

First Love

A full-length play

By Alex Rubin

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Cast

[in order of year and appearance]

1976-78

*KATHRYN, 14

*JAKE, JR., 16

*CAMILLE, mid-30s

*JACOB, SR., mid-30s

Present Day

*MANDY, a high school English teacher, Dan's wife, mid-40s

*DAN, a high school math teacher, Mandy's husband, mid-40s

*KELLY, 14, Dan and Mandy's daughter

*GREG, 16, Dan and Mandy's son

CAMILLE, mid to late 60s

*The following roles are doubled by the same actor/actress:

Kathryn/Kelly, Jake/Greg, 1970's Camille/Mandy, 1970's Jacob, Sr./Dan.

Voices

A male voice over the school's PA system

2 police officers

Locations

A note on locations: Although the play depicts many locations in two time periods, it is absolutely possible (and encouraged) to be treated in a basic way. If desired, these times and places can be conveyed with something as simple as a specific chair.

1975-79, Oregon

A classroom

A park

The Walker house kitchen and living room

A park in San Francisco

Present Day

A classroom in New Jersey

A motel bathroom

A motel bedroom

A rest stop

A diner multi-stall bathroom

The visiting room of a prison

The Walker house kitchen and living room

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

[An empty classroom in 1976. KATHRYN sits at a desk leaning over a thick book intently. Her eyes swallow the words on the page. JAKE peeks into the room quizzically.]

JAKE

What are you doing?

KATHRYN

Jumping jacks.

JAKE

No, you're not. You're reading.

KATHRYN

Well if you know then what are you asking for?

JAKE

I meant, why are you reading? The final bell rang. School is over and you are sitting here reading...

[He grabs the book from her to look at it.]

KATHRYN

Jake!

JAKE

The Complete Works of Shakespeare Unabridged. [sarcastically]
Right on.

KATHRYN

I enjoy it.

JAKE

No one enjoys this! It's a drag!

[He tosses it behind him.]

KATHRYN

Well no one enjoys you, but I'm not tossing you on the floor.

JAKE

Come on! Let's go! I'm getting hives being in here when I should be outside running through fields!

KATHRYN

I wish you'd run through traffic.

JAKE

That's just plain unkind.

KATHRYN

I'll try to make my unkindness a little more ornate for you.

JAKE

Stop using words like that. It makes you sound like a snob.

KATHRYN

It does not!

JAKE

Does to.

KATHRYN

If you want to go then go! Get out of here! Go run around in the dirt! I don't have to go everywhere with you.

JAKE

But I want you to come with.

KATHRYN

Well, I'm not ready.

[She sits back down and opens her book. JAKE is torn. He looks out in the hallway. Looks back at KATHRYN. Finally, he shuts the door and sits next to her. He looks over her shoulder.]

JAKE

Well... what's it about?

KATHRYN

What is the Complete Works of Shakespeare about?

JAKE

No, I'm not a spaz. I mean the one you're reading.

KATHRYN

It's about a king whose sons are stolen by his old advisor and then his daughter marries this guy he doesn't like in secret.

JAKE

That's a rough day. What's happening now?

KATHRYN

The king's new wife is trying to get his daughter to marry her son.

JAKE

Why?

KATHRYN

So she can control the kingdom through him.

JAKE

Okay, go ahead.

[KATHRYN looks at him
questioningly.]

JAKE (CONT'D)

Well, if you're just going to sit here and read, I might as well be entertained.

KATHRYN

Okay...

"My supreme crown of grief! and those repeated
Vexations of it! Had I been thief-stol'n,
As my two brothers, happy! but most miserable
Is the desire that's glorious..."

SCENE TWO

[A high school classroom, NOW November 2009. MANDY is cleaning up at the end of the day. On the chalkboard is Imogen's speech from Cymbeline that KATHRYN has just read in the previous scene. MANDY shuffles some graded papers into a desk drawer and locks it, then starts to erase the chalkboard. DAN enters.]

DAN

Hello.

MANDY

(without turning)

Hello, can I help you?

DAN

Maybe. I was looking for the hottest teacher at Kennedy High School and I think you may be it.

MANDY

That's a little inappropriate, don't you think?

DAN

So is this.

[DAN pinches MANDY's behind. MANDY whips around, pressing her back to the chalkboard.]

MANDY

Dan Davies, what would your wife think?

DAN

She'd be angry.

MANDY

Oh, really?

DAN

Yes, she's getting chalk all over her back.

[MANDY looks at her back.]

MANDY

Oh, damnit!

[GREG and KELLY RACE IN enter.]

GREG

Language, Mom!

MANDY

Dan, did our son just sass me?

DAN

Is that our son? I thought it was some street thug.

KELLY

You guys are so embarrassing. It's like it's your job or something.

DAN

It is. We hold the record for most embarrassing parents in the world. It comes with no cash prizes and no trophy, but gosh does it look good on a resumé!

GREG

Can we go? It's three-thirty.

MANDY

Word of the day.

KELLY

What's the winner get?

DAN

Winner gets to start the car.

MANDY

Great parenting, Dan.

[MANDY somehow accomplishes a sarcastic "thumbs up."]

DAN

It's freezing out there. The heat needs time to kick in.
Why become parents and not take advantage of the free labor?

GREG

I have a good one!

MANDY

Okay.

GREG

Turpitude. T-E-R-P-I-T-U-D-E. A noun meaning baseness or depravity.

KELLY

Panjandrum. P-A-N-J-A-N-D-R-U-M. A noun meaning an important or self-important official.

MANDY

Kelly wins.

GREG

Why?!

MANDY

You spelled yours wrong. Turpitude is T-U-R-P-I-T-U-D-E.
Kelly, go start the car. Greg, go with her. We'll be out in a minute.

[GREG grabs the keys.]

KELLY

I get to start the car!

[GREG holds the keys out of KELLY's reach.]

GREG

Whoops, guess not!

KELLY

I won!

[GREG and KELLY exit.]

MANDY

(yelling after them)

Just start it! Don't even think of moving it an inch!

DAN
What's for dinner tonight?

MANDY
No way, it's your turn to cook.

DAN
I cooked last night.

MANDY
You brought home Chinese last night.

DAN
Counts.

MANDY
Does not.

DAN
Does to.

MANDY
Does not.

[DAN pulls MANDY into his arms.]

DAN
(in a smoky voice)
Does to...

[MANDY nuzzles DAN's ear.]

MANDY
(in a sexy whisper)
Not.

DAN
Fine! What do you want for dinner?

[MANDY picks up her phone.]

MANDY
(distractedly)
Chicken. The kind you make with the spicy sauce.

DAN
Great. Ready?

[She doesn't answer.]

Hon? Hey, Mandy.

DAN (CONT'D)

Hm?

MANDY

Everything okay?

DAN

Yes... What do you think about going away over Christmas?

MANDY

Going away where?

DAN

I don't know, I just feel like the kids need to start seeing more than New Jersey.

MANDY

Okay, how about New York?

DAN

I mean a real vacation.

MANDY

We can hit every country in the world in New York! We'll go to Chinatown, Little Italy, SoHo.

DAN

What about actually going to China or Italy? And what country do you think SoHo represents?

MANDY

Southern... Hong Kong?

DAN

Tell me you're making jokes.

MANDY

I'm making jokes.

DAN

Good.

MANDY

What country is it?

DAN

I married an idiot.

MANDY

DAN

I'm kidding! Look, I don't think we can go this winter break, but if we are... frugal with Christmas, we can save and go in the summer maybe.

MANDY

Okay.

DAN

Why do you want to go on a trip all of a sudden?

MANDY

It's not all of a sudden. I've wanted to for a while.

DAN

You're sure nothing's wrong?

MANDY

I'm sure.

DAN

Okay, here's the deal. Tonight, we go get Chinese pick up. Next year, we pick up and go to China.

MANDY

Dan, you're cooking tonight.

DAN

And in the meantime, I'll wear a kimono to bed.

MANDY

Dan!

DAN

What? Everyone wears them there!

MANDY

That's racist. And a totally different culture! Don't say stuff like that around Greg. He picks up everything you say.

DAN

My legacy will live on!

MANDY

It will end tonight if you try to skip out on cooking dinner again.

DAN

Right. And if I create my own pizza at the Italian place, that doesn't count?

MANDY

I did this to myself. I could have said, "I don't."

DAN

And now you're trapped.

[A car horn beeps outside.]

DAN (CONT'D.)

And with two broken condoms, so am I.

[DAN wraps his arm around a laughing MANDY and they exit.]