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PREVIEW: A NICKEL FOR A KISS

By

Andrew Kooman

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Cast of Characters

Joseph: at seventeen
Becky: at eighteen

Synopsis

First kiss stories are charming. Joseph’s is hilarious. It happened, of all places, during Sunday School. As he starts to get closer to Becky, the girl he’s fallen for during his first year of Bible College, the inevitable “First Kiss” story emerges.

Set

A quiet park

When

The Present

Note

The following scene is taken from the one act play ***Heel Joseph Heal*** by **Andrew Kooman** and is a great script for workshops and auditions.

Act 1

Scene 1

Joseph and Becky are on a park bench. Joseph's head is in Becky's lap and she gently runs her fingers through his hair. They are in mid-conversation.

Joseph

When my mom was pregnant with Jeremy she would let me put my ear against her stomach and listen for his heartbeat. One time I pulled up her shirt to look at her tummy. I think she was so surprised, that's why she smacked me across the face, just – pop!

Becky

What?

Joseph

Not too hard and she apologized right away. She said it was just a "reaction." I remember telling Jeremy later on that when he was a baby he disobeyed like Jonah, and that's why he was trapped inside of mom for so long before she went to the hospital and spit him out.

Becky

You said that?

Joseph laughs and scratches the back of his head, suddenly hesitant and uncomfortable about their conversation.

Joseph

Yeah. The thing was...part of me actually thought it was true. [*Beat*] I remember being so convinced I asked Jeremy, “If it wasn’t true, why didn’t my nose grow?

Becky

That’s hilarious.

Joseph

Well, I don’t know. I feel bad about it.

Becky

Aww – poor big brother.

Joseph

I guess.

Becky

Geez. Sometimes I forget how little – I mean I forget that it’s been, what, just over a semester? That I haven’t known you my whole life.

Joseph

That’s what happens at tiny little Bible colleges.

Becky

My mom is never going to let me off the hook for falling for someone at *Bible College.* That is, if she can ever get over the fact that I chose this school in the middle of nowhere over the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

Joseph

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet!

Becky

You do realize that I am living a cliché she insisted I never live.

Joseph

You've made the point. But remind me, what cliché is that?

Becky

This. Us. [*Sarcastically*] *Bridal* College.

Joseph

That sounds so – official. *Us*.

Becky

[*Giggling*] Us.

Joseph

I know what you mean, though. I didn’t – well, I didn’t plan for this.

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Becky

Well, I want to hear it anyway.

Joseph

[*Sighing*] It was in Sunday School, okay?

Becky

Sunday School! [*Laughs*]

Joseph

Her name was Eunice.

Becky

Eunice? She must have been pretty. She'd have to be with a name like that!

Joseph

No, she wasn't, not really. Not like you.

Becky

Oh stop!

Joseph

Okay, definitely not like you. She had this kind of, this ugly, sour face like one of Cinderella's stepsisters, how they always drew them in the storybooks, like when we were kids.

Joseph mimes Eunice’s features as he explains them.

Joseph

You know, sort of buck toothed.

Becky

Get out –

Joseph

And squinty eyes, one of them crossed like this.

Becky

[*Laughing]*

Joseph

She always came to church in her grub clothes. During prayer time I sometimes leaned over to smell the hair on the back of her neck because it smelt like gasoline and dried fish.

Becky

Eww.

Joseph

Yeah. She always had a finger up her nose.

Becky

Sick, Joe.

Joseph

She liked to lick her fingers a lot because she could “Taste the salt on them.”

Joseph mimics this, swallows hard, and sticks out his tongue.

Becky

Don’t! You kissed this girl?

Joseph

It was more like... she kissed me.

Becky

Right.

Joseph moves Becky’s head from his lap and gently places it on the bench as he stands.

Joseph

One Sunday she stole a nickel from the offering plate and snuck it down into the classroom. She said, “A nickel for a kiss” and held the nickel against her lips then batted her eyes at me.

Joseph leans toward Becky, bats his lashes. She hoots with laughter. He puckers his lips and closes his eyes. Becky sits up and zerberts his lips.

Joseph

And – well, I let her.

End Scene.



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