

## WHAT IS LOVE?

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 grey 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. Is love worth rolling the hard six?

BERT is sitting on his couch watching television. WENDY knocks on the door and enters BERT'S living room.

WENDY

(She opens the door) You said the door would be open Bert, but I didn't believe you would actually do it in this neighborhood.

BERT

(BERT staring at the television) I have no fear of this place.

WENDY

(Walks and sits by BERT on the couch) Bert, honey I have to tell you something.

BERT

(BERT staring at the television) Go ahead.

WENDY

(She kisses BERT, no reaction from him) It's bad Bert.

BERT

(BERT staring at the television) So.

WENDY

It's going to hurt you.

BERT

(BERT staring at the television) I don't care.

WENDY

It may break your heart Bert.

BERT

(BERT staring at the television, then stares at WENDY) I have no heart.

WENDY

I'm...I'm going to marry Robbie.

BERT

(Stares at WENDY then looks back at the television) Oh.

WENDY

Is that all you have to say. Oh?

BERT

(BERT staring at the television) Congratulations.

WENDY

You tell that to the groom. You tell the bride best wishes.

BERT

(BERT staring at the television) Why's that?

WENDY

Because the groom is lucky to have the bride marry him. That's why.

BERT

(BERT staring at the television, then stares at WENDY) The person that made that up never knew you as the bride or you as the harpy that you are.

WENDY

What!?! What's that suppose to mean?

BERT

(Stares at WENDY then looks back at the television) It means that I don't care.

WENDY

What do you mean you don't care! You and I have watched lot of television together over the last five years. (Beat) Don't you have feelings for me? Aren't you even the slightest bit upset that I'm marrying another man and not you!?

BERT

(BERT staring at the television, then stares at WENDY then looks back at the television) No.

WENDY

Ahh! I can't believe it! Ahh! (Beat) Don't you love me Bert?

BERT

(BERT staring at the television) No.

WENDY

But we spent all this time together. You can't tell me that you have no feelings for me?

BERT

(BERT staring at the television) Wendy, I have no feelings for you.

WENDY

I did wonder why you never tried anything when we were alone.

BERT

(BERT staring at the television) I don't care anything about you. (Beat) You ain't my type.

WENDY

Who are you say that about me! I have a job, a life and respect! You have....have  
....have....only that stupid television that you constantly stare at! You call that a life?

BERT

(BERT staring at the television) (Beat) Yep.

WENDY

Ahh! (Stands up) Fine! I don't even know why I came over to tell you.

BERT

(BERT staring at the television) Me neither.

WENDY

I can't wait to become Mrs. Robbie.

BERT

(BERT staring at the television) Good for you, Jack!

WENDY

(Walks towards the door) I can't believe that I wasted years of my life with you on that stupid couch! What was I thinking!

BERT

(BERT staring at the television, then stares at WENDY) Don't call my couch stupid!

WENDY

I'll do anything that I want! I'll say anything I want! Bucko!

BERT

(BERT staring at the television) Good. As long as I don't have to hear you or see you, do whatever you want.

WENDY

I hate you! (Beat) No Bert honey, I love you! (Kisses him and gets no reaction) I only agreed to marry Robbie because he asked me and I'm getting older.

BERT

(BERT staring at the television) Robbie is a good man.

WENDY

No he's not. (Beat) He beats me. (Beat) He makes me do things I would never want to do. Bert, honey, I love you! ...I love you.

BERT

(BERT staring at the television) What is love?

WENDY

Love is...where you think about a person more than you think about yourself. And... you can't face the thought of losing that person.

BERT

(BERT staring at the television, then stares at WENDY) No.

WENDY

No!?

BERT

(Stares at WENDY then looks back at the television) No. Love is liking things that are bad for you. Fat people love chocolate. Alcoholics love booze. Smokers love cigarettes. Junkies love drugs. Wife beaters love hitting their wives. Murders love killing. And women love men that treat them like dirt. (Beat) So have I dropped out? You betcha life I have! I've had one too many chicks break my heart when I treated them like human beings. That made me dead inside. I have a shield that protects me from love. So now I have my only friend, (points to the television) mister television over there. It never makes me feel bad or hate life. (Beat) Television is man's best friend.

WENDY

Then what is women's best friend?

BERT

(BERT staring at the television, then stares at WENDY then looks back at the television) Drama.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END