

Valentine's Day

True love lasts forever.

A 10 Minute Drama

By James Hutchison

Also available from www.jameshutchison.ca

What the Dickens! *Even Scrooge got a second chance.*

When Marty Fisher gets caught kissing his stage manager Samantha and the actor playing Scrooge shows up drunk Marty has to scramble to save the opening night production of a Christmas Carol and his engagement to his fiancée Tami.

Two Act Comedy, 6M, 3W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes

A Christmas Carol – Two versions available -

When Scrooge's nephew Fred finds some letters Scrooge had written to his sister Fan a long time ago the past is unlocked, and Scrooge learns how his fear of poverty and pursuit of wealth have cost him a chance for love and genuine happiness.

CAST OF 10+ - Two Act Drama, 6M, 4W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes

CAST OF 25+ - Two Act Drama, 15M, 10W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes

Under the Mistletoe *Not every romantic evening goes as planned.*

Two couples in their late fifties, one long time friends and the other having just met, try to navigate the tricky road of love, sex and desire while spending a romantic night in the Christmas Themed Suites at the Prairie Dog Inn.

Two Act Romantic Comedy 1M, 1W or 2M, 2W Single Set, 120 minutes

Heart of Stone: A Jessica Quinn Mystery *Trusting the wrong person can be deadly.*

When Jessica Quinn uncovers the truth about her father's killer and the truth behind a woman claiming to be the long-lost daughter of her client Mary McConnell more than one person ends up dead.

Two Act Mystery, 7M, 3W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes

Stories from Langford *Every town has its secrets.*

Six characters from Langford tell stories from their lives: stories about, jealousy, revenge, love and forgiveness.

Two Act Drama, 1M, 1W, Simple settings, 120 Minutes

Death and the Psychiatrist *Even Death Could Use a Friend*

Feeling depressed about having a job where no one likes him Death goes into therapy with Dr. Thompson in order to help him cope with his guilt.

One Act Comedy, 3M, or 2M, 1W, Single Set, 50 Minutes

Plus, other One Acts and 10 Minute Plays including The Blood of a Thousand Chickens, 500 bucks and a pack of smokes, and Elvis is Dead.

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Never Give Up was presented at the 2018 Newmarket National 10 Minute Play Festival in Newmarket Ontario and was directed by Dale Sheldrake and featured Dan Karpenchuck, Tiffany Deobald, Kyra Van Den Enden, and Ilya Ilyashyk. The play was also produced at the 2018 Short+Sweet Sydney where it competed in the Crew Cut Finals and was Directed by Sarah Purdue and starred Les Asmussen as Old Tom, Jayden Muir as Heather, Abbie Gallagher as Karen, and Murray John Curtis as Young Tom.

The Playwright

James Hutchison writes comedies, dramas, and mysteries. He also interviews other playwrights, actors, and directors about the business and creative aspects of theatre, film, and television. You can read his interviews on his blog and download his plays at www.jameshutchison.ca.

Valentine's Day – True love lasts forever.

A Drama in Ten Minutes

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VALENTINE'S DAY

CAST of CHARACTERS

Tom	an old man
Karen	his granddaughter
Heather	a young woman
Tom	a young man

SETTING

Tom's home.

TIME

Valentine's Day

STORY OF THE PLAY

On Valentine's day, Tom remembers the day, fifty years ago, he met the love of his life Heather.

NOTES

There is an open bottle of wine and two glasses on the coffee table. Tom fills the wine glasses after his daughter leaves. How and when Tom drinks and whether or not Heather also drinks is up to the cast and director to decide.

MUSIC

No specific music has been suggested for the dance but appropriate songs should be selected. The dance could begin with a more upbeat tune and then transition to a slower song – something that lends itself to a slow dance. If copyrighted music is used it is up to the producers to secure rights otherwise there are sources of royalty free music and sound-a-likes which can be used.

For Sheri

VALENTINE'S DAY

SCENE: TOM'S HOME

Setting: The scene can be as simple or fully dressed as desired. There are two acting areas. There is a coffee table with a bottle of wine and two glasses. On the table is a bouquet of roses. There is a couch. This area is dark at the start of the play. The first scene between KAREN and OLD TOM is played in the kitchen.

At Rise: KAREN is putting away the final few groceries she's brought for her grandfather.

KAREN

I think that's everything, Grandpa. I've cleared out the fridge and there's fresh fruit, and I got you your smoked Turkey and the Rye bread you like. Plus, there's yogurt and some cans of soup. And there's frozen dinners in the freezer. You just put them in the oven for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

OLD TOM

I know how to cook a frozen dinner.

KAREN

I know you do. It's just since Grandma died you've been losing weight. Are you sure you're eating enough?

OLD TOM

I'm eating plenty. Don't worry about it.

KAREN

But I do worry about it. You know you could come have dinner at our place tonight. Jenny and Jason would love to see their Grandpa.

OLD TOM

Not tonight Karen. It's Valentines.

KAREN

I know. That's why I want you to come to dinner. I don't want you to be alone on Valentine's Day.

OLD TOM

I won't be alone. I have plans.

KAREN

Oh, you do?

OLD TOM

Yes, I've got a date as a matter of fact.

KAREN

A date? Really?

OLD TOM

Don't look so surprised. I can have a date if I want to.

KAREN

I didn't know you were seeing anyone. Who's the lucky lady?

OLD TOM

Your grandmother.

KAREN

Grandma?

OLD TOM

Yup, I'm going to see your Grandma.

KAREN

Grandpa...

OLD TOM

I'm not going crazy. I know your grandma's gone...but to me she'll always be that young beautiful girl I first met on the fairgrounds fifty years ago. This is my first Valentine's Day without her and I just want...I just want...

OLD TOM finds himself close to tears and stops speaking in order to compose himself.

KAREN

It's okay Grandpa, I understand. The first year is hard.

OLD TOM

I'm not sure it's going to get any easier.

KAREN

You always spoiled Grandma on Valentine's.

OLD TOM

Well, she always spoiled me the rest of the year. I was never very good at saying I love you.

KAREN

You didn't have to say it. You showed it. You showed it all the times you would bring her flowers when it wasn't Valentine's. You showed it every time you gave her a kiss, whether or not you were heading out for a weekend of fishing with Uncle Howard, or just walking to the corner store for a jug of milk.

OLD TOM

I just wish, I had said it more.

KAREN

I know. Are you sure you don't want to come to our place for dinner?

OLD TOM

Maybe tomorrow.

KAREN

Promise?

OLD TOM

Promise.

KAREN

Okay Grandpa, I'll call you later. I love you.

OLD TOM

I love you too, sweetie.

KAREN

See you can say it.

KAREN gives her Grandpa a kiss on the cheek and a big hug before she leaves.

As OLD TOM crosses stage lights come up on the coffee table where there is a bouquet of roses an open bottle of wine and two glasses. TOM fills the two glasses with wine as HEATHER appears. This is HEATHER as a young woman. The woman TOM remembers that first day they met at the fairgrounds. She is dressed like a young woman would be dressed fifty years ago.

HEATHER

Wine and roses. Must be Valentine's Day. Hello Tom.

OLD TOM

Hello sweetheart. I've been waiting. I wasn't sure you'd come.

HEATHER

And leave you alone on Valentine's Day. I don't think so.

OLD TOM

You look wonderful.

HEATHER

Is this how you like to remember me?

OLD TOM

I remember all kinds of things about you.

HEATHER

Oh do you? Like what?

OLD TOM

Like your laugh, and how much you liked to go for walks along the river, and how your favourite snack was always honey and graham wafers.

HEATHER

I still like honey and graham wafers.

OLD TOM

I remember how you'd bite your lower lip when you got mad at me and how quickly you forgave me when I said I was sorry.

HEATHER

You used to get mad at me too don't forget.

OLD TOM

Well you were always late.

HEATHER

And you were always early.

They laugh.

OLD TOM

I remember you in that yellow dress the summer you were pregnant with Samantha and we were so happy to be starting a family.

HEATHER

She was such a sweet baby.

OLD TOM

And I remember the first time we met.

HEATHER

Do you remember what you said to me?

YOUNG TOM appears and approaches HEATHER. This is TOM the day he met HEATHER. YOUNG TOM wears and looks like a young man from fifty years ago.

YOUNG TOM

Excuse me do have change for a quarter?

OLD TOM

Wasn't very romantic.

HEATHER (To Old Tom)

No, but it broke the ice.

YOUNG TOM

I was nervous as hell.

HEATHER (To Old Tom)

If you hadn't spoken I would have.

OLD TOM

Oh, would you? What would you have said?

HEATHER

Oh, I don't know. I probably would have said something like, "Pardon me, sir, but do you know the way to the Grandstand show?"

OLD TOM

And I would have said,

YOUNG TOM (To Heather)

Here let me show you.

HEATHER (To Old Tom)

And then?

OLD TOM

And then? Well, we never made it to the Grandstand show did we.

HEATHER

No, we got to talking

OLD TOM

And it was hot. Do you remember how hot it was?

HEATHER

You bought me a lemonade.

YOUNG TOM (To Heather)

Would you like a lemonade?

HEATHER (To Young Tom)

Yes, thank you.

OLD TOM

And I knew.

HEATHER (To Old Tom)

Knew what?

YOUNG TOM

That you were the girl I wanted to marry.

OLD TOM

The girl I did marry.

HEATHER

We went dancing.

MUSIC UP A TUNE FROM THE DAY

YOUNG TOM takes HEATHER in his arms and they dance. OLD TOM watches. When they first start to dance the music can be more fun and lively but then the music can transition to a slower dance – a more romantic song from the day. The song that became their song. The one they played on anniversaries. The one OLD TOM has been playing over and over and over to remember the girl he loved and the woman he married.

OLD TOM

Did you know –

YOUNG TOM

– that I fell in love with you the minute I saw you.

HEATHER

I knew.

OLD TOM

And that we'd have fifty wonderful years together.

HEATHER and YOUNG TOM stop dancing.

HEATHER turns to OLD TOM.

HEATHER (To Old Tom)

I knew.

Pause as Old Tom looks at HEATHER.

OLD TOM

I miss you.

HEATHER

I miss you too.

HEATHER crosses to OLD TOM. YOUNG TOM backs away and the lights fade on him. OLD TOM takes HEATHER her in his arms and they dance for a long moment without talking.

OLD TOM

I'm tired of being alone.

HEATHER

You're not alone. You have Karen and the great-grandchildren. They love you.

OLD TOM

The days are long.

HEATHER

I'm here.

But it's not the same.

OLD TOM

I know. But I'm here.

HEATHER

OLD TOM and HEATHER finish their dance. OLD TOM is tired.

MUSIC FADES OUT

I'm sorry Heather, I'm tired.

OLD TOM

It's okay, I understand. Why don't you lie down.

HEATHER

I'll do that. I'll lie down and have a rest and then we can dance some more. I'm sorry I'm just feeling...old.

OLD TOM

We're not as young as we once were.

HEATHER

You are.

OLD TOM

Only to you and no one else.

HEATHER

OLD TOM lies back on the couch. The light slowly fades on OLD TOM and fades up on YOUNG TOM farther upstage. YOUNG TOM watches HEATHER.

Now close your eyes and rest. You've had a long day. I'm glad we saw each other. It wouldn't be Valentine's day without you. I've missed you Tom. I've missed our morning coffees and our trips to the lake and our walks along Pine Ridge. I've missed your arms around me. I've missed your touch and your kiss and your hand touching my face. Oh how I miss the touch of your hand.

HEATHER

Sometimes, if you're lucky, you get to spend your life with the one you love. I love you Tom. I always have and I always will.

HEATHER turns and walks towards YOUNG TOM and the two join hands. THEY look at each other happily and give each other a gentle and loving kiss. The kind of kiss that couples who have known each other and loved each other for many years might give each other. They turn and walk away as the lights fade.

END PLAY