Love Bites

A Short Comedy by Ken Preuss

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DEDICATION

To the bad dates and the monsters – real and imaginary –
who help lead us where we are meant to be.

STORY OF THE PLAY

A series of short scenes tells an unusual tale of love. A young woman named Vanesa endures unsuccessful dates that include a mummy, a ghost, and a zombie. Across town, Zack, a vampire, encounters a series of human women with equally monstrous results. Are the characters fated to search fruitlessly or destined to discover their hearts' desire? Find out if romance rules…or if love bites. About 20-30 minutes.

PREMIERE PRODUCTION

Seaside Repertory Theatre in Seaside, Florida.
South Walton High School's 6th Annual Student-Directed One Act Festival. January 29 and 30, 2015.
Director: Alexis Guessford. Cast: Satchel Petterson, Racquel Lombardo, Hannah Calderazzo, Isabella Dye, Olivia Mullins, Steven Fontana, Lexie Chadwick, Tony Bauer, Jordyn Felker, and Brooke Pierson

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(5 m, 5 w)

VANESA: A young woman; friendly and focused on finding her man.

ZACK: A well-dressed, handsome young vampire; witty and willing to wait for the perfect girl.

MINDY: Zack's date; a nervous wreck.

LEONARD: Vanesa's date; a mummy. His voice is a little neurotic.

WANDA: Zack's date; a comedian.

GARTH: Vanesa's date; a ghost.

TRISH: Zack's date; a vampire fanatic.

ARTHUR: Vanesa's date; a zombie.

RAVEN: Zack's date; a Goth girl dressed in black.

HENRY: Vanesa's date; a doctor. He is a well-dressed and respectable young man.

The Set

The stage is divided into easy-to-stage sections representing different locations in a modern town. Each area may be staged as simply or as elaborately as the director desires. It works best if each area can be lit individually.

Stage Left features a table and two stools, representing the counter of an ice cream shop.
Left Center features a bench and a plant, representing an outdoor park.
Right Center features a table with chairs on either side, representing a coffeehouse.
Stage Right features a bench and a painting or sculpture, representing an art museum.
Down Center, in front of the other areas, is an empty space, representing a hill from which the city may be viewed.

Costume Notes

Garth: He wears a flamboyant outfit indicating an era long gone by, but not one that is easily identified. He wears a bright dinner jacket, a feathered cap, and a cape.

Henry: He begins as a well-dressed young man, but transforms into a monster. His face becomes hairy and hideous. NOTE: This can be the same actor in a mask or make-up. If a fancier transformation is desired, a second actor in a mask or make-up could pop up from behind the counter in an identical costume.

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(AT RISE: A light illuminates the down center hillside. VANESA stands alone, looking forward. She speaks aloud, dictating into her cell phone. Her voice is hopeful and heartfelt.)

VANESA: I stand on a hill with the city stretched out before me. A new location filled with new opportunities. He's out there somewhere. I feel it in my heart. It's just a matter of time.

(The LIGHT fades down center and comes up on the stage left ice cream shop. ZACK sits at the counter checking the time on an old pocket watch. MINDY enters in a rush. She collects herself and tentatively approaches Zack.)

MINDY: Zack?
ZACK: *(Turning and standing politely.)* Mindy, right?
MINDY: Yes. Sorry I'm late. I didn't want to make a bad impression on a first date, a blind date for that matter. I spent way too long finding the right thing to wear.
ZACK: Well, you look nice. It was worth the wait.
MINDY: *(Blushing.)* You're sweet.
ZACK: Speaking of sweets, you're going to love the milkshakes. *(HE gestures for HER to sit beside him.)* So, why don't you tell me a little about yourself?
MINDY: Gee, where to begin? I'm a Sagittarius. I work as a veterinarian because I adore furry things. I've lived here for five years. Not here in the ice cream shop, but here in town. No one would live in an ice cream shop, although, I once knew a guy who lived in an ice cream truck, and… I'm babbling.
ZACK: I like it. You don't sound rehearsed.
MINDY: Do I sound coherent?
ZACK: Eh… *(HE wiggles his hand to indicate maybe/maybe not, then smiles.)*

MINDY: *(Laughs.)* Okay, smarty-pants. Your turn. Tell me about you.
ZACK: *(Casually.)* Well, I'm a Leo…which may qualify me as a furry thing. I've lived in town all my life, although never in a truck. I'm a vampire, so I'm kind of a night owl…
MINDY: You're a what?
ZACK: A night owl.
MINDY: You said "vampire."
ZACK: Yes, that too. I thought you…
MINDY: *(SHE leaps to her feet and points at HIM dramatically.)* Stand back, you vile creature of the night!
ZACK: *(Confused.)* I'm sitting.
MINDY: Fie! Fie upon you.
ZACK: Fie? What does that even mean?
MINDY: Don't sass me, soul-sucker! *(SHE grabs a spoon and the straw from his drink, crosses them together, and speaks dramatically.)* I repel you!
ZACK: *(A bit amused. This is not the first time he's been rejected.)* With a straw and spoon?
MINDY: It's a crucifix.
ZACK: It looks like an X. I feel like you're eliminating me from a game show.
MINDY: I'll eliminate you, all right. *(SHE grabs a shaker from the counter.)* With garlic!
ZACK: *(Correcting her.)* Salt. What kind of restaurant has a garlic shaker?
MINDY: Take this then! *(SHE thrusts her fingers into his cup and flicks liquid onto HIS face.)* It's holy water blessed by a priest!
ZACK: *(Casually wiping HIS face with a napkin.)* It's Diet Sprite served by the waitress. She didn't even bless me when I sneezed.
MINDY: I've got it! *(SHE grabs a mirror from her purse and holds it up, awkwardly searching for the right position.)* I'll reflect light into your face until you burn in anguish.
ZACK: That works with the sun. The neon sign that says "milkshakes" is not going to do the trick.

End of Freeview

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