

BLACK COFFEE

By Deanna Ableser

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BLACK COFFEE*A Ten Minute Dramatic Duet***By Deanna Ableser**

SYNOPSIS: Have you ever dreamed of just approaching a complete stranger and asking them for an innocent kiss (no contracts or preconceptions)? *Black Coffee* explores this idea in a sweet, humorous, and easy to stage ten-minute piece. Let your inner love struck soul find its outlet in this touching, kindhearted and witty piece.

CAST OF CHARACTERS*(1 female, 1 male)*

MATT (m) Mid 30's-40's; Attractive, yet very unassuming. Has a kind hearted nature overall, but loves to enjoy the humor in life.

(66 lines)

ALICE (f)..... Mid 30's-40's; Also attractive, but has a "Plain Jane" sense about her. Eccentric, yet aware of her own eccentricities.

*(65 lines)***TIME:** Later afternoon/Early evening.**SETTING:** Coffee Shop in the City.**SET:** Two chairs and a small table.

PROPS

- Coffee Cups
- Coffee Condiments, including Sugar
- Book
- Work Material (papers/computer)
- Purse
- Compact Mirror
- Small Perfume
- Woman's Jacket

AUTHOR'S NOTES

This is a simple sweet piece that really depends on the connection of your actors and on their interactions/interpretations. Let the positive energy, humor and kindness of this piece come out and it will almost direct itself. Break a leg!

AT RISE: *MATT and ALICE are sitting at a table at a coffee shop. ALICE is reading a book while the MATT is doing some work. ALICE is showing a deep internal struggle...trying to get up the courage to say something. Finally, she turns to MATT.*

ALICE: *(Softly.)* It's killing me not to be kissing you right now.

MATT: *(Obviously taken aback.)* Excuse me?

ALICE: *(Embarrassed.)* Dammit. I knew I shouldn't have said it...I knew I shouldn't have said it...I knew...

MATT: It's okay.

ALICE: No, it's not. I'm sorry. I mean, I shouldn't have said it...it was just so...and you were looking so...and it's just killing me...

MATT: It's really okay. It's been a long day anyway.

ALICE: *(Rambling.)* That's so nice of you to say. I mean, really really nice. I mean, usually, I usually don't say these things and I'm usually very level headed and I just don't know what got into me. I was just minding my business and you were just sitting there and looking so...well, looking so gorgeous...and I just figured...well, what the hell, what have I got to lose? I mean, he's not going to hit me in a public place and I can always run quickly and hide in the bathroom if it gets really bad so I just figured I'd open my mouth and.

MATT: You talk a lot, don't you?

ALICE: *(Slightly embarrassed.)* I've been accused of that before. Being silent has never been what you would call a strength of mine. So, again I apologize...please go back to your coffee or tea or café latte or mocha or iced....

MATT: It's a coffee...black, no sugar, no cream, no ice blended, no frappé whatcha.

ALICE: It does get kinda complicated, doesn't it?

MATT: Following the trend, I suppose. Name's Matt.

ALICE: Alice.

MATT: Well, Alice, you did make my day more interesting.

ALICE: Better than boring, right?

MATT: Better than boring.

ALICE: Well, thanks for not hitting me or running off screaming into the night or something like that...

MATT: I'm not usually a wild and crazy type of guy.

ALICE: *(Slightly intrigued.)* Not usually?

MATT: Not usually...but if the situation warrants it, I just might see what way the wind blows...you know, go with the flow.

ALICE: *(Pausing and then clearing her throat.)* So, then, could it possibly be a possibility?

MATT: You weren't actually serious, were you?

ALICE: It's okay...you're right...it's been a long day.

ALICE picks up her drink and starts adding tons of sugar...obviously not looking. She drinks and gags. MATT looks at her with curiosity.

MATT: Maybe we could start again. *(Pause.)* Matt.

MATT holds out his hand for ALICE to shake.

ALICE: Alice.

ALICE shakes MATT'S hand.

MATT: That's a nice name. What's that you're drinking?

ALICE: *(Realizing as she speaks what she is saying.)* It's just a double frappé with soy and an extra shot of espresso with a dollop of... *(Stops what she is saying and looks at the cup.)* You're right...it's complicated.

MATT: You ever done this before?

ALICE: Done this?

MATT: How we started out...I mean, it's quite unusual to go up to a man and proposition him totally out of the blue...well, not quite a full proposition, but quite forward nonetheless.

ALICE: I know...I know...I should have just minded my own business, drank my overly labeled drink and gone on my merry way. I think something's in the air.

MATT: Well... I've never been one to stand in the way of someone's karmic path, so, please, go ahead...whenever you're ready...

MATT puts down his cup and seems ready to kiss her. ALICE puts down her cup and stares at him for a bit. Now she is taken aback and confused.

ALICE: It's really okay with you?

MATT: It's only a kiss.

ALICE: You really do have delicious lips.

MATT: It's not my weakest point.

ALICE: Are you sure it's okay with you? I mean, it's quite a tender thing...a kiss...a gentle intimacy.

MATT: I'm fine with it. I mean, there's not a contract attached to it, is there? It's just a kiss...simple.

ALICE: You're sure you're sure? I don't want to cross any boundaries.

MATT: You really do talk a lot, don't you?

ALICE: It's not my strongest point.

ALICE glances nervously at MATT'S lips.

ALICE: This starts something, doesn't it?

MATT: It can.

ALICE: If I want it to, right?

MATT: It can.

ALICE: I'm not completely sure I'm ready for that.

ALICE leans slightly closer to MATT.

ALICE: *(Taking a deep breath.)* You smell amazing.

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