

LOVE CONNECT

By

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CHARACTERS:

WILLIAM – business attire

BEN – late 20's or early 30's normal guy

SARAH – late 20's early 30's normal gal

The stage is bare except for 2 folding chairs.

William enters holding a clipboard showing in Ben

William

Well you are certainly at the right place

Ben

I'll be honest, I'm pretty damn skeptical. But really what do I have to lose?

William (handing him the clipboard)

OK then, I need you to sign here. Initial here, here and here and we're all set.

Ben

Do you need anything else from me?

William

Nope, that should do it. Have a seat here and we'll be right with you.

Ben sits and William exits.

Ben

I'm such an idiot.

After a brief moment with Ben fidgeting in his seat waiting on stage William shows in Sarah

William

...that's why we work on a referral only basis. We have no ads, no phone book listings, not even any signs on the building. The only way to find out about us is from one of our many happy couples.

Sarah

But why do you need me to sign an NDA? I mean if your service works, then shouldn't I be able to talk about it?

William

Well, we don't want our secrets to get out, now do we?

Sarah

Whatever. I'm doing this so my friends will stop fixing me up with Mr. Right... All of which have been "Mr. You've GOT to Be Kidding Me".

William

Trust me, we're often the last stop on a long journey.

William shows Sarah to her seat, hands her the forms and she signs it.

William

Ok you two. Let me explain what's going to happen here. First off, we don't do any surveys, profiles or fuzzy logic pattern matching. You don't need photos, myspace profiles, or instant messengers.

Ben

Well that's a relief.

William

Sarah. Meet Ben. Ben - Sarah.

They awkwardly shake hands sort of sizing each other up.

William

Right here, right now you two are going to have a relationship. No dating, no distractions, no excuses. ...and to ensure that. (he says as he's walking out the door).. you'll be locked in this room for the next 24 hours. (and the door slams shut).

Both Sarah and William jump out of their seats and rush to the door. It is indeed locked.

Ben (yelling)

Hey! Get me out of here.

Sarah (yelling)

This is bullshit. You can't do this.

After a frantic round of yelling with no response. The both sit. An awkward silence as they look at each other.

Ben

Can you believe this?

Sarah

No. This is unreal.

Ben

What if we starve to death?

Sarah

Don't you think that's a little over dramatic? I mean you're not going to die without food for 24 hours. I fast ever year and am still here to talk about it.

Ben

You fast willingly?

Sarah

Um yeah. It's called Yom Kippur. Ever heard of it?

Ben

Of course! I'm a MOT.

Sarah

A what?

Ben

M-O-T... Member of The Tribe

Sarah

Why not just say you're Jewish too. It would save all the decoding.

Ben

Sorry. Just being hip... That's what women want right.. Hip?

Sarah (laughing)

Ha! Men are clueless. No. Women don't want hip. Yes we like looking at hip. But we also like looking at shoes, and that doesn't mean we have to buy them.

Ben

I'd say that women don't know what they want.

Sarah

Oh that makes it so much easier for you. I mean if you truly believed we didn't know, then when we tell you to get lost, it actually means we're confused and aren't sure.

Ben

Oh come on. Women are members of the cult of maybe. It can't just be yes or no. It's always maybe. Maybe I'll be free, maybe Indian sounds good, maybe we'll have sex. It can't ever be just YES or No.

Sarah

I hate to burst your bubble, I mean after all, and I've only known you for a few minutes. But women like men who are actually paying attention. If we give you a yes or no you're going to a) focus on that and b) forever hold us to that decision. Haven't you ever heard of a woman's prerogative to change her mind.

Ben

Again. You've proved my point. Women don't know what they want.

Sarah

Well I can guarantee we know what we don't what.

Ben

And how's that been working out for you?

Sarah

What do you mean?

Ben

I mean, you're in this room too. So it means one of two things. Either a) you've been in a coma for your twenties and you need help reorienting to the dating world or b) you've had as bad luck as me and you've come here as a last resort.

Sarah

It's just I haven't met the right guy yet. Also, my friends are relentless. They treat me like I have this disease called "Single" that they are compelled to cure. It's like my singlehood is somehow contagious and if they don't convert me into the normal "Married" world soon somehow they will catch it and be single again.

Ben

What is it with women and marriage? Can't you just go on the journey with a guy and just see where it leads?

Sarah

Not when you don't call us back. Would it kill you guys to pick up the phone on your way home after sex and say that you enjoyed it. A little kindness goes a long way. Men never realize we're as insecure and neurotic about things as they are.

Ben

I got the neurotic thing....Why are we arguing?

Sarah

Good question.

Ben

I'm sorry. I've been through a number of rough relationships lately and so I'm brimming with frustration.

Sarah

I'm right there with you.

Ben

How cute. Our first fight.

Sarah

Ben... It is Ben right... There's no 'ours' here.

They sit silently staring at each other. It's awkward. The lights go out for the briefest of moments. It comes back up and Ben and Sarah are sitting facing opposite directions in their chairs (back to back). Time has passed.

Ben

Ok... Then...What CD is in your stereo right now?

Sarah

Stereo? How about iPod.

Ben

OK. Then iPod... What's your current mix in your iPod.

Sarah

Miles Davis

Ben

Classic

Sarah

Nirvana

Ben

Nice also a Classic

Sarah

Way ahead of their time. Sufjan Stephens

Ben

Quality.

Sarah

Radiohead

Ben

Essential

Sarah

Rage against The Machine

Ben

Damn woman. You've got taste.

Sarah

Thank you... Ok my turn. What book is on your nightstand?

Ben

A Million Little Pieces by James Frey

Sarah

You know that story isn't real. Right?

Ben

What story really is? People are always so hung up on how 'real' biographies are and then think fiction is some thinly veiled autobiography. I just love a good story who cares WHERE it comes from.

Sarah

Good point.

The lights go out for the briefest of moments. It comes back up and Ben and Sarah are sitting with the chairs facing each other.

Ben

...And so after he died I flew down to be with my Mom to go through everything. The house was so empty

Sarah

That's just awful. My mom and I don't talk much. We've mastered the art of missing each other's calls. She was great when my Dad was in the picture. They somehow balanced each other out. But now she's a black hole of need and so holidays are never fond.

Ben

I'm still mid-feud with my sister in-law. Early on my brother came to me and told me how much he regretted hooking up with her. So I kept trying to remind him of that. Probably should have dropped it after they got engaged.

They sit silently staring at each other. It's awkward. The lights go out for the briefest of moments. The lights come up on them and they are passionately kissing.

The lights go out for the briefest of moments. Time has really passed. They both are disheveled.

Sarah

...Crunchy or smooth?

Ben

Smooth all the way.

Sarah

Then it'll never work Ben. I'm a crunchy peanut butter kind of gal.

Ben

You know they sell both... And you can buy both. Who knows, maybe there's a brand that's both a little smooth and crunchy?

Sarah

Who knows.

Ben

How long have we been in here?

Sarah

About five minutes since the last time you asked.

Ben

Cute.

Sarah

What, you can't wait to leave?

Ben

No, it's not that at all. I just could use a shower, a shave... Also.. I'd like to continue our talk in a nicer location.

Sarah

We've been talking for ten hours and you'd like to continue it?

Ben

I can't believe it's been ten hours and yes. I would.

Sarah

Me too.

The lights go out for the briefest of moments. Time has passed. They are standing holding each other's hands.

Ben

OK the last twenty four hours were a fluke. There's no way this could happen. I'm not someone who believes in love at first site, or anything, but it's been amazing spending time with you.

Sarah

I feel the same way. I don't think I've ever really felt this way.

Ben

When they open that door, don't let anything take this away from us. I mean I know 'real life' waits outside there for us. But let's just promise never to downplay our time together here.

Sarah

I agree. Promise me that there will never be any of the bullshit. If I call you, call me back. If you say something, just mean it. I'm past the point I can play games anymore

Ben

Deal.

They kiss, a very sweet and tender kiss.

The door opens and William enters.

William

So... How are you two kids doing?

They continue to embrace.

Ben

Good.

Sarah

Good.

William

Now remember to respect your NDA. There's no way we'd get single people in here if they knew they'd actually have to spend real time with each other, without any distractions.

Sarah (to William)

I don't know whether to hug you or punch you?

William

Hugs are always best.

Ben

Well... Thank you.

William

You don't have to thank me.. But... You're welcome.

Ben (to Sarah)

I guess this is goodbye then?

Sarah

Are you kidding, you're coming with me.

Ben

I hoped you'd say that.

Sarah and Ben exit hand in hand. William looks down at his clipboard.

William

OK, let's see who's next.

Curtain