

WHEN THE WORLD FALLS IN LOVE

A Ten-Minute Play

by

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WHEN THE WORLD FALLS IN LOVE...

Cast of Characters

ELAINE SILVER Age 45-70: A wealthy Upper-Eastside New Yorker who has been married to Buddy for a very long time.

BUDDY SILVER Age 45-70: A wealthy Upper-Eastside New Yorker who has been married to Elaine for a very long time.

WHEN THE WORLD FALLS IN LOVE

SETTING: The Upper-Eastside (NYC) bedroom of BUDDY and ELAINE.

AT RISE: *Buddy sits in a wing chair reading a novel, oblivious to ELAINE'S singing which we hear from off-stage.*

TIME: Months away from Christmas.

(ELAINE enters singing "The Christmas Waltz". She is wearing a large black tunic, black tights, ballet flats and enormous costume jewelry. (Very 1970's Liza Minnelli). SHE tries to get BUDDY to look up from his book and notice her by strutting and posing as if she were on a runway).

ELAINE

(Singing "The Christmas Waltz")

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR
WHEN THE WORLD FALLS IN LOVE,
WHEN EACH SONG YOU HEAR
SEEMS TO SAY...

(SHE poses in front of BUDDY. HE doesn't notice)

MERRY CHRISTMAS...

(BUDDY looks up at her and stares. SHE raises her arms in sort of a MITZI GAYNOR pose. Finally, after a beat, he speaks)

BUDDY

What?

ELAINE

What?!?

BUDDY

What???

ELAINE

That's it? That's all you've got to say? WHAT!?!?

Okay...why?

BUDDY

Why what?

ELAINE

Why are you singing that insipid Christmas song?

BUDDY

What's wrong with it?

ELAINE

It's depressing.

BUDDY

I love that song...

ELAINE

Well, you shouldn't be singing it anyway...

BUDDY

Okay Mr. Scrooge, can you me one good reason why I shouldn't sing...?

ELAINE

I'll give you three reasons!

BUDDY

I withdraw the question!

ELAINE

Firstly, it's not Christmastime. We are months away from Christmas!

BUDDY

That's not a reason...

ELAINE

Secondly... we're Jewish.

BUDDY

So what!?!

ELAINE

It's a Christmas song.

BUDDY

ELAINE

It's non-religious...

BUDDY

It's a Christmas song. Christmas is a Christian holiday...

ELAINE

No...it's secular...like "Baby It's Cold Outside". Jews have been singing these songs for decades.

BUDDY

"Baby It's Cold Outside" is not a Christmas song...

ELAINE

It's sung in the winter!

BUDDY

So???

ELAINE

So what? Are you trying to start a fight?

BUDDY

And thirdly...

ELAINE

And thirdly because I can't sing. I know...you've told me.

BUDDY

That is not what I was going...

ELAINE

You know what...

(SHE moves to the mirror to check her hair)

Just leave me alone...

BUDDY

Don't you want to know what my third point was going to be...

ELAINE

No.

BUDDY

The third reason you shouldn't be singing that song...

ELAINE

No! I do not want to know...

BUDDY

Firstly, was because it's not Christmastime. Secondly, because we are Jewish. And thirdly...aren't you even a little bit curious?

ELAINE

Okay! Okay! What is the nasty-assed third reason?

BUDDY

Thirdly, you shouldn't be singing that song because it is not true.

ELAINE

What is not true?

BUDDY

Christmas is *not* the time of year when "the world falls in love".

ELAINE

Of course, it is!!!!

BUDDY

No! In fact, Christmas is the time of year when the suicide rate nearly doubles and the homicide rate skyrockets...

ELAINE

It does not! That's a horrible thing to...

BUDDY

It does too! Every year at Christmastime...

ELAINE

You are always so negative.

BUDDY

I'm not.

ELAINE

And you are also incredibly inconsiderate!

BUDDY

I am not! I'm very considerate!

ELAINE

Ha! You haven't even commented on my outfit.

BUDDY

(After a beat)

No, I haven't.

ELAINE

So...what do you think?

BUDDY

Is that what you're wearing?

ELAINE

Yes!

BUDDY

Really?

ELAINE

YES!!!!

BUDDY

Okay.

*(SHE sits at her vanity to touch up her makeup
pretending HIS comment didn't bother her. Finally, she
must ask him)*

ELAINE

Why, what's wrong with it?

(HE doesn't answer)

What is wrong with what I'm wearing?

(PAUSE as he contemplates his answer)

BUDDY

Nothing.

ELAINE

Tell me God dammit!

BUDDY

No. Really. It's fine.

ELAINE

No, it's obviously not fine.

BUDDY

It's fine!!!

ELAINE

You wouldn't have made that snarky comment if it was fine.

BUDDY

What snarky comment!?!

ELAINE

(Imitating him)

Is that what you're wearing?

BUDDY

I merely asked you if that's what you were wearing.

ELAINE

As if to say...

BUDDY

As if to nothing. It meant nothing.

ELAINE

Yeah. Right.

BUDDY

Stop reading into everything I say! Jesus!

ELAINE

Jesus? You're calling on him when you won't even let me sing one of his birthday songs?

BUDDY

Ah, sing what you want to sing.

ELAINE

Just once I would like to walk in here and have you actually say something nice about the way I look!

BUDDY

Oh, come on, that's not fair.

ELAINE

How is that not fair?

BUDDY

I always tell you...

ELAINE

I can't remember the last time you gave me a compliment.

BUDDY

I always do!

ELAINE

No, actually, you never do.

BUDDY

Rubbish!

ELAINE

Ugh! I'm surprised I have any positive self-esteem whatsoever!

BUDDY

Oh please. I always tell you when I think you look nice.

ELAINE

But not tonight.

BUDDY

I always tell you when I think you look nice.

ELAINE

So, I assume that means you don't approve of my ensemble tonight.

BUDDY

It's not my favorite.

ELAINE

Okay, well at least that's honest.

BUDDY

Yes.

ELAINE

Thank you for that!

BUDDY

You're welcome.

ELAINE

So, tell me! What is it that you don't like about this outfit?

BUDDY

It seems to be missing something.

ELAINE

What?

BUDDY

A bottom.

ELAINE

What!?!

BUDDY

It looks like you forgot to put on the pants.

ELAINE

This look happens to be very much en vogue right now and...and...

BUDDY

And...?

ELAINE

And you are an idiot.

BUDDY

Yes. Of course, I am! So why do you ask me?

ELAINE

I don't know. But don't worry...I won't ask you again.

BUDDY

(HE goes back to his reading)

Perfect.

(After a few moments of silence, HE rises and comes up from behind her and hugs her)

ELAINE

Go away.

BUDDY

Aw, don't be mad my little secular snow bunny.

ELAINE

How can I not be?

BUDDY

Aww...come on. You know how much I love you.

ELAINE

Sometimes you got a funny way of showing it.

BUDDY

The real truth is I love you no matter what you wear. Why do you care what I think anyway? I don't know a thing about fashion...

ELAINE

Well that's true...

BUDDY

But I do know I love you and I know how lucky I am to have you in my life.

ELAINE

Well okay then. It would be nice to hear it every now and again.

BUDDY

You are absolutely right! Tell you what...I'm going to make it my New Year's resolution to remind you every day of how much I love you.

ELAINE

Okay Sweetie, I didn't mean to start a row. I guess I'm just nervous about this party. Some of our friends can be so judgmental.

BUDDY

I know Sweetie.

ELAINE

(Looking at her watch)

Well...tick tock, tick tock. I'm done in the bathroom. You'd better start getting ready.

BUDDY

What do you mean?

ELAINE

We are supposed to be there at eight.

BUDDY

So?

ELAINE

What part of that statement didn't you understand? It's getting late. It takes an hour to get there. When exactly did you plan to get dressed?

BUDDY

I *am* dressed!

ELAINE

Is that what you're wearing?

BUDDY

Yes. Why? What's wrong it? What is wrong with what I'm wearing?

ELAINE

Nothing. It's fine. Let's go.

(SHE turns off the light and they exit)

(BLACKOUT)

END OF PLAY