

CELEBRATIONS

Written by

Gerald Williams

geraldwilliamsperforms@gmail.com

303-828 Gilford Street
Vancouver, BC,
Canada
V6G 2N6

1-604-417-0714

CHARACTERS

Ages of the characters can vary as long as they are comparable. Open ethnicity.

Andy

Early 20's. Approaches life with sincerity and enthusiasm.

Sylvia

Early 20's. Happy and friendly.

SETTING.

A coffee shop, a park, anywhere that people can converse with relative privacy in public. During the day.

PLAY BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE

A COUPLE IN A RESTAURANT. THEY ARE HAVING A PRIVATE CONVERSATION IN A PUBLIC PLACE.

ANDY

You're breaking up with me?

SYLVIA

I think we need to take a break.

ANDY

A break? People don' t take 'breaks'...we've only been going out...next week is our 2 month anniversary!

SYLVIA

Better sooner than later, right?

ANDY

I made plans. I made reservations. I reserved at our favorite restaurant. (*temptingly*) I pre-ordered things...

SYLVIA

See....We don't have a favorite restaurant. We've only been to two restaurants together.

ANDY

It's important to mark our milestones, our special days.

SYLVIA

The special days? I don't know how to explain those to people.

ANDY

What's to explain? These are special moments in our lives.

SYLVIA

Special...right....

ANDY

What're you saying?

SYLVIA

The first time you bought me coffee, isn't really a "special" moment.

ANDY

It wasn't the first time I bought you coffee, it was the first time I ordered your coffee without asking how you took it. I'd been paying attention.

SYLVIA

Right. Sorry. But, it still doesn't make it special.

ANDY

You noticed it. You said it was thoughtful. You kissed me. By the cream and sugar stand. Someone asked us to move. It was a moment. It was magic.

SYLVIA

Ok. Yes. I was touched that you noticed what I take in my coffee.

ANDY

Our moments.

SYLVIA

But, do we need to go back to that coffee shop every week, at precisely the same time and have a "coffee and kisses" moment.

ANDY

It's romantic.

SYLVIA

And the "announcement cards" you hand out to people in the coffee shop... Where did you get that paper. It feels like skin.

ANDY

The people in the coffee shop think it's special.

SYLVIA

They think you're "special."

ANDY

People are so sweet.

SYLVIA

(*shudders*) And who's posting that video of youtube every week?

ANDY
So romantic.

SYLVIA
Like evidence at a trial.

ANDY
Evidence of our love.

SYLVIA
Evidence of a serial killer.

ANDY
My family loves you. They've never
liked anyone I've dated as much as
they like you.

SYLVIA
About your family.

ANDY
My mother says she has never felt
more at ease with anyone. That's
what she said, "more at ease."

SYLVIA
Nice. Your family. Their special
days. The "*Creation Day*"
celebration?

ANDY
No! You can't have a problem with
something so central to my life.

SYLVIA
Ok. I know this is important to
you, but...your Dad tells the story
of how, even though the police were
banging on the car door, he had the
will to...uh...finish conceiving
you.

ANDY
The passion my parents had for each
other.

SYLVIA
Sitting silently in the living room
listening to your parents
recreating the moment in the
bedroom.

ANDY

Families are the bedrock of who we are.

SYLVIA

And you look stupid wearing that police uniform.

ANDY

But it's central to my creation.

SYLVIA

When you slam open their bedroom door - what do you actually see?

ANDY

I see love. That's what I see.

SYLVIA

Ok. Good. Nice. That's nice. But, what about your Bris?

ANDY

No one is ashamed of a Bris. It's part of Jewish custom to celebrate a boys circumcision, the whole family is together.

SYLVIA

Yes, I get that, and I can appreciate that, just a couple of points. Your not Jewish. And, no one celebrates the anniversary of a circumcision. No one!

ANDY

You're misunderstanding the point.

SYLVIA

(rising anxiety) Misunderstanding the point. The point? Your family gathers to look at your penis and compare it to photos of your penis from previous years!

ANDY

I look like my dad. Even you said so.

SYLVIA

And your uncle! Well. Don't deny it, I know he isn't your real uncle.

(MORE)

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

And I know there's no such thing as a follow-up exam to a circumcision.

ANDY

He cares about me.

SYLVIA

He cares about part of you.

ANDY

He's taken care of all the men in my family.

SYLVIA

I bet he has.

ANDY

You don't understand love.

SYLVIA

And that cake. When they stick that candle in, my lady parts contract in sympathy fear.

ANDY

You're exaggerating.

SYLVIA

You're a lovely guy Andy. You're sweet. You're funny. You buy mice for my cat. But, I'm not going to any more of your mothers (*uses air quotes*) "28 day" celebrations. Her invites are so misleading. "There will be blood"? I thought we were going to watch a Daniel Day Lewis movie.

ANDY

You add drama to her celebrations.

SYLVIA

The second one? "The Fast and the Furious"? It feels misogynistic.

ANDY

She acknowledges the extraordinary in the ordinary.

SYLVIA

There is nothing ordinary about your mother. And the food. Where do you even get pasta shaped like that?

ANDY

She wants you to be part of her adventure in life.

SYLVIA

Her adventure in life? She's 58 years old and 58 year old women don't menstruate. So, whatever it is we're celebrating, there is no life left in that adventure, ok.

ANDY

You have a lot of anger inside you.

SYLVIA

Whatever is inside me is more organic than that "gush of womanhood" she releases into the hot tub every 28 days.

ANDY

You're being hurtful.

SYLVIA

This is the end for me. I like you, but I can't put up with any more special days. They aren't special. They're just. Well. (*Shudders.*) Ugh.

ANDY

Don't get upset.

SYLVIA

Upset. I'm not upset, I'm putting my foot down and standing up for myself. I can see us having a good relationship, we have a shot, but no more. Got it. You have to decide. It's either me, or another celebration of your sister's first kiss.

ANDY

That is a very important moment in a young woman's life.

SYLVIA

She was 26.

ANDY

Passion should come without judgement.

SYLVIA

How was her first kiss with a homeless woman asking for change?

ANDY

You're judging.

SYLVIA

There's something abusive there, I can't figure out, but it's there.

ANDY

My sister was moved by the womans sincerity. And her windshield did need cleaning, so she was grateful.

SYLVIA

Five bucks is grateful. A kiss with tongue is disgusting.

ANDY

You think a kiss of affection and gratitude is disgusting.

SYLVIA

The woman had four teeth.

ANDY

You are really not the person I thought you were. You're very judgmental.

SYLVIA

I am not judgmental.

ANDY

What would you call it? You're culturally insensitive to my family celebrations. You show contempt for the disadvantaged in society. You lack compassion.

SYLVIA

I don't think...I'm not..I have compassion!

ANDY

Sylvia. I'm sorry. These angry words are small razor blades of pain cutting my tongue.

SYLVIA

Andy....I didn't mean to hurt you.

ANDY

Not me, you. I think you carry pain inside yourself, and I am so, very sorry I can't help you with your burden. I need a girlfriend I can share my joys with.

SYLVIA

Andy. No, wait. I'm sorry.

ANDY

I'm sorry...I am....would you, please, leave.

SYLVIA

Andy.

ANDY

Please.

Sylvia gets up and walks out as though she is a scolded child. Andy picks up his phone, dial, wait, talks.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Mother, we need to mark something down on the celebration calendar.