

"SIDES"

Written by

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*(LIGHTS UP on KATHERINE and MARTIN, mid to late thirties, seated on a bench watching KATE, very early twenties, pace back and forth while going over her lines from script pages she's holding. After a few moments Marty, also early twenties, enters.)*

MARTY  
(hesitantly)

Excuse me.

KATE  
(not looking up)

Yeah?

MARTY

Are you Kate?

*(Kate looks up from her script, likes what sees)*

KATE

Oh...

(somewhat  
flirtatiously)

I'm Kate. I'm definitely Kate. And you are...?

MARTY

Marty... I'm Marty.

KATE

Marty. So nice to meet you... Marty

*(She glides over to him)*

KATHERINE

What's with the Scarlet O'Hara routine?

MARTIN

Shhhhhh.

MARTY  
(releasing her hand)

Dan sent me.

KATE  
Did he? Well, remind me to thank Dan.

KATHERINE  
(embarrassed)  
Ohmygod.

*(Martin gestures for her to  
keep it down)*

KATE  
And what can I do for you... Marty?

MARTY  
Dan said, I'm supposed to read with you.

KATE  
Really?

MARTY  
If that's alright.

KATE  
Oh, that's quite alright. What happened to Ralph? Not, that  
it's a problem.

MARTY  
He's at the Cubs game. He got these last minute tickets. You  
know, Ralph.

KATHERINE  
I knew Ralph. He hated baseball.

KATE  
(still flirting)  
Well, I guess we'll have to just push on without him. Won't  
we?

KATHERINE  
If she keeps batting those eyelashes she's gonna take off.

*(Martin signals her to be  
quiet.)*

KATE  
Did Dan give you the sides?

MARTY  
The sides?

KATE  
The script pages.

MARTY  
The script pages.  
(holds them up)  
Of course. I'm not familiar with all the lingo yet. I hope that won't be a problem.

KATE  
No, problem at all. Just follow my lead... Marty.

KATHERINE  
Give me a break.  
  
(Martin shushes her again)

KATE  
We're only gonna have a few minutes out there to show our stuff.

MARTY  
Pressure... Pressure.

KATE  
I thought we'd maybe do pages six through eight or nine.

MARTY  
Sure...  
(Marty shuffles through the pages and reads.)  
Oh...

KATE  
Problem?

MARTY  
Oh.

KATE  
Problem.

MARTY  
It just says here that I...

KATE  
You what?

MARTY  
Well, kiss you.

KATE

Oh, does it?

(checks her pages)

So it does. You have kissed a girl before, haven't you?

MARTY

Oh, sure. Lots of girls.

KATHERINE

(sarcastically to  
Martin)

Lots of girls?

MARTIN

Lots of girls.

KATHERINE

You certainly had an active fantasy life.

MARTY

(nervously)

Well, it's... uh... that we just met and all.

KATHERINE

Who are you supposed to be in this, Huckleberry Finn?

KATE

Don't worry about a thing. It's not a real kiss kiss.

MARTY

What kind of kiss, is it?

KATE

A stage kiss.

MARTY

What's the difference?

KATE

It's not really us kissing.

MARTY

It isn't?

KATE

It's the characters. They're the ones who are kissing.

MARTY

So, it's not us. It's...

KATE

Them. Exactly. We're gonna have to do it sooner or later...  
 (off Marty's look)  
 The kiss, I mean... Sooner or later.

MARTY

Sure. Of course. The kiss.

KATE

So if we can get it out of the way...

MARTY

Over the hump, so to speak.

KATE

Well, I wouldn't put it in those terms. But, yes, get over the awkwardness, it might make everything that follows go a little smoother.

MARTY

So how do we do this?

KATE

Stage directions.

(reads from script)

Johnny and Alice stand facing each other. She puts her arms around his neck.

*(Kate puts her arms around his neck. She holds up the script behind his head and continues to read)*

KATE

He puts his arms around her. Marty.

MARTY

Yeah?

KATE

Put your arms around me.

MARTY

Oh, sorry.

*(Marty puts his arms around her holding up his script behind her where he can read it)*

KATE

(still reading)

They look into each other's eyes. Marty

Yeah? MARTY

My eyes. KATE

Your eyes? MARTY

Look into them. KATE

MARTY  
(uncomfortably)  
Your eyes. Right. Look into your eyes.

*(He looks into her eyes. She turns the page she's holding behind him and reads.)*

KATE  
He kisses her. This is where you kiss me or rather Johnny kisses Alice.

MARTY  
Right.

*(He leans in to kiss her)*

KATHERINE  
That's not how it happened.

*(Marty pulls back from the kiss, embarrassed and annoyed. )*

MARTIN  
That's exactly how it happened.

KATHERINE  
In your dreams. Like I set this whole thing in motion just to get you to plant one on me.

MARTIN  
Facts are facts.

KATHERINE  
The fact is you rigged it from start to finish.

MARTIN  
Where did you get that idea?

KATHERINE

(to Kate and Marty)

You two. From the top.

*(Kate takes her place as it was in the opening. Marty shuffles off, then after a beat returns)*

MARTY

Excuse me.

KATE

(studying her pages)

Yes?

MARTY

Are you Kate?

*(Kate looks up and sees Marty.)*

KATE

I'm Kate.

MARTY

Dan said I'd find you here.

KATE

(coolly)

Well, you found me.

KATHERINE

Good.

MARTY

It seems I'm gonna be doing the audition scene with you.

KATE

You? What happened to Ralph?

MARTY

He got tickets to the Cubs game.

KATE

I didn't know Ralph was a Cubs fan.

KATHERINE

(to Martin)

He wasn't. He was a fan of free tickets. Your free tickets.

MARTIN

I have no idea what...



KATHERINE

Can it.

MARTY

Dan said we should run pages six through nine.

KATE

(hesitantly)

Six through nine?

MARTY

That's what he said. Is that a problem?

KATE

Have you read pages six through nine?

MARTY

He just handed me these...

(holds up script  
pages)

and told me to find you.

KATE

You might want to read pages six through nine.

*(Marty reads)*

MARTY

Oh...

KATE

Yeah... Oh.

MARTY

Dan said it would help us get past the awkwardness of the moment. I didn't know what he meant.

KATHERINE

Dan never told you about six through nine. That was all you. All that getting over the awkwardness malarkey. I can't believe how naive I was.

MARTIN

You were never naive.

MARTY

If you're uncomfortable.

KATE

No, I'm comfortable. If you're comfortable.

MARTY

I'm comfortable, if your comfortable.

KATE  
I'm very comfortable.

MARTY  
So am I. Very comfortable.

KATE  
Okay, then.

MARTY  
Why don't we work up to it?

KATE  
What did you have in mind?

MARTY  
We could start with the lines leading up to the...uh...  
kiss.

KATE  
The lines? Yes, the lines. Good idea.

MARTY  
You wanna start?

KATE  
(thumbs through  
script)  
How about the middle of page six?

MARTY  
(thumbs through his  
script)  
Middle of page... Got it.

KATE  
Ready?

MARTY  
Ready.

KATE  
(reads from script)  
Please, Johnny, let's not rush things.

MARTY  
(stiffly reads from  
script)  
Alice, I only know one thing.

KATE  
What's that?

MARTY  
I love you.

KATE  
Is that the way you're going to read it?

MARTY  
Something wrong?

KATE  
It's awfully stiff. Is that the way you tell a girl you love her?  
(imitates his reading)  
I only know one thing. I love you.

MARTY  
Well, your the first girl I've ever said it to.

KATE  
(a little flummoxed)  
Why don't we try it again.

MARTY  
You start.

KATE  
Please, Johnny, let's not rush things.

MARTY  
(a slightly better reading)  
I only know one thing.

KATE  
What's that?

MARTY  
I love you. Was that better?

KATE  
Yeah... But it would help if you didn't stop for a critique.

MARTY  
Right... I'm sorry.

KATE  
Let's take it from your line.

MARTY  
My line... I only know one thing.

KATE  
What's that?

I love you.

MARTY

*(Kate signals for him to continue)*

What?

MARTY

KATE

The stage directions. The stuff in parentheses.

MARTY

*(reads)*

He takes her in his arms.

KATE

You don't have to read them out loud. You just do them.

MARTY

I'm sorry. Let's try it again.

KATE

Please, Johnny, let's not rush things.

MARTY

Alice, I only know one thing.

KATE

What's that?

MARTY

*(said with real passion)*

I love you. God, I love you. From the first moment I saw you.

KATE

That's not in the...

*(Marty kisses her.)*

MARTIN

I don't remember that.

KATHERINE

I do.

MARTIN

Are you saying I staged the whole this whole thing just so I could..?

You know what? KATHERINE

What? MARTIN

Did anyone ever tell you that you talk too much? KATHERINE

*(She plants one on him)*

THE END