

EXTRA LESSONS

A High School Comedy in One Act

by Jen Schmidt

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Characters

Jared, Grade 12 student (lead)
 Chloe, Grade 12 student
 Kevin, Grade 12 student
 Miss Sophie Maya, English teacher (lead)
 Mrs Judith Bratt, English teacher
 Mr/Mrs Bullbring, Headmistress

SCENE 1	<i>Before school. Kevin, Chloe and Sally playing on their cell-phones, chatting. Jared walks up.</i>
Kevin:	Hey bitch!
Chloe:	Hi Jared!
Kevin:	How's it going?
Jared:	Whatever, man. Same old crap.
Kevin:	Tell me about it. So how was that game last night?
Jared:	We nailed them, man! That Habana try was insane.
Chloe:	Yah, it was awesome hey? And at last a win for Bafana!
Kevin:	We're talking rugby, moron. You know, big, odd-shaped balls and sweaty men in muscle tops and tight shorts? Anyway... I finally won a bet against my dad.
Jared:	But not against me. Hand it over, man.
Kevin:	<i>Kevin hands Jared money.</i> It's only 'cos I let you.
Jared:	So what's first period?
Chloe:	It's English I think.
Kevin:	With Miss Maya! <i>Accompanied by rude gesturing.</i>
Chloe:	So Jared, are you gonna spend the whole of English checking out Miss Maya's ass again?
Kevin:	I can think of worse ways to spend my time. She is damn hot!
Chloe:	You guys are such perverts.
Kevin:	Sorry, Chloe, but what can I say, I'm an admirer of fine art. And she's, like, Picasso. Curves and angles in unexpected places...
Jared:	<i>Laughing.</i> Yah, she's all right.

Chloe:	Don't lie, Jared. You can't keep your eyes off her. In fact, I think you're in love.
Kevin:	Oh I'm definitely in love! <i>Accompanied by more rude gesturing.</i>
Chloe:	I bet you sit there dreaming of kissing her lips, getting your hands up her dress...
Kevin:	Like that could ever happen!
Chloe:	Yah, sorry Jared, but she's totally beyond your magical powers, impressive as they are. She probably thinks you're a wimpy teenager with bad hair and a bad attitude.
Jared:	I could get her if I wanted her. I just don't want her – she's too old anyway.
Chloe:	Really? You could get her? I don't believe you.
Jared:	How hard could it be? All chicks want the same thing. You just gotta know how to be what they're looking for.
Kevin:	Buddy, I feel it is my duty, as a friend, to inform you that you are a mere 17 and she is what, like 25? You're good, but you're not that good.
Chloe:	Wait. I think we're onto something here. What if he really could get her to, I don't know, kiss him or something? It would be pretty epic. In fact, I dare you. I dare you to get Miss Maya to kiss you. And I mean, really kiss you. <i>Chloe and Jared face each other trying to stare each other down.</i>
Kevin:	Okay, okay, kids. Everyone just calm down. Nice dream, great laugh but it ain't gonna happen!
Chloe:	You've gotta get all up in her face and she has got to kiss you back like she means it.
Jared:	And then?
Chloe:	And then... you are "the man". You will be the most legend guy this school has ever seen. <i>Pause.</i> And I'll give you my Blackberry – which you're always trying to steal anyway.
Kevin:	And if he flunks out?
Chloe:	He takes me to the Matric Dance (Prom). <i>Kevin laughs.</i> And you take Sally Henderson.
Kevin:	What? No way!
Jared:	It's a deal.
	<i>Jared and Chloe shake hands and lights fade.</i>
SCENE 2	<i>Classroom. Miss Maya is invigilating a test. Jared, Kevin and Chloe are writing. She walks up and down, checks her watch.</i>
Miss Maya:	Right. Pens down everyone.
Kevin:	<i>Whispering to Jared.</i> Did she just say 'Pants down'? <i>Laughs.</i>

Miss Maya:	Kevin!
Kevin:	Sorry Miss Maya. I was just telling Jared what an awesome test it was!
Miss Maya:	Let's wait until I've marked it, shall we, to decide if it was awesome or not. <i>Bell rings. Class rushes out, handing papers to Mrs M as they go. Jared is last.</i>
Jared:	Miss Maya?
Miss Maya:	<i>Getting ready for the next lesson, distracted.</i> Yes, Jared.
Jared:	I've been thinking about what you said last week. About planning for varsity.
Miss Maya:	<i>Skeptical.</i> You? Plan? I'm speechless.
Jared:	I know what you're thinking. Why would he need to go to varsity? People will just pay him for being generally awesome, cool and insanely good looking.
Miss Maya:	You're right. That's exactly what I was thinking. It's a watertight plan. <i>Smiles, gives him her full attention for the first time.</i> What's up?
Jared:	I found out yesterday that there is no way UCT will accept me based on my marks so far.
Miss Maya:	Okay.
Jared:	So I need to do really well in Prelims (my final exams) to have any chance.
Miss Maya:	Right.
Jared:	And my English mark (grades) is (are) really bad.
Miss Maya:	Indeed.
Jared:	So I was kind of hoping for some extra help. I really don't get all that emo, philosophical poetry...stuff.
Miss Maya:	<i>Smiles.</i> That's a really positive step, Jared. No, really, I'm impressed. So come along with the other Grade 12s to the extra lessons on Wednesdays and we'll take it from there.
Jared:	Ma'am I was kinda hoping to make it a solo affair? Just you and me? I mean, I'm a little embarrassed about doing it in front of the other kids. I've got a reputation to uphold. <i>Laughs nervously.</i>
Mrs Bratt:	<i>Enters engrossed in the tests she is holding.</i> Can you believe that some of these morons didn't even bother to attempt the multiple choice section? I mean haven't they ever heard of eenie meenie mynie mo?... Oh, Sorry.
Jared:	No problem, Mrs B. <i>As he leaves, to Miss Maya.</i> Just think about it, Ma'am. I mean, the future of our country rests in your hands!
Miss Maya:	<i>Laughing.</i> Well, since you put it that way... I'll think about it. <i>Jared exits.</i> Oh, Judith!

	Don't look at me like that! Someone's got to give these kids a chance. I'm an idealist what can I say?
Mrs Bratt:	Kids like that make a compelling argument for compulsory sterilization. I mean, who allowed his parents to breed?
Miss Maya:	Oh, I thought you meant he should be sterilized!
Mrs Bratt:	That too! Who knows how many poor, innocent girls that sack of hormones has already impregnated?
Miss Maya:	The girls aren't always so innocent. <i>Pause.</i> It's funny you should mention impregnation.
Mrs Bratt:	What? You're preg...
Miss Maya:	<i>Cutting her off.</i> No, not me! Paul's new girlfriend. Apparently they're expecting in September. And they'll be getting married in April before she's showing too much.
Mrs Bratt:	What a bastard. Really? It's been, what, 3 months since you broke up?
Miss Maya:	Mr and Mrs Paul Isaacs. Aaargh! Why can't I just move on?
Mrs Bratt:	Because he parades her around at every staff function and updates his Facebook status like every 5 seconds with, "I have the most perfect woman in the world". Puke in my mouth and swallow. <i>Pause.</i> How about a big fat slice of Red Velvet cake and a super-sized mochaccino?
Miss Maya:	Sure. Comfort eating is definitely the most mature way to deal with this. I'll meet you at your car in 5 minutes. <i>Mrs Bratt exits and Sophie stands still for a moment. She brushes her hair back, takes a deep breath, picks up her bag and leaves. Lights fade.</i>
SCENE 3	<i>Miss Maya and Jared are sitting close to each other at a classroom desk.</i>
Jared:	Why didn't Shakespeare just say what he meant? 'Love is not love'? It's like he's trying to confuse us.
Miss Maya:	Read the whole line through before you try to make sense of it and think about what each word means.
Jared:	<i>Overly dramatic.</i> 'Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds...'
Miss Maya:	<i>Laughing.</i> Okay, now think of another word for 'alters' and 'alteration'.
Jared:	Change?
Miss Maya:	Exactly. So love is not true love if...
Jared:	If it just changes randomly?
Miss Maya:	Eureka! <i>Pause.</i> <i>Then, as if to herself.</i> If only love were that easy.
Jared:	<i>Jared starts to write purposefully and Miss Maya sighs and stares wistfully into space.</i> What are you thinking about, ma'am?

Miss Maya:	What? Oh, nothing. Poetry has that effect on me.
Jared:	It's Mr Isaacs isn't it? That guy is such a poser. He thinks he is so cool but he's just an arrogant idiot. Everyone thinks so.
Miss Maya:	Yes, well... May I check your answer yet?
Jared:	I'm just saying, to let go of someone as awesome as you? Kind, funny... beautiful.
Miss Maya:	<i>They look at each other in silence for a moment before Miss Maya remembers herself.</i> Jared! Inappropriate. Let's focus here.
Jared:	I am focused, ma'am. <i>He puts his hand on hers.</i>
Miss Maya:	<i>Standing quickly.</i> That's... very sweet Jared. <i>He stands up, she steps back.</i> I think ... I think you should go now. <i>Tries to make light of it.</i> I mean, gee, look at the time.
Jared:	<i>Also trying to lighten the mood.</i> Ah, you cut me deep, ma'am, deep! <i>Pause.</i> I just... I don't like seeing you so sad, that's all.
Miss Maya:	Thank you, Jared, really. <i>Pause.</i> But you can't do something like that again. I... I'm your teacher. <i>They stare at each other for just a moment too long.</i>
Jared:	See you tomorrow? <i>Miss Maya just nods.</i> <i>Jared exits the classroom and meets Kevin just outside.</i>
Kevin:	So? Making any progress? <i>Jared shrugs, tries to go past him.</i> Come on, man, it's been almost 3 weeks. You're running out of time here and I really don't want to go to the dance with Sally Henderson.
Jared:	<i>Trying to Laugh it off.</i> Don't worry, pal, I've got this. <i>Kevin seems unconvinced.</i> The magic is working – you just can't rush these things.
Kevin:	I swear, dude, don't leave me hanging here. Very few things in life scare me, but a whole night with Sally Henderson? That's raw terror, man, terror. <i>Lights fade.</i>
Jared	I won't let you down, Bro.
SCENE 4	<i>Miss Maya sits at her desk reading something. She chucks it down and slumps back in her chair, defeated, as Jared walks in.</i>
Jared:	Miss Maya? Am I too early?
Miss Maya:	<i>Startled, wiping eyes.</i> Oh, Jared. Sorry, not at all. How can I help you?
Jared:	I wanted to apologise for my behaviour yesterday... Your mascara is like all over.
Miss Maya:	Oh...sorry, excuse me. <i>Starts looking for a tissue.</i>
Jared:	What's wrong ma'am?

