

YES or NO?
THE FACES OF LOVE

A Ten-Minute Play

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

JENNIFER – in her early thirties

JACK – in his early thirties

(JACK is down on one knee, holding out a ring for
JENNIFER.)

JENNIFER

No.

JACK

No?

JENNIFER

I can't, Jack.

JACK

But I love you. More than anything or anyone.

JENNIFER

I love you too.

JACK

Then marry me.

JENNIFER

I can't.

JACK

You can do this, Jennifer.

JENNIFER

I can't.

JACK

Yes, you can. You can take this leap of faith—with me.

JENNIFER

Jack. I really can't.

(Beat.)

JACK

Why not?

JENNIFER

Because I'm already married.

JACK

What?

JENNIFER

Separated, actually. But still married.

JACK

I don't believe this.

JENNIFER

I plan on getting divorced.

JACK

It's been ten months!

JENNIFER

But all that paperwork...

JACK

Why didn't you tell me?

JENNIFER

You never asked.

JACK

This is the worst day of my life.

(Beat.)

JENNIFER

I'm also cheating on you.

JACK

What?

JENNIFER

This is another reason why I can't marry you.

JACK

I don't believe this!

JENNIFER

And I know you've been cheating on me.

JACK

Excuse me?

JENNIFER

Reason number three why I can't marry you.

JACK

I don't know what you've heard, or who you've heard it from, but I'm definitely not—

JENNIFER

Becky told me, Jack.

(Beat.)

JACK

She did?

JENNIFER

The guilt was eating her up, so she came clean.

JACK

How long have you known?

JENNIFER

A few weeks.

JACK

You could've said something.

JENNIFER

Well I was cheating on you, too.

(Beat.)

JACK

Do I know him?

JENNIFER

Her.

JACK

Her?

JENNIFER

I'm experimenting.

JACK

You like women?

JENNIFER

Some.

JACK

Do I know her?

JENNIFER

Yes.

(Beat.)

JACK

Well?

JENNIFER

It's Becky.

JACK

Oh my God!

JENNIFER

It just happened.

JACK

I don't believe this.

(Beat.)

JENNIFER

Now do you see why I can't marry you?

(Beat.)

JACK

I don't really know what to say.

JENNIFER

I'm sorry, Jack.

(Beat.)

JACK

And here I was thinking our biggest obstacle would be that we're cousins.

JENNIFER

What?

JACK

First cousins, actually.

JENNIFER

Oh my God!

JACK

I've been meaning to tell you.

JENNIFER

How can that be?

JACK

Remember when I decided to track down my biological mother a few weeks ago?

JENNIFER

You told me she didn't want to meet.

JACK

She didn't. I just sort of showed up at her house.

JENNIFER

Well. That was tactless.

JACK

It was. She invited me in though. We ended up talking for a couple of hours.

JENNIFER

And this just happened to come out over coffee?

JACK

Beers, actually.

JENNIFER

Lovely.

JACK

It took us a half rack of Milwaukee's Best to break the ice.

JENNIFER

I'm sure you felt great the next morning.

JACK

Oh I felt fine. She only offered me one can. Anyway, it turns out that my mother's ex-boyfriend, who she says is my biological father, is your mother's older brother.

JENNIFER

Uncle Ed?

JACK

Yes.

(Beat.)

JENNIFER

Well I must say: I'm shocked.

JACK

I was going to tell you.

JENNIFER

Cousins?

JACK

First cousins.

JENNIFER

At least Becky and I aren't related.

JACK

Do you love her?

JENNIFER

No. She's just a much better lover than you.

JACK

I'm not a good lover?

JENNIFER

Not as good as her.

JACK

This is the worst day of my life.

JENNIFER

I'm sorry.

(Beat.)

JACK

So what now?

JENNIFER

Can I see it?

(JACK gives her the ring.)

JENNIFER

It's beautiful.

(JENNIFER gives the ring back.)

JACK

I'm glad we're being honest with each other.

JENNIFER

Couples these days usually aren't.

JACK

To hell in a hand basket, this world.

JENNIFER

The decline of civilization.

JACK

A nail in the coffin—

JENNIFER

--of humanity.

JACK

Yep.

(Beat.)

JENNIFER

Since we're being honest with each other...

JACK

Go ahead. I can take it.

JENNIFER

There's a good chance that I'm a man.

(Beat.)

JACK

That's incredible. I mean, I can't tell at all. When did you have the surgery?

JENNIFER

I didn't. I have an inner-man.

(Beat.)

JACK

An inner-man?

JENNIFER

Yes. He's in here. And she's out here.

JACK

As in, held hostage in there? Or, "I'm free to come and go as I please" in there?

(Beat.)

JENNIFER

Both, I guess.

(Beat.)

JACK

Wow. This is...

JENNIFER

Yes?

JACK

Inhumane.

JENNIFER

Excuse me?

JACK

How can you do that to him? Lock him up in there? Hold him hostage? It's inhumane. Utterly, and innerly, inhumane.

(Beat.)

JENNIFER

Is this our first fight?

JACK

I guess it is.

JENNIFER

I'm sorry.

JACK

It's him you should be apologizing to.

(Beat.)

JENNIFER

Do you still love me— us?

(Beat.)

JACK

Yes.

JENNIFER

We love you too.

(Jack gets back down on one knee, holds out the ring.)

JACK

Will you—and him—will you guys marry me?

(Long beat.)

JENNIFER

Maybe.

(END OF PLAY)