

# ALMOST PERFECT CHERRY PIE

By Cheryl D. Duffin

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### CHARACTERS

KATHERINE: young woman

RANDY: young man

***At Rise: Lights center on a couple sitting on a rock. They're in a park, but economy should be applied. They are holding hands looking out at the day and enjoying themselves.***

KATHERINE: Lovely, isn't it?

RANDY: (***nervous***) Yeah... what? I mean, yes, it's love... it's great... it's... it's, um...

KATHERINE: (***playfully suspicious***) You okay?

RANDY: (***nodding his head yes, but says...***) No, no, I... I mean, yes. I'm fine... uh, huh, just fine. (***sneaks sideways glances at her when SHE's not looking***)

KATHERINE: Ah, the day is so peaceful. A perfect spring day--not too hot yet.

RANDY: Um, um, nope. Not too hot. Not yet... could be a bit warmer though.

KATHERINE: No, I don't want it to be any warmer, it's perfect the way it is.

RANDY: (***sighs to himself; HE's in another world***) Almost perfect... yeah... almost, not quite though...

KATHERINE: The sky is such a pale shade of blue. (***sighs too***) Clear... blue... day.

RANDY: (***looking up***) It's nice, I s'pose. I like it when the sky's a deeper shade though, more of an azure...

KATHERINE: And the air is so perfectly still... so peaceful.

RANDY: Breeze would be nice...

KATHERINE: (***slight giggle***) Randy, what's wrong with you? You seem strange. Is your mind somewhere else?

RANDY: No, nothing's wrong... just, you know, just that... nothing's perfect, you know? Things can always be made better.

KATHERINE: We've dated for eight months, and I've never noticed these pessimistic tendencies before. It's not a pretty side of you.

RANDY: I'm not a pessimist! I'm just trying to make a point, that's all. Things can always be better.

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KATHERINE: What - trying to make a point? We're not having a discussion here, just admiring the day. Just a peaceful day in the park. That's all.

RANDY: (**feeling clumsy, foolish**) I know. You're right, you're right. I'm being a... downer... I guess...

KATHERINE: Randy, you're being... weird.

RANDY: Well, I... I just wanted to make a point.

KATHERINE: Um, hum...

RANDY: That things can always be better.

KATHERINE: I don't follow.

RANDY: Like, you know, you're goin' along and you think life is just great. Just a big bowl of ripe, red cherries, and you're eating the cherries, pullin' the fruit part right off the stem with your teeth, and you're thinkin' to yourself... you're thinkin' "THESE ARE THE BEST FREAKIN' CHERRIES I'VE EVER EATEN. THEY'RE... THEY'RE PERFECT!" But then you get this idea, see... you get this idea and you think...

KATHERINE: Randy...

RANDY: You think, "these cherries are so good, so ripe, so delicious and... I bet they'd make one hellova cherry pie!" And so you take those cherries and you make them into a pie.

KATHERINE: A pie?

RANDY: Bake 'em up real nice, see? Steaming, hot cherry pie. Hot outta the oven... um, um, um...

KATHERINE: (**very calmly**) Don't take this the wrong way, but you're acting a little... crazy.

RANDY: (**continues without noticing her**) And you cut yourself a big ole' slice of hot and steamy cherry pie. A great big ole' hunk of it... a big slab of it... and you put a bite on your fork and... even before the fork hits your tongue, your mouth begins to water. And then the cherry pie hits your taste buds and it's like – WOW! THIS IS THE BEST CHERRY PIE I'VE EVER EATEN IN MY ENTIRE LIFE!

KATHERINE: Does... insanity run in your family? These things can be genetic, you know. It's not necessarily your fault.

RANDY: Katherine, just listen to what I'm tryin' to tell to you...

KATHERINE: They have medication these days. You can get help.

RANDY: Please, Katherine, I'm not crazy. I have something to say and it needs your full attention.

KATHERINE: Okay, okay... I'm listening...

RANDY: Good. Now focus.

KATHERINE: All right, I'm all ears.

RANDY: Okay. And so, that's the best cherry pie you've ever eaten!

KATHERINE: Got it... best cherry pie I've ever eaten...

RANDY: And you think, geez, what would make this really incredibly perfect is...

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KATHERINE: Yes?... What?

RANDY: *(pauses and holds his breath, trying to create suspense)*  
Ice cream.

KATHERINE: Uh, huh... okay... ice cream... go on...

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