AND ME

ARTHUR

NO ONE ELSE KNOWS.

HENRY

NO DEMANDS, NO EXPECTATIONS

ARTHUR

MAYBE A HOME MADE VIDEO?
Only we wear masks..

HENRY

That's intriguing. but... no digital records.

ARTHUR

YOU'RE SURE THAT YOU WANT THIS

HENRY

MORE THAN YOU KNOW

ARTHUR

NO ASKING QUESTIONS?

HENRY
JUST "HOW YOU DOING"
THEN GOODBYE AND THEN HELLO

ARTHUR
And where would all this good time take place?

HENRY
That's a question. But I'll answer it. Uh...Right here. Room three twenty-one.

ARTHUR
Next time's on me..

HENRY
Wednesdays.

ARTHUR
At three.

HENRY
So we have a deal?

ARTHUR
I'm not signing anything.

HENRY
Have your lawyer call my lawyer.

LOVE
Ok, now we're cooking!
(LOVE cues the pianist to pick up the music. ARTHUR considers HENRY for a moment)

ARTHUR
Who are you, anyway?

HENRY
Is this a trick question?

ARTHUR
What do you mean?

HENRY
Do you really want to know or are you just testing my resolve?

ARTHUR

OK. Right. No names. "The Big Babe."

HENRY

Good. Wednesday, then. Three o'clock. Don't be late. I don't like to be kept waiting.

ARTHUR

I don't like being told what to do.

HENRY

You're strict. I like that, "Mister International."

ARTHUR

That's me.

(LOVE dings the chime. ARTHUR exits. HENRY smooths the sheets, then exits.)

LOVE

COME DELIGHT ME, JUST DON'T FIGHT ME
 DESIRE APPEARS IN BLACK AND WHITE
 IN THIS STRANGE SCENARIO
 WITH ME AS IMPRESSARIO
 ALL THE WHILE I HUM THIS TUNE
 SERVING UP AN AFTERNOON
 OF LOVE
 AND IT'S COMING

(LOVE dings the chime. ARTHUR enters the room, HENRY is there.)

ARTHUR

Bonjour, mon ami.

HENRY

How you doing?

(They get on bed and start to undress, LOVE pulls a curtain in front of the bed)

LOVE

PLAYERS DON'T SUSPECT A THING
 THEY DON'T FEEL ME PULL THEIR STRING

(LOVE pulls curtain back to reveal them getting dressed.)

HENRY
OK. Next Wednesday?

ARTHUR
Three o'clock. See ya.

(They exit)

LOVE
I SEE WHAT'S COMING, I'M NEVER WRONG
THE ATMOSPHERE IS RIPE WITH LONGING

(LOVE dings the chime. A week later. ARTHUR enters the room, HENRY is there.)

ARTHUR
Guten tag, schatzi.

HENRY
Uh... Great. You?

(They get on bed and start to undress, LOVE pulls a curtain in front of the bed)

LOVE
CAN'T LEAVE YET IT'S PREMATURE
I'M WATCHING CLOSE AND MAKING SURE.
THAT LOVE...

(LOVE pulls curtain back to reveal them getting dressed.)

ARTHUR
So next Wednesday?

LOVE
IS COMING

HENRY
Three o'clock

(HENRY and ARTHUR exit)

LOVE
SOON
IT'S COMING SOON

LOVE'S COMING
LOVE'S COMING
SOON

(A men's locker room)

ARTHUR

So I've been hooking up with this guy.

LOVE/BOY

What else is new?

ARTHUR

We met on line. The sex is...Major Tom to Ground Control.

LOVE/BOY

Why doesn't this ever happen to me?

ARTHUR

Come on. You get around.

LOVE/BOY

I stick around. That's the big difference.

ARTHUR

Sticking around is for...guys like you. No offense.

LOVE/BOY

My nervous system can't take it any other way.

ARTHUR

Well...I'm a romantic.

LOVE/BOY

You call hooking up romantic? I hate to tell you this, but sex and romance are not the same thing.

ARTHUR

Oh, you poor sap. Is that what you think?

LOVE/BOY

They're not.

ARTHUR

Or maybe... they are.

LOVE/BOY

No. They are definitely not.

ARTHUR

Dinner with the same guy every night. Had it. Hated it. In bed with the same guy every night. Very romantic. For a week, tops. Waking up with--

LOVE/BOY

I get your point.

ARTHUR

Romance, on the other hand, is creative. It's in the imagination. You can say anything. Words don't matter.

(sings) "I'm in the mood for love."

What do you think that song really means?

LOVE/BOY

Mmm...lights are low... some nice music....a little....

ARTHUR

It means let's have sex.

LOVE/BOY

Yeah, I know.

ARTHUR

So with this guy--

LOVE/BOY

You keep calling him "this guy." Does he have a name?

ARTHUR

I'm sure he does. I don't happen to know it. What I do know is that there's great sex, a little romance, which means basically some suggestive talk, a little smart dialogue. It doesn't hurt anyone as long you both know it's a game. And nobody has to live up to anything and nobody has to get worked up and yelling or whatever. I'm not going to get into the specifics of it but you know what I mean.

(Spotlight out on ARTHUR. HENRY appears next to LOVE/GIRL.)

LOVE/GIRL

Are you sure you're getting what you need?

HENRY

I'm not like you. I'm not looking for what you're looking for.

LOVE/GIRL

Yeah yeah. I know. But just because it didn't work out with you and--

HENRY

Gary. I can say his name. I love you, he said. Let's get married, he said. Let's adopt kids, he said. Then he said "I don't know. I'm not ready. Maybe we should take a break from each other, he said.

LOVE/GIRL

I was the shoulder you cried on, remember?

HENRY

Then you know what I'm talking about. No chance of being frustrated when the guy turns out to be less than his advertising promised.

(Spotlight on ARTHUR and LOVE/BOY)

LOVE/BOY

How do you always wind up with such sweet deals?

ARTHUR

Seek and ye shall find.

LOVE/BOY

So you get what you look for. 'Course none of them last.

SONG: LOT'S OF FUN

ARTHUR

I'M AT MY BEST
FOR EXACTLY ONE WEEK
I'VE LEARNED THAT LESSON
YES INDEED

I'M REALLY GOOD AT
SEXUAL RELATIONS
SATISFYING
EVERY NEED.

BUT AFTER ONE WEEK
ACCUSATIONS
"YOU SHOULD CALL ME"
TIME FOR SPEED

AFTER TWO WEEKS

CONFRONTATIONS,
AND RIGHT ON CUE
I RECEDE
NO MORE FUN
THE PARTY'S DONE

LOVE/BOY

But this thing has gone over your limit. What's going on?

ARTHUR

Actually...I don't know. It's weird.

LOVE/BOY

There must be something more to this guy, am I right?

ARTHUR

No. We're...uh...I don't know..

LOVE/BOY

Not into knowing who he is?

ARTHUR

Don't need to. Don't want to. Same with him.

LOVE/BOY

So this one's just another dish on the menu. You're not trying to get to know each other?

ARTHUR

You mean like: "Who's your favorite female vocalist?" No, no. That'd just spoil everything. Though I think he might like Judy Garland.

LOVE/BOY

So who does he think you are?

ARTHUR

He thinks I'm this international stud.

LOVE/BOY

You've never even been to Canada.

ARTHUR

I'm not going to let reality compete with his imagination. That's the sure road to defeat. I'm this guy who's always ready. That's all the hard evidence he needs.

LOVE/GIRL

(to HENRY)

And that's how he wants to keep it, naturally. Well, I hope you--

HENRY

Him! That's how I want to keep it.

I DON'T NEED
TO BE A BOYFRIEND
HAD IT, DONE IT
WHERE'S THE DOOR

ALL I WANT
IS EXCITATION
JUST GREAT SEX
NOTHING MORE

LOVE/GIRL

Since when?

HENRY

NIGHTS OF ENDLESS
CONVERSATIONS
RAGING, POINTLESS
I GO NUMB

I DON'T WANT
A BETTER HALF
I JUST WANT TO
GET ME SOME

LOVE/GIRL

So what he does pleases you...and that's it.

HENRY

Well, he is gorgeous. And if you want to bring it down to basics... This guy is one... good... fuck.

LOVE/GIRL

So you've got him just where you want him. You both know the rules.

ARTHUR

I probably shouldn't even have said anything to you.

LOVE

I can't believe it. You both agreed to this?

Well... Yes. HENRY & ARTHUR

If you say so... LOVE

Oh I do. ARTHUR & HENRY

ARTHUR
WHEN WE MEET
NO HESITATION:
JUST "HOW YOU DOING?"

HENRY
"DOING FINE."

ARTHUR
AND THAT'S IT
THERE'S NO MORE SMALL TALK
(Pause)
Dramatic pause

HENRY
ALL THE REST
JUST FALLS IN LINE.

ARTHUR
NO DEMANDS

HENRY
NO AGGRAVATION

ARTHUR
ONLY PLEASURE

HENRY
THE GAME'S BEGUN

ARTHUR
NO ALARMS
NO ACCUSATIONS

HENRY
NO MIXED MESSAGE

ONLY FUN

ARTHUR

AND IT'S LOTS OF FUN
ONLY SEX WELL DONE

HENRY

Did I say
AND IT'S LOTS OF FUN

LOVE

Well sounds like you two have something to celebrate!

(LOVE hands ARTHUR a bottle of tequilla. Another afternoon. HENRY is dressed, sitting at the side of the bed. ARTHUR comes in, holding a paper bag.)

ARTHUR

Buenos dias, mi amigo.

HENRY

Uh huh. Me too.

ARTHUR

Great. Look.

(He takes out a bottle of gold colored liquid out of the bag.)

I thought we'd add a little something to the fun. Tequila Gold, senior.

(He removes a lime and a box of Morton's salt from the bag.)

I'm completely equipped.

HENRY

I'll say you are.

ARTHUR

Now now, sister. Don't get fresh.

LOVE

Mmm. Repartee.

HENRY

I'll get the glasses.

ARTHUR

(Mexican accent)

Don't need no glasses.

(He opens the bottle, takes a swig.)

Oh that's hot. Now watch and learn.

(ARTHUR cuts the lime into wedges. HENRY watches as ARTHUR shakes some salt into his palm, then licks it up, takes a quick swig of the tequila and squeezes the lime into his mouth. HENRY copies him. It's messy and sexy)

Pour the salt. Here. Taste it. No, lick your fingers. Right. Okay.

(Holds the bottle to his mouth)

Throw your head back. Now suck the lime. Great, huh?

(He repeats the same movements.)

LOVE

Oooo. Nice touch.

HENRY

Ai ai ai!

(HENRY reads the label on the bottle of Tequila.)

Producto of Meh-he-ko.

ARTHUR

Meh-he-ko.

(He takes another swig.)

It's smooth then it burns.

(They pass the bottle back and forth, getting more relaxed.)

HENRY

So I was wondering.... Do you have a secret life?

LOVE

Excellent!

ARTHUR

Ah ah ah. No questions.

HENRY

Oh I've changed that rule.

LOVE

Very bold.

ARTHUR

Doesn't that require a majority vote of the membership?

HENRY

No. Seriously.

ARTHUR
I plead the fifth, your honor.

HENRY
Come on, come on.

ARTHUR
You're my secret life.

LOVE
Way to go.

HENRY
Nice.

ARTHUR
Why thank you.

HENRY
You've used that line before.

ARTHUR
Oh really? Says who?

HENRY
It's too good. You've definitely tried it out before.

ARTHUR
Maybe.

HENRY
OK, your honor. Your turn. Ask me anything.

ARTHUR
It's OK. I know all I need to know about you.

HENRY
Oh look. He's shy.

LOVE
(laughing)
He is. It's true!

ARTHUR
I'm shy. Right. OK. What's the worst lie you ever told about sex?

HENRY

I haven't had enough sex to tell lies.

ARTHUR

The evidence does not support that.

HENRY

Got me! Well...when I was just out, I used to tell guys they were my first.

ARTHUR

And they believed you?

HENRY

Wouldn't you?

(They both laugh. The bottle of tequila is half empty. They're high. They lean back in bed.)

(LOVE starts singing a Mexican riff.)

HENRY

I was never this high in Meh-HE-ko.

ARTHUR

Unbelievable as it may seem, I've never been to Mexico.

HENRY

I though you've been everywhere, Mister International.

ARTHUR

Mexico...oh right. Yeah. I remember I got to the airport and it turned out my passport had expired.

HENRY

Really? And you haven't tried again?

ARTHUR

I've been shamed in front of all of Mexico.

(SONG: MEXICO)

HENRY

YOU GOTTA FLY TO MEXICO

ARTHUR

I definitely have to renew my passport.

HENRY
AND QUENCH YOUR THIRST IN MEXIO

ARTHUR
Now that sounds nice.

HENRY
LAY ON THE BEACH

ARTHUR
And eat a peach.

HENRY
AND EAT SEVICHE.
That's raw fish.

ARTHUR
Well of course I know that.

HENRY
COME ON LET'S GO
WE'LL RENT A ROOM IN MEXICO

ARTHUR
Make sure it's a king-sized bed.

HENRY
STROLL BY THE SEA IN MEXICO

ARTHUR
That's on the Gulf, right?

HENRY
The Pacific
THE SKY IS BLACK

ARTHUR
BUT FILLED WITH STARS

HENRY
SWAY TO THE MUSIC OF THE SOFT GUITARS.

(LOVE either plays the guitar or someone else does)

HENRY

(HENRY gets up, ready to dance)
Come on.

ARTHUR

I don't dance.

HENRY

See, you are shy!

ARTHUR

You asked for it.

(ARTHUR starts to dance and show HENRY up. He is really good. LOVE vocalizes with the band.)

HENRY

IT'S NEVER FRIOS IN MEXICO

ARTHUR

DAY IS DIOS IN MEXICO

HENRY

Um....not really
SWIM AT SUNSET IN A BLUE LAGOON
FALL ASLEEP 'NEATH A SILVER MOON.

PALM TREES SWAYING

ARTHUR

AND LIFE IS SLOW
JUST LIKE YOU LIKE IT

HENRY

AND YOU WANT TO GO

SIP TEQUILA TIL OUR LIPS IGNITE

ARTHUR

THEN AMORES ON THE BEACH ALL NIGHT

HENRY

DON'T YOU WANT TO GO?

ARTHUR

Si, senior.

BOTH

SO LET'S GO.

(ARTHUR & HENRY fall back on the bed.)

LOVE

LOOK AT THEM NOW THEY'RE MISTY EYED
THE ATMOSPHERE SO RARIFIED
PLAY MY SONG, YOU KNOW THE TUNE
LAY IT OUT, YOUR PETALS STREWN
SOMETHING'S COMING, HEAR MY BELL
YOU CAN TRUST ME WHEN I TELL YOU THAT
LOVE... IS COMING SOON

(Lights change. ARTHUR is back with LOVE/BOY)

LOVE/BOY

Does he have a job?

ARTHUR

Maybe he's rich. Maybe he's a thief. I don't know. He's funny in a... a funny way. I don't know.

LOVE/BOY

You could find out his real name from the hotel registry.

ARTHUR

I could also go through his wallet while he's in the bathroom. I could also follow him when he leaves the hotel. But I am not interested in knowing any more about him than I already know.

LOVE/BOY

Who leaves the room first?

ARTHUR

What do you mean?

LOVE/BOY

Him or you?

ARTHUR

Whoever has the bill to settle and all...so...

LOVE/BOY

So he's still there.

ARTHUR
He could be. Yeah.

LOVE/BOY
In bed?

ARTHUR
Sometimes...

LOVE/BOY
OK...I get the picture. You leave.

ARTHUR
Yeah but it doesn't mean anything. Who leaves, who's...

LOVE/BOY
Humor me.

ARTHUR
OK. I leave. He's still there...

LOVE/BOY
...sprawled in that big mussed up bed. Just lying there. You know what I think? I think...

(SONG: THINKING ABOUT ME)

HE LAYS THERE FOR A LONG TIME
RUNS HIS FINGERS THROUGH HIS HAIR
PLUMPS UP THE PILLOWS
PRETENDS HE DOESN'T CARE.

ARTHUR
You're losing contact with reality, pal.

LOVE/BOY
AND HE HUMS TO HIMSELF
NOT A THOUGHT GOES THROUGH HIS MIND

HENRY
LALALALALALALA
LALALALALALALA

LOVE/BOY

HE'S BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU
 YEAH HE'S THINKING ABOUT YOU
 HE IS THINKING ABOUT YOU
 AND HE SMILES.

ARTHUR

I don't know. I don't think so. Really?

(HENRY turns to LOVE/GIRL)

LOVE/GIRL

Come on, you're curious about him.

HENRY

No, I'm not. I mean... OK. Mildly. Like I don't think he's actually an international traveler

LOVE/GIRL

What do you think he does when he leaves that hotel room?

HENRY

I have no idea.

LOVE/GIRL

Would you like to guess?

HENRY

Not really.

LOVE/GIRL

I'll bet I know.

HE GATHERS UP HIS STUFF
 THEN HE RUNS OUT THE BUILDING
 PUTS ON HIS COAT
 HE LOOKS GLAD TO BE OUTDOORS

HENRY

OK. So he loves fresh air. Big discovery.

LOVE/GIRL

THEN SOMETHING THAT YOU SAID.
 A QUIRKY TURN OF PHRASE
 MAKES HIM SHAKE HIS HEAD

HENRY

More likely he forget his keys.

LOVE/GIRL

AND GOES INTO A DAZE
YEAH HE'S THINKING ABOUT YOU.

HENRY

You're dreaming.

LOVE/GIRL

HE IS THINKING ABOUT YOU.
HE IS THINKING ABOUT YOU.
SO HE SMLES

HENRY

One time I did see him look back at the window.

LOVE/GIRL

And he was smiling.

HENRY

I don't think he even knew what window it was.

LOVE/GIRL

What do you think made him smile? He wasn't just sucking air in through his teeth.

HENRY

HE'S GOT A BOUNCE IN HIS WALK
HE SORT OF RISES ON HIS TOES
SOMETHING'S MADE HIM HAPPY
HE'S LAUGHING AS HE GOES.
HE MOVES THROUGH THE WIND.
LIKE HE'S FLOATING ON AIR
BUT THEN HE STOPS
TURNS AROUND AND STARES.

LOVE/GIRL

SEE HE'S BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU
DIZZY AND DAZED ABOUT YOU
DUMB AND DAZZLED BY YOU
AAH...YOU SMILE.

ARTHUR

"Dumb and dazzled..."

LOVE/BOY
 AND THEN HE STUMBLES OUT OF BED
 THE ROOM SEEMS REARRANGED

ARTHUR
 LOOKS IN THE MIRROR
 AND WONDERS IF HE'S CHANGED.

LOVE/BOY
 Now you're talking

ARTHUR
 THEN SLIPS INTO HIS CLOTHES
 SURPRISED THEY FEEL BRAND NEW

ARTHUR & HENRY
 LA LA LA LA LA LA

LOVE/BOY
 AND YOU KNOW THAT IT IS TRUE
 Seems like someone's been thinking about you.

ARTHUR
 What?

LOVE/BOY
 HE'S BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU.
 HE'S BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU
 THEY ARE THINKING ABOUT ME
 AND HE SMILES

LOVE/BOY
 Sounds like this is going somewhere.

HENRY & ARTHUR
 No no no no no.

HENRY
 The great thing with us is the opposite of that.

ARTHUR
 We're just in for the pleasure of the ride

HENRY
 And he's just a guy.

LOVE

HE IS THINKING ABOUT HIM
HE IS THINKING ABOUT HIM
THEY ARE THINKING ABOUT ME
AND THEY SMILE.

(HENRY sneezes. LOVE gives him a box of tissues. Another Wednesday at the hotel. HENRY has a cold.)

ARTHUR

Bienvenidos!

HENRY

Great. How're you doing?

ARTHUR

I have this...uh...meeting thing I have to go to.

HENRY

You look nice.

ARTHUR

I was only coming to tell you I couldn't-- Huh? Oh. Thanks. I mean...I thought it would be rude to just leave you waiting here so I...

HENRY

Oh. Yeah. Sorry. No. Me too. Sorry. I mean about... But I had no way of getting in touch with you...and I thought it wouldn't be very nice to just not show up so I just...

ARTHUR

Right.

HENRY

I mean...I've got this cold and I don't really feel like...

ARTHUR

Hey. It's OK.

HENRY

I'm feeling a little...I don't know...something...

ARTHUR

There's definitely something in the air.

So... HENRY

Huh? ARTHUR

You going to go? HENRY

Oh. Well...I have a little time. ARTHUR

Could you give me a glass of water?
(LOVE hands him a glass of water. He gives it to HENRY.)
 I'm taking this antihistamine... HENRY

Yeah? ARTHUR

It gives me very vivid dreams.
(HENRY takes a pill, laughs.)
 I'm feeling so...weird. HENRY

You should lie down. C'mere.
(He lies on the bed and beckons HENRY to come next to him) ARTHUR

You don't want to catch anything. HENRY

I'm like a puppy. I've had all my shots.
(He plumps a pillow for him) ARTHUR

No, it's OK. I'm just... HENRY

Sh sh sh. C'mon.
(He holds him.)
 Don't you feel better?
(They lie down and fall asleep. LOVE sings over them.) ARTHUR

(SONG: LOVE IS IN THE QUIET)

LOVE

LOVE IS IN THE QUIET
 IN THE WORDS WITHOUT A VOICE
 IN THE SHAPE OF A TOUCH
 IN THE SHADOW OF TWO BODIES
 IT IS SILENCE. IT IS BREATHING.

IT'S A MURMUR IN THE THROAT
 A FINGER TRACING LOVE LINES
 A KISS UPON THE EYES
 AND THE SIGHS OF SATISFACTION
 WAKEFULNESS. FORGIVING.
 HARMONY OVERFLOWING LIVING.

IT'S WHAT WE AGREE TO
 AND WHAT WE IGNORE
 AND WHO WE GIVE INTO
 AND WHY WE'RE SO FOOLISH
 AND HOW WE KNOW WHAT FOR.

*(ARTHUR sits up, looks at his watch, gets out bed and prepares to leave.
 He looks at HENRY, thinks, then lies down again)*

LOVE

IN THE QUIET
 WITHOUT WORDS
 IN THE TOUCH...

IN THE SILENCE

(HENRY wakes up, cuddles up to ARTHUR.)

ARTHUR

What?
(He looks at his watch)

HENRY

Oh did you miss your...?

ARTHUR

Are you feeling better?

HENRY

Oh. Yeah. Yeah. I had this dream where I was walking down a street.

Unfamiliar. And I'd take a step and then slip. And take another step and slip again.

ARTHUR

Obviously a Freudian slip.

HENRY

Thank you, doctor. You were in the dream too.

ARTHUR

What was I doing?

HENRY

I don't know. You might have been what was making me slip.

(ARTHUR looks at his watch again, gets out of bed, starts getting dressed)

Did you miss your meeting?

ARTHUR

In the dream?

HENRY

When you came in you said something about you couldn't stay, so I was wondering...where you were going. I mean, after this.

ARTHUR

After this?

HENRY

Before this. After this. I was just wondering...

ARTHUR

Where I'm going is where I'm going. I had a little extra time so I stayed here. I know the rules.

HENRY

That's exactly what she said!

ARTHUR

Who? What do you mean?

HENRY

Oh. Just a friend.

ARTHUR

Just a “friend.”

HENRY

Yeah. Why are you...

ARTHUR

(ARTHUR pulls away from HENRY.)

Whoa. Wait a minute. Why did you do that?

HENRY

Do what?

ARTHUR

I thought this whole thing was just between you and me.

HENRY

It is!

(pause)

What?

ARTHUR

Tell me what you told her.

HENRY

You're angry.

ARTHUR

I'm fine. What did you tell her?

HENRY

Come on. Nothing.

(HENRY touches him. He pulls away)

ARTHUR

Oh I bet the two of you had a real big laugh at my expense.

HENRY

No, of course we—

ARTHUR

What did you say about me?

(pause)

Tell me the words.

HENRY

I said...

You said... ARTHUR

That there was... HENRY

What? That there was what? ARTHUR

...this guy... HENRY

"This guy?" You called me "this guy?" ARTHUR

Well I didn't say it like that. HENRY

What else? ARTHUR

You are angry. HENRY

What else? Just tell me. ARTHUR

I told her that...we only meet in the afternoon. HENRY

Oh really? Did you say that when we do it I bring tears to your eyes? ARTHUR

Stop it! I said you were a good fuck. OK? HENRY

You said that? ARTHUR

Yes. HENRY

You said: "He's a good fuck." ARTHUR

HENRY

It's a compliment.

ARTHUR

Oh I'm really flattered.

HENRY

It's a compliment!

ARTHUR

I bet she got a real kick out of that.

(HE starts to leave. HENRY grabs his arm.)

HENRY

What're you doing?

ARTHUR

I don't like this.

HENRY

What'd I do?

ARTHUR

Do you talk to her about your other hook-ups.

HENRY

I don't have any other hook-ups. She's just a friend. Do you have other hook-ups?

ARTHUR

What? No. And that's a question. There are rules. We were supposed to keep this to ourselves.

HENRY

I didn't say anything!

ARTHUR

Listen. I don't like being talked about. Period. OK?

(ARTHUR leaves. Lights up on HENRY and LOVE/GIRL)

HENRY

That guy? It's over.

LOVE/GIRL

Oh no. I thought it was going so well.

HENRY

It got complicated. He's...I don't know who he is.

LOVE/GIRL

I thought that was how you wanted it.

HENRY

Well...yes, on the one hand.

LOVE/GIRL

What happened? What'd he say?

HENRY

He just flew off the-- He doesn't like the fact that I told you about him.

LOVE/GIRL

But you didn't really say anything. You don't know anything.

HENRY

Enough. Evidently.

LOVE/GIRL

Like...?

HENRY

Like that he was...you know...a good...fuck.

LOVE/GIRL

You told him you said that?

HENRY

Yes.

LOVE/GIRL

And that hurt his feelings?

HENRY

I don't get it either. But...yes.

LOVE/GIRL

Curious. Hmm. Maybe you have to try to be a little understanding.

HENRY

I don't want to be the one who's understanding. I want it all explained to me for a change.

LOVE/GIRL

It takes two to make a relationship.

HENRY

It's not a relationship! What universe do you live in? Please.

(A bar. LOVE/BARTENDER turns to ARTHUR.)

ARTHUR

I don't know what he's doing. Talking about me to his friend. Telling what I'm like.

LOVE/BARTENDER

I thought you had some kind of deal about that.

ARTHUR

Well he broke it, didn't he?

LOVE/BARTENDER

What'd he say?

ARTHUR

He told his supposed "friend" I was a good fuck, quote unquote.

LOVE/BARTENDER

Yeah? Wow. Oh. Is that bad?

ARTHUR

Yes! I mean no, not in itself. You just don't want to be evaluated like that. I mean, do you want to be famous for being a good fuck?

LOVE/BARTENDER

Is that really a question?

ARTHUR

What?

LOVE/BARTENDER

On the other hand, though. I mean if he said—

ARTHUR

There is no other hand!

LOVE/BARTENDER

Take it easy, pal.

ARTHUR

I'm fine!

LOVE/BARTENDER

It sounds like maybe you started off wanting one thing and now you want...

ARTHUR & HENRY

What? Now I want what?

LOVE/BARTENDER

Something else.

ARTHUR & HENRY

So now you're on his side?

LOVE/BARTENDER

Hey, I'm on my side, which is the side of you getting what you want.

(SONG: REPRISE- LOT'S OF FUN)

LOVE

You just can't admit it, can you?

HENRY

Admit what?

ARTHUR

Huh?

LOVE

That this whole deal thing is more than you bargained for. Did you ever think that there's more? That there's something you're missing out on? That these rules you two have made are standing in the way?

NO UNWANTED
REVELATIONS
NO HURT FEELINGS
NO ONE'S SORE

MEET FOR WHAT
YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOOD AT.
NEWS FLASH, PAL
THERE'S SO MUCH MORE

CAUSE NOW YOU'VE GOT
THESE NEW SENSATIONS
AND YOU'RE FEELING
NOT SO FINE

SEEMS THERE MIGHT BE
MORE TO STAY FOR
AS YOUR STORIES
INTERTWINE

ARTHUR
But it's over.

LOVE/BOY
Is it, though?

ARTHUR
Well...

LOVE/BOY
Is it for you?

HENRY
Well...

LOVE/GIRL
You're testing my patience!

MAYBE YOU CAN'T DENY
MAYBE YOU REALLY CARE
COUNT FROM ONE TO TEN
IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?

MAYBE YOU HAVE TO TRY
MAYBE YOU HAVE TO DARE
WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?
IF NOT HIM, THEN WHO?

(to HENRY)
Why don't you take a little walk and think about things?

HENRY
Yeah, yeah.

(HENRY walks slowly in an arc described by LOVE who then goes to ARTHUR who is sitting at a bar, whispers in his ear.)

LOVE/BOY

Why don't you put down that drink and get some air?

ARTHUR

OK, OK.

(ARTHUR gets up and walks in a similar arc as HENRY. ARTHUR and HENRY wind up in the same spot, surprised to see each other and warily glad.)

HENRY

Hey.

ARTHUR

Hey.

HENRY

Hey.

ARTHUR

What're you doing here?

(LOVE comes close to ARTHUR and makes a sign.)

HENRY

I was just thinking about things.

ARTHUR

Oh.

HENRY

What about you?

ARTHUR

Me?

HENRY

Yeah.

(LOVE comes close to him and makes a sign.)

ARTHUR

I was just getting some air.

HENRY
Do you want to walk a little?

ARTHUR
Walk. Yeah. Sure.

(They walk in silence for a moment.)

HENRY
It's a nice night, isn't it?

ARTHUR
Yeah.

HENRY
Very clear.

ARTHUR
Yeah.

(They walk a little further, stand at a railing looking out at a river.)

(SONG: HOW'RE YOU DOING?)

HENRY
LOOK
IS THAT MARS?
HIGH ABOVE THE CITY
AND ALL OF THOSE STARS
I SEE WHY THEY CALL THEM
FIRE AND ICE.

ARTHUR
YEAH THEY'RE NICE.

HENRY
So.

ARTHUR
So.

HENRY
HOW'RE YOU DOING?
DON'T MIND THAT I'M ASKING.
I JUST WOULD LIKE TO KNOW.

ARTHUR

I'M DOING FINE.

HENRY

THE SKY IS SO VAST
SPREAD OUT ABOVE US
THE VASTNESS ECHOES
HEAR IT CALL.

ARTHUR

AND US HERE BELOW
BLINKING LIKE FIREFLIES
TINY AS NOTHING
JUST THAT SMALL

ARE WE HERE AT ALL?

HENRY

Yeah. So.

HOW'RE YOU DOING?
DON'T MEAN TO KEEP ASKING
I JUST MEAN TO SAY...HELLO...

ARTHUR

I'M DOING FINE. I'M DOING FINE

HENRY

I'D LIKE TO BE
CERTAIN OF SOME THINGS
SORT OF KNOW SOMETHING CLEARER
KIND OF KNOW IT
YOU KNOW, KNOW IT.
LIKE, YOU KNOW
BLACK AND WHITE.

ARTHUR

I WANT MORE OF SOME THINGS
A LITTLE LESS OF OTHERS
SORT OF...
MORE OF
BUT NOT LESS OF...
I'M NOT SAYING IT RIGHT.

HENRY

It's really hard to say what...

ARTHUR
I feel like I haven't got the...

HENRY
THE MOMENTS DON'T LAST
TIME MOVES SO QUICKLY
STAND STILL
AND CHOICES
JUST COME AND GO.

ARTHUR
YOU STOP AND YOU THINK
WAIT FOR AN ANSWER
YOU ALMOST HEAR IT...
BUT...I DON'T KNOW.

HENRY
SO

ARTHUR
SO
HOW'RE YOU DOING?
SO WEIRD TO BE ASKING.

HENRY
And in English

ARTHUR
IT'S JUST THAT...

HENRY
I'M OK.

ARTHUR
YEAH, I'M, I'M OK.

(They look at each other in a way they haven't before. With very tentative motions, they kiss as if for the first time. It's quiet.)

ARTHUR
I...

HENRY
Yeah..?

ARTHUR

I'll...see you..? Wednesday? OK?

HENRY

Yeah. Let's do that.

(ARTHUR kisses HENRY again. They hold hands, then back slowly away, their eyes on each other.)

LOVE

YOU STOP AND YOU THINK
WAIT FOR AN ANSWER
YOU ALMOST HEAR IT
BUT...

(Another afternoon. Lights up on LOVE as HENRY puts a bouquet of flowers near the bed. HENRY arranges the flowers. ARTHUR enters. They kiss "hello" a bit awkwardly.)

ARTHUR

Comment ca va?

HENRY

You want something to eat? I brought—

ARTHUR

Uh uh.

HENRY

Drink? I have—

ARTHUR

No. I'm fine.
(pause)
Nice...shirt.

HENRY

Yeah? Thanks. Well sit down.

(ARTHUR keeps pacing. He comes to the flowers.)

HENRY

They're anemones.

ARTHUR

Right.

HENRY

C'mere.

(ARTHUR sits down next to him. Long, uncomfortable pause. HENRY takes his hand. ARTHUR suddenly takes HENRY in a passionate embrace. HENRY balks.)

HENRY

What are you doing?

ARTHUR

(He lets go of him.)

All right.

(pause. He touches the flowers)

Enemies?

HENRY

Anemones.

ARTHUR

Anemones.

(Uncomfortable pause. He tries to embrace HENRY again. HENRY resists.)

HENRY

No!

ARTHUR

C'mon.

HENRY

I said "no!"

ARTHUR

Come on...

HENRY

What is it with a hardon? Does it just make you lose your mind?

ARTHUR

It just...eliminates all other possibilities.

HENRY

All right. Well...just hold it for a second.

ARTHUR
What? Don't you want to...?

HENRY
Yes but...

ARTHUR
Then...

HENRY
Wait!

ARTHUR
What?

HENRY
You don't have to tell me but...
(pause)
How far do you want to go?

ARTHUR
All the way.

HENRY
That's not what I mean and you know it.

ARTHUR
Don't be so sure.

HENRY
Something's going on here.

ARTHUR
What do you mean?

HENRY
I'm not sure.
(pause)
I'm sort of afraid.

ARTHUR
Of me?

HENRY
A little. Of myself too.

ARTHUR
That's crazy.

HENRY
Are you afraid?

ARTHUR
No. Of what?

HENRY
I'm just trying to think what's there to be so scared of? What do you think?

ARTHUR
All these questions. What are you, my therapist?
(He reaches for HENRY)
C'mere.
(HENRY backs away)

HENRY
Let's break the rules. No more limits.

ARTHUR
I'll have to see two forms of photo ID.

HENRY
C'mon. That's not funny.

ARTHUR
What?

HENRY
I'm tired of meeting in this hotel room.

ARTHUR
What's wrong with it. It's fine.

HENRY
Come to my place. I just live right around--

ARTHUR
No way.

HENRY
It's getting a little expensive for me you know. I'm just saying we could--

I said I'd split it with you!

ARTHUR

(*pause*)
My name is Henry.

HENRY

No.

ARTHUR

I'm from Rhode Island.

HENRY

Stop it.

ARTHUR

I went to Rutgers.

HENRY

Oh boy.

ARTHUR

I'm a lawyer. I like my job. I'm good at it.

HENRY

I don't want--

ARTHUR

When we started out, I thought I could--

HENRY

Please don't do this.

ARTHUR

I've been having a really good time with you and... I mean... I like you.
And...
(*pause*)
Tell me something about yourself.

HENRY

Hey hey hey. I love Rhode Island. I love lawyers. OK? OK?

ARTHUR

But there's more. I know there is.

HENRY

(SONG: THE FIGHT)

ARTHUR

WHY'RE YOU LOOKING TO MESS THINGS UP
 WHY'RE YOU LOOKING TO BLOW A GOOD THING?
 WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO CHANGE THINGS FOR?
 MAKE IT RIGHT? MAKE NICE?
 WELL WHY? WHAT FOR? WHAT FOR? WHAT FOR?

THE WHOLE THING'S GETTING OUT OF HAND
 ARE YOU DOING IT NOW—OH, I DON'T KNOW.
 THERE'S ONE GOOD REASON WHY WE'RE HERE
 AND NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO CHANGE IT ALL
 DON'T

WE BOTH KNOW THE DETAILS OF WHAT WE LIKE
 WE BOTH KNOW THE DEAL THAT KEEPS US HERE
 WHAT WORKS BEST, IS VERY CLEAR
 HOLD ME TIGHT, DO OR DARE.
 NOW WHISPER TO ME
 WE'RE UNBROKEN

JESUS, YOU KNOW ME
 YOU KNOW ME
 SO LET IT
 BE NICE.

HENRY

But...

ARTHUR

But. But but but.

HENRY

Can't you just...

ARTHUR

What?

HENRY

I don't know. Tell me something. Tell me anything. Tell me what you do.

ARTHUR

Jesus.

Why not? HENRY

I don't remember them. ARTHUR

Can I buy them? HENRY

Sure. Amazon. ARTHUR

What are some titles? HENRY

Fuck and Other Poems. ARTHUR

That's one of the titles? HENRY

Of the collection, yeah. ARTHUR

What about the poems inside? HENRY

The other poems from Fuck and Other Poems, is that what you mean? ARTHUR

Yes. HENRY

Actually, it's not actually called Fuck and Other Poems. It's actually called Fuck and Other Poems Called Fuck. OK? Do you know enough about me now? ARTHUR

(HENRY turns away as if he's been slapped. Lights out. Lights up on ARTHUR and LOVE/BARTENDER)

Hit me. ARTHUR

Haven't you had enough? LOVE/BARTENDER

ARTHUR

Hit me, I said. Hit me.

LOVE/BARTENDER

Aren't you ever gonna learn, buddy?

(He pours a drink, puts it on the bar. ARTHUR drinks it fast.)

ARTHUR

Again.

(LOVE/BARTENDER pours another one. ARTHUR drinks it fast, slams it down.)

(SONG: HERE'S TO THE END)

ARTHUR

IT HAPPENED AGAIN, OLD FRIEND
THEY DIG THEIR NAILS DEEP
THE PRICE IS WAY TOO STEEP
THEY LOOK BUT CANNOT SEE
THE WHO OR WHAT OR WHY OF ME.

LOVE/BARTENDER

(pouring)

SAY WHEN

ARTHUR

HERE'S TO THE END.

(He drinks. HENRY comes into a different bar. Another LOVE/BARTENDER speaks to him. ARTHUR and HENRY have their backs to each other, don't see each other.)

LOVE/BARTENDER

I thought things were going to be different with this one.

HENRY

The hell with him.

GOODBYE AND AMEN, OLD FRIEND
THEY LIE AND THEN SPLIT
HE'S JUST SO FULL OF SHIT.
I'M HERE TO RECOMMEND

FAST AND LOOSE AGAIN.
TILL THEN
HERE'S TO THE END.

ARTHUR

FUNNY THING

LOVE/BARTENDER

I don't see you smiling, my friend.

ARTHUR

MEN JUST LOVE ME.

LOVE/BARTENDER

Poor baby. How do you stand the pressure?

ARTHUR

DON'T LAUGH.
DON'T ASK ME WHY.

LOVE/BARTENDER

Maybe you've got it all wrong.

ARTHUR

ALL MY LIFE
MEN COME GLADLY
I DON'T EVEN
HAVE TO TRY

ARTHUR

*(Indicating an unseen person in the opposite direction of HENRY)
Who's the guy at the end of the bar?*

LOVE/BARTENDER

Used to come in a lot.

ARTHUR

Send him a drink.

LOVE/BARTENDER

Don't you ever get tired of this?

ARTHUR

You know what's really funny though...

ALL THESE GUYS

I NEVER TRY
I NEVER, NEVER, NEVER TRY.

LOVE/BARTENDER

(brings HENRY a drink)

From an admirer at the end of the bar.

HENRY

(smiles at an unseen person)

I accept the admiration.

(HENRY lifts the drink in a toast.)

ARTHUR

IT'S TIME FOR NEW TRICKS

HENRY

A NEW FRIEND

ARTHUR

VARIETY COMES CHEAP

(HENRY moves towards the unseen person.)

HENRY

DON'T HAVE TO PLAY FOR KEEPS.

DON'T HAVE TO OVERSPEND

ARTHUR & HENRY

OR END UP WHERE I DON'T INTEND

ARTHUR

The next one's on me.

HENRY

I wouldn't have it any other way.

ARTHUR & HENRY

SO CHEERS

.....

HERE'S TO THE END.

TO THE END.

TO THE END.

(HENRY and ARTHUR each play this next part of the scene to an unseen partner, their backs to each other. ARTHUR and HENRY are each sitting

up in bed, their backs to each other, facing an unseen complete stranger.)

ARTHUR

This never happens to me.

HENRY

Me either.

ARTHUR

Never.

(pause)

You don't believe me?

HENRY

It's OK. I'm usually more...uh...into it myself.

ARTHUR

You don't believe that this never happened before?

HENRY

If you say so.

ARTHUR

Hey, I don't need to be judged by you.

HENRY

Listen, it didn't work out.

ARTHUR

What do you mean, it didn't work out?

HENRY

This whole thing is a mistake. I shouldn't have--

ARTHUR

You finished, didn't you?

HENRY

What?

ARTHUR

You're satisfied, aren't you?

HENRY

Oh sure. Satiated.

ARTHUR

I haven't had any complaints before.

HENRY

Well, your technique is very impressive anyway.

(HENRY gets out of bed and starts dressing)

ARTHUR

You ever think it could be your problem?

HENRY

Wrong bar. Wrong guy. All of it's...oh forget it.

ARTHUR

Hey, I don't need this.

(He gets out of bed and starts dressing.)

HENRY

Neither do I.

ARTHUR

What's that supposed to mean?

HENRY

Look. If there's someone else you'd rather be with...

ARTHUR

I didn't say that.

HENRY

Like hell you didn't.

ARTHUR

I could say the same for you.

HENRY & ARTHUR

What am I doing here?

(Lights dim on HENRY. Come up on ARTHUR and LOVE/BOY.)

ARTHUR

THE THING IS, I FEEL GOOD WITH HIM, YOU KNOW?

AND I GUESS I THINK ONCE I WALK OUT,

MAYBE I'M NOT GOING TO FEEL THAT WAY AGAIN.

I MEAN, HE LOOKS AT ME...

AND I'M JUST TRYING TO LIVE UP TO WHAT HE THINKS I AM.

BUT THEN I'M STUCK...WITH...ME...

(LOVE/BOY recedes in the darkness. ARTHUR sits down.)

(SONG: HOW WILL I KNOW?)

WHAT IS THE SHAPE OF THE HEART OF A MAN?
WHERE IS THE SPACE THAT HE LIVES?
HOW DOES HE KNOW WHEN HE'S GOING TOO FAR?
WHEN IS THE MOMENT HE GIVES?
AND WHAT IS HE GIVING AWAY?

IS THERE A TIME IN THE LIFE OF A MAN
WHEN OBSTACLES JUST DISAPPEAR?
WHERE IS THAT PLACE, IS IT NEAR IS IT FAR?
WHEN DOES HIS MOMENT COME CLEAR?
AND HOW DOES HE GET THROUGH THE DAY?

LOVE *(from the shadows)* & ARTHUR

MAYBE YOU CAN'T DENY
MAYBE YOU HAVE TO CARE
COUNT FROM ONE TO TEN.
IF NOT THEN, THEN WHEN?

MAYBE YOU HAVE TO TRY.
MAYBE YOU HAVE TO DARE.
WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?
IF NOT HIM, THEN WHO?

ARTHUR

BUT ISN'T THAT MOMENT JUST KNOWING YOURSELF?
AND HOW FAR THE DISTANCE TO ROW.
BUT WHO WILL HE FIND WHEN HE REACHES THE SHORE?
AND CAN HE JUST GO WITH THE FLOW?
OR WILL HE BE CARRIED AWAY?
HOW WILL HE KNOW WHEN TO GO?
AND HOW WILL HE KNOW WHEN TO STAY?

(Lights out on ARTHUR. Spotlight on HENRY)

(SONG: HELLO/GOODBYE)

HENRY

IT'S NO MYSTERY
WHAT I'M DOING

IT SEEMS CLEAR
THIS PART I KNOW.
IT'S FAMILIAR
SURE I'VE BEEN HERE
NEVER SHOULD BELIEVE THE LIE.

IT'S MY HISTORY
MY UNDOING
BUT I HOLD TIGHT
TO WHAT I KNOW.
IT'S AN OLD FLAME
AND IT BURNED BRIGHT
THIS IS WHEN THE FEELINGS DIE.

WHY CAN'T I HAVE WHAT I WANT?
WHAT MAKES IT SEEM OUT OF REACH?
WHY DON'T I KNOW WHAT IT IS?
WHAT'S IT TAKE TO GET WHAT I NEED?
TO MAKE ME WHOLE? TO TAKE THE LEAD?
TO SAY IT'S ME AND AT LAST SUCCEED
DENY NOR DEFEAT ME.
ACCEPT ME COMPLETELY,

SO HERE I SIT
HANDS IN MY LAP
I HOPE FOR WORDS
HE DOES NOT SAY
I SENSE FEAR
WHERE MORE COULD BE
NOW IS WHEN I HEAR THE LIE
NOW IS WHEN I START TO CRY
NOW IS WHEN I SAY GOODBYE.
HELLO.

(HENRY and ARTHUR meet at the spot overlooking the river. Another afternoon. LOVE is there too, watching them.)

ARTHUR

Hey listen. Sorry for the outburst. I've got a temper. You wouldn't know that but--

HENRY

I can't meet you anymore.

ARTHUR

What? Why not?

HENRY

I thought it would be OK, but it's...it's not.

LOVE

LISTEN TO WHAT
HE'S REALLY SAYING.

ARTHUR

Huh? Oh...oh...well... yeah. That's just what I was thinking.

HENRY

You were thinking the same thing?

LOVE

LOOK AT WHAT
HIS HEART CONCEALS.

ARTHUR

Look. We had a good time for a while.

HENRY

Right. Until things got...

LOVE

PAY ATTENTION
TO HIS MEANING.

HENRY

I'm really looking for something else.

ARTHUR

I'm really not looking for anything. Just, you know. Fun.

LOVE

HEAR HOW MUCH
HE REALLY FEELS.

HENRY

Fun. Yeah. Right. Me too. Fun.

(HENRY, ARTHUR and LOVE face straight ahead)

(SONG: WHO SAID?)

ARTHUR

FINE. GREAT. I'M GOING. I'M GOING.
NOT LIKE I GAVE HIM NO CLUES
NO SWEAT, I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING.
NOBODY'S SINGING THE BLUES.

HENRY

GREAT. GOOD. HE'S OUT OF MY LIFE NOW
FREEDOM IS ABSOLUTE BLISS.
I KNOW I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING.
NOTHING ABOUT HIM I'LL MISS

LOVE

LOVE JUST WANTS TO BE INCLUDED
LOVE IS TRIED AND TRUE.
LOVE'S THE THING THAT REALLY MATTERS
LOVE MEANS SAYING: "ME AND YOU."

GOOD. BAD. PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT.

ARTHUR

WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT BEFORE?

HENRY

ALL OF OUR DIFFERENCES MATTER.

ARTHUR

FINE, NOW WE'VE SETTLED THE--

HENRY

FINE, NOW WE'VE SETTLED THE—

HENRY & ARTHUR

FINE, NOW WE'VE SETTLED THE SCORE.

LOVE

ALL MY CLEVER MACHINATIONS
OK, FRIENDS, I'M THROUGH.
CAN'T THEY SEE WHAT REALLY MATTERS?
CAN'T THEY JUST SAY "ME AND YOU?"

HENRY

OK, HE'S GONE IN A MINUTE
THEN I CLEAN UP THE DEBRIS

ARTHUR
 RIGHT, RIGHT. I'M REALLY EXCITED.
 I'VE GOT MY AFTERNOONS FREE.

LOVE
 LOVE JUST WANTS TO BE INCLUDED
 LOVE IS TRIED AND TRUE.

HENRY & ARTHUR
 WHO SAYS LOVE'S WHAT REALLY MATTERS?
 WHO SAYS LOVE MEANS "ME AND YOU?"

(HENRY & ARTHUR steal a last look at each other as the lights come down. They turn away. ARTHUR sits alone, head in his hands.)

LOVE
 SO IN THE END LOVE'S NOT THE WINNER
 THE STORY'S GONE FROM GOOD TO BAD.
 DISAPPOINTED, DISILLUSIONED
 WHO THOUGHT THINGS COULD BE THIS SAD
 I PLAYED LOVE WITH HEART AND SOUL
 AND NOW I YIELD COMPLETE CONTROL
 LOVE DIES...IT'S A SORRY TUNE.

(On the opposite side of the stage, HENRY sits alone. ARTHUR suddenly stands up and goes to him.)

(SONG: HIS SONG)

ARTHUR
 I'm Arthur Lane.
 ARTHUR. ART
(Pause)
 I HAVE MY OWN PRINTING BUSINESS
 Wedding invitations.
 I've never even had a passport.
(pause)
 I live right across the bridge.
 I OWN MY OWN HOME.

I have a mortgage at three per cent.

THE TV'S JAPANESE.
 IT'S PAID FOR.
 I HAVE PERFECT VISION
 I HAVE ALL MY TEETH.
 I'M A NATURAL ATHLETE.

I'M A GOOD BOY
 CALL MY PARENTS ONCE A WEEK
 IT'S PROBABLY NOT ENOUGH.
 AND I HAVE TO SELL MY HOUSE
 I'M GONNA TAKE A LOSS
 IT'S SORT OF...YOU KNOW...TOUGH.

I'M A NICE GUY
 THE CAR I DRIVE'S ANTIQUE.
 WENT TO THREE YEARS AT STATE
 BUT I STILL READ THE CLASSICS
 LIKE MILL ON THE FLOSS
 IT'S VERY...YOU KNOW...GREAT.

NO MORE LIQUOR
 I THINK SEX IS QUICKER.

I HAVE A SENSE OF THE FUTURE.
 I MEAN...HOPES FOR OUR PLANET.
 I MEAN... THE THINGS I'VE BEEN SEEING!
 THE IMMENSE POTENTIAL OF THE HUMAN BEING!

No, No No that's not it...

I'M AFRAID.
 THAT'S IT.
 I'M AFRAID I'VE MISSED IT.
 AFRAID I'VE MISSED MY LIFE
 AND I DON'T WANT TO SETTLE
 'CAUSE WHAT'LL IT GET ME
 ADMITTING I'M NOT WHAT I THOUGHT I COULD BE?

I'VE TAKEN A WRONG TURN
 I DON'T KNOW THE COST
 BUT I DO KNOW I'M LOST.
 AND IT SCARES ME.

GOD, I'M GONNA TO DIE
 AND NEVER EVEN KNOW
 WHO I NEVER MET

AND WHAT MY LIFE'S ABOUT
 AND WHAT I DIDN'T GO FOR
 AND WHAT I DIDN'T GET.

And I'm telling you now
 Because, you see
 Because you and me
 Because...because
 Let me take a little pause.

BECAUSE...
 I LOVE YOU
 YOU KNOW ... I LOVE YOU
 I MEAN...I LOVE YOU

HENRY

YOU STOP AND YOU THINK
 WAIT FOR AN ANSWER
 YOU FINALLY HEAR IT...
 BUT...

ARTHUR

AND SO... HOW...?
 I MEAN...
 HOW DO I ALLOW...?
 I MEAN...
 WHAT DO WE DO...
 NOW?

LOVE

(from LOVE IS IN THE QUIET)

LALALALALALALALA.

Curtain