

HAPPILY EVER NEVER

by Herbert M. Midgley

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TIME: Present

PLACE: In the South

CHARACTERS:

WENDY – A pretty girl in her late 20's. She was raised in a small Texas town and has good morals. She has on a nice black dress, that isn't too flashy for her old town ethics.
BERT – A regular looking guy in his early 30's. He was raised in a small Texas town and has good morals. He is dressed in a black suit, white shirt and power red tie.

Playwright's note. What love is, is in the eye of the beholder.

WENDY and BERT are walking arm in arm and sit down in a café in the afternoon. They sit next to one another and look happy together.

WENDY

You know Bert, I have to say that was the best concert you've taken me to see yet! The strings sounded like....like they were a single person playing. And the Mozart piano concerto, the soloist was....well how can I put it, amazing! Can you play piano like that Bert?

BERT

At one point in my life. Back in college I used to practice piano over four hours every day. I had no social life back then.

WENDY

I wished I could've heard you back then. No doubt you were....amazing!

BERT

There were moments when I felt that Mozart's music came not through my fingers, rather straight from my soul. Others in the studio had more talent than me, however I don't think anyone could play more musical. (Beat) It was a special time of my life. I miss my friends. And Tiffany.

WENDY

She the one that got away from you?

BERT

No, she was the one that I could never even get to have a cup of coffee with me. (Beat) That didn't matter, I was still in love with her. Well at least in love with the thought of being in love with her. Since I never knew her outside school, I supposed that I really didn't know her at all.

WENDY

I bet secretly she was in love with you and was dying to have you ask her out.

BERT

No, I tried to get her to go out with me, to concerts or to the movies. She always said no or worst yet, find an excuse to walk away before I could ask her.

WENDY

Her lost and my gain, right honey bunny?

BERT

Rather my gain love. (Beat) You know I haven't told you this part.

WENDY

I hope it's juicy Bert.

BERT

Wendy, girl you know me. It's not. But here it goes. I saw her for a brief moment right before she graduated and we were going to meet one last time before she left for good. She always told me how it was her dream to go and live in Colorado, so I was going to ask her to runaway with me. Runaway and live her dream of living in Colorado and my dream of being with her.

WENDY

Are you serious?

BERT

I had it all planned out too. Even had two tickets reserved to fly there.

WENDY

You would've quit your job, a job that you love, to go and runaway with her?

BERT

(Reflecting) Yeah. I would've.

WENDY

That's....I don't know....crazy Bert! (Beat) She stood you up, huh?

BERT

Yeah. She knew what I was going to do. I guess she didn't want to see me and crush my heart the last time she would ever see me. Not a good last image of me I supposed. (Beat) The last words that I spoke to her was a joke. I finally made her laugh. And she almost hugged me goodbye. (Beat) I did touch her arm as she walked out of my life.

WENDY

(Hug him) I love hugging you Bert. (Beat) Do you still think about her?

BERT

For a while, all the time. Then only part of the time. Now, only from time to time.

WENDY

How about me Bert?

BERT

(Hugs her harder then kisses her on her lips gently.) More than I think about myself. (Lets go of her and bends down on his knee.) Wendy, I love you. The last three years together have been my happiest time of my...our lives. Wendy, do me the honor of marrying me. (He takes out a ring box and gives it to her.) Say yes my love and make me the luckiest man in the world.

WENDY

Bert...honey...I don't ...know...what.....to.....say?

BERT

I hope yes.

WENDY

I love you Bert so much. I truly do my love. My honey bunny.

BERT

I know. That's why I asked you to marry me.

WENDY

You truly love me Bert?

BERT

Wendy, I truly love you.

WENDY

If you had to pick between me and....

BERT

You, without any question my love.

(Long pause. Both look at each other many times and smiles and laughs.)

WENDY

Yes. Yes! Bert I want to marry you too! Yes honey! Yes with all of my heart and soul!

(BERT grabs WENDY and hugs and kisses her over and over again. Then they stop and start to laugh. At the end they both sit down holding hands.)

BERT

That was one of the most nerve-racking things I've ever done.

WENDY

You didn't know that I would say yes?

BERT

I knew without a doubt that you loved me with all of your heart and soul. Even with that, I knew there was a chance you could've said no.

WENDY

Not to you my Bert. My honey bunny.

BERT

Wendy, at one point in my life I thought that Tiffany was the perfect girl for me. Fate made sure that never happen so that I could find my one true soul mate. The most beautiful girl in the world that's also a brainiac. Wendy my love, you're the only girl I dream about.

WENDY

I had better be! (Laughs) I love you Bert.

(They kiss.)

BERT

Love you more darling. (Beat) So when do you want to get married?

WENDY

I believe in long engagements. The longer the better.

BERT

(Confused) Wendy honey, we have been together almost three years. What more do we need to find out about ourselves? (Beat) How long are you thinking about? Three months? Six?

WENDY

I was thinking more like three years.

BERT

Three years!?! Do you want to marry me honey?

WENDY

Of course I do Bert darling. It's just that I want to make sure it's going to last forever.

BERT

Until the end of time or the end of our lives?

WENDY

Forever baby! Forever and more.

BERT

How can there be anything more than forever?

WENDY

Trust me, there is honey. I love you forever more.

BERT

Ok, hold on! Three years! Baby you don't want to marry me.

WENDY

(Sweetly) How can you say that my little honey bunny?

BERT

If you wanted to marry me, you would go down to the court house right now and get the marriage license. (Shakes his head) Baby, you just don't want to break my heart, do you? Any girl that has a long engagement doesn't want to marry that guy!

WENDY

(Thinks) No baby. No my little honey bunny, I love you and I want to get married.

BERT

Yeah! Three years from now. Darling I could be dead in three years. An asteroid might fall on my head in three years. I might be broke in three years.

WENDY

I would still marry you.

BERT

Then let's go and get married right now! Forget the engagement thing! (Looks at her figure) I want you right now, not three years from now.

WENDY

Bert, I can't get married without my folks. And what about Suzy, if she wasn't my bride maiden at my wedding, she'd kill me!

BERT

Baby doll, we can get married in a church whenever you want. Going to the courthouse is just the legal thing. I want a church wedding too.

WENDY

Then honey bunny, what's the hurry? Why rush this?

BERT

Because I've spent three years of my life dating you. It's been great, however if you're hanging around me until you 'fall in love' with someone else, I have to know.

WENDY

I love you. (Beat) But...I'm not in love with you.

BERT

(Stands up) Ok, well thanks baby for the good times. Have a great life kid.

WENDY

(Jumps to her feet) Bert, don't you treat me like that. I'm not letting you walk out on me like that!

BERT

Wendy, I'm not your intellectual whore anymore! Find some other patsy to be your artsy friend. And thanks for leading me on for three years! Three years that I'll never get back. Three years that I could've been dating girls that *wanted* me! Bye!

WENDY

I didn't use you. You loved every minute having some hot piece of tadwy on your arm. Go! Go head and leave me! You'll never get a girl anywhere as hot as I am. My intellectual whore? Baby that's all you have, is your mind! I sure didn't want to have your body! I'm a perfect ten and you're a four on your best day!

BERT

(Grabs the ring box from her hand) Groovy! And to think that I wanted a harpy to be my wife. (Looks toward the sky) Thank you Lord for protecting me from this wench! Once again!

(BERT storms out first WENDY sits back down and looks at the clouds.
BERT walks back in and sits down taking her hand.)

WENDY

Was it good for you honey bunny?

BERT

Yes love, magnificent!

WENDY

That was good. (Beat) Bert I want you right now! Right here in front of every one!

BERT

I know. (Beat) You want a break up at the Dairy Queen next?

WENDY

Hun huh.

(BERT and WENDY stand up and make out. Then walk of stage.)

FADE to BLACK

THE END