

And Now Our Lives Evermore©2021

By Steve Pinkerman

A tragic romantic comedy.

Love lost leads to a tragic romance. Their destiny was not allowed until fate said that it was meant to be.

A love story told thru the mind of a man from the memories with the woman of his dreams and their chance at living happily ever after.

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## AND NOW OUR LIVES EVERMORE

Act I Scene 1

Gas station in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. Stage is set with 4 tables in U-shape covered with facade car part boxes. Double level risers along back for DJ and NARRATOR.

Time: 1987

Act I Scene II

Blushing Bride Party Center, Grand Royal Ballroom in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. Stage is the same with auto part facades lowered to expose banquet dinner ware settings.

Time: 1992

Act I Scene III

Blushing Bride Party Center, Grand Royal Ballroom in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. Stage is the same.

Time: 1992

Act II Scene I

Honeymoon suite overlooking somewhere in Florida. Stage is the same with facades replaced and covered with table cloth. 2 patio chairs front center and 2 easy chairs at rear.

Time: 1992

Act II Scene II

Old folks retirement nursing facility somewhere in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. Stage is the same but darkened to blue lighting and a center spotlight.

Time: Long in the future.

Act II Scene III

Living room, stage is the same with living room backdrops and seating added for guest's and one table replaced with computer desk.

Time: Today.

Act II Scene IV

Theater setting, stage is same with backdrops removed and seats arranged for theater style.

Time: Today.

## "Cast of Characters"

STEVE BARTELL: A male in his late teens.

TIFFANY GREEN: A female in her late teens.

NARRATOR/CUSTODIAN: A male later in life.

DJ/NURSE BURGESS: Age and gender neutral.

IZABELLA: A female in her 40's. Steve Pike's older sister.

MARK PIKE: A male in his 40's. Steve Pike's older brother.

KEN JEFFERIES: A male later in life.

ANITA: A female in her late 20's.

TIFFANY STEARNS: A female in her 30'S.

PATTY ANNOTTE: A female in her 30'S.

KAYCEE GREAN: A female in her late teens.

GREG FULSOME: A male about 20.

BILL BARTELL: A male in his early 60s. STEVE'S father.

DARLA BARTELL: A female in her early 60s. STEVE'S mother.

KEN GREEN: A male in his late 30s. TIFFANY'S father.

CONNIE GREEN: A female in her late 30s. TIFFANY'S mother.

GARY MERVIC: A male in his late 40s. STEVE'S extra father

KATEY MERVIC: A female in her mid 40s. STEVE'S extra mother

DON GREAN: A male in his late 30s. KAYCEE'S father.

LISA GREAN: A female in her mid 30s. KAYCEE'S mother.

MIKE MERVIC: A male in his early 20s.

JENNY ATWATER: A female about 20.

BEN BENSON: A male in his early 20s.

DILLON: Age and gender neutral. Postal carrier.

JENNIFER WELLS: A female about 20.

BRIDE: A female.

GROOM: A male.

Music

All music licensed thru Tribe of Noise Pro and Exzel Music or used with permission of owner.

(Songs A & D can be performed with live vocals or recorded.)

**Highlight and left click Soundcloud link for songs.**

[https://soundcloud.com/user-215519716/sets/and-now-our-lives-evermore/s-QKCoF4y1DUa?si=baa2873f57bf46bebbac2478a858a6e3&utm\\_source=clipboard&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=social\\_sharing](https://soundcloud.com/user-215519716/sets/and-now-our-lives-evermore/s-QKCoF4y1DUa?si=baa2873f57bf46bebbac2478a858a6e3&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing)

SONG A: HAPPINESS RAINS

Optional live performance with singers or recorded with dancers.

SONG B: THE CALLING

SONG C: TIFFANY'S WEDDING performed by Capptann Cameeleeann

SONG D: REMINISCENCE music by ROD BEST

SONG E: HEAVEN'S PLAYGROUND

Optional live performance with singers or recorded with dancers.

Post curtain.

SONG F: FLYING with ANGEL WINGS - recorded.

And Now Our Lives Evermore

ACT I

SCENE I

SETTING: Gas station in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. Stage is set with 4 tables with chairs in U-shape, covered with facade car part boxes, covered. Double level risers along back for DJ and NARRATOR, NARRATOR wearing top hat is hidden behind black screen and seen only as a silhouette from back spotlight only when he speaks.

AT THE RISE: Dimly lit stage with blue lighting. DJ (back lit) sitting on stool on riser holding open umbrella, hand out checking for rain.

SINGERS in choir robes, males in black, females in white, lined up across stage hiding NARRATOR from audience.

Wedding march begins as BRIDE and GROOM enter to center stage.

SONG A: HAPPINESS RAINS  
(Optional performed live with SINGERS or recorded vocals with DANCERS.)

SINGERS

SINGERS lined up in choir robes.

DJ closes umbrella, stands, stretches and begins dancing with song.

Spotlight shines on BRIDE and GROOM as they begin slow waltz type dance.

TAKE ME SOMEWHERE

WHERE

WE CAN BE HAPPY

LIVING TOGETHER  
KNOWING THAT WE ARE  
FOREVER AND EVER  
BEING AS ONE LIFE  
HUSBAND AND WIFE  
A VIRTUAL LOVE SCHEME  
MAGICAL DREAM TEAM  
MY LOVE  
TAKE ME AWAY  
TAKE ME SOMEWHERE  
  
WHERE HAPPINESS RAINS  
WASHES OUR PAINS AWAY  
SUNSHINE SURROUNDS US  
NOT A CLOUD IN THE SKY  
NARY A CARE  
TOGETHER OUT THERE  
BEING AS ONE  
WE WILL OVERCOME  
  
TAKE ME SOMEWHERE  
WHERE WE  
ARE ALWAYS SO MUCH IN LOVE  
TAKE ME SOMEWHERE

MY LOVE

YOUR HAPPINESS MEANS OH SO VERY MUCH TO ME

NEVER LEAVE ME HOLDING

Singers separate to show NARRATOR  
in wheel chair, cane laying on  
floor beside him.

AN EMPTY HAND

TAKE ME SOMEWHERE

WHERE HAPPINESS RAINS

WASHES OUR TEARS AND PAINS AWAY

SUNSHINE SURROUNDS US

NOT A CLOUD IN OUR CLEAR BLUE SKY

TOGETHER OUT THERE

NURSE enters to NARRATOR.

SOMEWHERE

WHERE WE ARE ONE

ALWAYS SO MUCH IN LOVE

NURSE picks up cane and pushes  
NARRATOR off stage.

HOLDING HANDS WALKING TOGETHER ALWAYS IN  
LOVE NEVER ENDING

BRIDE and GROOM stop dancing and  
follow NURSE and NARRATOR off  
stage.

ME AND YOU SOMEWHERE TAKE ME THERE

TAKE ME ALONG WITH YOU

TAKE ME THERE

TAKE ME THERE

TAKE ME SOMEWHERE

WHERE WE ALWAYS WILL BE

SO MUCH IN LOVE

TAKE ME SOMEWHERE

NOT A WORRY OR CARE

WHERE WE ALWAYS WILL BE

WILL BE SO MUCH IN LOVE

SINGERS uncover facades and exit.

Stage lights up.

DJ sweating wipes down, chest, arm  
pits, face, makes face from stink.

DJ holds up sign - Mid march  
Thursday, 2:45.

STEVE enters and starts working.

TIFFANY enters wearing shirt  
unnoticed to STEVE.

DJ clears throat and alerts STEVE.  
A big grin appears on STEVE'S face  
as he turns around and sees  
TIFFANY.

STEVE

I've been meaning to get me one of those. Can I pet your  
chameleon?

TIFFANY

(Chuckling.)

I should slap you for that but you are the first person to get it right. Not call it a lizard or iguana.

I got it a "Daffy Dans", they have a whole lot of them.

(Looking down to her shirt.)

STEVE

(With a snort of his own.)

No, I mean a chameleon. I've been wanting get one. I raise lizards.

TIFFANY

(Eyes open wide.)

Really? What kind?

STEVE

I have 6 terrariums with 5 different species.

TIFFANY

Wow, 5?

STEVE

Yeah, but I'm sure you didn't come in here to find that out?

TIFFANY

(With a chuckle.)

No, I was thirsty and wanted a soda. But the herpetology lesson is just as good.

STEVE

(With a big smile.)

Wow impressive word. Well I'd be happy to buy it for you if you let me. I mean anyone who can make that shirt look as good as you do, deserves a complimentary drink.

And for what it's worth, stop back any time for one, for knowing that word.

Getting and handing her a soda.

NARRATOR

(Hidden in darkness behind a screen wearing top hat and seen only as a silhouette from a bright light from behind.)

Maybe that might score me some points?

STEVE

I've got a blue tongue skink, a leopard gecko, 2 bearded dragons and 3 jeweled geckos. Those are spotted with blue, red, green, real pretty. But my favorites are the long tail skinks. Pencil thin, yay big.

Holding fingers 8 inches apart.

Those lay eggs like crazy. I've even gotten 3 of them to hatch.

TIFFANY

Wow! Really!

STEVE

It took me a while to figure out the right temperature and humidity. They play a key factor in incubation.

NARRATOR

Hopefully that sounds impressive?

(TIFFANY staring intently  
nodding.)

STEVE

I was a little kid when I saw my first lizard. 6 or 7 years old. We'd visit my grandpa and they were all over the place. I'd try to catch'em but they're so damn fast.

(TIFFANY laughs.)

I'd also sing and dance for all the relatives. They'd laugh and have a good time. They'd throw nickels at me. I used to think I made a lot of money, and I wanted to buy a lizard trap.

TIFFANY

(With a that's so cute  
look.)

Aaah

STEVE

(Kind of flustered.)

But, um, hopefully I can get it down pat and get more to hatch?

Maybe you'd like to see my nursery some time?

TIFFANY

I'd like that.

DJ holds sign - 4:04

TIFFANY notices.

TIFFANY

Wow, look at the time.

(With a slight look of  
shock.)

It didn't seem that long?

STEVE

Why? You've got somewhere else to be?

TIFFANY

Nothing important, but I should get going.

STEVE

I am glad you stopped in, I had a good time. I hope you can stop in again and maybe you'll take me up on my offer?

TIFFANY

Me too. I'll try. Bye!

TIFFANY exits.

STEVE

Bye.

DJ holds up sign - Moon picture and the word "Tonight".

STEVE sits in chair thinking.

NARRATOR

Wow, that woman. I just can't stop thinking about her. That beautiful woman. TIFFANY, TIFFANY GREEN.

Lights dim momentarily.

DJ holding sign - Friday noon.

STEVE working but very distracted.  
Bell double rings, STEVE looks out the door.

NARRATOR

I can't believe what she's done to me. Up half the night, now every time hear that bell, and it's not her. She's stuck in my head. I can't think of anything else but her. She's a such distraction.

Hopefully soon?

DJ holds sign 2:45

STEVE with his back to the door.

STEVE

Wow, that felt weird. It's like I got a second wind.

Huh maybe today isn't that bad?

TIFFANY enters as STEVE turns  
around and is startled.

Geez, oh man, give a guy some warning.

(TIFFANY laughs.)

And you think it's funny?

TIFFANY

Well if that's how you feel I'll just go some place else.

(Flashing her incredible  
smile.)

STEVE

No, lets not do any thing irrational.

TIFFANY

Hi, I came for my soda.

STEVE

As many as you want! So how's it goin'?

STEVE getting and handing her a  
soda.

TIFFANY

You know how annoying parents can be.

STEVE

Been there. But then again I had brothers and sisters and  
they taught me to not piss them off. Stay under their radar.

TIFFANY

(As her eyes open with  
curiosity.)

I'm listening.

STEVE

Now let me finish before you think I'm a whack job. But, be a  
good kid.

And what I mean is do little things around the house without being asked. Study hard and try and get good grades. Don't be a, please don't get offended, a bitch to them.

(TIFFANY gives a slight  
disturbed look.)

No matter what you feel or think, they control your life. And it can be easy or it can be hard. Your choice!

And it doesn't mean that you can't have any fun, but it just has to be not as often. And you may think that time is going so slow. In all reality, there will come a time when you will look back and say, "Wow I can't believe it was that long ago".

They say "time flies" and it does. Here's another "cricket to snack on".

(TIFFANY smiles.)

As much as you think you hate your parents, in that same time span you find out that they become your friends. I assume they complain about the same stuff?

TIFFANY

They don't like my friends. They yell about my grades. It's like they hate me.

STEVE

(Chuckling.)

My dear, welcome to being an adult child.

(Both laugh.)

Believe it or not, you will find, they really do have your best interest at heart.

And a little secret about your friends. Sure you can't help who's in your neighborhood, but there aren't too many of them that will be in your life as long as your family will be.

I've barely been out of school and only have a couple of buddies I still hang with. So don't get too excited if you don't get to see most of them. I'm sure you have one or two your parents like?

DJ holds sign - Clock face with  
waving hands.

TIFFANY looking at clock.

TIFFANY

My best friend is KAYCEE. We've known each other since before first grade.

DJ holds sign - Clock face with waving hands.

TIFFANY looking at clock.

STEVE

There's a chance you'll still be good friends after graduation.

TIFFANY

Is there anything else?

STEVE

Yeah, help with the little things, for your mom bring in the groceries, do the dishes or laundry. I'm not sure what or if anything that will help your dad. But maybe if you guys have a dog, you can clean up after it?

TIFFANY

Getting all grossed out.

Illlloo

NARRATOR

(Agitated.)

Typical!

STEVE

(Miffed.)

Really! Oh, so when we get married and have a baby, I'm gonna' have to change all her diapers?

TIFFANY

(Flustered.)

Well, er, no, that's not what...

Interrupting TIFFANY

STEVE

(Calmer.)

Or whatever there may be. Try and help him too. Oh and this is crucial. They will look at you like you're up to something. Let it slide off. No smart ass remarks.

DJ holds sign - Clock face with waving hands.

TIFFANY

Wow thanks. That was fun again. But I gotta' get goin'. See ya!

TIFFANY quickly exits.

STEVE

Bye, I'll be here...  
(Sheepishly.)  
waiting.

NARRATOR

STEVE pacing, reacting to NARRATOR.

I thought she seemed young? She is in school still. Gonna be a senior, junior? Sophomore at the worst? That shouldn't be a problem?

I'll be 19 next month, she's 17, 18? It's just a couple of years difference. I wonder why I never saw her before? Maybe she's new? Or goes to West High? And I've been at Tech for two years.

I can't believe I let that slip, when "we" get married. I don't think she caught it. I was pretty cool, how I moved on from that.

I guess I'll go home and wait for her until Monday.

STEVE exits.

DJ holds sign - Saturday night.

TIFFANY and KAYCEE enter talking at side of stage.

KAYCEE

I'm glad you could come by tonight while I'm baby sitting, TIFF. The Henderson's won't be home until after midnight. And the baby, Harry, is sleeping. So tell me all about him.

TIFFANY

He's cute, and funny. He's a senior at Tech, so he kinda' graduated already with his job.

And he raises lizards.

KAYCEE

That had to get your scales ruffled?

TIFFANY

And he knows so much about them. Plus he gave me some helpful hints to stay on my parents good side. And he was so right!

KAYCEE

What did say?

TIFFANY

It sounded a little strange but it worked. He said "be a good kid and help around the house". He said they would be suspicious and he was right. Mom looked at me and asked "What are you up to?". I said "nothing" and went to my room. It was funny.

He said something about helping my dad, like picking up dog crap. I cringed for some reason and then he barks at me.

(In a STEVE voice.)

"Oh so when we get married, I'll have to change all her diapers".

Funny right?

KAYCEE

(Eyebrows raised.)

He said what?

TIFFANY

He would have to change all her diapers.

KAYCEE

Did you hear what he said?

TIFFANY

Yeah. He said when we ge...

(A look of utter amazement  
on her face.)

KAYCEE

Exactly! Why did he say we, instead of you?

As they stare at each other.

NARRATOR

Smart girl, that one.

KAYCEE

(Seriously.)

Have you told him yet?

TIFFANY

No. I try to steer our talks away from it.

KAYCEE

Do you think he suspects anything?

TIFFANY

I don't think so.

KAYCEE

Are you gonna' tell him?

TIFFANY

Hopefully it won't come up for a long time.

DJ holds sign - Midnight.

TIFFANY and KAYCEE exit.

DJ holds sign - Monday morning.

STEVE enters.

DJ holds sign - Monday 8 o'clock.

STEVE exits dejected.

NARRATOR

Maybe she's never coming back?

STEVE starts to exit, stops, goes to mark and picks up ugly big hat, puts it on.

STEVE

This is "my" narrator hat. This is for my thoughts, so that you know this is me thinking and not just talking to myself.

Pointing to NARRATOR.

He may speak for me but he doesn't think for me.

NARRATOR

(David Spade sounding.)

I kinda' do.

STEVE

I need it because these are for thoughts that I wanted in the script. But the big guy said no. And since he's the "Star", he gets his way.

(Boldly.)

The man behind the curtain. The Wizard of Oz. A wizard a true star.

Well, they can't stop the show now. The worst they can do is fire me tomorrow. But the understudy is not as good as me so, we'll see.

There comes a shout from behind the curtain.

VOICE

Hey!

STEVE

So I put this on to think these thoughts.

Pointing to the NARRATOR.

Male insecurity made him say that.

(If any in crowd laugh STEVE looks towards NARRATOR, STEVE: "See they thought it was funny".]

(If no laughs, NARRATOR: "See I was right as usual". STEVE looks at audience shaking his head with palms up mouthing "Thanks".)

STEVE removes hat and exits.

NARRATOR

Dude, we gotta' get you a woman.

DJ holds sign - Tuesday morning.

STEVE enters and begins work.

DJ holds sign - 8 pm.

STEVE bummed exits.

DJ holding sign - Wednesday 2:45.

STEVE enters begins to work.

TIFFANY enters STEVE turns around.

STEVE

Don't you think it would have been polite for you to call and tell me you weren't going to be here yesterday? I was worried sick.

TIFFANY

Sorry dad!

As they both laugh.

DJ holds sign - Almost 4.

At the same time they notice and together say.

STEVE and TIFFANY  
Time sure flies when we're together.

Both chuckle.

TIFFANY exits.

STEVE gazing at her as she walks away.

STEVE  
I would be the luckiest guy in the world if she would waste a little time on me. Imagine, a lifetime?

DJ holds sign - Wednesday 2:45.

KAYCEE enters next to TIFFANY.

STEVE looks as if something is different.

TIFFANY  
STEVE this is my best friend, KAYCEE.

NARRATOR  
And now we skip ahead. Not because this is not important but it is covered later. And since we don't get paid any more if we keep you here longer, why waste my time. You already paid.

Well since I put it that way. The End!

STEVE, TIFFANY and KAYCEE look to the NARRATOR and with cries from behind the curtain tell him to finish.)

NARRATOR  
(Agitated.)  
Fine. We skip ahead.

TIFFANY and KAYCEE exit.

DJ holds sign May 24 2:45.

TIFFANY enters STEVE with big smile.

STEVE

HI beautiful.

TIFFANY

I bet you say that to all the woman who come in?

STEVE

Well, but you're the only one I buy things for.

Handing her an envelope.

TIFFANY

(Puzzled.)

What's this?

STEVE

Well I heard your birthday was sometime around now, so I got you a card.

TIFFANY

(As she opens the envelope a wide smile grows on her face.)

It's beautiful!! A chameleon!

As she gives STEVE a peck on the cheek.

Thank you, it's the best one I ever got.

And my birthday is tomorrow.

STEVE

As he gives TIFFANY a hug.  
Happy early birthday!

NARRATOR

Never ask a woman her age.

TIFFANY exits.

STEVE is working, TIFFANY and KAYCEE enter, stand at doorway.

## TIFFANY AND KAYCEE

Hi STEVE.

DJ holds sign - Time flies.

STEVE waves.

TIFFANY and KAYCEE exit.

STEVE standing there alone  
pondering.

STEVE

What the hell, I think she likes me.

STEVE looks up to the heavens.

Just give me a sign, something anything, and I'll ask her out  
next time she comes in alone.

DJ holds sign - Friday late June  
2:45.

DJ holds up sign - The Moment.

TIFFANY enters.

STEVE

Hi, where's your buddy?

TIFFANY

She was going to the mall with her mom. Big sale.

STEVE

And you didn't want to go?

They both laugh.

(STEVE stumbling to get the  
words out.)

Well I'm glad you didn't. I was wondering... if... aa...  
maybe you... would you like to... umm... go out some time?

NARRATOR

Whew, that wasn't too tough.

(TIFFANY looks immediately  
to the ground fighting away  
tears.)

NARRATOR

That's not right. If she wanted to go out she should have said yes already. If not, then why the emotion?

TIFFANY

(Still looking at the ground.)

Well, I, I...

(Looks up but avoids eye contact, tears in her eyes.)

I'm, I'm... I don't know if we can. I'm, I'm... I just turned 15.

NARRATOR

(Excitedly.)

Did I just hear that right? 15? Come on now! Really? 15? No way! What do I say to that?

TIFFANY stands crying as STEVE fights back tears.

NARRATOR

(Solemnly.)

This woman, this woman who walked into my life and stole my heart just a few months ago. This woman, who has the elegance of someone more than twice her age. This woman, who has gotten so far under my skin and deep in my soul. This woman... is just a girl.

Only 14 when she stole my heart?

STEVE

STEVE hugs TIFFANY.

Don't cry. Don't be sad. Maybe we forget I asked and we just keep on talking, like we've been. How about it?

(STEVE fighting back tears.)

I've had fun.

STEVE and TIFFANY stand there in each others arms.

DJ noticeably upset. Holds sign - Sad face emoji.

TIFFANY

Backs out of the hug.

I should go now. Sorry.

TIFFANY exits quickly.

STEVE stands there silent.

DJ bummed. Still holding sad face sign.

Lights dim

Lights up.

STEVE still standing motionless.

DJ crying, slowly holds up Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday sad/crying emoji signs.

DJ holds up sign - Thursday 2:55  
Sad emoji face.

TIFFANY enters.

DJ holds sign - Happy face emoji.

STEVE  
(Happier.)  
HI, It's good to see you.

TIFFANY  
(Without emotion staring  
into STEVE'S eyes.)  
Hi.

I don't know... if I love you. When you told me that love is not just liking the way someone looks, but that it takes hard work to keep it going.

There has to be a connection of the mind and soul, I didn't know at the time what you really meant. I think I kinda' figured something out.

Well what I'm saying is that I don't know if I am yet. But I would really like to find out!

STEVE  
Do you really know what you're getting yourself into? Your world is going to be turned upside down. We can never see

each other, except when you stop in here for a few minutes.

We can never be together.

And there is no way we can let you "not" live your life.

This is a special time for you, high school, a new world is opening up and you must live it without the thought of us getting in the way. On some dream that has a hundred bad endings before it even starts.

The best we can hope for is to be like two boats passing in the harbor. For a chance that maybe someday we can both share the same dock to moor.

TIFFANY

I thought maybe we can run in to each other around town and say hi sometimes. Like the pizza place next door, or at West High football games.

The fair is coming up. KAYCEE would come along with me so we'll never be alone. And I can call you sometimes when I babysit.

NARRATOR

She put a lot of thought in to this.

STEVE

We would have to be very careful. We can't be together or there would be "big trouble" for both of us. And not to be a downer but we can't be in each others thoughts and never be talked about unless you and KAYCEE are completely alone.

I mean, I can't exist anywhere in your world. And you want a relationship like this? For 3 years?

TIFFANY

I know I would like to find out if I love you and if that's what it will take I will try my best.

Society may think I'm to young to make a decision like this but there have been many times in history that those who weren't thought of being able, did such big things.

They filled my head growing up that true love comes when I find a charming prince of my dreams. Then I do and they say, I can't love him.

Give me one good reason why we shouldn't try. There is a saying I have heard that, "If you love something set it free. If it returns, it is meant to be".

I believe that now!

I will build the highest wall to keep away from you. I will wait until the planets align for our chance. And some day the stars will shine bright on us.

STEVE

Wow you're even more amazing then I thought. I don't know if it will help. But since we can never be together. Since I can't be there for you to cry on my shoulder. I bought this.

Showing then handing her a small  
glass heart.

I don't know how things will work out. I'm sure there are going to be some rough patches, and I don't know if words alone can show my commitment to you. So I give you this, and know that you will always hold my heart in your hands. And I promise to love you forever!

TIFFANY

TIFFANY clutches the heart with 2  
hands to her chest tearing up.

I promise too!

They wrap their arms around each  
other and hug.

TIFFANY quickly backs out.

TIFFANY

To our no-relationship relationship! See you in 3 years.

They shake hands and pass each other to opposite sides of the stage to exit.

They stop turn back to each other and blow a kiss. They each catch it, hold it to their hearts and stare at each other.

NARRATOR

Here are some highlights from the first part of the romance.

OK I hear you saying first part? Yes, part 1 is up to the time when they are uncovered. Part 2 is until "The Day".

Not to spoil it, but if you didn't figure out where we are heading, then yes it does cost you more the longer you are here!

STEVE motions to TIFFANY, one moment and goes to mark and puts on his hat.

NARRATOR  
(Agitated.)

Again?

STEVE

The big guy didn't think this should be included but I think it's important. And since I just heard we get paid more the longer we're here. I'm up for an "All night'er".

TIFFANY shakes her head affirmatively.

I always called it "Big trouble" because I never wanted TIFFANY to have that kind of pressure on her. Knowing that my life is really in her hands. And no, I don't think she's clueless. I believe she knew. But if it was never mentioned that the law could get involved even if we do everything right by staying away from each other, then there would be less pressure on her.

STEVE removes hat and exits.

TIFFANY moves to mark and puts on hat. Which is too big and covers her eyes, she holds it up.

NARRATOR  
(Annoyed.)

You too? Come on, let's get the show on the road!

TIFFANY

Since he's not in my head I should tell you this. I knew what the problems would be before he asked me out. And I could not live with myself for destroying his life because of me.

I mean we could ruin 2 families lives even though we are breaking no laws or commandments. Simply because we know each other?

I let STEVE believe that I did not understand what the full affects of "Big Trouble" to make sure he did not worry. He did not need that kind of added pressure.

Stage goes dark with spotlight on  
TIFFANY.

SONG B: THE CALLING

TIFFANY

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS OF THIS LIFE I AM  
MAKING

A JOURNEY THAT AT TIMES IS UTTERLY BREATH  
TAKING

BUT THEN IT SEEMS THAT FATE IS ALWAYS  
FORSAKING ME THE CALLING THAT'S MEANT TO BE  
THEN MAKING ME A FALLING ANGEL WHY

WHY DOES IT HURT SO MUCH TO LIVE LIFE

TO LIVE AND DIE WITH EVERY MOMENT IN TIME

WHY MUST WE FIGHT JUST SO THAT WE CAN  
SURVIVE FEEDING ON SCRAPS OF HAPPINESS THAT  
FATE DOES PROVIDE

THIS IS NOT HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE

DID THEY REALLY

DID THEY REALLY LIE TO ME

LIFE COMES WITH MANY CHOICES FROM A DEEP  
DOWN PLACE YOU'LL HEAR THE VOICES  
THEY WILL LEAD YOUR HEART

WILL YOU STAND AND FIGHT  
IT WILL TAKE ALL OF YOUR MIGHT AND SO MUCH  
MORE

SO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT I AM SUPPOSED TO DO

WILL THE VOICES REALLY LEAD MY HEART TO YOU

IS THAT THE CALLING FATE HAS SET FOR MY DUE

I WISH I KNEW IF I WIN OR DO I LOSE

NEVER SAYING HI TO YOU

BEFORE THE DAY I DIE I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST  
TRY

DO I WIN YOUR HEART BEFORE THE DAY I PART

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS OF LIFE

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS OF LIFE

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS OF THE CALLING FATE  
CHOSE FOR ME

IS THE ANSWER YOU AS A ROSE FOR ETERNITY

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS OF LIFE REMAIN  
UNANSWERED

Stage lights up.

TIFFANY removes hat and exits.

NARRATOR

Back to the highlights.

TIFFANY'S grades improved and she got herself in to the Tech Center, some newfangled thing called "computer programming"?

Celebrated their first Valentines Day, he bought her roses and a card.

DJ holds up 3 wilted roses and  
dusty card, blows dust off it.

She didn't see them until March 17.

And that very special day that is dreamed about in every young woman's life.

No not that one, she gets her drivers license.

DJ holds up sign - Look out world!!!

Driving her grandpas three on the tree, manual transmission,  
Dodge pick up truck.

That instructor was amazed.

In addition to babysitting she got a job at the pizza place next to STEVE'S work.

Oh and there was harmony in the house, almost no screaming or fighting.

DJ holds sign - Next.

DJ holds sign - Busted!

Well the lid comes off. They're busted! But now they can have a relationship. And that is not important right now. He'll fill you in later.

Pause for effect.

Ladies and gentlemen. Our dear guests. There are many special moments still left ahead. And you will be hear of those when our show begins. But there is one more, the moment these two never knew if it would ever be.

Yes, that moment.

DJ holds up sign - June 8, 2 years later.

DJ holds up sign - Will you marry me?

DJ holds up sign - She said YES!

And we finally get to "The Big Day"!

Stage goes dark.

End of Scene.

## ACT I

## Scene II

SETTING: Same set-up but facade car parts have been removed to show table settings for reception.

AT THE RISE: All guests dressed in formal wear, and the wedding party standing around. As the happy couple enters thru door they are showered with dog bones. As they reach the other side of the stage they turn and wave.

STEVE and TIFFANY enter across stage.

Guest's shower happy couple with dog bones.

Custodian enters sweeping up mess.

TIFFANY

We're going to the Rock Hall to take pictures. Our limousine awaits. See you at the reception.

CUSTODIAN sweeps the dog bones. Looks around and slyly sweeps them under a table.

STEVE and TIFFANY exit.

Crowd cheers.

GUEST

Yea free food and drink!

CUSTODIAN

What about the \$100 toaster oven you had to buy as a wedding gift?

And the shower gifts?

The bachelor and bachelorette parties?

The new dress you bought, hair doo and make up?

CUSTODIAN exits.

GUEST  
(Sheepishly.)

Yea! Food and drink.

CUSTODIAN  
Don't forget the dancin'!

GUEST  
(Happily.)

And dancing!.

The guest's get ready for the reception and are all seated talking amongst themselves when a hush quiets the din.

DJ announces on his PA system.

DJ  
Ladies and gentlemen, I have the proud honor of introducing for the first time as husband and wife, STEVE and TIFFANY LYNN BARLETT.

There is thunderous applause as STEVE and TIFFANY stroll in to the head table, beaming for all to see, greetings and best wishes are flowing.

The dinging of the wine glass begins.

STEVE and TIFFANY kiss, the place erupts in cheer.

STEVE and TIFFANY sit.

NARRATOR  
Here I'm going to skip ahead, people eat and drink now. And since we're not feeding you, we don't want to have to clean up your drool from you watching them eat this fabulous feast?

Short pause.

As the feast has been eaten and drinks are being replenished he is supposed to thank the guests for coming and sharing in this memorable day. Give a hand to the wait staff. And say something nice to the parents.

Then shut up and sit down because it's her day.

STEVE

Steve stands and moves to center stage with microphone in hand.  
Ladies and gentlemen!

Crowd doesn't listen.  
Ladies and gentlemen!!

Some in the crowd start tapping the spoon on their dinner glass.

STEVE rushes back to kiss TIFFANY.

NARRATOR

Universal signal

STEVE

Hi Everyone, for those of you who don't know me I'm STEVE. The one TIFFANY married today. I want to thank you for coming today and sharing in this special memory with us.

Let's give a big hand to the wait staff for their outstanding job.

Applause.

Right now I would like to share a memory with you.

(Romantically.)

A young woman out in the world on a typical day, enjoying what it has to offer comes to the same "fork in the road" she has passed many times before. "Typically" she veers right.

Shaking his head sideways.

(Menacingly.)

That word.

Both of these paths head to the same place, to the right it's flat, easy to walk and it's shorter.

To the left it's rocky, and hilly. Plus much longer. For some reason she feels compelled to take the left path today.

(Musically.)

"Spring is in the air".

As she heads down this road she comes across a young man.

They meet, they talk, and stopping by for many days after, they become friends. As this continues into the future, there comes a point where their friendship becomes something more. They start a relationship and start dating. Their families are both excited.

This continues on for short period when the young man gets up his nerve and decides he wants to "Take the plunge". He does the typical, that word, honorable thing and asks her father for permission. Who happily OKs the request and also keeps silent until that big moment.

The time comes and he asks for her hand in marriage, she joyously says yes. Their families are ecstatic and plan large celebration for all the world to know.

Excitement grows as "THE DAY" draws near. Finally, they become "husband and wife".

(Excitedly.)

"Let the celebration begin!" roar the masses.

And... and I don't know anymore of the story because that is as far as it has gotten. But if I may, let me embellish the ending.

They raise a wonderful family, who intern raise wonderful families and go on to create many memories.

Then we look long into the future where these two "lovebirds", surrounded by family, complete their "final vows" within mere moments of each other. Laying in bed, arm in arm... watching Matlock.

(Proudly.)

'Cuz "Old People" love Matlock!

I wish I can tell you that that is how our story will end but I can't. Because that end does not exist. But the first part of the story, what I can say about that is this, that's not our story either. Oh sure that could be a typical love story but not ours.

Did you catch that word again.

What does that story and ours have in common? Not much but there is one thing. Memories. Memories are everywhere. Every relationship, every life has them.

(Somewhat musically and poetically.)

SOME GOOD, SOME BAD, SOME HAPPY, SOME SAD.

SOME YOU NEVER WANT TO FORGET, THOSE YOU  
HOPE EVERYONE WILL FORGET.

MEMORIES.

Well TIFFANY and I have created our own memories and tonight we hope to make some more with you.

What I'm saying is happening without TIFFANY'S knowledge. She has no clue what is going on. So my dear bride I will apologize to you now,

Motioning to TIFFANY.

should I embarrass you later, you know how stuff just comes out of my mouth when I talk about you. I'm sorry.

Should I say something that angers you, I'll be real sorry...

To the audience.

while I'm sleeping on the couch tonight.

Blowing a kiss to TIFFANY.

Speaking to the audience.

Let me share another thought with you. Women think and sometimes act differently then men.

You sound shocked?

Well first the typical way...

(Looking sorrowfully at  
audience.)

to rate things is, "The Top 10 List". Innocent enough but here are the differences. A woman's list is detailed and highly organized.

The list starts at 1, a memory is listed, then on 2 is another. So on and so forth.

Women though, will have 6 items on line number 1. 8 on line 2 and, do I really need to go on? So by the time a woman's Top 10 List is finished there are 212 memories, a bunch of happy thoughts and a few nice things about her mother in-law thrown in for good measure.

Then there is the detail, everything from "He sounded so nice when he asked me out, he was right on time", and including.

JENNY

"The lady sitting 3 tables behind us has on the wrong shoes for that top".

STEVE

On the other hand a man's, a guy's "Top 10 List" is one page.

Strike that, a half a page. There are 10 items written down, numbered but not in any order and in different color marker.

It's stuffed in the front pocket of his jean jacket. On top of that, 4 of them are the same memory just written in different ways so his buddies won't make fun of him.

And how we see things is also different, woman and a man, same event, different memories. And with memories "The First" attached to any event is always a good signal of how it will rate. A little perspective. She gets the first birthday card.

JENNY

Standing up, then sitting down.

Oh it was such a beautiful card. It had lizards on it. He wrote a touching personal note in it. And he signed it with an X and an O.

STEVE

What he remembers.

MIKE

Standing up, then sitting down.

Good thing she didn't throw it out, there's 5 bucks in the envelope.

STEVE

Side note, money in the envelope, not in the card.  
(Shaking his head.)

The first date.

JENNY

Standing up, then sitting down.

He picked me up right on time. The ambiance at the restaurant was amazing. The food spectacular. The conversation was so witty. He held my hand on the way back to his car and even opened the door for me.

MIKE

Standing up, then sitting down.

It's a good thing she likes to talk or the silence would have been deadly.

And she let me hold her hand. I wonder what might have happened if we went to someplace other than fast food.

But her nails are so long they hurt my hand and she might scratch the paint when she opens my car door.

STEVE

This time we'll start with him. He buys a small glass trinket and wonders if she will think he's a cheap bastard?

(With an inquisitive look to the audience. )

She gets a cheap piece of glass.

Holding in the air a small glass heart for all to see.

(Lovingly.)

And it ends up meaning more than the world to her.

TIFFANY looking a little puzzled, checks inside her clutch and shakes her head no. Motioning to KAYCEE "I had it in here?".

Or when he finally gets up the courage to ask her back to his place to see his lizard.

And she "wants" to see his lizard.

STEVE stares out at the crowd and admonish them.

OK you perverts, didn't you bother to look at the wedding cake topper. 4 legs, long tail, big eyes, eats bugs.

Reptiles, lizards. I raise lizards.

STEVE looks to TIFFANY.

Did you invite them or did I?

And people, this is not the place for such nonsense. Save that for our honeymoon next week, which by the way we will be jetting off to, hopefully sunny, Florida. TIFFANY has never flown before.

Yeah her first time and I think she has a few jitters. So I tried to calm her by giving her something to think about other than the flight. And one fun fact I told her is that "lizards" run wild and free in Florida.

So I'm hoping she'll see enough "lizards" while we're down there.

That one was for those of you in the darkness at the back of the room.

Now where was I before they disrupt things further?

Right, memories.

I will continue with another of my memories, there weren't many kids in my neighborhood growing up and my brothers and sisters would never play with me.

Crowd moans.

So I had to play with my imaginary friends.

Yeah it's true, ask my original parents.

And there were more than one. I did say friend'z.

My mom would make PB&J's for me and my BIFF.

(Questioning look to the audience.)

BIFF, B-I-F-F, best imaginary friend forever.

His name was Burgess. And I understand that some of you may be thinking that there is something wrong with this guy.

(Pointing to himself.)

And I agree. I mean what kind of kid would have an imaginary friend... and name him Burgess?

What screwed up kid picks that name for a fake friend?

DARLA and BILL laughing while nodding their heads affirmatively.

(Looking to GREG.)

And GREG, just be thankful we don't keep in touch or he'd be sitting in that chair today.

They say you make memories, I disagree. Memories occur, just happen. Yes you can set up an event but you never know what kind of memory it will be until, well it's a memory and then it's to late, you can't change it, it's a memory.

Well other than lying to yourself. Or making them up.

And then there is the anticipation of being able to make that memory. There is one memory that happens in every relationship that fits into that category.

You know the event will happen and you hope it goes better than good. Because, as guys know, if they falter or stumble or end up with their foot in their mouth, well there is a good chance the relationship will be over.

And with that in mind the guy will practice and practice so he is sure to get it right. I mean a lot is riding on this interaction.

Women though are much more confident. Things may not go perfectly but they know this is done with, and for love. And with love things will work out.

Typically, did you hear it, typically this event is somewhat planned. But whether it's planned or just happens, when the day gets here, it's somewhat of a relief to "get that monkey off your back".

Yes that event is... meeting her parents... her father.

And mine was even more memorable than most because I got to meet them at different times. With her mother it was just luck. At the time I thought bad luck but apparently I was wrong well, 'cause I'm here today.

Here is some more information you can use. At this point we were beyond the 2 year mark. And when TIFFANY got her job, that is when we started...

(Flashing quotations marks  
with his fingers.)

"dating".

(Mockingly.)

I see your heads spinning, typical date, dinner and a movie.

(Sadly shaking head.)

You said it this time not me.

Our "dates", were roughly 8 minutes long, depending on the traffic light. A few times a week though.

Now I know you are more puzzled than earlier. Since we worked next to each other and got off at the same time I would drop her off at home, OK.

This had been going maybe a month when on that fateful night I got to meet her mom. But what may have been my saving grace was that without knowing her true identity, I had been very helpful and friendly to her on more than a few occasions at my work.

I parked at the curb, as TIFF got out Mom approached my car and politely asked TIFFANY to go get herself a drink inside and watch a little TV while...

CONNIE  
(Terrifyingly.)

"I talk to your friend".

STEVE

You can ask the neighbors how politely.

Also, I never knew the word friend could be so frightening.

She climbed onto the front seat and looked over towards me. Then it almost looked like she was a little bummed out as she recognized me. She really was ready to "rip me a new one".

Without divulging the specifics of what was said I will give you an overview. Somewhat conflicted she starts in with a stern motherly lecture which rolls into a motherly threat. And then into a conversation between 2 people who care about the same person.

She finished with a friendly invitation.

CONNIE

We're having a few people over for the Fourth of July and I know her father would just,

(Eerily.)

"love to meet you".

STEVE

It was also suggested that maybe TIFFANY and I should not have any contact until the arrangements were set. A few days before the fourth I receive a cryptic phone call. With almost no emotion I hear.

TIFFANY

Come by Friday about 3 o'clock. Bye.

STEVE

It sounded similar to when a hostage has to read the ransom note to their parents while the kidnapers have a knife to their throat. A little ominous but she loves me, right?

The day was finally here. Her father invites me to sit and chat. I won't disclose the niceties of our talk, mystery solved, I'm still here.

I can give you a quick over view of what went on between her father and I.

As STEVE motions towards KEN.  
Vlad the Impaler.

And pointing to self.  
Peasant who has his head put on a pike outside the castle.

And I say this with no disrespect, I know the final decision on my future was his but I think I had a friend who overruled him.

With a quick look and smile to  
CONNIE.  
And thankfully the only fireworks were in the night sky.

Pause.  
But now let me get on with what I should have already done.

Applause. Applause.

You may hear some things that may reflect badly on my original parents. Some of it may be true but roll with the punches.

I'll start with, at the age of 12 or 13 with nothing but the clean clothes and new underwear I was wearing, I left home. The beginning of the "Golden Years".

No that's for "Old People".

"Terrible Teenage", that's it.

And I did not come home until after high school graduation.

My parents came to the ceremony and had to ask a faculty member who I was.

STEVE smiles to DARLA and BILL.  
I spent most of my time at my buddies house. The "Hang Out".

His parents thought all kids were special. They were parents, they were teachers, mentors, friends... warden and executioner when needed.

And it's not like I never went home, his mom made go me every couple of weeks... to change my underwear.

No, that was a good thing, it was like the "Bat Signal" to the "Originals". If they saw dirty skivvies every so often they knew I was alive and could still claim me on their taxes.

When I first started living with the MERVICS I would go back to the "Originals" home sometimes and sleep there.

Well the walls in our house, like a lot of houses, are kind of thin. And the one night I heard the whispers. And I don't know if you know much about "Old People"... but almost all of them are deaf, so their whispers can sometimes be, shouting matches.

STEVE smiles at his parents, they lovingly glare back.

What I heard shows you what raising 4 teenagers before, can do for their baby.

One said.

NARRATOR

Without back light in old voice.  
It sounds like a cult over there.

STEVE

The reply was.

NARRATOR

Without back light in old voice.  
They'll take care of him and maybe they'll teach him a skill.

STEVE

And I couldn't tell which one showed the most concern for me because "Old People's" voices are all gravely from yelling at everything they don't like. So I couldn't tell who said what.

GARY and KATEY thank you for what you did for me and to me, to make today possible.

Thank you, thank you.

I should also thank DON and LISA GREAN,

*And for this to work it needs to  
said real fast, as one word.*

"Spelled-E-A-N-No-relation".

DON and LISA are mom and dad to our outstanding, tremendous Maid of Honor, KAYCEE GREAN, "Spelled-E-A-N-No-relation".

These 2 people... I really know nothing about. But thank you for raising a great daughter who turned out to be a true friend.

You did an outstanding job with her. For those who don't know TIFFANY and KAYCEE have been joined at the hip since before grade school, 2 peas in a pod. B-F-F's.

To the audience.

So you see what I'm up against. This is how bad it really is.

Pointing to DON and LISA.

These two know more about my life... long before I do.

OK DON and LISA, your daughter is a true friend, a loving sister, a confidant, a shoulder to cry on, a boot to stick in your ass. She was and is a special person.

Although you have done nothing directly for me, and my knowledge of what you did for TIFFANY is bupkus. But the way you have affected my life is thru your daughter.

She was and is a big part of my, our lives. And I'm sure you don't hear this often and I don't think this is a popular wedding toast. But... I would take a bullet for your daughter.

Thank you for your part in my life. DON and LISA GREAN, "Spelled-E-A-N-No-relation".

Applause. Applause.

In olden days, simpler times, courtship and marriage were much easier. I would head over to KEN'S house with 2 milkin' cows and 4 egg layin' reds, chickens for those who don't watch the western channel.

And I tell him.

MIKE

I want your daughter.

STEVE

He would look at what I brought, walking around them and mumbling.

KEN

Wellllll, I need a good sturdy, fertile goat too.

STEVE

I ponder it a moment, walking around her mumbling and wonder.

MIKE

Is she really worth it?, I mean that's a mighty fine goat.

And I know DON has a sturdy, fertile daughter too.

STEVE

With just a slight reservation I agree, we shake and the big day is on. And here is where I also believe is where some other of the modern wedding traditions come from.

On "THE" day, I would bring my payoff to the church, hand them over to the Best Man to make sure there were no "shenanigans". At that point KEN, with his daughters arm gripped tightly in his hand, would drag her into the church. She grabs a handful of daisy's as she tries to break free.

Thru all the rows of chairs he pulls her to me and says.

KEN

Here you go.

STEVE

I would restrain her, KEN got his livestock.

MIKE

I hope I don't miss that goat.

STEVE

She throws the daisy's at me. Married!

Well the friar says a few things too but the main part is already done.

And as you see there are a few other traditions that were started back then.

And these traditions continued, modified from time to time over the years.

Then there came something about an "Equal Rights Amendment" and you weren't allowed to sell your daughters anymore for livestock.

(Annoyed.)

But a million dollar trust fund, no problem!

Then they let women get involved in the wedding and they made it all "girlie" and had to make their friends part of it.

And now ladies and gentlemen, our Maid of Honor and BFF, KAYCEE GREAN, "Spelled-E-A-N-No-relation".

And I believe you may have heard the title that flows when ever she is mentioned. With a typical meeting of 2 or more people.

Shaking head.

Why do I try.

You shake hands, say hello, tell them your name, exchange pleasantries and get on with business. And not set in stone, the order listed is typically the way. And that word appears again.

When TIFFANY brought KAYCEE to the gas station for the first time I noticed something a bit odd about this one. Felt kind of familiar, comfortable and I thought OK I can let her into our pod.

TIFF starts with the intro's.

TIFFANY

STEVE this is KAYCEE.

STEVE

Then KAYCEE activated and no lie it was 6 or 7 minutes before I got word in.

And I'm not sure if she ever took a breath?

But what struck me as different is what I thought of her, "rational".

Then I wondered how many times she has said it, and this is how we met.

I quote.

KAYCEE

I'm KAYCEE GREAN, and that's spelled E-A-N and there is no relation between us.

STEVE

And those not up to speed TIFFANY'S name was Green. G-R-E-E-N. So I quickly picked up how these two became such good friends. Because of alphabetically.

They sat one in front of the other for some many hours. So many days. So many years.

It didn't hurt that they live only a few houses apart either.

If you think about it KAYCEE was always first because of that damn A.

Her ancestors must have thought that they were special.

DON

I'll show the rest of my family how special I am and change the E to an A. Now I can get there first... if it's done alphabetically.

STEVE

And looking back to that opening salvo I realized that we never said hello to each other. You just flew past that and tried to complete your mission.

So "Hello it is very nice to meet you"!

STEVE shakes KAYCEE'S hand.

STEVE kisses KAYCEE'S hand holding it in both of his.

KAYCEE, you know how I feel about you. And I don't know if I can ever repay you for what you did. But I can tell you this, with all these witnesses, that I will do what ever I can, whenever I can to make up for the love you showed both me and TIFFANY. And I would like to try a take a small jab at that now.

Still holding KAYCEE'S hand, STEVE turns slightly towards GREG showing him his wedding ring.

This is a ring, she wants one.

STEVE kisses KAYCEE'S hand and nods a "You're welcome" to her.

TIFFANY rises.

TIFFANY

I need to add a few sentiments of mine.

Greg, you entered our lives with great endorsement, being part of KAYCEE'S life. And you took it in stride when you saw our world, and did become a true friend to STEVE and myself. Thank you.

And KAYCEE, from before the day you came to the gas station you always had my best interest at heart. Thru all of the happiness and sorrows you were there.

I don't know where my life would have gone had you not been there for me. And for us,

(Pointing to STEVE and herself.)

but know you are the sister I never had.

We've shared so much in life, I am so happy to be able to share this day with you.

Thank you for everything. I love you both.

KAYCEE wipes away tears and stands  
to hug TIFFANY. GREG stands and  
hugs TIFFANY.

TIFFANY, KAYCEE and GREG sit.

STEVE

Ditto.

Since I just threw him under the bus, I guess I have to say a few nice things about my Best man, GREG FULSOME everyone.

A lot of times seniority plays a big part in picking a Best Man. Brothers, known each other most of their lives. Family, you know blood, and spilled each others. No not that one.

Good friend, almost a lifelong companion, Seen and done many things together. "Blood, sweat and tears". No not that either.

Pointing to the wedding party.

MIKE, BEN and me, kinda' like... "Three Musketeers", "Thru hell and high water".

GREG and I... "A Weekend at Bernie's"... "part 2".

(STEVE appears puzzled.)

Was there an emotional or traumatic event that we bonded over?

No he just appeared out of nowhere one day. Thinking about it he is somewhat cheap, didn't talk a lot, really just came in on the coattails of a friend. He does drive us in a Lexus sometimes, if I pay for gas.

Well, after all sorts of thought and when there are no clear answers you end up listening to that little voice in your head.

Glancing sternly at the crowd.

I said voice, not voices.

Besides I don't hear voices. I have conversations with friends.

I'm talking about your conscience. Tells you "right from wrong", "leads you down the right path".

That little voice in my head.

And "she" said!

Glancing at TIFFANY.

TIFFANY

He's her boyfriend, that's why!!!

STEVE

Yes they are dating. Wouldn't today have been interesting if they were fighting or broke up?

There was a time when I looked at this situation as we were the three peas and he was a pod. I can't think of the specific reason as to when or why he became my, our Best Man.

Hell, maybe it was because he let me drive the Lexus? But he ended up being our fourth pea because he became part of this relationship.

And I would like pass along some more words of wisdom to him. It is only four words, but it's meaning is so very powerful.

It can change your life. I can only imagine that a lot of you have heard this, and GREG, if this is not the first time you've heard it then take it for the knowledge it holds and with the love it is given.

(STEVE clears throat.)

Buy her a ring!

STEVE holds KAYCEE'S hand and gives it a kiss and tells her.

You are welcome!

OK! These next two have probably known me the longest. BILL and DARLA BARLETT.

And some of you who do not know me, may have heard stuff come out of my mouth which makes you wonder why my parents haven't walked out yet. And you may not understand some of my endearing terms. And I will hopefully explain.

And so none of you in the crowd have problem with me, and want to slash my tires later, listen up. Mom, Dad, I love you so much. I know I would not be here today if you didn't... you know what you did to make me. Thank you.

Seriously, these wonderful people understand that when things slip out, they know it was slipped with love. And they understand that there is something wrong up here.

STEVE pointing to his head and with a slight look to BILL and DARLA.

Here is some more information you may find useful.

You may have, and if not you will hear, the term "Old People". First the term is in quotes and each word's first letter is capitalized.

What does it mean you ask? Well the term is a way to describe a lifestyle. Again I see that look so here is a visual.

An "Old People" is usually not a single entity. They're pack animals.

Yeah I know that sounds pretty bad but my other explanation is worse. So I'll tell that one too.

It occurred to me one day that they are similar to... roaches.

(Excitedly.)

I said similar!

But there are 2 major differences between these two species. Cockroaches don't stink, but more importantly roaches only come out at night and scurry away when you turn on the lights.

"Old People" come out in full force during the day.

(Getting agitated.)

They get in the way. They don't move.

(Getting more agitated.)

They pay with pennies.

(Getting more agitated.)

They can't drive or park.

(Almost screaming.)

And they yell at the top of their lungs because of the hippies and nothing cost's a nickel any more.

(Calming down.)

There is some good news on that front. They all lock themselves in their houses after they are finished with the early bird special and get ready for Matlock on TV.

(Nervously.)

But then they wait for sunrise to do it all over again.

Besides my parents know they are not "Old People". I know they are not "Old People". And they know that if I ever think they are becoming "Old People", I will lock their asses away in an old folks home.

So how did I keep her a secret?

"Don't Lie".

At this point I hear you saying "yeah his parents are right", but let me explain. If you don't lie there is no trouble and we all know when you lie to your mother it somehow affects her chances of having grandchildren?

And this is how you don't lie. Obfuscate.

Again I'll explain. If a question does not get asked then you can't lie, simple.

And this is where the trick is. I'll give you a perfect example, which will show you how it works.

Little Stevie is outside playing in the dirt with invisible friends.

Well I really don't know that they are his friends, so I'll say invisible people.

JENNIFER stands up then sits down.

JENNIFER

STEVIE, dinner.

STEVE

Pay attention now. We all know what happens next.

JENNIFER stands up then sits down.

JENNIFER

Stevie did you wash your hands.

STEVE

Since his hands are covered with dirt, he's busted.

Now here is what should have happened. As Stevie walks into the dining room with the question coming.

BEN stands up then sits down.

BEN

Mom what's for supper it smells awesome? Did you do something with your hair? It looks pretty. Your shoes match your top perfectly too.

STEVE

And the atom bomb of distraction.

BEN stands up then sits down.

BEN

Mom do you think I will ever get married and give you grandbabies?

STEVE

By this time her head is spinning and Stevie's sitting at the table hands and face covered in BBQ sauce, problem solved.

You think, well he's still going to have to wash his hands after dinner, right?

(Proudly.)

Not a chance!

BEN stands up then sits down.

BEN

Mom, you're the best, dinner was great, maybe you can teach me to cook for my future wife and babies.

STEVE

And he rushes outside onto his dirt pile and the BBQ sauce is now covered by dirt. Problem solved, no lies, you are welcome.

OK, this is what happens. The first of the calls come in. It was the second or maybe third time she called that the whispers started. With the thin walls, I heard from upstairs.

NARRATOR

(Without back light in Old voice.)

I think he's talking to a girl. She seems nice. I wonder if she can cook.

STEVE

Like I said maybe third call, in three or four months, she doesn't even know if it's a girl, or if she's even real. But, she already has a grandchild.

OK the guy meeting her parents has been covered. Her meeting his parents should not create any real excitement except if, say she shows up dragging 5 tattooed and pierced dirty diaper wearing, constantly crying brats behind her. Mom may cringe slightly but this one comes with grand-kids.

This will fill you in on what a wonderful son I am. Somewhere over the course of this adventure. I thought in my twisted ways, that it would be quite humorous if, when meeting Tiffany that they may have other expectations than what the truth is.

I don't remember when I decided this was a good idea. But it was finally time to "set the trap".

VOICE

Mom she's a fantastic girl, smart, funny. She'll be graduating next year with a computer programming degree.

STEVE

Now that doesn't seem like anything special. I know it was a while ago but there was something mentioned about our ages.

And really, I don't know what I expected from this. A good laugh, an awkward moment, there has to be something. Some kind of memory.

My parents were expecting us after dinner. I asked TIFFY if certain information can be kept from them for a 1/2 an hour or so. She did not ask for a reason.

I bring her in and the greetings are offered. We sit with refreshments and I hope for the best.

Right away she took control.

TIFFANY

What a lovely house. Your son is great. Blah, blah, blah.

STEVE

And it continues. 24 minutes into the show she sets my mom up.

OK here we are, the moment of truth. The set up was.

TIFFANY

And I really enjoy school.

STEVE

And if you did not pick up on what I was thinking. 22 year old son talking about a woman he is now dating and she goes to school.

"Hook, line and sinker" she "took the bait".

DARLA

What college do you go to?

TIFFANY

Technically East High School. But I go to South Tech Center.

STEVE

The next question should be and is.

DARLA

And how old are you?

TIFFANY

I just turned 17 about a 2 months ago.

STEVE

And there it was, months, years, who knows maybe even decades. Perfectly set-up, perfectly executed and now the grand finale.

Well, it was neither grand nor final. It was... disappointing.

Barely a ripple on the pond. I didn't think my dad would lose control, he's always been calm, collected.

What I got from him was "The Look". But not in the typical dad fashion. You know deep, menacing, terrifying. No this was a momentary glance.

He was intently listening to TIFFANY, eyes glued to her every word. I don't know if it was that interesting or if he can't hear any more and has to read lips.

(A huge grin to BILL.)

With my mother I thought I would get a gasp or a look of surprise and then the look from her. Very least there should have been a.

DARLA

(Excitedly.)

Steven!

STEVE

But she heard the news with her wine glass in hand. Takes a sip and does not miss a beat.

DARLA

Oh so you're in the class of '89. All my kids went to East High. I hear they still put on a beautiful prom. What size blouse do you wear so I can buy something for Christmas?

STEVE

(Shaking head.)

It's - not - even - August - lady.

We had a wonderful chat. I know what my mom heard.

DARLA

Smart, sturdy and young. 6 grand-kids.

STEVE

They were very impressed with her. Me on the other hand, as we will learn, was not as lucky.

I take TIFF home and return to find them in the living room.

I've known these people a long time and something should have told me to go straight to my room, maybe even climb in thru the bedroom window. But nooo.

They should have been sitting on the couch, lights low, next to each other watching... anybody?

STEVE motions to the audience.

*If no answer, VOICE from stage.*

VOICE

Matlock

STEVE

Thanks for listening folks.

No, they were at each end of the couch, arms folded. All the lights on, and I swear they went out and bought a few more lamps just to make sure.

Maybe my eyes were glazed over from love but I never saw it coming until it was way to late. I got to relive every "ABC After School Special" they ever made. And most of them had nothing to do this situation.

Did I say there was no surprise?

Mom Dad I love you. Thank you for everything.

STEVE moves in front of KEN and  
CONNIE.

Another, set of parents, number 3.

This is my chance to make up for all the bad things I thought he thought about me because of what he thought I did and I thought of him. I can get as many jabs in and he has to take it. If I really piss him off I might need somewhere to go for the holidays.

Besides this thought is one that really gets his goat, and it's a statement of fact. Nothing mean.

Staring at KEN.

(Mockingly.)

Guess who's sleeping with me tonight?

KEN glares back.

And as I thought about how great this would feel, it came to me that I did not know why I should find this moment to take my revenge so appealing.

When I thought about it, I won. And truthfully he, they have shown no ill will at how things went.

The longer and harder I thought about it, I could only think of respectful things about him, them. He had me over for a BBQ just so we could get to know each other. He gave me pointers on a good marriage.

And believe it or not on that July day, this caring man gave me ideas he had for a theme wedding.

He said something about saving a memory like that forever. I mean how can I express anything other than respectful remarks.

I thought and thought. I felt I had to do the honorable, respectful thing.

Turning towards KEN and CONNIE.

KEN, CONNIE you did something so many others would not have. Hell most of them would have shot first and not even asked questions later, just kept shooting.

(A few sniffles from STEVE.)

KEN, CONNIE, thank you for opening up yours hearts to me and letting me into your lives. And for allowing TIFFANY into mine. I don't know if I can ever repay you, but I will try my best to never let you down.

Shaking KEN'S hand and then gently  
kiss CONNIE'S hand.

Applause. Standing applause.

STEVE turning to and quieting the  
crowd.

Oh and for not gutting me like a deer and feeding me to the dogs next door.

Although KEN would have one framed for above the fireplace, I don't think anybody else would want to see that wedding theme in photos.

TIFFANY

(Excited.)

Really. That explains a lot from my childhood.

TIFFANY rises.

TIFFANY

I would like to add a few of my thoughts and thank you's.

First mom and dad, thank you...

(With a shocked look.)

for not gutting him?

TIFFANY looks to STEVE for confirmation.

STEVE nods yes.

That really explains a few things from my childhood? The nightmares, the evil games.

STEVE looks inquisitively at TIFFANY.

TIFFANY talking to STEVE forgetting the guest's are there.

There was this scary cult of "Old People" constantly coming by trying harvest body parts by stealing my nose and toes, then making me cry and everyone laughing about it.

Then the times they would send me off to my dark bedroom that they filled with bugs that were going to eat me alive if I fell asleep.

Again laughing about me having to fend them off all night long.

(Looking a little agitated.)

Oh this one went on for years, they'd drag me out in the middle of winter to some sort of Calcutta auction for kids.

I'd have to stand in this long line with lots of crying, scared children waiting to sit on this strangers lap, who tried to get personal information from us.

And we all know "you don't talk to strangers".

After he was finished prying into my life, they'd take pictures with him, me crying because "he'd" try to steal my nose.

Then I'm told about some fat guy that would break into our house at night because of this info and he would leave us lumps of coal because he thought I was bad.

(Angrily.)

Coal? I mean we can't even use it, they say it's bad for the planet?

VOICE

Solar really is the only way to go!

TIFFANY

"And" he would eat all our cookies and milk!

STEVE looking more confused.

TIFFANY

(Poetically.)

MY PET WENT TO THE FARM, WHEN IT DIES.  
SITTING TOO CLOSE TO THE TV IS BAD FOR THE EYES.  
PLUS THEY WOULD POP OUT IF LEFT THEM OPEN  
WHEN I SNEEZE.  
OR I'D CATCH MY DEATH GOING OUTSIDE WITH  
WET HAIR IN A FREEZE.

AND THE DOOZEY THAT REALLY BOGGLES MY MIND.

CONNIE

(Standing up then sitting  
down, in a screechy voice.)

Stop that! Keep it up and you'll go blind!

TIFFANY

They really are sick evi...

STEVE cuts her off mid word,  
pointing to the audience.

STEVE

Dear, the guest's? This might not be the best time?

TIFFANY

Oh, right.

(Nonchalantly like nothing  
just happened.)

And for all the love you provided me with and believing in my dreams. I love you.

And to my new parents, you did an outstanding job raising your son to be a man.

And DARLA a special thank you... for teaching him to cook. That's the only present I will ever need from you.

And when we are able to give you grand-kids I will gladly allow you to babysit and help raise them.

Because after what I just put together,

Pointing to her parents.  
I'm not sure I want to give our children my nightmares.

Finally to this wonderful man, my husband. Thank you for that first dance. You forever changed my world with the courage you showed to face the challenge of us not being together, then the whispers, the remarks and just plain ugliness we both knew we would face for just wanting to be together.

I could not imagine a life with out you.

TIFFANY gives STEVE a kiss and  
returns to her seat.

STEVE  
Ladies and gentlemen, this is said with respect and honor.  
And I may as well say, with love.

To my In-Laws!

KEN and CONNIE GREEN.

STEVE bows to KEN and CONNIE.

Stage goes dark.

Curtain.

Intermission.

End of scene.

## ACT I

## Scene III

SETTING: Stage is the same.

AT THE RISE: All guests seated and STEVE at center stage.

STEVE at center stage speaking to audience.

STEVE

Believe it or not friends that was all actually leading up to something special.

If you may have figured there was a theme to whatever I blabbered. The theme, no not that word. Memories. And since there is only one person I have not said much about yet.

Glancing to TIFFANY.  
The star of today's show.

But this is not going to be one of the sappy eulogies you just listened to. This I wanted to be, more special. And with holding on to the memory theme, I thought I would share a memory of mine, yes ours.

And you may remember how we recall the sweet thoughts, like a list. I've never had the guts to ask TIFFANY what's on her top 10 list.

Frankly there's not enough time.

I think I mentioned that none of this was planned or OK'd by the boss. I wonder if she's starting to panic yet?

Since so many of you heard her agree to that "for better or for worse" clause.

And I guarantee this will be one or the other. I would like to bring to my side the "Star of the show", the "Life of my party" and, I can't believe I get to say this,

(Lovingly.)

my beautiful bride, my wonderful wife TIFFANY LYNN BARLETT.

STEVE escorts TIFFANY from her seat  
to the dance floor.

Applause. Applause. Applause.

This is one of those private moments known just between the  
two, never exposed to the outside world... except BFF's.

But I have reason to believe that the information of this  
memory may have been leaked to 2 1/2 people who shall remain  
anonymous.

Giving a good stare to CONNIE and  
then KAYCEE.

And I know you all have a thought, and so does TIFF but hers  
is different then yours. Hers is.

TIFFANY

But I just told one person.

(KAYCEE shakes her head  
affirmatively.)

STEVE

No it wasn't an actual 1/2 person, to answer yours.

What I mean is this person got the information but he, uh I  
mean that person did not want to hear it.

(Proudly.)

This is on the every line of my "Top 10 list". Oh wait one  
more thing,

Repositioning TIFFANY.

face me dear since this is the way we were when we did this.

Wow I've never seen your pupils so big! Don't be nervous  
honey, you weren't that night.

To the audience.

Before I start I need to take care of a little personal  
business.

STEVE gazes lovingly into to  
TIFFANY'S eyes trying to calm any  
fears and leans in to give her a  
whispered message.

NARRATOR

I said this once befor...

STEVE interrupting and sternly  
scolding the NARRATOR.

STEVE  
I said this was personal!

NARRATOR  
But they paid and that's why they're here.

STEVE nodding head in agreement and  
leans back in.

NARRATOR  
(With passion.)  
I said this once before but this time it's so much sweeter.  
My love, you now forever hold my heart in your hands.  
And you were so beautiful in the moonlight.

STEVE asks the DJ.

STEVE  
Burgess, some mood lighting please.

Stage goes dark spotlight shines on  
them.  
And now some music.

SONG C: TIFFANY'S WEDDING performed  
by Capptann Cameeleann

STEVE

MEANT TO BE

RIGHT BESIDE ME

ALL MY LOVE FOR YOU IS FOREVER

MEANT TO BE

TOGETHER BESIDE YOU

NEVER MORE TO BE ALONE

MEANT TO BE

ALWAYS TOGETHER

FACING THE WORLD FOR ALL OF TIME

ETERNITY

IS NOW A PLEASURE

SINCE FATE ALLOWED US TO BE FOREVER

MEANT TO BE

SINCE WE MET WE BELIEVED

WE WOULD END ALWAYS END UP BEING

MEANT TO BE

TOGETHER FOREVER HAND IN HAND

SINCE WE WERE ALWAYS MEANT TO BE

PLANETS ALIGNED

STARS BRIGHTLY SHINED

WITH A PROMISE OF HOPE

TO GIVES US OUR MOMENT IN TIME

MEANT TO BE

RIGHT BESIDE ME

ALL OF MY LOVE FOR YOU IS NEVER ENDING

PLANETS ALIGNED

STARS BRIGHTLY SHINED

WITH A PROMISE OF HOPE

TO GIVES US OUR MOMENT IN TIME

MEANT TO BE

RIGHT BESIDE ME

YOU WERE ALWAYS MEANT TO BE

MY DESTINY

Standing ovation.

End of lyrics, spotlight off, STEVE  
and TIFFANY exit.

Guest's fold up table facades and  
cover them.

After the music ends GUESTS exit.

NARRATOR

A most magical night, Homecoming Dance, I have relived that moment so many times and it always feels like it was just yesterday.

Our first real date. Our first slow dance, to this most romantic song. There were so many first's for us that evening. Memories that you never want to forget.

It was a great time spent with KAYCEE and GREG. The decorations were beautiful. The same was said of our dates. The food was fabulous.

And then there were the stares and the whispers, everyone had their eyes on us and not just for the dance moves we displayed. We were the talk of the town that night. And the girls became very popular for the rest of the school year.

And with all perfect dreams, you don't ever want to wake up. We were no different. We tried to hold on to that moment as long as we could.

After we dropped KAYCEE and GREG off we had the driver take the long, slow way back to TIFFANY'S house.

But if you may have noticed "what you see is not always what you get" with this tale.

If you look back at what I said, there were just the two of us there for the memory you just saw.

(Slight pause.)

It was such a beautiful night. We were saddened that the evening had to come a close. The limo dropped us off at the end of her driveway.

As it drove away we meandered to the door to finish our memorable adventure. We're chatting about what great time it was and didn't want to have to say goodnight.

We stop just before we get to the door. We turn towards each other for the goodnight kiss when she shivers.

Although a nice night for mid-west midnight in November there was a slight chill that we did not notice at first.

Being such a great guy that I am, I remove my suit jacket and wrap it around her. We get all snugly with my arms around her shoulders, hers around my waist. We then just start swaying just as we did earlier with that wonderful dance. A moment goes by when I softly start singing that most enchanting song.

(Musically.)

MEANT TO BE, RIGHT BESIDE ME, ALL MY LOVE  
FOR YOU IS FOREVER, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE MY  
DESTINY.

I'm sure she did not hear the tone deaf voice that was singing those words because there was 50 piece orchestra playing in her head.

We danced for only a few extra choruses but it seemed like an eternity. We finally allowed the fantasy to come to an end with the most memorable goodnight kiss there ever was, until today. This was the icing on the sweetest cake I had ever got to partake in. Especially since there was a time when we did not know if fate would even let us "smell the bakery".

When we separate I open my eyes and look up to notice a shadowy figure thru the kitchen window in the darkness watching us.

I could not see who it was but I know I saw a tear run down her cheek.

Pause.

We never knew of tonight's standing "O". We were locked in the longest kiss ever recorded.

After that came our official wedding dance. They had to hear that magical melody again, but

(Said somewhat musically.)

*Capptann Cameeleeann* sang it for them this time.

The rest of the festivities were just as much fun. The cutting of the cake went off without a hitch. Although wanted by the crowd in the darkness in the back of the room, there was no clean up required.

We never did figure out if we invited them or if they just wandered in?

And guess who caught the garter and bouquet, GREG and KAYCEE. Maybe a sequel?

As much as the workers wanted to go home they let the party continue well past midnight, which was supposed to be closing time. They were having just as much fun as the party goers.

The memories the remaining guest's made were a bit of a blur with dancing, the drinking and celebrating. After one final toast the remaining friends were ushered out the door in to the awaiting taxi's.

We were so tired, we collected ourselves for the remaining part of our glorious moment in time, the beginning of our new life together.

We made our way to the honeymoon suite, for our first night of the rest of our lives as husband and wife.

As was true with most of our "not so typical" relationship our anticipated night together came to a close with us in this luxurious hotel room, falling asleep pretty much fully clothed, arm in arm on the bed.

Matlock playing in the background on the TV.

Stage goes dark.

END OF SCENE.

## ACT II

## SCENE I

SETTING: Honeymoon suite somewhere in Florida. Tables have been covered and 4 chairs added on stage. 2 front center and 2 rear center.

At The Rise: STEVE and TIFFANY sitting center stage in 2 plastic lawn chairs.

TIFFANY

The view from our balcony is amazing. That castle in the distance is so "magical"!

STEVE

I've always wondered how a rat like that could own it and all that property?

TIFFANY

(Glancing over to STEVE.)

Rat?

STEVE

Yeah, Donald Trump.

TIFFANY and STEVE chuckle.

To the audience.

It's OK, He lost.

TIFFANY

I can't believe our honeymoon is half over.

STEVE

Well, how about we take it easy after dinner. Maybe call your parents. I'm sure they would be happy to hear from you.

And then maybe call KAYCEE and rub it in. The TV said they had a freak snow storm last night.

They chuckle.

And I see you're starting to twitch.

TIFFANY

Am not.

STEVE

Oh sure, it's been more than a week since you two talked. I know you're needing a fix. Besides she's probably lost her buzz too!

They both laugh.

Why don't we take a walk on the boardwalk before we eat?

TIFFANY

Great! I like seeing all the lizards on the beach!

They exit.

CUSTODIAN enters and drags chairs  
noisily off stage.

Steve and TIFFANY enter and sit in  
easy chairs.

STEVE

That was a great meal! What was it?

TIFFANY

The Flipper special.

STEVE

Yeah, that's it. Well worth the trip.

Why don't you call home. I'll watch TV, I saw there's a  
Matlock marathon on.

Tiffany dials the phone, Steve  
picks up remote.

TIFFANY

Hi Mom, It's great down here. We're having a great time. The  
sun has been out since we got here. The beach is so beautiful  
and you should see all the lizards running around all over  
the place.

How are things at home?

Pausing for a response.

The weather channel said you got quite a bit of snow.

Waiting on her mom's reply.

We have a covering of white but it's nice warm sand!

TIFFANY lets out a laugh.

Wow, look at the time, we'll see you in a few days. You might not recognize us, but we'll have the nice dark tans.

TIFFANY looking at STEVE and smiling.

Bye. Give our love to dad. Bye, love you mom!

STEVE

I hope they're doing good.

This call may take a while so if I don't get to talk to you again tonight, I'll say goodnight now!

Leans over, gives her a peck on the lips and sits to watch TV.

Damn, its on the Spanish station.

TIFFANY smiles and makes her call.

TIFFANY

Hi Mrs Grean, how are you?

Pauses for a response.

Yeah we're having a great time. The weather is awesome. The sights are amazing. And the fresh seafood is tasty.

It's like I'm in a fairy tale. Is KAYCEE around?

To STEVE.

It sounds like they're having a party?

STEVE

Probably just the TV turned up loud. You know, "Old People".

TIFFANY

Hi KASE it's TIFF how....

(TIFFANY'S eyes open wide and a look of surprise on her face.)

At a 1000 decibels.

No way! No way really! No way! June! Really! No way!

STEVE

(Nonchalantly to TIFFANY.)

Shhh, honey someone's gonna' call the manager.

TIFFANY

(A little calmer.)

GREG just proposed! They're engaged! June wedding!

STEVE

(Matter of fact.)

I guess my toast did the trick?

Have fun.

Inside voice.

TIFFANY nods yes.

I'm going to bed. I don't speak Spanish.

STEVE moves to mark and puts on  
hat.

It took a couple of months before TIFFANY realized that I did not just happen to suggest for her to call that night.

As with all BFF's and the code that comes with being a Maid of Honor, I was also included in the discussions of the planning of the blessed event. Greg let it slip one night when we were talking about the engagement and wedding parties.

It was not his fault that this came out. No mortal can withstand that type of pressure, having been blind sided myself by non-stop wedding chatter, I know how things just come out without a thought.

Your mind just wants the noise to stop for just a little while and that is the time when you blurt out the first thing on the tip of your tongue.

I don't blame the young man he was green behind the gills. Especially when overwhelmed by these 2 women.

If I can highlight what may have led to why GREG became my Best Man. He bought the ring while TIFFANY and I were engaged. And this will show you why he is "A Best Man".

He did not want to interfere with our engagement or wedding so he waited until after to ask KAYCEE.

Was it just chance that TIFF called about an hour after they were engaged?

I've got the punchline. He let me drive the Lexus when "we" went to buy the ring.

Stage goes dark.

END OF SCENE

## Act II

## SCENE II

Setting: Stage is the same darkened stage. Lights are blue and dim.

At the rise: From behind the darkened screen the NARRATOR appears, hobbling down stairs and getting into wheelchair, NURSE pushes him to center stage NURSE exits. KEVIN sitting in chair and ANITA sitting at desk unseen in darkness.

NARRATOR appears from behind screen not wearing the hat, hobbling down stairs and getting into wheelchair, NURSE pushes him to center stage. NURSE exits.

KEVIN sitting in chair and ANITA sitting at desk unseen in darkness at rear sides of stage.

## NARRATOR

In wheel chair, opens his eyes staring back and forth at audience.

As I sit here, alone in my chair. Stuck in this place filled with "Old People". I can do nothing but relive those memories. All those years ago. Day after day. And that first day she came into my life.

Such a wonderful time. Our first Valentines Day, I kept those flowers I got her hidden on the pop cooler. It's why we met and it and it symbolized our love that was always in the air.

Then, unfortunately, I have to wonder why fate is so cruel? Why fate had to show its ugly head? Why fate had to take this precious, special, beautiful woman, away from me?

I don't know why we could not complete our vows together, surrounded by family, in bed, arm in arm, watching Matlock? The perfect ending for a perfect life.

If fate did not intervene it could have been. That is something that can never be answered.

Is fate like the wicked winds of a tornado? Randomly picking and choosing who's barn will be razed and which will be mockingly passed until it's next devastating trip around the block? Why did it have to settle on me?

I thought I lived a good life. Trustworthy, honorable, helpful to others. And she was so sweet, fate could not have held a grudge for her.

I can only hope she is in a happy place and wonder if there is still a thought of me.

Hopefully it is true that we are all reunited in the end.

So many unanswered questions.

Why didn't fate give us our "Happily ever after"?

Until the time I get to join you in heavens playground, I'll spend our time together, alone as just one life.

SINGERS enter on risers in  
darkness.

SONG D: REMINISCENCE music by ROD  
BEST

NARRATOR      SINGERS

(NARRATOR)    (**SINGERS**)

DOES ANYBODY KNOW

WHERE DOES LOVE GO

AT THE END OF OUR TREASURED GOLD RAINBOW

WHERE HAS MY LIFE GONE

AND MY LOVE SONG

NOW IN HEAVEN'S PLAYGROUND WITH HER ANGEL  
WINGS

YOU WERE MY BEST FRIEND

UNTIL THE BITTER END

LEFT NOW WITH THE SOLO SONG THAT I WILL  
SING

YOU MUST SURELY KNOW

MY HEART HAS LOST IT'S GLOW

UNTIL I AM NO LONGER LEFT BELOW

CAN YOU TELL ME WHY

MY LOVE FOREVER FLIES

WITH ANGELS AND FRIENDS WHO'VE PASSED ON BY

IS THERE ANY SENSE

PAYING THIS EXPENSE

OF MY ENDLESS PAINFUL MEANINGLESS PENANCE

**IS THERE ANY END**

**WILL MY HEART MEND**

**BEFORE I GET TO SEE YOU ONCE AGAIN MY  
FRIEND**

EVERY DAY AND TIME

YOU'RE ALWAYS ON MY MIND

**UNTIL I AM ONCE AGAIN BY YOUR SIDE**

YOU ARE MY BEST FRIEND AND MY WIFE  
BUT NOW YOU HAVE STARTED A BRAND NEW LIFE  
ONE DAY I'LL GET MY WINGS AND THEN  
**TOGETHER WE WILL SING AGAIN**

CAN YOU TELL ME WHY  
**MY LOVE FLIES**  
WHERE I CAN'T HOLD HER HAND

WE MUST NOW BELIEVE  
**WE ARE MEANT TO BE**  
LINKED BY A GOLDEN WEDDING BAND

IT'S FOR ALL OF TIME  
**AND BEYOND**  
THAT WE WILL FLY TOGETHER AS ONE

YOU ARE MY BEST FRIEND  
**AND MY SOUL**  
**ALL THE LOVE I WILL EVER KNOW**

MY BEST FRIEND AND LONE SOUL MATE  
AGAIN WE WILL HAVE OUR FIRST DATE  
ONE DAY I'LL GET MY ANGEL WINGS

ANOTHER LOVE DUET WE WILL SING

DOES ANYBODY KNOW

**ANYBODY KNOW**

WHERE DOES LOVE GO

**WHERE DOES LOVE GO**

AT THE END OF OUR TREASURED GOLD RAINBOW

IS THERE ANY END

**WILL MY HEART EVER MEND**

BEFORE I GET TO SEE YOU ONCE AGAIN MY DEAR  
FRIEND

**I DO HOPE SO**

SHE LEFT WITH HER LOVE SONG

**THAT SHE WOULD SING WITH ME**

NOW IN HEAVEN'S PLAYGROUND PLAYING WITH  
FRIENDS THAT HAVE WINGS

CAN YOU TELL ME WHY

**MY LOVE FOREVER NOW FLIES**

ABOVE THE SKIES

WHERE I CAN'T HOLD HER HAND ANYMORE STILL  
LINKED BY A BAND OF GOLD ORE

ONE DAY I'LL GET MY WINGS NO NEED FOR  
REMINISCENCE NO MORE

WHEN I'M KNOCKIN' SHE'LL BE THERE TO ANSWER  
HEAVEN'S DOOR

NARRATOR

(Sadly.)

I heard they tore down the old gas station last month. The place was a dinosaur, hadn't changed in 50 years.

I wonder if they noticed the cards and flowers hidden on top of the pop cooler?.

VOICE ONE

Hurry up, it's almost time!

NARRATOR is startled by a commotion from the other room, drops his cane.

VOICE TWO

Where's the remote, turn up the volume!

VOICE THREE

Anybody seen my teeth, I want a snack for the show!

NARRATOR

Damn "Old People"!

Nurse, NURSE BURGESS!

NURSE enters from side of stage, picks up cane and pushes NARRATOR to rec room.

NURSE

Don't worry STEVE I'll get you there on time.

I heard it's a new two hour Matlock special tonight!

Stage goes dark.

Spotlight shines from behind on Kevin sitting chair at the side of stage as he types a text and presses send.

Beeps and tones from text message alerts as spotlight shines on ANITA sitting at desk.

ANITA clicks on phone message.

ANITA

We've got a smash hit!!!!!!

Wow, he's never used 5 exclamation points before!

Stage goes dark.

End of Scene.

## ACT II

## SCENE III

Setting: Stage is the same darken stage with living room backdrops and chairs added. Lights are very low.

At the rise: IZABELLA and MARK are sitting in chairs when there comes a knock on the door.

Lights up.

IZABELLA answers the door.

MARK rises to greet guest's.

IZABELLA

Hi I'm glad you could make it. Come in, have a seat. There's food and drinks in the kitchen.

Guest's enter.

GUEST

I'm so sorry for your loss. I know he had a rough time since his accident. That day was supposed to be the happiest day in his life, but left him as a lost soul grieving in despair.

GUEST

How long has it been.

MARK

It was almost 16 years ago. I still remember that day as clear as today.

I had just pulled in to see Mom when that police car pulled in behind me. I had no idea what he wanted.

Mom was looking out the front window thinking I was getting a ticket.

That was the hardest thing I ever had to do, telling her that STEVE was in an accident and...

(Sadly.)

Rachel was dead.

(Angrily.)

That damn drunk driver not only took her life but destroyed his and Mom's.

It was almost one year to the day when Mom passed. She never recovered from that heartbreak.

IZABELLA

But let's not try to dwell on the past. Let's try and remember some of the good in his life.

GUEST'S nodding in agreement.

Please everyone let's sit.

Motioning to the guest to sit down.

Guest's sit.

One guest goes to sit in high back recliner.

MARK

Oh, no please don't sit there. That was Dad's, Mom bought for him shortly before that damn asbestos dust did him in.

No one's ever sat in it since. I don't think STEVE did either. Most of what's in the house is from our childhood.

Mom left STEVE the house so he'd always have a home, but he never took care of it or got anything of his own.

Guest sits in another chair.

GUEST

When we were seniors MARK, I remember you being all proud of him for winning the 9th grade science fair when he was only in 7th grade.

GUEST

He was also the only freshman to get in to the Tech center. Usually it's just for juniors and seniors.

IZABELLA

He was always smart. I think that came from hangin' with my Dad. He was the handyman of the neighborhood and STEVE was right by his side. Taking in all of his knowledge.

MARK

That's because there were no kids his own age to play with.  
(Guest's looking  
inquisitively at MARK.)

We're 5 and 7 years older than him and so were our friends.

Then there was a gap of no children but him, and then those still in or just out of diapers. So he became very independent on his own.

IZABELLA

And the handyman for the kids, fixing their bikes and toys. Luckily he got involved with computers. I think it was his only link to the outside world after Mom died. We would visit him, trying to keep his spirits up.

MARK

But then he just kept cutting us off little by little. Then even holidays became too much for him and he just kinda' gave up.

IZABELLA

When the visits stopped we would still call each other, and mainly talk about how the internet was going to make life better.

But then the phone calls stopped, he'd only send e-mails. Then those stopped too.

We tried to get him out of his misery but he just shut out the world.

If it wasn't for the hospital calling to let me know he was not going to make it, we may not have known for quite a while.

MARK

(Apologetically.)

I did have to look after my family and with my job? We tried but he wanted nothing to do with life. I think he was biding his time until... this.

So we'll be cleaning out the house this week and put it up for sale. It's needs a bit of work now and is only going to get worse.

I think STEVE knew it didn't matter.

GUEST'S react with sadness.

GUEST

How's your daughter IZZ?

IZABELLA

Rose is doing good. She'll be heading off to college next year. It makes me sad.

GUEST

Why because she's leaving home?

IZABELLA

No because it means I'm getting up there, you know "Old People" age.

Laughs all around.

GUEST

Did your ex send his condolences?

IZABELLA

No. I don't talk to him much. He rarely talks to Rose. We were married too young, right out of high school. We thought we were in love but we burned too many bridges.

It was not meant to be.

But I did get something good out of it.

GUEST

Was STEVE still into reptiles?

MARK

Lizards, snakes, dinosaurs. Anything with scales. But even that stopped.

His first terrarium had this huge tarantula.

(With a chuckle.)

Mom never went in his room again.

His fascination came from visiting Grandma and Grandpa.

On the way, there was this restaurant that had these huge dinosaurs. We always had to stop for lunch there so we could take a family picture.

At Grandpa's they had these little lizards called anoles. STEVE would try and catch them.

One year he made a trap and it worked good, he caught a handful, except.

On the car ride home, he went to check on them when one escaped and when it jumped on Mom's shoulder, she lost it.

It was the only time Dad pulled that f'ugly green Dodge Dart off the side off the road.

Steve loved it when Dad brought that car home. Brand new off the showroom floor.

But he hated that he always had to sit in the middle of us on car rides.

He really didn't sit much on the way home that time.

But then he lost all interest in life after the accident.

GUEST

I remember seeing him at his work. He loved that place.

Got that job through high school, didn't he?. Working on cars was what he wanted to do. And that place was a great fit.

On the weekends it was like a car show with all the hotrods and people.

GUEST

Isn't that were he met Rachel?

IZABELLA

Yeah. He had been working there maybe a couple of years when he fixed up that damn green dinosaur, after it had been sitting in the garage for so long after Dad passed. He got it running in no time.

And Mom was happy it was out of the garage, she could never get rid Dad's new car. She always wanted STEVE to have it.

And with it being such a big car they would have gotten through that accident without any major issues.

But as they were stopped at the red light, that drunk plowed so hard into the back end and pushed the car into the intersection.

The truck coming through had no place to go and no time to avoid her door.

The doctors said she didn't feel anything.

GUEST

I can see why he "hid under his rock.",

Lights dim GUEST'S exit.

End of scene.

## ACT II

## Scene IV

Setting: Stage is the same chairs removed except high back and another chair. Living room backdrops turned around to show barren walls. Lights are very low.

At the rise: IZABELLA and MARK are sitting in chairs.

Stage lights up.

IZABELLA

Wow, this place looks different. I've never seen it empty. None of our nick knacks. All of the old furniture gone.

Except for the few things we're taking, I'm glad that church could use his stuff for one of their parishioners.

MARK

At least a little good comes out of his sorrow.

Are you even going to sit in Dad's chair after you take it home IZ?

IZABELLA

It's a little weird but I think so. It is the only thing that was "Dad's". He never really bought himself things, everything was always for us.

And when he did he buy something he needed, Mom always made sure to ask for it. The games you play when you love someone.

Even though this place has been like a prison for STEVE, I don't feel that in Dad's chair and I hope I still feel some of Steve's happiness from when him and Dad would hang out.

MARK

Since they are now hanging out once again, in heaven's garage.

Well all that's left now is his room.

I haven't looked in it but I can't imagine there is anything special or exciting in there.

As they both shake their heads in sadness.

There comes a knock on the door.

IZABELLA answers.

IZABELLA

Hi DILLON, how's it going?

DILLON

Hi IZABELLA I don't mean to bother you while your going through your tough time. I hardly ever got to see your brother but he seemed nice. Never talked much when I did. I always saw the sadness in his eyes though.

I have a letter from a community theater in Eastdale that needs a signature.

IZABELLA

I wonder what it is. But I'm sure we're gonna' get lots of junk mail now.

Izabella signs for and takes the letter, opening and scanning it.

Eyes wide open, staring at letter in disbelief.

Mark, this is weird, STEVE got a letter from the Green Chameleon Community Amphitheater and he won their play writing competition. They're putting it on this summer.

MARK

Almost causing whiplash as Mark twists around.

He did what?

What do you mean they're putting it on.

IZABELLA

It says here that he entered their Summer Play Festival and he won.

They would like to start production as soon as possible. There's a check for \$100 for the winning prize.

With a look of amazement on IZABELLA'S face.

MARK

(Curiously.)

I wonder what's it about?

Looking to IZABELLA with his own look of awe.

IZABELLA

It doesn't say. It's called "And Now Our Lives Evermore".

We should check his computer.

Motioning MARK to STEVE'S room.

They rush in and turn on computer.

MARK

This is fitting, this thing is a dinosaur for computers.

IZABELLA paces as MARK fiddles  
around desk.

It's not password protected, it's not like he had any kind of  
life to worry about someone hacking his PC.

I wonder if we can easily find it. Oh looky there, a folder  
named "And Now Our Lives Evermore".

IZABELLA

Come on open it already.

MARK clicks on folder.

A look of shock comes over both of  
them.

(Excitedly.)

IZABELLA and MARK

Tiffany?

IZABELLA

Who Is Tiffany?

Their eyes meet with bewilderment.

Why did he name the folders Tiffany? It was Rachel. They were  
meant to be. Open up that one named "Her Story".

Mark clicks on file.

Wow this thing is over 100 pages, turn on his printer and  
make sure it has paper IZ.

Let's hope there is enough ink too, this might take a while.

IZABELLA leans over to turn on  
printer.

Printer comes to life.

MARK clicks on another file.  
This looks like the play he wrote! I wonder if this what he sent in?

IZABELLA  
How much longer, MARK?

MARK  
Here, you can start reading the first part.

Handing her a stack of papers.  
The rest will be finished soon. I'm gonna' read the script.

As MARK pulls the chair in closer to the monitor.

When the final page comes to rest on the paper tray IZABELLA grabs the stack and rushes to Dad's chair.

Stage lights dim.

MARK exits.

ANITA enters to desk.

Stage lights up.

IZABELLA stops reading and dials her phone.

Telephone rings.

ANITA  
(Happily and rhythmically.)

Good morning Green Chameleon Theatrical Productions this is Anita how may I help you?

IZABELLA  
Hi Anita my name is IZABELLA and I'm calling about my brother Steve Pike, he won your play writing festival.

ANITA  
Yes IZABELLA, we're all excited and hoping he is too?

IZABELLA

I have some bad news. He passed away last week.  
(Trying not to cry.)

ANITA

Oh my dear no! Oh dear I'm so, so sorry.  
(Her voice now trembles.)

Let me get Mr. Jeffries.

Pressing the hold button, then  
standing, crying and exiting.

KEVIN enters and picks up the phone  
and presses the hold button.

KEVIN

IZABELLA, Kevin Jeffries, you have my heart felt sympathies.  
I spoke to him a couple of weeks ago to let him know he was  
one of our finalists. We had a nice talk about his play. He  
seemed in good spirits?

IZABELLA

(Surprised and sounding a  
bit confused.)

You talked with him? For how long? And he sounded in good  
spirits?

That's a side of him we hadn't seen in a long time.

I don't know if you know much about him but there was an  
incident which took the "life out of his party" if you know  
what I mean?

KEVIN

We didn't get to personal, it was mainly about his play. He  
had a vision that not a lot of people had for this type of  
thing. To be able to tell a story and have that played out in  
the listeners mind is a gift.

Was he always in to writing?

IZABELLA

No, unfortunately since the accident he stayed very secluded  
and was tight lipped the few times when we did see him. This  
is the first we heard of this.

(Now almost ashamed of her  
ignorance for not knowing  
more.)

KEVIN

I don't mean to sound nosey but what happened to him?

IZABELLA

They had been dating for over a year when he bought her a ring. On her 20th birthday no less.

But he waited because he was fixing up our Dad's old car and wanted to pick her up in that when he asked.

A few weeks later when he had it running great he decided on the day.

They had plans to go to dinner and a movie that Friday. He would ask her at the restaurant. And in fate's cruel ways, STEVE forgot the ring when he left the house and had to go back home to get it.

He picked her up fifteen minutes late.

(Sadly.)

And he never forgave himself for that mistake.

KEVIN

Just because he was late?

IZABELLA

Yes, they were at that intersection because he was not on time. If he didn't forget the ring, they would be at the restaurant and nowhere near that drunk driver.

They ended up in the middle of a busy intersection.

He lived in a dark place after that.

KEVIN

That is a lot to have to deal with. I'm so sorry.

Pausing for a moment.

I would still would love to produce his play. He gets all the credit.

It could be a great memorial to him!

IZABELLA.

(Thinking for a moment with  
a look of amazement.)

That would be something special!

What type of timetable do you have? We're just about finished taking care of what we have to do here.

(As a smile spreads on her  
face.)

KEVIN

Well I know you may need some time, and I can start preparing for what we need. So if maybe we can get together in a week or two to hash out and sign things?

(As the pure businessman.)

I assume someone is an executor?

IZABELLA

Yes, that's me. I'll call you the first part of next week when things settle. Thank you. Bye!

Izabella staring at the phone in disbelief.

Stage goes dark.

End of scene.

## ACT II

## SCENE V

Setting: Desk cleared or is replaced with table and chairs and high back chair is removed from stage. Theater seats added off of center stage. Lights are low.

At the rise: TIFFANY STEARNS in chair next to PATTY under spotlight. Other patrons in theater seats.

Spotlight shines on TIFFANY and PATTY. TIFFANY gazing in the distance.

PATTY

See I told you that you would like it. Oh wow you're crying. It was kind of a sad ending but it was super funny. Right?

And the guy who wrote it is from our area. He went to East High a few years before us. That was neat how he used things from around town in the play.

(PATTY chuckles.)

TIFF what's wrong?

Spotlight turns off for PATTY.

Crowd gathers at table.

TIFFANY

(Staring into the distance.)

Oh I understand his pain so well.

What could have been, but because of the stupidity of being a bull headed teenager, my life forced down a different path.

That day was a normal school day. Gossip, boys and school crap were all I had to think about.

There were chores needing to be done at home but there was fun to be had at the rec center.

After coming home late then getting into a huge fight with the parents, my life was now over, grounded for a year and getting transferred to East High instead of West where I was supposed to go. Where all of my friends were going.

I had to get up more than an hour earlier, everyday.

And getting home was even worse. Just because we lived in that section of town. We could go to either school but West is better and closer. I didn't want to be an East High Wrangler but the punishment keeps me away from "trouble".

Then to make matters worse after being away for a year, so much changes when you come back. He's now hanging out with her, then they kiss and "they" are the couple.

The pain is the same. Even though you move on with life the pain still lingers.

Spotlight shines on PATTY again.

(Somewhat melancholy.)

That was beautiful, and funny. And so sad.

PATTY

This was the last day of the show aren't you glad we came? It's been over 5 years since your divorce, I was hoping this might make you laugh, not sad.

The writer's brother and sister are here tonight so people can talk to them afterwards.

Wanna' stay for a bit and meet them, TIFF?

TIFFANY?

TIFFANY

(Still absorbed in thought.)

Sure PATTY, we can get a bite to eat when we get in, what ever you want to do,

(To PATTY.)

but can we stop by and see his sister and brother first.

I just want to tell them how sorry I am for their loss and what a wonderful show this is.

PATTY

(Sarcastically.)

Girl, sometimes it's like your mind is back in high school where we met, when I sat in front of you all day and you were always dreamin' about some boy.

IZABELLA and MARK enter and sit at table and exchange pleasantries with crowd gathered.

TIFFANY and PATTY stand and walk over to IZABELLA and MARK at table.

Crowd exits.

TIFFANY

Hi, that was a beautiful story and I am so sorry for your loss. He seemed like such a wonderful person. My name is TIFFANY, TIFFANY STEARNS. My maiden name is Anole. I went to East High too. Four years after your brother.

Stage goes dark except for spotlight on IZABELLA staring at TIFFANY.

TIFFANY and PATTY move to the side of table.

IZABELLA

The folder is named "And Now Our Lives Evermore". Inside of that are folders and files of this story of happiness, that is filled with so much pain.

And the name Tiffany!

To the audience.

There is folder named with just a "Question mark".

And the two files inside hold the answers?

The first file that is in there is named "Read First".

IZABELLA picks up letter and reads it.

TO IZZY AND MARK

IF YOU ARE READING THIS I GUESS YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

I DID FIND LOVE WITH RACHEL AND WOULD HAVE BEEN CONTENT TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH HER. BUT SHE WAS NOT MY FIRST HEARTBREAK.

TRYING TO MOVE ON FROM THAT FIRST GLIMPSE OF JOY THAT WAS TAKEN, WHEN I MET RACHEL I THOUGHT I FOUND A GLIMMER OF HAPPINESS AGAIN.

UNTIL THAT DAY OF TORMENT WHEN I LOST MY  
ONLY OTHER LOVE. MY HEART WAS SHATTERED BY  
TRAGEDY ONCE MORE. MY LIFE FOREVER CHANGED,  
SENDING ME BACK TO A WONDERFUL TIME,  
"BEFORE" LOVE WAS NOT ALLOWED IN MY LIFE.

I HOPE YOU FIND MY ANSWER.

I hope you find my answer. My answer?

That was confusing but not as much as the file named "My  
Destiny".

Picking up and reading the other  
letter.

MY DEAREST TIFFANY

IF YOU ARE READING THIS THEN GOD HAS  
FINALLY ANSWERED MY PLEAS BUT FATE IS  
MOCKING ME AGAIN. MY FOOLISH DREAM THAT  
YOU'D RETURN TO ME SOMEDAY, FOREVER  
TORMENTING ME.

BUT THAT DREAM LIVES ON FOREVER. I KNOW WE  
SHOULD'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER BUT FATE  
CRUELLY SEVERED OUR TETHER. I DO NOT KNOW  
WHICH IS WORSE? ME NOT KNOWING OR YOU NOW  
KNOWING?

MY LIFE FOREVER CHANGED THERE AND THEN, THE  
DAY YOU WALKED IN. I GOT TO KNOW YOU AS A  
PRECIOUS BUTTERFLY JUST SPROUTING YOUR  
COLORFUL WINGS ON A WARM SUMMER BREEZE. YOU  
CAME IN TO MY LIFE ONE DAY. THEN OUR  
ETERNITY ENDED, SO UNEXPECTEDLY.

THE FAULT WAS NEITHER YOURS NOR MINE, JUST  
FATE WITH IT'S EVIL INTENTIONS. YOU WENT  
OUT THE DOOR AND THERE WAS NO CHANCE FOR US  
ANYMORE.

AND THE PAIN THAT WAS CAUSED WAS NEVER  
MENDED AND THAT IS A SORROW THAT HAS  
HAUNTED ME SINCE. THE LOVE THAT WAS NOT  
ALLOWED BECAUSE OF FATE.

WE WERE NOT GIVEN OUR MOMENT IN TIME. LIFE  
IS NOTHING BUT A CRUEL JOKER, TEMPTING WITH  
HAPPINESS THEN MOCKING WITH DESTRUCTION.

AND KNOWING YOU COULD NEVER BE REPLACED IN MY HEART I TRIED TO MOVE ON BUT THAT PEACE WAS RIPPED OUT WHEN ANOTHER OF FATE'S FICKLE FACES SEALED MY DESTINY OF LONELINESS AND SORROW.

I HAVE LIVED OUR LIVES TOGETHER SINCE THAT DAY, AS JUST ONE LIFE. OH HOW I WISHED WE WOULD HAVE SPENT ETERNITY TOGETHER HAND IN HAND IN HAPPINESS. YET FOR ME, WE DID SPEND ETERNITY AS ONE, UNFORTUNATELY IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO MASK MY PAIN.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT COULD OR SHOULD'VE BEEN. BUT KNOW MY HEART WAS BROKEN WHEN YOU FADED IN TO THE DISTANCE. AND TAKE THIS WITH SO MUCH LOVE, YOU FOREVER HOLD THE PIECES OF MY SHATTERED HEART IN YOUR HANDS.

I AM SORRY FOR ANY PAIN THAT MAY HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH OUR FRIENDSHIP. I HOPE YOU CAN SEE MY LOVE FOR YOU IN THIS. IT SADDENS ME THAT I NEVER GOT TO BE IN "TIFFANY'S WEDDING". I PRAY YOU FOUND THE LOVE I WAS NOT GRANTED AND HOPE YOU ARE IN A HAPPY PLACE.

OUR FINAL WORDS ARE ETCHED IN MY MIND FOR ALL OF ETERNITY. I PRAYED THAT YOU'D RETURN TO ME SOMEDAY. MY CRIES TO GOD WENT UNANSWERED. AND FROM INSIDE THIS PRISON ALL THAT I AM LEFT WITH ARE THE MEMORIES I MADE WITH TIFFANY...

IZABELLA pauses and looks sweetly  
at TIFFANY.

AND FROM INSIDE THIS PRISON ALL THAT I AM LEFT WITH ARE THE MEMORIES I MADE WITH TIFFANY, AND NOW OUR LIVES EVERMORE.

AND NOW OUR LIVES EVERMORE.

AND NOW OUR LIVES EVERMORE.

AND A, NOW N, O, L, E.

AND NOW OUR LIVES EVERMORE

A huge grin appears and a tear runs  
down her cheek.

To the heavens.

Fate you just had to take one more jab at my little brother.

Stage lights up.

IZABELLA  
(In a sisterly tone to  
TIFFANY.)

Can you hang around until we're done? I have a letter that I  
believe you might want to read!

Stage goes dark, as all exit.

KEVIN enters to center stage under  
spotlight.

KEVIN  
Although fate had kept two lives apart, it also set in motion  
the intertwining of so many events and happiness.

IZABELLA and TIFFANY found the sister they never had. TIFF  
was welcomed as if the story happened. She took to being a  
"Aunt Tiffany", claiming her official title for the nieces  
and nephews. Plus the grand-babies.

As for the new rug rats, Mark's kids gave him 4 and our Rose  
has given us 3. IZABELLA and I fell in love and got married.  
Her last name is now Jeffries. We met because of the play.

I knew that show was going to be smash hit. I guess I know  
now why I used 5 exclamation points that day.

IZABELLA enters next to KEVIN  
holding hands.

We married a short time after the final show. I found myself  
a new family from the sorrowful fate of one man's tragedy.

Stage lights up.

CAST minus TIFFANY G, TIFFANY S,  
PATTY, STEVE, NARRATOR and DJ  
enters and lines up on both sides.

It's funny how fate will just pick and choose who it will screw and then smile on others with such joy like nothing just happened.

As for the play, with some great leadership and guidance, it went on and is still going strong today, a great hit. No it's not Broadway material but that is not what is written for. It is in the high school and community theater markets for keeps. Still getting in to new theaters and playing old ones many times over.

This feat was all her. No not my wife but my sister-in-law, the star of his show, TIFFANY. After that night she accepted that it was her story and she had a new family. She did everything she could to make his dream live on forever.

She was the star so she too, will live hand in hand, for all eternity with the man from this dream.

PATTY became our sister and aunt also. She got involved with the play as creative consultant and not long into one of the road trips she met a composer, David Stanton. They got married, had a child of their own and also wrote some songs that are in the "Top Ten List" for some big name people. We still get together when they come to town.

After turning her story in to it's own thriving universe, that sweet butterfly, who brought together all these lives on that warm spring day so many years before, built an empire of her own.

What she was really excited about.

She started with one rescue dog, taking it to senior centers and assisted living facilities to bring some love and joy to elderly lives. It became a huge success, she was flooded with request's to visit.

Then she teamed up with some local rescue shelters and was not only able to give a purpose to lonely "Old People", she gave new life to forgotten animals.

TIFF would even bring a pony to one lady who had one as a child. She was able to bring her so much joy and happiness for the last year of her life.

You should see the smiling faces on animals on their car ride to the homes. The smiles from the residents when we pull up is even more precious. I am still lucky to get to experience that pleasure.

It's now nation wide. And it's changed the lives of millions. It's called Bring Animals Love To Elder Souls.

TIFFANY offered shortly after coming into our family to explain what kept her away from STEVE but not a single one of us cared to hear the answer.

Although I believe in secret she told my wife and of course PATTY.

It did not matter why, all that mattered is we were here together.

And if she did not share this secret then no-one will ever know. She passed away a couple of years ago. Cancer, quickly and cruelly took her away.

But they are laid to rest next to each other.

They may not have been able to "live" the dream, but they will live in history, finally side by side, hand in hand, together forever in heaven's playground.

As sad as it is that Steve never knew he succeeded in this plan that he started to find a lost love. But he has changed the lives of so many, in ways that he could not foresee.

He always gave of himself for those around him. And is still giving to this day.

If fate hadn't reared it's ugly head so many years ago on that spring afternoon to start this fickle game, you would never have gotten to hear of my happily ever after.

My story, from my memories with the woman of my dreams. The love story of how we met, and the joy and happiness we created with our new families.

From one sorrowful summer day far in the past when love was lost, to a world changing event for so many others in their future.

Fate, does it really have a plan?.

Stage goes dark.

The end.

Stage lights up.

Curtain call

KEVIN and IZABELLA still lined up  
take bow then extend arms as CAST  
step forward to take their bows.

NARRATOR, TIFFANY S, PATTY and DJ  
enter, step forward for bow.

TIFFANY G and STEVE enter, step  
forward for bow.

Everyone lines up and takes bow  
together.

TIFFANY S steps forward and quiets  
audience.

TIFFANY S

Thank you all. You were a great guests. You played your parts well, [*especially this section*]. We hope you enjoyed yourselves. If you did, please tell your friends about us. If you didn't... tell the people you don't like.

Friends, I must ask you to hold your applause until I am done, and then I will ask a favor from you.

(Loudly)

Minions!

Stage hands enter from side of  
stage, proceed across the front  
waving at audience, then line up at  
rear of stage.

Just ignore them, we do!

Ladies and gentlemen at this point in the show you, and we, would expect us to thank you all for coming tonight. But I have been told not to.

(Looking befuddled)

Yeah that's the same look I had too. But then he explained it in his twisted way of looking at life. And now I must thank him for a new phobia that he placed in my mind.

As some of you may know, actors may be a bit superstitious, might have a few quirks. Well this writer is in a league of his own with things like that and this is one that I don't think most of us ever thought of this way. The intermission!

Some of you know where this is heading, the intermission or as he likes to call it, the escape hatch. It's your chance to get out of this crappy show without being noticed.

And our new fear, when the curtain opens to start the second Act, there are 10 people left in the seats. So, thanks Steve! I haven't slept good in weeks!

But as hard as it is to get you to come here, in his world he thinks that is the easy part.

The hard part is getting you to come back from intermission. So from the bottom of our hearts and especially his, thank you all for staying until the end of the show.

Thank you so very much!

Cast and Crew applauds audience.

Pointing at crew with thumb over shoulder.

And now to them.

POEM:  
(Poetically.)

HIDDEN BEHIND THE CURTAIN, WHERE YOU DON'T  
SEE. WE ABUSE THEM, WE NEGLECT THEM TOO

WE OVERLOOK THEM AND WE "EXPECT" THEM,  
RIGHT ON CUE.

BUT WITHOUT THEM ALWAYS STAYING SO NEAR

TONIGHT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN, WE WOULD NOT BE  
HERE.

When I or we make a mistake, you get a good laugh from it or we get a high five and a "nice recovery" back stage afterwards.

But when these folks screw up with a prop or costume, "we" think it's a complete disaster. But they are great and haven't.

Also to the ushers who keep this place from turning into a mosh pit with you guys fighting for the best seats.

And to our audio, video and lighting guys, (*who happen to be some wonderful women*). They may never get the opportunity to enjoy this side of the spotlight, but without all of them, we would be up here in our underwear, singing a-Capella, in the dark.

So if you would please, rise with us and give these unsung heroes, their moment in time.

CAST turns to and applauds Crew.

Tonight in it's own unique way is about memories.

(Poetically.)

POEM:

SOME GOOD, SOME BAD, SOME HAPPY, SOME SAD

THE ONES WE HOPE NO ONE WILL REMEMBER

THOSE WE PRAY, THAT WE WILL NEVER EVER FORGET

YET WE PRETEND TO BELIEVE BUT DEEP DOWN INSIDE

WE KNOW, THAT IT'S REALLY NOT TRUE

THAT WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO MAKE

TO MAKE SO MANY MORE MEMORIES, WITH YOU

IN OUR MINDS IF YOU COULD YOU WILL SEE

THOUGHTS THAT WE WILL NEVER LET FADE

THESE ARE SOME OF OUR DEAREST MEMORIES

...THAT CAN NO LONGER AGAIN BE MADE

Please add yours with ours too!

THIS IS FOR ALL OF OUR LOVED ONES PLAYING  
IN HEAVENS PLAYGROUND HOLDING GOD'S HAND

MICHAEL, ONE MORE TIME

LET'S STRIKE UP THE BAND.

Crew separate to sides of stage.

Cast lines up across stage.

SONG E: HEAVENS PLAYGROUND.

TIFFANY S SINGERS

(TIFFANY S) (**SINGERS**)

NARRATOR moves to top of riser.

MY SOUL CRIES DEEP INSIDE FROM LOVE THAT  
HAS NOW DIED

HAVING BEEN LED ASTRAY INSTEAD OF BEING  
WITH YOU TODAY

LIFE IS NO LONGER THE SAME PLAYING FATE'S  
FICKLE GAME

GLOOMINESS IS WHAT I SEE WITH YOU BEING  
AWAY FROM ME

TRAGIC CRUEL ETERNITY

PART OF OUR DESTINY IS YOU NOW FLYING WITH

Angel wings appear back lit behind  
NARRATOR.

**YOUR NEW ANGEL WINGS**

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO AWAY

I STILL MISS YOU SO EACH AND EVERY DAY

**WE WERE MEANT TO BE FOR ALL OF TIME**

**BUT FATE DECIDED TO TOE A VERY DIFFERENT  
LINE**

TAKING YOUR HEART AWAY IN IT'S PRIME  
WITHOUT A SIGN

**SUCH A SPECIAL TREASURED JEWEL TAKEN TO  
WHERE INFINITY POOLS**

PLAYING NOW IN HEAVEN'S PLAYGROUND

YET MY LOVE IS STILL EARTH BOUND

**NEVER WAVERING ALWAYS SAVORING**

**ANTICIPATING THE DAY WE ARE TOGETHER AGAIN**

TAKEN AWAY TOO SOON UNDER THAT AUGUST MOON

ONE DAY I KNOW

I'LL FLY TOGETHER WITH YOU MY FRIEND

WE WERE NEVER GIVEN MUCH OF A CHANCE

ONLY ALLOWED TO HAVE ONE SHORT DANCE

BARELY ANY TIME FOR LOVE TO BE

NO BRAIN FULL OF

JUST A SOLITARY MEMORY

AN UNREPLACEABLE MEMORY

AND THOSE LAST WORDS YOUR HEART SAID TO ME

**WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO SO FAR AWAY**

**I STILL MISS YOU SO EACH AND EVERY DAY**

**WE WERE MEANT TO BE FOR ETERNITY**

**NOW I AM LEFT ONLY WITH YOUR UNBREAKABLE  
LOVING MEMORY**

FILLING A HOLE

A BIG VOID IN MY SOUL

CAST separate to sides of stage.

I'M PLAYING ALONE IN THIS LIFE ON MY OWN  
UNTIL

TIFFANY moves to the bottom of the  
risers staring at NARRATOR.

**PLAYING NOW IN HEAVEN'S PLAYGROUND**

**AND MY LOVE IS STILL EARTH BOUND NEVER  
WAVERING ALWAYS SAVORING THAT GLORIOUS DAY  
WHEN WE WILL BE TOGETHER AGAIN**

TAKEN AWAY TOO SOON FROM UNDER THAT BLUE  
AUGUST MOON

TIFFANY climbs the risers, NARRATOR  
extends his hand.

ONE DAY WE'LL GET TO FLY TOGETHER AGAIN MY  
FRIEND AND THEN

TIFFANY gets to top of the risers  
and holds NARRATOR'S hand.

Singers start dancing.

**WE'LL GET OUR DATE**

TIFFANY and NARRATOR hug.

Heart logo replaces angel wings  
silhouette when they hug.

**JUST HAD TO WAIT**

**BLAME IT ALL ON FATE**

**IT'S BEEN LONG OVERDUE**

**TO DANCE AGAIN**

**ARM IN ARM WITH YOU**

**WHEN I'M DONE PLAYIN' ON LIFE'S MERRY GO  
ROUND**

**WE'LL HAVE OUR FUN**

**TOGETHER FOREVER IN HEAVEN'S PLAYGROUND**

Stage goes dark except for  
silhouette of heart logo behind  
TIFFANY and NARRATOR, still  
hugging.

The End

Curtain

Exit Song F: Recorded - Flying with Angel Wings music by  
Dennys Perdomo.

SONG F: FLYING WITH ANGEL WINGS  
MUSIC BY DENNYS PERDOMO

Such a special treasured jewel  
Taken to where infinity pools  
Where did you go with my heart  
You took a big part from the very start  
And now I'm here living life on my own  
What did I do to be left so alone  
Why must you be far away from me  
No longer part of my eternity  
Now you're flying with angel wings  
Left with the heavenly song you sing  
Tiffany where did you go

I still love you so

Such a special treasured jewel taken to where infinity pools

I was told it's part of God's grand plan but I could never truly understand

Why must I be sentenced to paying this endless penance

No one to this day can ever really say why your love had to be taken away

Where did you go with my heart

You took a big part from the very start

And now I'm here living life on my own

What did I do

To be left so alone

Why must you be so far away from me

No longer part of my eternity

Now you're flying with angel wings

Left with only the song we'd sing

Tiffany why'd you have to go

I do miss you so more than you'll know

Flying now with heavens angel wings

Everyday I hear the love song you sing to me

Such a special treasured jewel taken to where infinity pools

I was told it's part of God's grand plan but I could never truly understand

Why must I be sentenced to paying this endless penance

No one to this day can ever really say why your love had to be taken away

Tiffany why'd you have to go I still miss you so

I was told it's part of God's grand plan but I could never  
truly understand

Tiffany do know

I still love you so