

FIRST Comes Love

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Jenny, a high school senior, feels as if she is walking on cloud nine. Dave Stone, the new guy she has secretly admired all year, has asked her to be his date to the prom. Her girlfriends, Michelle, Amy and Lisa, are all sexually active and have been pressuring Jenny to give up her old-fashioned views on premarital sex. Now that Dave is in the picture, they ask why not give up her virginity to someone whom she really likes?

Then, on the day before the prom, Jenny's best friend, Michelle, tearfully confides that she thinks she is pregnant and her boyfriend dumped her when she told him. Michelle doesn't want Jenny to make the same mistake, so that's why she has to tell her the painful truth about Dave. It seems that Dave was bragging to his football buddies, in less than flattering terms, about how he was going to be the one to take Jenny's virginity.

Distraught, Jenny begins to question whether premarital sex is worth the gamble of pregnancy, disease, loss of reputation, and compromise of values. Her decision is one that many youth across the United States are also making about sexual abstinence.

(A religious version of this play is available for Christian schools and church groups. Visit www.95church.com for more information.)

SET DESIGN

All action takes place at a large high school. SR are lockers while CS is filled with tables and benches to represent the school cafeteria. Steve speaks on a raised platform SL with a microphone on a stand or on a podium.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 w, 3 m)

JENNY: She's realistic and has high values. Under pressure from her peers, however, she almost compromises them. Her best friend is Michelle and her circle of friends include Amy and Lisa.

MICHELLE: Jenny's best friend. She puts a lot of pressure on Jenny to follow her example, but changes her tune after a rude awakening.

AMY: Part of the foursome that make up Jenny's circle of friends. Lisa's best friend. A bit of an airhead.

LISA: Part of the foursome that make up Jenny's circle of friends. Amy's best friend. Lisa can be harsh about the realities of life and sometimes a bit of a bully.

DAVE: The new guy in school whom Jenny falls for. He's good looking and plays on the football team. He feels the pressure to conform and be one of the guys but reconsiders when he realizes the cost.

RALPH: Geeky guy who sets up sound system. (Bit part.)

STEVE: Handsome and well-dressed speaker promoting sexual abstinence. Should be able to speak authoritatively and with conviction.

EXTRAS: 10-15 extra teens for the cafeteria scene. Can also be used to walk by during the locker scenes.

PROPS

School books and bags; lunch trays including an apple on Jenny's; watches for Dave and Amy; roll of packing tape; and small condom box.

COSTUMES

All the students wear typical school clothes with minor changes (adding or subtracting sweaters, vests, etc.) to denote the passage of time at Scene 3.

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*Dave and Jenny sitting in a tree
K-I-S-S-I-N-G
First comes love, then comes marriage
Then comes Jenny with the baby carriage.*

SCENE 1

(AT RISE: Early morning at school. SPOTLIGHT on the four GIRLS standing in a huddle SR in front of lockers or back drop. THEY have books in their hands as they prepare for their next class.)

MICHELLE: *(Digging through notebook frantically, HER voice rising in panic.)* Oh no, I can't find my math assignment. I know it was here somewhere. I bet my brother took it. He said he was going to get revenge on me for telling Mom that I saw him smoking. *(Frantic look goes away and SHE smiles to friends.)* How was that? Do you think Mrs. Moth Towels will buy it?

(JENNY, LISA, and AMY applaud and MICHELLE takes a bow.)

JENNY: *(Giggles.)* Shhh, Mrs. Moscow will give you detention if she hears you call her that!

LISA: *(Looks at AMY.)* What do you think, Amy? I rate it in the top five most convincing excuses as to why Michelle doesn't have her homework.

AMY: I especially liked the part where the light caught the glistening in her eye. How did you do that?

MICHELLE: *(Proudly.)* I put a few eyedrops in just before and let most of it absorb until there was just a hint of moisture left.

LISA: *(Matter of fact.)* Brilliant. You are a genius.

JENNY: What is the REAL reason why you didn't do your homework this time?

MICHELLE: Rick and I went out last night. It was sooo romantic!

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JENNY: Again? That's the third time this week. Are you guys getting serious?

MICHELLE: (*Mysteriously.*) Well ... I'd say after last night our relationship has definitely advanced to the next level.

LISA: Really? What happened?

MICHELLE: (*Excited.*) I've been dying to tell you guys. (*Looks around and whispers.*) We started out just riding around, listening to the radio when Rick asked me if I wanted to go walking on the beach. So I said, 'Sure.' The next thing I know, we are lying on a blanket in the sand dunes making out like crazy.

AMY: (*Eyes wide.*) Really?

JENNY: So, how does he kiss?

MICHELLE: He kisses really great. But that's not all he does great ...!

JENNY: (*Looks alarmed.*) You don't mean ...?

MICHELLE: (*Proudly.*) Yep! I did it! I mean, it wasn't such a big deal after all.

(*LISA and AMY look impressed.*)

JENNY: (*Stunned.*) You mean you had sex?

MICHELLE: (*Nods excitedly.*) What else would it be?

LISA: Well, it's about time, that's all I can say.

AMY: (*Looks at JENNY.*) Guess you are the only one left, Jen. Who's gonna be the lucky guy?

JENNY: (*Hand goes to neck self-consciously.*) I-I don't know. I mean, I always thought I'd wait until I got married.

LISA: (*Laughs and puts arm around JENNY.*) Poor little Jenny, still holding on to those virtuous values. That's OK, we used to feel that way too.

AMY: (*Laughs and high-fives LISA and then MICHELLE.*) Yeah, no more virtue, values, or virginity!

MICHELLE: (*Dramatically.*) Give me variety!

JENNY: (*Half angry.*) If you don't watch out, all you're going to get is a virus like VD!

AMY: Oooo, good one, Jen!

JENNY: You did use protection, didn't you?

MICHELLE: Well, it was so spontaneous. (*JENNY gives HER a disapproving look.*) It's not like there's a condom dispenser on the beach, you know.

(*JENNY shakes her head. BELL rings.*)

AMY: Oh my gosh, we're late to class!

MICHELLE: I'll see you at lunch, Jenny. Save my seat and we'll talk more. Don't look so worried, nothing's going to happen to me, OK? You should be worrying about who your date to the prom will be. It's just a few weeks away.

JENNY: (*Slowly.*) Yeah, OK. See ya.

(*LISA, MICHELLE, and AMY all scatter and rush off. JENNY walks along in deep thought, a troubled expression on her face.*)

End of Scene f

SCENE 2

(*AT RISE: Later that day at lunch. CS is set up like a cafeteria. MICHELLE, AMY, and LISA are all seated. Use other EXTRAS at tables to create the look of a crowded room. Play a background tape of voices and noise. There are two empty seats at table. STUDENTS should use trays or paper bag lunches and look like they're eating.*)

LISA: So, did Mrs. Moth Towels buy your homework excuse?

MICHELLE: Not at first. I had to put on what was probably my best performance ever to get her to give me one more day. She didn't believe me until I told her I was having family problems and junk.

End of Freeview

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