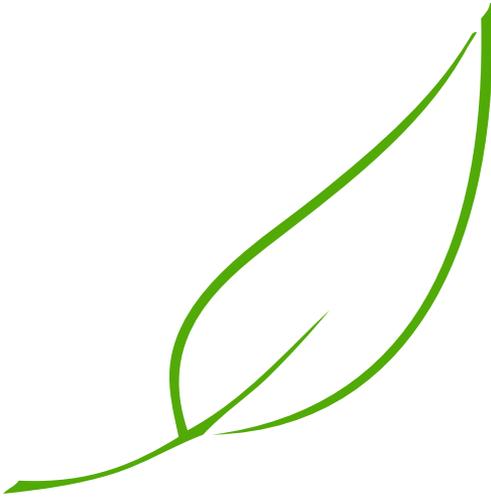


LOVE

by Ken Bradbury



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OMNI: Love! (*The boy and the girl each turn around to face audience on opposite sides of the playing area. They both smile and swoon "Ahh!"*) What can you say about love that hasn't already been said? Love is in the air! Love makes the world go 'round! Love in the first degree! It's all been said, right?

BOY AND GIRL: No!

OMNI: You're right. When it happens to you, it's brand-new and exciting and ... Look, this is really important stuff, and if you need to take notes, go right ahead. Of course, love is also rather ... visual ... so you may just want to watch.

GIRL: Oh joy!

BOY: Wow!

BOY: She's cute!

GIRL: I'm in love!

BOY: She's awesome!

GIRL: I'm in love!

BOY: I like to ... you know ... look at her a lot!

GIRL: I'm ... in love!

BOY: Oh, look! A sunset! Hold my hand! Quick!

GIRL: Awww ...

OMNI: And so it begins. She has feelings ... he has eyes.

BOY: (*approaching the girl*) Hey, I don't ... you know, remember seeing you around here.

OMNI: He's been sitting by her for 12 years.

GIRL: Yeh ... I'm ... you know ... me. What's your name?

OMNI: She's written it 57 times on the back cover of her geometry book.

BOY: My ... uh ...

OMNI: He's forgotten his name.

GIRL: Is it Mike?

BOY: Yeh! How'd you know?

OMNI: Duh.

GIRL: Oh, I just ... you know... know.

OMNI: And so it begins. In case you missed it that was their first date. Her version:

GIRL: It was so awesome! Like he just walked up to me. I mean, I was paying any attention ... and he just talked and talked ... I mean the guy wouldn't shut up. I think he likes me.

OMNI: Close. His version:

BOY: I didn't say a thing. She just walked up to where I was standing and she wanted to know my name and where I lived and my phone number ... I mean, I she wouldn't shut up. She thinks I'm cool.

OMNI: Shall we review the original conversation?

GIRL: What's your name?

BOY: My ... uh ...

GIRL: Is it Mike?

BOY: Yeh! How'd you know?

OMNI: When you're in love, memory is not your strong suit. Date two!

BOY: (*goes to seated girl holding an imaginary cafeteria tray*) Hey! I see you everywhere! Anybody eating with you?

GIRL: (*shrugs, then*) No. I guess not.

BOY: Could I ... you know ...?

GIRL: Why not?

OMNI: His story!

BOY: I was just sittin' there mindin' my own business when she walks right up to me and asks if she could eat lunch with me. I didn't do a thing! Honest! She thinks I'm cool.

OMNI: Yeh. And her version ...

GIRL: He practically fell all over me trying to sit down. I mean the guy was really out of it. I don't think I ate a thing ... he wanted to talk the entire lunch period! I think he really likes me.

OMNI: A long way from ...

BOY: Could I ... you know ...?

GIRL: Why not?

OMNI: But then the relationship gets serious! Text messaging!

BOY: (*poking at his imaginary cell phone*) Hey! What sup?

GIRL: Not much! U?

OMNI: Great literature in the making here.

BOY: See ya.

GIRL: Okay.

OMNI: Ain't love grand? And then ... a bit of dramatic tension is added to the mix!

GIRL: (*into phone*) Why didn't you talk to me at school today?

BOY: (*into phone*) I did!

GIRL: You grunted. A grunt is not talking.

BOY: I was busy.

GIRL: You didn't even notice me!

BOY: Did too!

GIRL: Okay, then where was I?

BOY: Uh ... (*bangs his phone*) I got a bad connection.

OMNI: And the next day ...

BOY: (*into phone*) You talkin' to Jarod today?

GIRL: I just said Hi.

BOY: You said Hi all lunch period.

GIRL: You could have come over! (*a pause, then*) I said, Why didn't you come over and sit with me then?

BOY: (*bangs phone*) I got a bad connection.

OMNI: Love! A series of bad connections! It's not tripping merrily over a pasture of flowers or running through fragrant streams ... More like climbing a mountain. There are peaks!

GIRL: I couldn't sleep all night! I kept thinking of him!

BOY: I washed my car three times this week!

OMNI: And then the valleys

GIRL: What do you mean you're busy?

BOY: I wanna spend time with my friends.

GIRL: Friends? What am I?

BOY: You're ... you know ... like a sister.

GIRL: (*crying*) Ahhhh!

BOY: What'd I say? What'd I say?

OMNI: Graduation approaches. (*arranging two chairs side by side*) A time to get serious. A time to consider things that we know absolutely nothing about.

GIRL: (*sitting*) So ... Are you going to State next year?

BOY: Can't. I've signed up for Tech U.



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