

## THAT COUPLE

A Collection of Twelve One-Act Plays

by Herbert M. Midgley

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TIME: From the Present to the Future

PLACE: From the South to the After Life

CHARACTERS:

WENDY – A pretty girl in her late 20's.

BERT – A regular looking guy in his early 30's.

Playwright's note. The twelve different scenes can be played by one female actress and one male actor, by one actor or actress, or by twelve different female actresses and male actors or any combination of actresses or actors in between.

The color of the dresses and suits are only a suggestion and can be the same color or any color for all acts.

Between each act have the title of the act on a cue card for the audience to see and have another cue card that shows the playwright's note for each act. Perhaps have each actor and actress carry out and show the audience one cue card before each act. Or have both sets of cue cards on an easel during the act. Or you could just print them in the program.

Staging can be as complicated or minimalist as you desire.

If desired, you may have an intermission at any time.

**ACT I**  
**THE ACTRESS AND THE SPACE ASTRONAUT**  
 by Herbert M. Midgley  
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TIME: Present

PLACE: South

CHARACTERS:

WENDY – A pretty girl in her late 20’s. She is a famous Block-Buster Movie Star that lives in Hollywood and tries to forget that she was raised in a small Texas town. She has on a nice red dress, that isn’t too flashy for the Sci-Fi movie she is in.

BERT – A regular looking guy in his early 30’s. He is dressed all in black and is a space astronaut that can travel through time from the distant future. He is looking for his dream girl that he saw one time in an old time movie.

Playwright’s note. No matter how much fame you have, you still have to face yourself in the mirror, alone.

WENDY is sitting on a chair holding a letter. She looks sad. Wendy is over acting like one of those 1950’s Sci-Fi serials.

WENDY

Oh boy. (Beat) I wish I had had a real friend. (She looks at a letter.) What a jerk. All men are jerks I tell you. They’re all after, (She looks at her figure) well you know. That makes me sad. Real sad you know! (Beat) One day I hope that I can meet a great guy. A super great guy, hey perhaps one from the future. Yeah one from the future since all the ones in the current time are Type A losers! And I hope he’s all dressed in black. Men look at their best all in black. Why only wear black to funerals? They should wear black all the time! (Beat) With all this fame, this old cowgirl can’t meet one guy that is real. One nice fellow! They all want to play ‘the game’ with me. I’m tired of ‘the game’. Of all the time-lines out there, why isn’t there one real guy that can be my friend? Be my soul mate? One guy that will sweep me off of my feet, so that I can truly fall in love. I’m tired of acting like I’m in love, I want to be in love. Love, with a man from the future. Oh well, guess it wasn’t mean to be. I was born in the wrong time. (Shakes head) The wrong time.

(There is a strong blue light. WENDY looks frightened.  
 BERT walks out of the blue light. WENDY wets her lips  
 when she sees BERT’S awesome good looks.)

BERT

(Nervously) Hi.

WENDY

(Nervously) Hi there.

BERT

(Normal) I've been waiting a long time to meet you.

WENDY

(Normal) I bet you have. Where have you been all of my life sailor boy?

BERT

Actually I'm more of what you would call a space astronaut in your time, than a sailor. This is my uniform. I've come from far away.

WENDY

Well, I've always *loved* a man in uniform.

BERT

Do you *love* me? Me!?

WENDY

Sure, you haven't lied to me yet. I love all guys until they lie to me. (Beat) I love you!

BERT

Wendy, I'll never lie to you. I promise.

WENDY

No, swear! Swear it!

BERT

I swear to you my love of my life.

(BERT and WENDY look deeply into each other's eyes and embrace then they make out for like seven minutes and thirteen seconds. Maybe less than seven minutes but more than ten seconds, like way more than that! They turn their heads away from the audience so they can't see them make out.)

WENDY

That was my first kiss! My first *real* kiss!

BERT

What's a kiss? (Beat) Oh that. I've never kissed anyone like that, my love of my life.

WENDY

Will you always kiss me like that?

BERT

Sure. You bettcha! That was fun. Way fun. And easy too! It's like we're *soul mates* or something?

WENDY

I have fun with.... You know, it's a bit awkward to ask someone this, well after we did that. (She points at her lips and his.) But, what's your name?

BERT

Name. (Moves his head like a robot) Does it matter Wendy. I love you and you love me. My name isn't important. Only love is. The universe knows all.

WENDY

It's important to me. My strong tall space astronaut. Pray tell, what's your name. I have to know. Tell me to my face my love.

BERT

Bert.

WENDY

Bert?

BERT

Bert.

WENDY

Bert? (Beat) Bert!? It can't be Bert. How could I fall in love with someone named 'Bert'? Now that's just crazy!

BERT

I love you Wendy, I always have and I always will. Since I first saw you on the old movie channel. I remembered you had this monologue about falling in love with a man from the future all dressed in black. You were looking for a friend. Your soul mate. (Beat) Here I am! My love of my life. The only girl that I dream about.

WENDY

I'm sorry, Bert. (Laughs) I can't be involved with someone named (Laughs) 'Bert'. I hope that you understand. (Laughs) Bert. (Talks like a Valley Girl) Like no way! Never!

BERT

But... but I never did lie to you! You can't leave me! That's against your rules, not mine.

## WENDY

(Laughs) 'Bert' honey. (Laughs) It was only a matter of time that you would lie to me or that I would get tired of you. So I guess that I got tired of (Laughs) 'Bert' before (Laughs) 'Bert' could lie to me. Well (Laughs) 'Bert', you should've struck first! Fortune favors the bold, you know.

## BERT

No. You got tired of being happy, not of me. Of breathing the air which enriched your soul and made you at one with the universe. True happiness. I'm not mad at you, but rather (Laughs) 'Bert' has pity on you. And your moral soul. I wash my hands of your drama. If you can't be happy with the man of your dreams, you'll never have happiness. Only darkness, like that which is in your heart. (Beat) Peace out, baby!

(The strong blue light appears again and BERT walks towards it. BERT looks back at WENDY and she is looking at him. BERT shakes his head and disappears.)

## WENDY

(Shakes head) Oh well, easy comes as easy goes. Now where's my mirror at? I have to have my mirror! I can't wait to look at myself. Look at myself over and over again. Then I can look at me, the star, the Hollywood Block-Buster Movie Star, some more! (She finds her mirror and looks into it. Smiles and touches her hair slowly. The smile is gone.) One day I wished I could find.....

FADE TO BLACK

THE END?

**ACT II**  
**AIN'T TECHNOLOGY GRAND!**  
 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 silver 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. Technology is supposed to make life easier, instead it makes it more complicated.

WENDY is sitting in a room that has a big screen television, computer and other techie gadgets. BERT is in his office room with the same type of techie gadgets.

WENDY

(She is typing on the computer.) Stupid. Stupid. Stupid computer! Why won't you just work for me! (She continues to type) I need this email to go through, all right computer. So make it happen for me! Please. (She continues to type, and smiles after the email works. She picks up her cell phone and starts to text messages on it.) Ok, Robbie, that's not funny. (Text messages as she talks.) Robbie I'll go with you to the art show on Friday, maybe we could catch dinner afterwards. Do you want to pick me up? Ok, smiley face. Exclamation point! Send text message. (Puts down the cell phone) I can't wait, Robbie. (She puts the cell phone down and walks out of the room. A moment later, her cell phone rings.)

BERT

(Bert is at his computer and types. Gets up angrily and dials on his cell phone. He gets the voice mail and slams down the cell phone.) Where in the world is she at!?! (Picks up the cell phone and dials again.) Ok, Wendy, this is Bert, you know your supposed boyfriend! I've been calling you all night because I want to tell my pretty little girlfriend a joke. But my pretty little girlfriend must have her cell phone turned off because she's not answering her phone! Call me right now! I don't care what time it is, call me!

WENDY

(She walks back into the room and sits down at her computer and begins to type.) Robbie, that's not funny. I'll Photoshop your photo next to *Jaba the Hutt*, that'll teach you! (She continues to type) Robbie, you always make me smile and.....and feel so warm inside....me. What a great friend you are. I hope that you'll always be my.... friend. (She smiles and walks out of the room. A moment later, her cell phone rings.)

BERT

(He walks around angrily and picks up the cell phone and dials again.) Wendy you had better answer this time! You had better be there, sugar pie! Wendy, guess who honey? It's me. Your boyfriend! Where are you! Are you out on a 'date' with that *Brainiac* friend of yours! I'm sick of this! Call me now! (He slams down the cell phone and walks around and stops at the computer.) Let me see, ok, she has changed her picture on MySpace, she has to be at home. Or maybe she's at "the Brain's" apartment! (Jumps up and starts to run out.) Only one way to find out. (Dials his cell phone.) Dave, this is Bert. Yeah listen, something came up....no it's not an emergency, I just have to leave work for a few minutes. Fine! I'll be back in a few! I'm not asking, I'm telling you! Do whatever you like, I have to go see my girl! (Runs out of the room.)

WENDY

(She walks back into the room and sits down at her computer and begins to type.) Robbie, of course I love hanging out with you. You're so.... special. So crazy special to me! I can't wait to go see that *Hall and Oates* concert with you, it should be super fun! (Stops typing and walks over to her cell phone. She picks it up and sees all the missed messages on it. Her smile turns into fright.) Oh, Bert. Thirty-two messages!? He's going to flip a lid. (She dials her cell phone and gets the voice mail.) Hey Bert, baby. I'm sorry that I've missed all of your calls honey. I must've forgotten to carry my cell phone to the movie that Robbie took me to. I'm a ditzzy girl, you know. It was ...a good movie, you would've like it. Well I'm at home if you want to drop by. Love you.

(She hangs up the cell phone. She walks back to her computer and starts to type. A few moments later a big bang is heard at her door. She types faster and hits the return key. Then gets up and answers the door. BERT is there looking like a lunatic, he doesn't say anything and walks in. WENDY kisses him on his mouth without any reaction.)

BERT

Are you all right?

WENDY

What?

BERT

I said, are you all right Wendy?

WENDY

Yes Bert. I'm fine.

BERT

(He walks around angrily and takes out his cell phone.) Do you know what this is?

WENDY

Of course honey.

BERT

What is it used for?

WENDY

To call people.

BERT

That's right, what use is it when the stupid pretty little girlfriend doesn't have it on her!?

WENDY

Not much.

BERT

Right! Not much. (Composes himself) Where were you?

WENDY

You know, I went to the movies with Robbie. I told you that yesterday.

BERT

Robbie, huh? He picked you up?

WENDY

Bert honey, gas is so high now, it's great to be able to carpool to the movies. (BERT stares at her) Yes. Yes he picked me up.

BERT

I know. (Beat) You know that he's in love with you, right? He wants is you. I can see it in his eyes when you're together.

WENDY

No Bert! He's just a friend. One of my best friends...

BERT

(BERT grabs WENDY and shakes her.) I'm your best friend, you got that! Baby! (Towards her to the ground.) Don't you know that I work eighty hours a week at that law firm, trying to make it big-time so that I can marry you!? And what do you do? Huh? Go out with Robbie! (Mimics WENDY) Bert, Robbie is taking me to the movies. Bert baby, Robbie took me out to eat catfish. Bert, Robbie is so smart and makes me feel so good about myself! (Normal voice) I've had it with you and Robbie! It ends tonight! This was the straw that broke the camels back, baby! From now on, you have better be there when I call you! You got that Wendy! You got it!

WENDY

Yes.

BERT

And no more 'dates' with "the Brain" either, you got me! You either stay at home or go out with your girlfriends, no more Robbie, you hear me!

WENDY

You don't control me. (Stands up) How dare you touch me like that! Who do you think you are mister!?

BERT

(BERT slaps her to the ground) I'm your boyfriend. And I'm in love with you....baby! And I'm the guy that's not going to take any backtalk from you. (WENDY starts to get to her feet.) Don't do it! Stay down or I'll pop you again.

WENDY

(WENDY stands up and looks BERT in the eye, then walks to her computer and starts to type.) Fine.

BERT

Get back over here, I'm not done with you yet.

WENDY

(WENDY types faster and hits the return key, then walks back over to BERT.) What else?

BERT

(BERT takes WENDY into his arms and makes out with her. She doesn't return the kiss. He let's her go.) Baby doll, you know that I love you. I just can't have any other guys like you, because you know that you can't trust any guy but me. They all want only one thing. You know. (He points at her figure) Trust me, this is for the best baby. And when you live in that million-dollar mansion on snob hill with me, you'll know I was right.

WENDY

Fine.

BERT

Don't do that to me. I know exactly what you're thinking! Well that's never going to happen, because I'm never going to let you leave me. You got that! Wendy, you're my property.

WENDY

(Her cell phone rings. She looks at the number and looks worried.) Hello....

BERT

Now she answers her phone. Why I.....

WENDY

Robbie, you're where? In the hospital!?! (Looks at BERT) Bert came over and.... Oh no, you ok? (Beat) Stitches!?! Fourteen of them. He said what? He told you to do what? Ok, I understand. I hope you feel better soon, yeah ok. Yeah, go ahead and do it. (Laughs and hangs up.) You get out of my house! You.... .monster!

BERT

I'll only come back.

WENDY

I want you out of my life! Get out!

BERT

Or what? Have *Brainiac* come over here and 'beat me up'?

WENDY

How dare you go over there and do that to him? Huh! Robbie is the most special person in the world and you go over there and hit him.

BERT

Hey you mess with another man's property and you get what you deserve! What was he thinking going out with a girl that had a boyfriend? The sneaky little....

WENDY

It's over. (Beat) I'm in love with Robbie. I've been in love with him for the last year and this outburst has proved it even more. When you were hitting Robbie, he didn't fight back because he didn't want to hurt me. Well no more! The next time you run into Robbie, watch out.

BERT

What!?! Robbie's a geeky nerd boy that's a foot shorter than me, what's he going to do?

WENDY

It won't only be him, it will be me too. We're going to kick the snot out of you. And you had better leave because Robbie is on his way right now.

BERT

Oh please.

WENDY

(Yells) Get out!

BERT

Fine, bring your little nerd boyfriend over here. I held back because I knew you cared for him. This time, I'm taking my gloves off.

WENDY

Don't you get it? I don't love you. I never did. Your macho demeanor tricked me into believing that you were something that you weren't. I'm so over your type. Controlling Type A jerks that are attracted to only my looks. I'm not at trophy to hang on your arm you know! With Robbie, I founded my soul mate. He makes me feel great about myself and he doesn't care about my looks. He loves that he can talk to me, really talk to me. You and I never had that. (Beat) You may have had my body but he had my soul.

BERT

(Claps) Congratulations. I'm happy for you both. (Slaps her to the ground) Don't think that was out of hate. It was out of love baby. Since I'm a controlling Type A jerk that only wants you for your looks, you know that I'll never let you go. (He kicks and hits her and she screams and cries.) You had enough?

WENDY

(Weeping) Go to my computer.

BERT

Why?

WENDY

Do it. (BERT walks to it) See Robbie is a *Brainiac* so he set up a website that if I don't go to every day and log on, and special email will go out to your partners. In that email, it will tell how you are a woman beater and how you have 'borrowed' funds from the firm.

BERT

That's not true. I never touched a dime baby! I'm mister honesty at the shop!

WENDY

I know, but even the slightest bit of question of your veracity would be enough to ruin your career. (Beat) So before you do anything that you might regret, you might want to leave. Now! Before it's too late.

BERT

Fine. Ain't technology grand! (Beat) Forget you! I'll let Robbie have you. Your damaged goods anyways! It wasn't that good. (Beat) And there are a lot more hottier girls out there that are begging for me to have them. Later! (His cell phone rings)

WENDY

I wish you well. (BERT storms out. WENDY gets up and dials her cell phone.) Robbie, it worked! You're so smart! Ok, I'll come over. You want to watch *Star Trek*, well ok. So it was *Star Trek* that gave you the idea of using an email threat letter website. (Beat) Really? Well Robbie baby, I now love *Star Trek* too.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END

**ACT III**  
**BACKPACKING THROUGH THE LOUVRE**  
 by Herbert M. Midgley  
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TIME: Present

PLACE: The Louvre in Paris, France

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 brown dress, that isn’t too flashy for her old town ethics. She has a brown backpack on.

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 jean jacket, white tee shirt and black jeans. He has a brown backpack on.

Playwright’s note. Your education isn’t done until you travel the world.

WENDY is walking next to the *Mona Lisa*, BERT is standing there studying the painting. BERT stops looking at the painting and checks WENDY’S figure out with her noticing.

WENDY

Magnificence! Pure magnificence.

BERT

(Stops looking at the painting and looks towards her.) You’re American?

WENDY

Yes. Yes I am.

BERT

Me too. I’m from Texas. Well, East Texas that is.

WENDY

Texas! Me too! I’m from a little small town in East Texas as well!

BERT

Well I bet you never heard of the little town that I grew up in, Woden.

WENDY

Woden, sure I have heard of it. We used to play you all in basketball. I’m from Zallava!

BERT

Zallava! (Jokingly) Well I guess I can still talk to you. (Laughs)

WENDY

Hey don't you laugh, we used to beat you all the time in b-ball.

BERT

Ok. Well what are you doing over here in *gay Parié*?

WENDY

I'm backpacking a few months in Europe. One youth hostel to the next. Being a student means you don't have a lot of money. How about you?

BERT

I'm backpacking it too. I've stayed in a few hostels, but most of the time I find a clean one or two star hotel to spend the night.

WENDY

Well look at you Woden! Mister big time!

BERT

Well I don't live in Woden anymore, I moved up to the big city of Nacogdoches. I got a job fixing computers.

WENDY

I hate computers. They seem to suck the life out of those that get hook on them.

BERT

(Lends towards her and whispers) You know, I'll tell you a secret, I don't like them either. I fix them all day long, so when I get home, the last thing I want to do is turn one on.

WENDY

So you didn't bring a laptop and go from one coffee shop to the next using the Internet?

BERT

You got me. I have one in my backpack. (Pats his backpack) Hey I have to update the blog you know. The MySpace crowd feeds off of this junk.

WENDY

I hate MySpace. All of those stalkers and weirdo stuff.

BERT

Quiet, I think that one of my MySpace stalkers is over there.

(He points to the right and both look at each and start to laugh.)

WENDY

Ok, maybe it's not that bad.

BERT

Man, it's sure good to hear someone else speak English. I'm getting a little tired of this *frog* language.

WENDY

You came to Paris without being able to speak French?

BERT

*Parlez-vous anglais?*

WENDY

What's that?

BERT

Do you understand English? And ninety-five percent of the time, they do. *Bonjour* and *Merci Bocu* is all the French that I've needed so far in France. Do you speak French?

WENDY

Are you kidding? (Beat) No. Not one word. In Zavalla the only choice for a foreign language was Spanish.

BERT

I guess they didn't have many fine arts classes either.

WENDY

Not much. But I've always loved art. I can't believe that I'm here at the *Louvre* looking at the most famous painting in the world!

BERT

Me neither. I've been here for over thirty minutes just looking at the *Mona Lisa*. Looking at every brush stroke and every color on that canvas.

WENDY

Woden, you're an artist?

BERT

Yes, I'm not a painter, however I do create art.

WENDY

Well Woden, what type of art do you make?

BERT

I make Art films.

WENDY

What's an Art film?

BERT

Well an Art film is a film that doesn't follow the Hollywood format. Therefore, most people that watch them don't understand them.

WENDY

Oh, ok. So an Art film is a film that isn't very good.

BERT

Well to put it bluntly, yeah. It's hard to make a good film without a budget. My computer repair job doesn't leave me with a lot to spend on sets and props. And most of the time, I have to act in them, because it's hard to people that are willing to be in a bad movie that you are going to post on the Internet.

WENDY

(Looks at him deeply.) I thought I recognized you! You were that stupid kid that was dancing with a lightsaber that everyone did parodies films of?

BERT

(Embarrassed) Yeah, that was me. (Puts his head down)

WENDY

Well Woden, you're famous!

BERT

What can I say, I'm the Internet Legend. Funny thing about being the Internet Legend, it doesn't pay. I was hoping to be *incognito* while I was on this trip. But as soon as I got on the plane the kid next to me recognized me. So for the next seven hours on the plane I had to hear how funny and stupid I was. Then he pulled out his laptop and showed me all the different versions of "Lightsaber Dance" he had collected. After that, the whole plane knew who I was.

WENDY

Fame is rough.

BERT

No, not really. I loved every minute of it. But it's good to be in a country where they don't know who I am. Apparently in France if you're an American star and not Jerry Lewis, you don't matter.

WENDY

Oh, he does such great work! I love his telethons every Labor Day.

BERT

Yeah, I think they did a skit biased on my "Lightsaber Dance" last year. (Laughs) As long as they had a good laugh and since it was for charity, I guess it's great.

WENDY

I feel like I've met a rock star now! Woden I even saw you on David Letterman for crying out loud!

BERT

Stupid human tricks. A moment of infamy for me.

WENDY

Well Woden, your girlfriend must be proud of you.

BERT

Girlfriend!? Are you kidding? Everything that I've done up to this point in my life has been girl repellent! I'm shocked that you even talked to me. Since my 'Internet fame' the only people that yell out my name are drunken frat boys. It's never the hot chick, it's always some drunk dude with his hat on backwards that knows who I am!

WENDY

Well, I guess I should be going. It was nice to talk to you and meet you Woden.

BERT

Listen, do you have any plans for lunch?

WENDY

Well actually I don't. However, you're starting to creep me out, so I'm going to go now Woden. (She starts to walk off and looks back at him for a quick second.)

BERT

Hey, I can speak English.

WENDY

That's ok, I hear English enough in Zallava. (She continues to leave)

BERT

I'm a celebrity, so I can get us a nice table in front of the Eiffel Tower.

WENDY

I've seen the Eiffel Tower every day since I've been in Paris. I'm cool thanks. (She continues to leave)

BERT

I'm buying.

WENDY

(Turns around and runs back to him) That's the magic words that every girl loves to hear.

BERT

I thought the magic words were 'I love you'.

WENDY

Yeah, yeah. A girl only wants to hear those words so that they can hear the real magic words.

BERT

Wow! I guess I have learned a few things on this trip.

WENDY

If you keep saying those magic words, you may even learn a *few* more things Woden.

BERT

Bert. My name is Bert. It's nice to meet you...

WENDY

Wendy. (They shake hands. Then she puts her arm through his and starts to walk out) You know Bert, you really ain't a bad looking guy. You know girls love a fixit upper. That way, you can get the guy that you really want.

BERT

(Surprised) I'm a fixit upper?

WENDY

Bert honey, any guy that has a video on the Internet of him dancing with a lightsaber is definitely a fixit upper. Don't take that as a bad thing. I've always liked a challenge.

BERT

Why do I feel like I'm not going to like this Wendy?

WENDY

Because Bert honey, you're smart. Let's get out of here and spend your nerd money.

BERT

Oh boy.

(WENDY kisses BERT and they walk out arm in arm.)

FADE TO BLACK

THE END

**ACT IV**  
**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 marring 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

**ACT V**  
**PRANK PHONE CALL**  
 by Herbert M. Midgley  
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TIME: Present

PLACE: A house 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 purple 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 all in black.

Playwright’s note. Some pranks aren’t funny, they teach lessons.

WENDY is sitting on a chair next to a table in a dark room. BERT walks in holding a cell phone that is hidden from WENDY’S view.

WENDY

(Yelling) No! Don’t! Don’t you come near me you....you... scum!

BERT

(Walks slowly around her) Don’t yell. Didn’t your momma teach you manners young lady? It’s rude to (scream in her face) yell! (Softly) So don’t do it. I don’t like it when people yell at me. I really don’t like it all. (Beat) Don’t call me scum either. My name is Bert.

WENDY

(Yelling) I don’t care...

BERT

(He puts a finger to his mouth and softly says) No.

WENDY

(Normal voice) I don’t care what you’re name is. All I know is that at one minute I was out with my girlfriends at the mall and the next I am....well....here.

BERT

I know that.

WENDY

So, can I go?

BERT

Just where would you go to....(snaps his fingers) What's your name? And before you lie to me, just remember that I can go through your purse and find your driver's license.

WENDY

Does it matter? Why does it matter?

BERT

It does to me. (Beat) So what's your name girlie?

WENDY

Wendy.

BERT

Wendy! Man I hate that name! Did you know that J.M. Barrie made up that name? The name 'Wendy' never appeared anywhere before *Peter Pan* was written.

WENDY

I like my name. (Beat) And besides, what about your name. Bert! Bert is a Muppet I used to watch on *Sesame Street*! And he wasn't even the cool one either!

BERT

Watch your mouth girlie!

WENDY

Go ahead. Do what you brought me here for! (Screams) I'm not afraid of dying!

BERT

(Shh look on his face) Quiet! My neighbors might hear you! So quiet down!

WENDY

(Cocky) Well, who has the upper hand now?

BERT

(Cockier) Me. (Gives her a death look)

WENDY

Do what you're going to do or let me leave.

BERT

You can leave at anytime girlie. However, before you get up, realize why you're here. Why did I pick *you* over your girlfriends? Did any of them put up a fight to protect you? Do any of them even care? Would any of them trade places with you?

WENDY

See yah! (She gets up to leave. Looks at his face and sits back down.)

BERT

Good. Now let's finish this. (He takes out his cell phone and gives it to her.)

WENDY

What do you want me to do with this?

BERT

Call someone who cares about you.

WENDY

So they can hear me scream, as you do any of those unspeakable things to me, no way!

BERT

I won't ask you again girlie. (Beat) Call someone who cares about you.

WENDY

(Nervously ) Ok. (She fumbles with the cell phone and finally puts in the seven digits.)

BERT

Give the phone to me.

WENDY

Ok. (She hands him the phone)

BERT

(Upbeat voice) Hello ma'am. Do you have a refrigerator? (Beat) Is it running? (Beat) Then you had better go catch it! (Slams the phone down on a table.)

WENDY

What the....!

BERT

(Pulls a digital camera out of his pocket and snaps a photo) Ha ha ha! That look on your face is going to keep me in stitches for years! Ha ha ha! (continues to laugh and looks at the photo on the digital camera.)

WENDY

What in the world! Are you *sick* or *something*?

BERT

I'm sick and something too! Ha ha ha! (continues to laugh)

WENDY

Did someone put you up to this you creep! (Pause) Scum!

BERT

(Stops laughing and puts the camera in his pocket.) Don't call me scum. (Pause) Did someone put me up to this? (Beat) Yes. You did girlie.

WENDY

I don't even know you sc...Bert.

BERT

Yes. (Beat) However I know you. I know your type. Always cutting on people. Dissing them! And for what? To make yourself feel better. Well congratulations, you now know how that feels. (Full of hate) Wendy.

WENDY

(Slowly) Ok. (Normal voice) I think that I'll be on my way. Unless you would like to make some more prank calls before I leave.

BERT

No. One's enough. One's all I need. (Beat) Go. (She stands up then he sits in the chair.)

WENDY

(She looks back at him) Hey, before I go, who would you call?

BERT

(Beat) My soulmate.

WENDY

Do you have her number?

BERT

No, but I have her heart even though some else has her body.

WENDY

At least you have a soulmate. I never found mine.

BERT

Perhaps you did, but you were just was too stuck-up to realized it.

WENDY

Maybe.

BERT

(BERT walks to WENDY and kiss her on her cheek.) You'll find him. (Smiles) Go to the second star to the right, straight on 'til morning. (Beat) Wendy. (He gives her a big smile then points the way out and she exits. Spotlight on BERT then FADE OUT.)

THE END

**ACT VI**  
**YOU CAN'T CON A CON**  
 by Herbert M. Midgley  
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TIME: Present

PLACE: A High Class Hotel 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 green 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. We all con each other all the time, however no one gets away with it.

BERT and WENDY are standing in a high-class hotel. Nice furniture and painting are everywhere.

WENDY

Bert honey, he didn't mean it! It's just part of the business you know?

BERT

Wendy shut your mouth. (Walks around her like a lion stalking his prey.) It's just business! Baby I taught you this business! If it wasn't for me, you would still be in the Hee Haw town working in that five and dime store that I found you in! So just shut it baby!

WENDY

All he did was kiss me. He didn't do anything else. (Beat) Hey, we got his money and he's paying for this place for the next three months, who cares!?

BERT

You conning me baby? Huh? You can't con a con baby, that was lesson number one.

WENDY

I remember. (Thinking) I remember when you came into that five and dime in Woden. You in that sharp suit talking you way out of paying for your soda and honey bun. It was so cute, I knew right there was you were doing.

BERT

That's lesson number two, we're all con men. It only takes seeing the light to make that talent come into fruition. When I saw those puppy dog eyes and that smoking leggy body you had with that sinister cute little smile, I knew right there you were going to be my next associate. (Beat) All I had to do was offer you the right con, and that was it!

WENDY

I'm truly glad you stopped in my Hee Haw country town. It changed my life! (She touches her fancy dress.)

BERT

Mine too kid. And my pocketbook thanks you too kid. (Beat) Having a hot piece of tawdy doesn't hurt business too much either. With that killer bod and that pure innocent face, you can make any man do anything you want. (Checking her out) Also when business is slow, it's good to have someone hot to look at.

WENDY

(Playfully) You're making me blush Bert.

BERT

Oh please, no man has made you blush since you figured out how to use, well those assets to your favor darling. Now you make men blush, love.

WENDY

You not mad anymore?

BERT

I'm still mad, but I don't care anymore. It's only business, love. Lesson number three, never let flesh temp you away from the green money trees. You can buy as much tawdy as you want, if you keep your head in the game. No, if you do a good enough job, you wouldn't even have to pay for it either.

WENDY

Bert honey, I know the rules. You taught me well. And this is was the big con that you had always told me about. The con that we could retire on! How much honey? What did we take him for?

BERT

Seven and half million clams. (Starts to laugh) And I could've taken even more, but I was raised in a small town and not all of my morals are gone let. Lesson number four, always leave a mark enough money that they can eat and take care of their families. That way, they won't chase after you.

WENDY

That's why you're the greatest Bert! All the other con men would've taking it all. But not my Bert. He knows when to pull his hand out of the cookie jar.

BERT

You had better believe it baby. Taking half of his money is enough. Now baby, to live that sweet life. Kicking it and leaving like royalty in South America! I'm king...

WENDY

And I'm your princess!

BERT

That's right baby! Easy street from here on!

(BERT grabs WENDY to give her a romantic kiss and she wiggles out of his arms pushing him back.)

WENDY

What are you doing Bert!?

BERT

I'm about to turn my princess into my queen.

WENDY

When donkeys fly! Bert honey, I don't think of you that way baby. You're my mentor in this crazy game. I don't want to mess with lesson number three, baby.

BERT

Wendy love, the business is over. We're retired. What has kept me going for this long, working so hard to get that golden egg was that when it happen, I would get you too. Baby maybe money was your prize, but you're my prize.

(BERT tries to kiss WENDY again, WENDY backs off.)

WENDY

So you never cared about the money.

BERT

Why do I need money, I can con my way out of a three-dollar meal or even easier a three thousand dollar meal. Money is useless to me. But you doll face, you're something money can't buy. I con you to love me, but I'm not going to. I want to be with you, and know you know it!

WENDY

Ok Bert honey, let's slow down. I... don't think of you that way honey. You're more like a flim flam uncle to me. An uncle that saved me from a life of hum dum, and I'll always be grateful for that honey, but I can't have any relations with you. (Squirms) That would feel just, well weird honey.

(BERT grabs WENDY kisses her this time. After the kiss, WENDY looks at BERT, shakes her head and sits down.)

BERT

Don't do that to me. You can't con me. I *know* what your thinking.

WENDY

All of these years I was just a piece of tawdy to you. I thought that we were going to con the world out of what we deserved and the whole time you were just thinking about me...well...(Quietly yelling) being with any clothes on! (Beat) So how often did you think about me like that?

BERT

A lot.

WENDY

How often is a lot? Once a month, a week...a day...an hour.

BERT

Baby more like every minute of the day. (Beat) I had a dream about you last night. For some reason I was in my shower and it was now four times as big. Then you came in, and well took a shower while I was watching. And the weird thing was that you didn't even get wet. You were standing there taking a shower in all of your glory and it was like not one drop of water hit you. It was amazing! And you, of course looked amazing too!

WENDY

(Dumfounded) I don't know what to say. (Angry) That makes me sick Bert! I have helped you con people out of their hard earn cash and never once did I feel sick about it. I don't think that I can move from this chair. I'm going to die in this chair. Thanks a lot Bert, now I'm going to die in this...pathetic chair! You have dreams about me taking showers and not getting wet! I'm going to hurl too!

BERT

Oh please baby, stop your Soap Opera acting on me. That's not going to work. I've seen it too many times over the last three years to be conned by it. Stop your acting and come over here and show me that you love me.

WENDY

Bert honey, I love you baby! Just not in that way.

BERT

That never stopped you before.

WENDY

You know that was different. That was business. Business is business. I've paid my dues, I'm retired baby. Time to live the sweat life.

BERT

Fine. (Hands her an envelope.) Here's your take. Enjoy your...retirement, baby.

WENDY

Awesome! (Opens the envelope) Thanks Bert! You're the greatest of the greatest.

BERT

Have a great life. (BERT heads for the door.)

WENDY

Bert honey, what are you doing?

BERT

My business is done here too. It's time to move on.

WENDY

Bert baby, I kind of thought that we were going to South America together. You know...to live the sweet life.

BERT

(Walks to her and gets in her face.) Listen *baby*, if you don't want to be with me, then take your money and go! I'm not part of that take. You never conned me, so take your prize and go walk into the sunset!

WENDY

Bert honey, don't leave me like that! Baby I need you! I can't run away to another part of the world alone!

BERT

You have enough *assets* that you'll do all right. Lesson number five, never ever be afraid to walk away if you feel like something isn't right. Well baby, something isn't right, so I'm walking away.

(BERT walks towards the door. WENDY runs and blocks him getting on her knees with her hands together.)

WENDY

Please baby, don't leave me. I do love you. In fact I've been in love with you since the first time I saw you. Well you never tried anything the whole three years we've been together so I thought that you didn't like me. Baby I'm begging you, (Sobbing) don't leave me like this!

BERT

(Starts to clap.) Get up. (Yells) Get up! (BERT grabs WENDY by her arm and drags her up.) You're forgetting who you're talking to! I'm a con man! I've been a con man when you were in diapers. Don't think you can use your tears to crack my heart.

WENDY

Don't say that. Don't talk to me like that!

BERT

Baby, I made you. I can talk to you any way that I want too! So pull yourself together and watch me walk out that door.

WENDY

I can't. Bert baby, I can't do that. I'm not ready.

BERT

Wendy, you've been ready your whole life. You never needed me for anything. All I did was led you to the water. You knew how to drink it.

WENDY

I don't want to do this alone. Please at least get me down to South America with you. Please baby. I'll do anything you want. Anything in the world.

BERT

I know. But what I wanted was to have you really *want* to be with me. You can't give me that.

(BERT opens the door. WENDY slams it shut.)

WENDY

Bert...

BERT

Hey baby, all good things right. (He takes out a handkerchief and dries the tears from her eyes.) It's over.

WENDY

You conned me. You never wanted me. You only wanted to see me cry. To see me cry for real!

BERT

Lesson number one baby. You can't con a con. Now you can see right through me.

WENDY

You're sick you know. I never want to see you again! Get out!

BERT

But I made you cry your real tears. (Laughing) But I didn't take them all. (Beat) Good luck kid.

(BERT walks out the door. WENDY sits down and starts to sob.)

FADE TO BLACK

THE END

**ACT VII**  
**NUKE THE WORLD**  
 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 maroon 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 all in a black suit.

Playwright’s note. Why burn the bridge when you can nuke the world?

WENDY is sitting on the ground sobbing. BERT sees her and walks past her, then goes back and kneels besides her.

BERT

Miss, you okay?

WENDY

No dude. I’m not okay.

BERT

Do you need any help miss?

WENDY

Dude, I don’t need nothing from nobody. Just leave me alone.

BERT

It’s not in my nature to leave someone in need. Do you want to share your pain with me?

WENDY

You wouldn’t....understand dude. No one would.

BERT

(BERT sits on the ground near WENDY) My name is Bert, what’s yours?

WENDY

My mom used to call me Wendy, but my friends called me ‘Commotion’.

BERT

Well I’ll call you Wendy. I always liked that name. If I ever had a daughter it would be between Sera and Wendy. I like the name Heather too.

WENDY

Dude, don't screw up your kids life by calling her Wendy. All she would get is dumb Peter Pan jokes until she comes up with a nickname.

BERT

I always liked my name. No one is named Bert much anymore. It's cool being unique.

WENDY

Well dude, I'm pretty unique. Special too. That's what my daddy use to tell me.

BERT

We're all special in some way. I'm glad that you've found what makes you special Wendy. Most people don't during their life times, and most not by your age.

WENDY

Well dude, it's been real talking to you. But I have to be leaving now. I have an important date to keep.

BERT

I hope that you'll have a fun time out. Enjoy yourself while you can.

WENDY

What about you? Do you have a wife or something?

BERT

No, I never got married. (Beat) Never found the right girl I guess.

WENDY

Dude, have you ever been in love.

BERT

(Thinks) One time...no two times. Yeah twice.

WENDY

Well dude you're lucky, I've never been in love. I've never even liked a guy before....

BERT

What's his name Wendy?

WENDY

Can you believe it's Peter? Man, Peter and Wendy, together once again! Ahh!

BERT

Did you a have a pet named Tinkerbelle?

WENDY

No dude, that's sappy. (Beat) Well me and Peter had a pretty good thing going. I was just out of an abusive relationship and he never had a girlfriend longer than a month. We made a great couple. Doing whatever we wanted, you know, kicking our heels up and living the good life. But then Peter did what all men do to me in the end.

BERT

Make you cry.

WENDY

No dude, that's the end result. He found a cuter and fluffier girl and kicked me out of the apartment. (Sobbing) And broke my little heart.

BERT

I bet there wasn't a piece of furniture that wasn't broken by the time you were thrown out of that apartment.

WENDY

(Laughing) I think that I might've broken one of his ribs too.

BERT

No fiery like a women scorn.

WENDY

Dude you had better believe it. You know, I feel a bit better talking to you. Dude are you some type of doctor or something?

BERT

No ma'am, I'm a musician. I sing and play guitar at some fancy Italian joint uptown.

WENDY

Oh, I've never been inside a real restaurant. Only Dairy Queens, you know other fast food places. I like Whataburger too!

BERT

You're not missing much. The food tastes a bit better at ten times the cost. However I've gotten use to eating at them. I eat out almost every day now.

WENDY

You rich or something dude?

BERT

(Laughs) Or something.

WENDY

My dad had a lot of money. But he never gave any of it to me. He even wanted me to work my way through college. I couldn't get no financial aid or nothing because he made way too much money. And when I told them that at the school all they did was look at me funny. No one cared. Dude, no one cares about anything. (Beat) I wish the whole planet was nuked! I just don't care about anything any more.

BERT

Nuke the world, huh? Burn every bridge and never look back. Wendy that's no way to go through life. Trust me, running away from your problems doesn't solve anything. It only delays the inevitable. One can only run away so long before you have to stop and catch your breath.

WENDY

I like to run, back when I was a kid. I used to like to do a lot of things when I was a dumb kid. You know that I was pretty good painter in High School. Not that my dad approved of my plans to be a painter. He wanted another lawyer in the family.

BERT

A painter. I knew that you were the artsy type when I first saw you. (Snaps his fingers) A painter, you could've been a poet too. I thought that you were a poet.

WENDY

How did you know that I was the artsy type?

BERT

I could see your tormented soul a mile away. See all artists, musicians, dancers, writers and actors, that are any good, are all tormented in some way. It must be because they can't cope with life and they won't kill themselves.

WENDY

Suicide. You ever think about it dude?

BERT

Not for a really long time. I guess we all have at one point thought about ending it all. Thankfully most never go through with it.

WENDY

What about the ones that do?

BERT

I wish them peace on their journey.

WENDY

Dude, you know why I'm sitting here, waiting on?

BERT

The ice cream truck?

WENDY

(Laughs) No dude, I've been waiting for a big rig to drive by so that I could jump in front of it.

BERT

That bad, huh?

WENDY

Even worst dude. (Starts to sob.)

BERT

Time...heals all wounds Wendy. That pain will go away one day. Never completely, but enough that you'll stop noticing it after awhile.

WENDY

(Stops sobbing) What was her name dude?

BERT

Tiffany. (Beat) You know that I could add her name into every song. I thought about her that much. Every day for years.

WENDY

How long until you stop singing her name?

BERT

A half of decade. I still do it from time to time, but not near as much as I used to.

WENDY

Can you see her face?

BERT

(Thinks) Not so much her face as the feelings and emotion that I have about her. It's been a long time since I've seen her for real, that in many ways she's the lost chord that I never play. Only the vestiges remain, nothing concrete.

WENDY

Tore you heart out.

BERT

Worst. She tore out my soul. Little by little, I got it back. So will you Wendy.

WENDY

I don't want my soul back. I never want to feel happy again. All I want is a black cloud around me. And for everyone to feel as crummy as I do.

BERT

Everybody does. Some can hide it easier than others. Some can't hide it all. But everybody feels crummy. Why do you think they're so many bars and drug dealers? People want to escape their pain. And they're willing to pay or do anything to make that pain disappear. Why else would anyone put poison into their bodies?

WENDY

Dude you make it sound like humanity isn't worth living.

BERT

I've had some thoughts on that issue lately. (Beat) A lot of thoughts about it. But then I put on my best suit and walk out and do something positive. Like talking to a fellow artsy soul talk about their problems. Trying to make her smile.

WENDY

Thanks dude, I do feel better. A lot better. I'm going to get up (She stands up) and go do something positive with my life! Thanks! (She kisses him on the cheek.) You're one cool dude, daddy-o! I hope you find that dream girl one day.

BERT

Thanks. Bye Wendy, and remember the sky is always blue when you need it to be. Have a great life kid. I hope you live it to its fullest.

(BERT and WENDY exit at different sides of the stage. The lights turn red and there is a loud exposition. BERT and WENDY enter the stage.)

WENDY

News flash. Terrorists set off a suitcase nuclear device at exactly 11:42 am in a small East Texas of 30,000 people. Everyone that was in the downtown area within a radius of one half mile was killed instantly. That with the radiation, over two thirds have died.

BERT

The terrorists could've picked a bigger target, however their intent was to strike fear in the hearts and minds of Americans. To show they could strike at any place and any time.

WENDY

The nation is still in shock over the lives lost in this horrible act of terrorism.

BERT

The government stills wants to assure that no matter what happens to us, go ahead and live your lives. We're sure that's what the victims of this tragedy would've wanted. For us to continue to.....live.

(BOTH exit together. The Red light turns to Blue.)

FADE TO BLACK

THE END?

**ACT VIII**  
**THE END OF THE WORLD**  
 by Herbert M. Midgley  
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TIME: Present

PLACE: A Taco Stand 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 pink 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 pair of black jeans, a white tee shirt and black jean jacket.

Playwright’s note. Live every moment like a big rock in about to land on your head.

BERT and WENDY are sitting by a table at a taco stand waiting for their food. A radio is on their table playing music.

WENDY

Bert, why did you want to come *here* tonight? I really don’t like Mexican food that much.

BERT

Well Wendy, I like Mexican food and it was *my* turn to pick the joint we were going to dine at. Plus I want some real tacos. Not the Tex-Mex food you get at the national chains, rather a real greasy taco. (Beat) This is the only place in town that you can get that type of greasy taco.

WENDY

Fine! I don’t want to hear you complain when we go to a salad bar next time we go out to eat.

BERT

I never complain about where we go.

WENDY

Only the prices.

BERT

Well that’s true. I’m cheap! Man it’s a good thing you aren’t my girl, or the price tag would be double. (Beat) Hey I save money not having a girlfriend! Woo hoo!

WENDY

You’re not saying that I’m not worth spending money on? Are you?

BERT

No. I'll let all of your boyfriends pay for you. Your buddy here is quite happy paying for his own food. And having a large saving account.

WENDY

Fine. (Beat) Boy it's sure taking them a long time to get our food out. I'm hungry. I haven't eaten all day! (Beat) Bert I'm glad that you wanted to go out and eat dinner with me. Eating alone is sad.

BERT

Then I'm one sad little man, 'cause I eat out all the time alone. Catfish buffets, fried chicken joints, hamburger restaurants, Chinese food and taco stands, I go to them all. Alone most of the time.

WENDY

Why don't you get someone to go with you?

BERT

(Sarcastically) 'cause I'm not a tall leggy drink my dear. (Smiles) No, guys don't really care if they dine alone. (Beat) I don't even think about it now. If I'm hungry and want to eat out, I'm going!

WENDY

What you need is a girlfriend Bert.

BERT

Funny I was thinking the same thing. (Sarcastically) The same thing for the last few decades that is. (Beat) Maybe you could be my wingman.

WENDY

What's that?

BERT

A wingman is a girl that goes with you to the club and helps you pick up chicks at said club.

WENDY

(Shocked) Oh, well I guess I could do that. (Happy) I could be your wingman. I can't wait to help you pick out chicks. (Beat) So how do you like your girls Bert? Tall and thin? Short and perky? No, you like them smart, right?

BERT

Real smart. (Beat) If they're a tall leggy drink, that's nice too. And they have to have a perfect smile and long hair. You know, a perfect ten.

WENDY

(Slowly) Ok, that narrows it down a bit doesn't it?

BERT

Well I've been without a girlfriend for ages, I can wait and be picky. I'm not going to date the first girl with a heartbeat that winks at me.

WENDY

It's good to have standards.

BERT

(Seriously) Wendy, before we go out with you as my wingman, you have to assure me that you have no romantic feelings towards me.

WENDY

(Surprised) What!?

BERT

You can't have any feelings for me at all if you're going to be my wingman. If you do, you will shoot down every hot chick that may look my way because you would be jealous of them gaining my time and attention.

WENDY

(Stunned) Bert, you like...me!?! (Beat) When did this happen? Why didn't you tell me sooner?

BERT

Wendy can you be my wingman?

WENDY

(Pause) No. You're right, there's no girl good enough to date you. I would be jealous of any girl that gets your attention Bert.

BERT

When did you fall in love with me?

WENDY

I don't know. It took along time for me to truly realize it. When you asked me to help you pick up girls a few moments ago, I knew for sure. (Beat) How about you Bert?

BERT

The first time met you.

WENDY

I was a horrible person then. So into myself, never helping anyone always focusing on me, I mean it had to always be about me and....

(BERT lends in and kisses WENDY innocently.)

BERT

I do believe that I hear stars exploding out there in space Wendy.

WENDY

I know, I hear them too Bert.

(WENDY lends in and kisses BERT innocently.)

BERT

My heart is pounding like I ran a million miles.

WENDY

So is mine.

(The music on the radio stops and some news type intro music begins to play. WENDY and BERT stare at the radio.)

RADIO

Ladies and gentlemen, this worldwide emergency announcement is just in from NORAD, an asteroid the size of Texas is rocketing towards Earth at supersonic speeds. Since this incredibly large asteroid is racing on a collision course at over 60,000 miles an hour, the human race has about.... three minutes left on the Earth. I don't know what to say other than it has been a pleasure to play Rock and Roll music for you for the last twenty years. Good luck, God bless you all and Rock and Roll! (A loud siren is heard as the radio station goes off the air.)

(WENDY and BERT look toward each other, then at the sky then back at each other. And shrugs their shoulders together.)

BERT

(Angry) Man ain't that just sad!

WENDY

What Bert!

BERT

I finally got my dream girl to admit she loves me and it's the end of the world! Now ain't that just terrific! (Beat) Blah!

WENDY

Bert I don't know what to say.

BERT

Well baby you had better say it fast, you got about two minutes and change to get it out of your system!

WENDY

I...I...I....My mind has just drawn a blank. Bert honey, hold me. Hold me tight as the world blows up!

(BERT and WENDY hold each other.)

BERT

What a way to check out of this world. And the crime of it all is that we paid for our meal and didn't get it! Blah!

WENDY

Bert honey, it's ok, I'm not really that hungry now. You know, the whole world ending and stuff. It kind of drives the appetite from a girl's mind, you know.

BERT

I know, but still it's the principle. (Yells at the workers) Hey could you hurry up with the food! We're kind of running out of time you know!

WENDY

Do you think they know the world is about to end? I mean we did have to use our pigeon Spanish to order.

BERT

Probably not. But since we got bad service and (looks at his watch) there's about a minute left for humanity, eh why brother them with it. Let them live the last minute on Earth in bliss.

WENDY

We're down to a minute left?

BERT

Ah huh.

WENDY

I'm not even scared now.

BERT

Me neither. (Beat) I've accepted that we're all going to die. Not much else we could do about it now. (Beat) (Holds her hand) I do you love you Wendy.

WENDY

(Thinks for a moment) Love! (Breaks their hug.) Bert honey, love is the answer!

BERT

I didn't know there was a question Wendy.

WENDY

Bert, love conquers all. Why can't love conquer that asteroid that's about to kill us?

BERT

(Shakes head) Wendy darling, I don't know. Why can't it?

WENDY

It can.

BERT

Huh?

WENDY

You love me, right?

BERT

Yes, with all of my heart and soul. I love you more than any man has loved a woman.

WENDY

And I love you more than any woman has loved a man.

BERT

Ok. (Beat) Hey that makes me feel great darling!

(BERT kisses WENDY softly and innocently again.)

WENDY

(Frustrated) Ok, great. (Normal voice) So if two people on the Earth loved each other with all of their hearts and souls, no little asteroid can kill that! Can it!?

BERT

Not in my heart my love.

WENDY

Not in my heart my love.

WENDY and BERT

(Both hold hands) Not in our hearts my love.

(BERT and WENDY kiss innocently again. A loud whistle sound breaks their kiss. They both look up in the sky. The lights change from white, to red to purple with a loud whinny falling sound. WENDY hugs BERT. The lights suddenly go to black and a loud thud is heard.)

THE END

**ACT IX**  
**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

**ACT X**  
**HIT ME BABY ONE MORE TIME**  
 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 orange 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 all in black.

Playwright’s note. Hitting is never the question.

BERT is standing in his living playing guitar and singing. BERT is rocking out to, “I Never Meant to Break Your Heart”.

BERT

(Singing) I never meant to break your heart. Baby. I never meant to break your heart. Darling... (Knock at the door.) (No longer singing) Man, I was just getting to the good part! (Towards the door) Who is it?

WENDY

It’s me.

BERT

Wendy? It’s three o’clock in the morning.

WENDY

I know. Hey I’m freezing out here, can I come in?

BERT

Ok.

(BERT opens the door and shocked to see WENDY has a black eye and bruises and scratches on her body.)

WENDY

Bert don’t say anything yet.

BERT

Wendy....I don’t know what to say anyways. (He puts down his guitar.)

WENDY

He didn’t mean it. I mean that...it was....my fault. All my fault.

BERT

Yeah. You deserved to get beat up by that....

WENDY

No. Stop! Don't say it.

BERT

Ok Wendy. He only hits you because he loves you. Right!?! (Beat) Is that what you want to say to me? Huh? That he's a super great guy that gets his kicks out of to beat the snot out of you. Is it some sort of sick way to say he loves you? With all his heart?

WENDY

(Screams) You just don't understand! (Quietly) Bert, you don't understand.

BERT

(BERT sits down on his couch.) Ok. (Beat) Enlighten me. I'm all ears.

WENDY

Well, (laughs) where do I begin? (Beat) He was watching his football games and was drinking beer. So we're watching the game and he was down to his last beer and I tipped it over. He got mad, but he didn't hit me. No he went to the store to get some more beer and came back all happy. Even brought me back a diet soda.

BERT

What a winner.

WENDY

Bert, let me get through this. So he gets back to his game. And he falls asleep, so I start to make him his supper then the phone rings.

BERT

Let me guess, was it Avon calling?

WENDY

No. It was Todd. He told Peter that he saw us out eating at the Chinese buffet off Main Street.

BERT

So?

WENDY

Well Bert, how can I put this the right way? Peter is jealous of any guy that talks to me.

BERT

I know. Brain Damage is a piece of work.

WENDY

Don't call him that.

BERT

Wendy, after what he has done to you, I will never speak his name again. To me he is and has always been Brain Damage. For the love of life he works the midnight shift at a donut shop! That doesn't make him a member of Mensa, does it?

WENDY

It's an easy job for him. It well... gives him time to sleep and get a paycheck.

BERT

Defending the jerk that gave you a black eye. Tisk, tisk tisk. (Beat) So Brain Damage doesn't like it when you and I eat out.

WENDY

Yeah. He told me to stop seeing you. But you're my friend! I can't stop seeing and talking to my friends! (Beat) I don't have many left now....

BERT

So I'm the reason that he used your face as a punching bag? Son of a....

WENDY

No Bert! It wasn't your fault! It was mine! I knew how he would react if I didn't do what he told me to do.

BERT

If you disobeyed him? (Beat) Wendy, why did you come here tonight? You have hundreds of friends, why me? I haven't seen or heard from you in weeks.

WENDY

I know. It was you know, Peter. He wanted to have me around him more. You know he took me out a lot. And we even did some things that I wanted to do. But mainly it was because he didn't want me to go out with my....my friends.

BERT

Meaning me. (Beat) At one point in my life, I wouldn't be sitting here. However I have grown up. There are two sides to the every issue. And it takes two to tango. So Wendy it's not all on him. (Beat) So how long have you been *disobeying* him?

WENDY

A few months. I figured if I only went out when he was getting drunk with his boys watching football, that he would never know.

BERT

(Touches her face) Wendy, why did you disobey him?

WENDY

Because I have fun with you.

BERT

You have fun with your other friends. I've seen it.

WENDY

That's true, but it's different with you. You're different.

BERT

I put my pants on one leg at a time like everyone else. That was what my grandpa told me whenever I got a big head. (Beat) He told me that a lot when I was growing up.

WENDY

You are different. What are you a saint....a poet?

BERT

I'm a time traveler. I travel in to the future one second at a time.

WENDY

(They both laugh) You could always make me laugh, you know. No matter how much pain I was in. My world was falling apart and you would put a smile on my face.

BERT

You know Wendy, I never wanted to add to the drama that is your life already. (Beat) There's never the right time so I'm just going to say it.

WENDY

Don't. Not to night Bert.

BERT

This is the end game between us. Both of us have to show our cards.

WENDY

You could just fold and walk away.

BERT

Yeah, I guess that I could. But I'm stupid sometimes. (Takes WENDY'S hand and kisses her check.)

WENDY

Bert....

BERT

Wendy, I'm in love with you. You're the girl of my dreams.

WENDY

I know.

BERT

You look worst now than when you walked in. (Beat) I don't know what is worst, telling a girl that you are in love with her or beating her? I hope it's beating her, however the girl acts the same way when you do both to her. Not that I have ever beaten a girl before...

WENDY

Of course you haven't. That's why you are a saint or a poet.

BERT

I know.

WENDY

Bert, I don't love you in that way. I never loved you. (Beat) I'm not worth your love anyways. Save it for someone that is worthy of you.

BERT

You know according to all of the articles that I've read in *Playboy*, if a chick tells you she isn't worthy of you then she probably isn't.

WENDY

You read the articles in *Playboy*?

BERT

Sure, there's only a few pages of photos in there and looking at them only takes a few minutes.

WENDY

Bert you're really are a saint or a poet.

BERT

Yeah.

WENDY

Yeah.

(WENDY takes BERT into his arms and makes out with him.)

BERT

Wow! Where did that come from?

WENDY

Every guy should have the chance to make-out with his dream girl at least once in his life.

BERT

Well, thanks. Is that what you tell a girl after she kisses you?

WENDY

Sure. (Beat) You know Bert, I'm hungry. You wanted go get breakfast with me?

BERT

What about Brain Damage?

WENDY

Ah, who cares? He's at work taking out the holes in donuts right about now. I'll deal with him later.

BERT

Is this a happy ending?

WENDY

No Bert, there are no happy endings in romance. Only drama and pain and more drama. (Beat) I'm tired of all this junk, let's just get breakfast, and it's on me this time amigo.

BERT

Well great, I do love to eat.

WENDY

Yeah me too. Maybe I should put on some make up to hide my brushes and black eye.

BERT

Wendy, screw it, those are love marks, let the world see them! Show them you're in love.

WENDY

Yeah, you're right. Ain't love great! (THEY both walk towards the door. BERT stops)

BERT

Computer, end virtual reality sequence Alpha Beta One. (WENDY disappears.)  
Computer is this the way all romances happen in the 21st century? I can't believe that humanity survived those Dark Ages. Oh well, since humanity has gotten rid of marriage, there are no more wars. It turned out that romance was the root cause for all of the ugly things people did to one another. Now that we all are equal, there isn't a need for war, fighting or hate. Wow, I'm glad to live in this time. Computer take me to the year....

FADE TO BLACK

THE END

**ACT XI**  
**ETERNITY**

by Herbert M. Midgley

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TIME: Distant Future

PLACE: In the After life

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 white 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 all in white.

Playwright’s note. In the end, all your mistakes vanish.

BERT is sitting on the ground looking up into the sky holding his hands. He looks at peace. He walks and looks around then sits back down staring out into nowhere.  
WENDY walks up behind him without him seeing her, then sits down near him.

WENDY

Hello Bert.

BERT

Where....am I?

WENDY

You’re dead.

BERT

Dead?

WENDY

That’s right. You died about three minutes ago.

BERT

I’m dead. (Beat) I’m....dead? Funny I don’t feel dead.

WENDY

We all said that. Trust me Bert, you’re dead. Dead as the preverbal door nail.

BERT

Where....am I? Is this Heaven? Everything is white. I can’t smell anything either.

WENDY

This is the after life. Welcome to it, Bert.

BERT

(Looking at WENDY for the first time) You look familiar. I knew you at one time.

WENDY

Yes you did Bert.

BERT

You....were special to me.

WENDY

Yes. Very special. (Beat) And you were very special to me.

BERT

I loved you.

WENDY

Yes. Yes you did Bert. You loved me with all your heart and soul. And you would've done anything for me.

BERT

You....left me. (Beat) I was so sad.

WENDY

Yes. So was I.

BERT

Why are you here?

WENDY

To help you on your final journey. (Beat) And to finish mine.

BERT

So you're dead too? How old were you when it happened?

WENDY

The last time I checked, I was young Bert. (She takes her own pulse) Yeah, still dead.

BERT

How old was I when I croaked?

WENDY

Very old and wise.

BERT

Good. For some reason that gives me peace.

WENDY

It doesn't matter here Bert. Not much what you did on Earth really matters here.

BERT

I feel great here. Euphoric, really. I can't believe that this is death. All my pain has vanished. Not a care in the world now. However, I miss my....body. I feel like a ghost.

WENDY

Bert, you are a ghost. Your body is on Earth and your sprit is in the after life.

BERT

Wow. Fascinating. (Beat) To be so a live, but at the same time being so dead.

WENDY

It won't take long for it to feel normal. You had nine months to get ready for your life on Earth. So far you have barely been in the after life for ten minutes. You'll get use to it soon. Give it a little time Bert.

BERT

Are you my guide here?

WENDY

In some ways.

BERT

I never married, did I?

WENDY

No Bert, you never did. That doesn't matter here.

BERT

But... you did.

WENDY

Yes, however here Bert, it doesn't matter. It seems like a lifetime ago when I was alive.

BERT

I'm still seeing....vague images. I feel emotions. People are sad that I'm dead. A lot of people.

WENDY

Bert, you changed and influenced so many lives. When you died, the whole nation mourned.

BERT

I was famous. A musician. I played guitar and sang.....my own songs.

WENDY

Yes Bert. You changed the world with your sad, whiney, emo songs. They gave people hope. A way to escape their pain and sorrows.

BERT

Playing my songs.....gave me so much joy. That was the one thing that I had left that I loved. One by one I lost every thing else. (Beat) You.....you're name.

WENDY

It's....

BERT

Don't tell me. I know it. (Beat) Wendy. I love you Wendy. (Beat) I never forgot you. I thought about you everyday. I prayed for soul every night.

WENDY

I needed your prayers. Thank you Bert for praying for me. I knew that you did.

BERT

There's more. I love you. Wendy I was in love with you. We were soul mates, right?

WENDY

That's what you once told me. And Bert, you were right. That's why I'm here with you.

BERT

Sometimes Wendy, I would look at the stars and hope that you were looking at the same ones. That gave me solace. It made me feel, that you were still with me.

WENDY

Bert, I was gone physically but I never left your heart. I was always with you. And you were always with me. (Beat) That got me through, all of my mistakes.

BERT

Oh Wendy, I missed you so much. Your smile. Your laugh. Your.....aura.

WENDY

Bert, I missed you so much it hurt. So much. (Beat) I named my son after you.

BERT

How did my namesake turn out?

WENDY

(Beat) He died young. Real young. Of an overdose.

BERT

I'm sorry. That must've been horrible.

WENDY

No parent should out live their children. (Beat) I often thought that if you were his father, things would've been different.

BERT

Your husband.....

WENDY

Ran off with his secretary. To Mexico, without leaving me a dime to support us.

BERT

I wished I knew that.

WENDY

I wanted to tell you, but you were a star. (Beat) Yeah I used to love watching you on the late night talk shows. Bert you were so funny. I laughed so much those nights.

BERT

Funny, I don't remember doing that. I do remember that I hoped that I would see you at a concert one night. After each concert, I would remain on stage waiting. Hoping.

WENDY

I wished I could've seen you too! Being a single mom, I had to work two shifts at a greasy spoon to make ends meet. After I left you, life was hard on me.

BERT

Why did you marry your husband? Did you ever find that love you used to talk about?

WENDY

I thought I did. But you were right. I should've married someone that I liked instead of someone that I fell in love with. That was the worst three years of my life. Bert right before he left me, I looked into my mirror and I saw a person that was dead on the inside. That made me dead on the outside too. All I saw were these....dead eyes. I hated my life. I was waiting to die. Hoping to end the misery.

BERT

Wendy, would it have been different if you had married me?

WENDY

You would've treated me like a queen. And I would've treated you as my king. It would've been a great marriage. Because we loved one another and were soul mates.

BERT

I guess we'll never know.

WENDY

Well Bert, the past is the past here. We have an eternity to spend together. Just you and I, doing whatever we want.

BERT

(Takes her hand) Finally we can travel to those stars together. Go to any place and any time. I want to see a black hole.

WENDY

We can go wherever you like Bert.

BERT

Wendy, how about the second star to the right? Straight on until morning?

WENDY

That sounds like a grand idea. I'll bring the pixie dust.

BERT

(Lets go of her hand) I'm no longer mad at you. After you left me for him, I loved you so much, that I had to hate you so that I could live. So I could go on, without you.

WENDY

I understand.

BERT

That was tearing me up. One day, I decided to stop hating you for what you did. Accepted it. Then I opened the door and started to rock the world with my songs about you. You and me. Our love was known to all my fans. They all sung our songs.

WENDY

I listened to every one of your songs Bert. When I was alone, I would put in the CD and cry myself to sleep. All your songs were about you and me?

BERT

You write what you know. You write what's on your mind. You write about what makes you not sleep at night.

WENDY

Bert, I sorry I broke your heart. Leaving you was the biggest mistake I ever made.

BERT

Letting you leave, was mine. Wendy, I love you even more now. The light of my life.

WENDY

My sweet prince that protected me from monsters, dragons and lions.

(They stand up and hold each other and gently kiss each other.)

BERT

My sweet princess that gave me hope in a sad and lonely world.

WENDY

Bert you always protected me. You save my soul from the dark path. I lost my dead eyes.

BERT

Wendy you always protected me. You save my spirit when it was empty. I lost my dead heart.

WENDY

Finally we're together. Forever more.

BERT

Well Wendy, we have eternity to hang out together, I guess we had better get started.

WENDY

Better late than never. So what are we doing the next billion plus years Bert?

BERT

(Thinking) Chasing all of my fantasies.

WENDY

Bert you've done that your entire life. Why not try something different?

BERT

Hum, I honesty don't care what we do. As long as it's with you. (Beat) So let's rock the universe. And this time with my dream girl and my soul mate on my arm.

WENDY

No. With my soul mate on my arm. You can do the rockin' though.

BERT

Ok. That does sound better. Wendy, sometimes dreams do come true. Even if it takes an...eternity.

(WENDY kisses BERT on his cheek then BERT and WENDY lock arms and walk into a bright white light. They start to turn back, then suddenly they don't and they continue into the bright white light.)

FADE TO BLACK

THE END

**ACT XII**  
**IT'S STRING THEORY, BABY!**  
 by Herbert M. Midgley  
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TIME: Present

PLACE: A garden 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 blue 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 a power red tie.

Playwright's note. Given all the parallel universes, there is at least one couple that is truly happy.

WENDY is walking next to BERT on a nice spring day.

WENDY

Oh boy. (Beat) This is fun. (Beat) Bert? Bert!?

BERT

(Staring forward then looks at WENDY) Oh, what? (They both stop walking and stand near each other.)

WENDY

You'll never get a girl if you don't pay attention to her while walking her home. (Beat) Are you having fun?

BERT

Of course. I always have fun with you. Being with you is great Wendy. (Beat) It's a great day here. A great day to be alive.

WENDY

Your mind was elsewhere, wasn't it?

BERT

No it was.....

WENDY

Bert?

BERT

Yeah, I was thinking.

WENDY

Thinking? You're always thinking. Thinking about what Bert? (Beat) Something *important*?

BERT

No, yes! (Looks at WENDY nervously) Not really important to anyone other than me.

WENDY

Penny for your thought?

BERT

Do you even have any pennies anymore? (Both look at each other, then they smile at each other.) As we are walking around this beautiful garden, I can't help but think about how everything is put together.

WENDY

The flowers? The trees?

BERT

Yeah, and more. You and me. The dirt that we're walking on. The air we're breathing. That stone over there. The Earth, all of it. (Beat) The whole enchilada!

WENDY

Didn't God make it?

BERT

That's what I was taught in Sunday school.

(They start walking again.)

WENDY

Yeah. Me too.

BERT

(Looks at his feet then at Wendy's face.) Strings.

WENDY

What about them? (She turns around) Where? Do I need my scissors?

BERT

We are all made up of strings.

WENDY

(Gives him a 'what you talking about look') I was raised to believe that I was made of sugar and spice...

BERT

And everything nice. No. I'm not made of slugs, snails or puppy dog tails either. No, strings. You and I are nothing but a lot of strings combined together.

WENDY

(Thinks for a moment) M Theory, right?

BERT

Yeah Wendy. M Theory. It's where M can stand for the 'Master Theory'. It's skeptics like to say the that M stands for the 'Magical Theory', the 'Mythical Theory', the 'Mystery Theory', the 'Murky Theory' and even the 'Moronic Theory'.

WENDY

Are you one of those skeptics Bert?

BERT

I was for a while. I mean at one time there were five different 'string theories' floating around.

WENDY

Wow! That many?

BERT

Yeah. It wasn't until they started to think of those strings in the first dimension that all the different 'string theories' came together. Which meant that we would have eleven dimensions instead of the four ones we normally think about.

WENDY

Length, width and height are the three dimensions.

BERT

With time being the fourth dimension. (Beat) It's cool that you can think fourth dimensionally Wendy.

(Both smile at one another)

WENDY

Only when you're around Bert. It's hard enough to visualize the fourth dimension in one's mind. What could the eleventh dimension be like?

BERT

Multiverse. More than one universe. Well actually a lot more than just one universe. A whole more.

WENDY

How much more Bert?

BERT

Wendy, so many that our minds could never comprehend them all.

WENDY

So where does the Big Bang come involved?

BERT

That was the rub for a long time. Why there were so many skeptics. The reason why I was a skeptic too.

WENDY

It has something to do with the eleventh dimension, doesn't it Bert?

BERT

It sure does. With a multiverse as the paradigm the Big Bang could be explained.

WENDY

No way!

BERT

(Puts a finger up) Check this out. The common Big Bang theory that most people know states that our universe started from nothing. Nowhere. Zippo! However now the whole enchilada could start when two different universes collided together.

WENDY

It does?

BERT

Yes. With a snap of a finger, (snaps fingers) two different universes collided and our universe begins.

WENDY

Wow. Does that happen all the time?

BERT

You ready to have your mind blown wide open. (Whispers to her ear) It happens all the time!

WENDY

No....

BERT

Yes. It's happening right now. See every action that we do, every choice we make, a new parallel universe pops up. Us walking right instead of going to the left. Snap, a new parallel universe. You blinking your left eye instead of both eyes and bam, a new parallel universe.

WENDY

You smiling and me frowning instead the other way around and poof, a new parallel universe.

BERT

I do believe you got it Wendy. In one parallel universe you may not have been born. In another I wasn't born either. The next one the human race never occurred. Maybe I'm a conman and you're a grifter in another. Or maybe you're a Hollywood movie star and I'm an astronaut. (Beat) I bet in one, I make prank calls all of the time! (Beat) And perhaps in one parallel universe, snap, (snaps fingers) you and I are a couple.

WENDY

(Downplays his last sentence) If you say so Bert. (Beat) It's such a great day, let's not get *too* serious. You know we can have a talk and not have the weight of the world on our shoulders.

BERT

True. That's true Wendy. (Beat) You're the one girl that I can talk to about *strings, parallel universes* and other mind warping topics. Most other girls would run away as soon as I started to talk about other dimensions. I suppose that you have these kind of deep talks with everyone you hang out with.

WENDY

(Looks at him with a blank expression) No. You're the only one. At times I feel that you're the only one I can truly talk to. I mean it Bert, I can truly talk to you about anything and everything.

(Both stop walking)

BERT

Yeah, me too. (Beat) Hey Wendy, do you ever think about you know, you and me. Well, you know, being together.

WENDY

I think about you all the time! You know that.

BERT

That's not what I mean. I mean we are so close and you know that I'm crazy about you and...

WENDY

I'm crazy about you too, but...

BERT

Not *the but*. (Beat) Whenever there's *a but*, there are no happy endings to that story.

WENDY

(Sighs) But! But I have boyfriend. You know that.

BERT

I didn't ask about your boyfriend, I asked about *us* being together.

WENDY

(Looks up and down and fidgets) Then yes. (Looks him straight in the eye) Yes! I think about *us* being together all the time!

BERT

But...

WENDY

Bert, you know *the but*. Don't make me say it out loud. (Beat) Please.

BERT

I'm going to say it.

WENDY

(Softly) Don't.

BERT

Your boyfriend is a Type A controlling jerk that treats you like garbage and I'm in love with you.

(BERT and WENDY both snap their fingers. Fade to black. Lights return with a blue spotlight on them. Then the lighting is back to normal. BERT and WENDY have changed sides.)

WENDY

Yeah, me too. (Beat) Hey Bert, do you ever think about you know, you and me. Well, you know, being together.

BERT

I think about you all the time! You know that.

WENDY

That's not what I mean. I mean we are so close and you know that I'm crazy about you and...

BERT

I'm crazy about you too, but...

WENDY

Not *the but*. (Beat) Whenever there's *a but*, there are no happy endings to that story.

BERT

(Sighs) But! But I have girlfriend. You know that.

WENDY

I didn't ask about your girlfriend, I asked about *us* being together.

BERT

(Looks up and down and fidgets) Then yes. (Looks him straight in the eye) Yes! I think about *us* being together all the time!

WENDY

But...

BERT

Wendy, you know *the but*. Don't make me say it out loud. (Beat) Please.

WENDY

I'm going to say it.

BERT

(Softly) Don't.

WENDY

Your girlfriend is a Type A controlling harpy that treats you like garbage and I'm in love with you.

(BERT and WENDY both snap their fingers. Fade to black. Lights return with a blue spotlight on them. Then the lighting is back to normal. BERT and WENDY have changed sides and directions.)

BERT and WENDY

Yeah, me too. (Both laugh) Hey, do you ever think about you know, you and me. (Both look at each other and laugh) Well, you know, being together.

BERT

I think about you all the time Wendy! You know that.

WENDY

I think about you all the time Bert! You know that.

(Both look at each other weirdly)

BERT and WENDY

That's not what I mean. I mean we are so close and you know that I'm crazy about you and... (Both look at each other and laugh)

BERT

I'm crazy about you too, but...

WENDY

I'm crazy about you too, but...

BERT and WENDY

Not *the but*. (Beat) Whenever there's *a but*, there are no happy endings to that story. (Both stop and look at each other, and both shake their heads.)

BERT

Ok Wendy, let's only speak one at a time from now on. This is freaking me out!

WENDY

Agreed. Man Bert, that was weird. Like something out of a 1950's black and white Sci-Fi movie. I mean....

BERT

Wendy I'm crazy about you. I adore you my love.

WENDY

Bert honey, I'm crazy nuts about you. I adore you too, my love.

(Both hold each other's hand. BERT takes WENDY into his arms and gives her a romantic kiss. They break and are still holding hands as they start to walk again.)

BERT

You know Wendy, that in some strange parallel universe we may have never met.

WENDY

Or this is even crazier, maybe we know each other. And for some idiotic reason I'm dating some Type A controlling jerk that treats me like garbage and you are with Type A controlling harpy that treats you like garbage.

(Both stop and look at each other and shake their heads to indicate 'no way')

BERT

I have pity for them.

WENDY

Who honey?

BERT

Any 'Wendy' and 'Bert' in those parallel universes that aren't a couple. In life you have to take chances. Big chances. When you know it's the right thing to do, take that chance and make it happen. If two people are meant to be together, fate finds away to make it happen. (Beat) Fate always wins.

WENDY

(She tightens the grip of their handholding) I know that I'm lucky to have you in my life. That I'm glad to be in this universe, with you and I as a couple. And Bert honey, I love so much, it hurts.

BERT

Wendy my love, I love you so much that words are inadequate to express my feelings about you, my love of my life. (Beat) It's just sad that maybe there's a 'Bert' out there without a 'Wendy'.

WENDY

You know Bert, I bet that in most of those crazy parallel universes, we're together. I mean look at us together. (Both stop and take a pose.) No two people were meant to be together as much as you and I. We have to be together, if we aren't a couple, the universe just ain't right.

BERT

Your right, Wendy. You're always right honey. (Hugs her) When two people are destined to be couple, nothing can stop it. Not space or time. Nor crazy parallel universes. No one. Nothing.

WENDY

Bert honey, what should we do now?

BERT

(Looks her in the eye and hugs her again and smiles.) Everything.

(BERT and WENDY both snap their fingers.)

FADE TO BLACK

THE END