

TRUE COLORS

By Katherine Dubois

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A One Act Comedy

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SYNOPSIS: Nicole's mom had some T-shirts left over from her group's fundraiser: two blue, one red, one yellow. Since they can't all have the same color, Libby and Tessa think they should each be different. Nicole wants blue. Neither Libby nor Tessa think they look good in yellow. Tessa doesn't like bright colors. Can something this small break up a friendship?

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 females)

TESSA (f) A good student but a bit shy.
(76 lines)

LIBBY (f)..... Outgoing and a little
flamboyant. (77 lines)

NICOLE (f)..... Level-headed and friendly.
(52 lines)

SETTING: A school or coffee shop (or bare stage).

TIME: The present.

DURATION: 20 minutes.

PROPS

- T-shirts (2 Blue, 1 Red, 1 Yellow)
- A Box

AUTHOR NOTES

If there's a cause the cast wants to support, you could have T-shirts printed, use four of them for the T-shirts in the play, and sell the rest as a fundraiser.

AT RISE: *TESSA and LIBBY enter and meet.*

TESSA: Hi, Libby. Oh, I love your shoes.

LIBBY: Aren't they adorable? And on clearance, no less.

TESSA: You have the best luck. I'll have to drag you with me the next time I go shopping and see if some of it will rub off.

LIBBY: Tessa, nobody has to twist my arm to get me to go shopping. How about Wednesday?

TESSA: Can't. My oboe lesson's been rescheduled. Thursday?

LIBBY: Sure. That works.

Enter NICOLE with a flat box, which she sets down.

NICOLE: Hi, Libby. Hi, Tessa.

LIBBY: Hi, Nicole. What have you got there?

NICOLE: My mom's group had a few T-shirts left over from their fundraiser over the weekend, and she gave them to me. I thought you might each like one.

TESSA: Let's see.

NICOLE: *(Pulls a blue T-shirt out of the box.)* It's the same logo on all of them.

LIBBY: *(Bends down and rummages through the box.)* There's different colors, though. *(Pulls out a red one and another blue one.)*

TESSA: Are there three of the blue, Libby? Then we'd all match.

LIBBY: No. Looks like two blue, one red, and one yellow.

TESSA: Oh. Well, if we can't all be the same, then we should each be different. It wouldn't make any sense for two of us to match and not the other one.

NICOLE: Does it really matter?

LIBBY: Tessa's right, Nicole. All the same or all different.

NICOLE: There were only these four. I think that's why Mom didn't mind my having them.

TESSA: But there's three colors and three of us, so that's okay.

NICOLE: I like the blue.

LIBBY: Oh, but Nicole, you're the only person I know who can wear yellow. Most people don't have the coloring for it.

TESSA: That's true. When I wear yellow, I look like I've been embalmed. You should have the yellow, Nicole.

NICOLE: Yellow gets a bad rap. It's a bright, cheerful color. Besides, I don't think there's any colors that people "can't wear."

TESSA: What about black? Lots of people look pale in black.

LIBBY: What are you talking about, Tessa? Black is basic. Anybody can wear black.

TESSA: Well, not me.

LIBBY: Besides, black looks good with everything.

TESSA: You only say that because you look good in bright colors, Libby. I like something more soft and muted. The colors I wear look better with gray or brown than with black. You couldn't wear pastels with black.

LIBBY: Why would you want to wear pastels in the first place? It's pastels that make people look pasty, because they're so pale themselves. Show me *anyone* who can wear pale pink.

TESSA: Well, maybe not pink. But I wear lavender and powder blue.

NICOLE: I wear pink.

LIBBY: I can wear a bright pink.

TESSA: I can wear a rosy sort of pink.

NICOLE: I think it's psychological. People dislike a color because it reminds them of something subconsciously and they convince themselves they don't look good in it.

LIBBY: You don't know what you're talking about, Nicole. Read any fashion magazine, they'll tell you that you look best in certain colors, depending on your own coloring.

NICOLE: A fashion magazine is only interested in getting you to buy new clothes as often as possible. As if you couldn't show your face in last year's fashions, or couldn't wear "winter" colors after the first of March.

TESSA: I think there's some reason for wearing different colors with the seasons. Like, dark colors absorb heat and light colors reflect it. That's science.

NICOLE: But fashion colors don't have anything to do with science. The designers choose a different palette each time they introduce a new line in the hopes we'll all run out and buy a whole new wardrobe. Do they think we're sheep? Or do they think we're so easily bored that we can't wear an article of clothing more than six months before we want to get rid of it?

LIBBY: I get bored with my clothes all the time. I can't count the number of times I've stood in front of my closet and thought, there's nothing here I'm not completely sick of.

TESSA: That only happens to me at the end of each winter, when I've worn my favorite couple of sweaters a million times each. But if I go buy a new one, I never like it as much.

NICOLE: Most people own way too many clothes.

LIBBY: I've got to have variety. My mom never buys anything new that doesn't match everything she already owns. Nobody even notices it's new because it looks so much like the old ones.

TESSA: You've got to stick with colors and styles you like wearing.

NICOLE: I think as long as the clothes you're wearing are appropriate for the occasion, any color works for anyone, any time of the year. No matter what the stores are selling.

TESSA: I still find myself wearing lighter colors in the summer, and grayer tones when the weather's cold.

LIBBY: Winter's the worst time of year to wear toned-down colors. Winter's already depressing, you need something bright to lift your spirits.

NICOLE: My spirits like a lift any time of year.

TESSA: Well, I don't like super-loud colors no matter when.

LIBBY: I like different colors for different seasons. For instance, I like wearing browns and rusts in the fall when the leaves are changing.

NICOLE: What, so you can match the trees? That's crazy.

LIBBY: No, it's not. The light is different, different times of the year. So it stands to reason you should take your cues from nature.

NICOLE: All clothes are meant for is to cover you up.

TESSA: Oh, there's so much more to it than that, Nicole. Clothes can affect your whole mood.

LIBBY: They affect the way other people relate to you, too.

TESSA: You can't say clothes aren't important.

NICOLE: Yes, I can. Clothes aren't important.

LIBBY: The only reason you say that is because you have an instinctive sense of style. You look good without giving it a lot of thought, so you think it doesn't matter.

TESSA: Libby's right, Nicole. You always look great.

LIBBY: But just because your fashion sense is second nature, doesn't mean it isn't there. Some of us have to work at it, that's all.

NICOLE: By reading fashion magazines and trying to stay up on the latest thing?

LIBBY: A lot of the magazines talk about accentuating your best features, not just wearing what everybody else is wearing.

NICOLE: These are only T-shirts. They're not really a fashion statement.

LIBBY: Formal or informal, anything you wear is fashion.

TESSA: And something informal like a T-shirt, that just makes the color that much more important.

LIBBY: Tessa's right.

NICOLE: That doesn't solve the problem of dividing these up.

TESSA: You should have the yellow, Libby should have the red, and I'll have blue.

LIBBY: Why should I have the red?

TESSA: It's the brightest.

NICOLE: There's primary red, primary yellow, and primary blue. They're all bright.

TESSA: But even a bright blue isn't as bright as red or yellow. I mean, even if it is, it doesn't read that way.

NICOLE: I like blue. It goes with everything.

LIBBY: You should take the yellow. You just said you don't care what colors you wear.

NICOLE: I'm the one that brought them. Why shouldn't I get first choice?

LIBBY: Who says anyone has to go first? Can't we all just agree?

NICOLE: And where has that gotten us so far?

TESSA: It should be democratic.

NICOLE: You mean, the two of you can out-vote me and say I have to have the yellow one? I'm not sure I like that kind of democracy.

TESSA: You're right. It doesn't sound very fair. Maybe we should draw lots or something.

LIBBY: Which is likely to mean nobody gets what they want. That's no improvement.

NICOLE: If it doesn't work out for everybody to get their first choice, then there has to be some order of choosing.

TESSA: We could flip for who chooses first.

LIBBY: That's dumb.

TESSA: How is it dumb? It would make it more fair.

LIBBY: Fair for the person who goes first, maybe.

TESSA: Then whoever chooses last should get the last two. To make up for not having as much choice.

LIBBY: What if the last two are both blue? Nobody has any use for two identical T-shirts.

TESSA: Well, then, how about this? I take one of the blue ones, Libby gets the red one, and Nicole gets the yellow one *and* the other blue one.

LIBBY: But then you and Nicole both have a blue one and I don't. If you both wear blue, I won't match.

TESSA: There's not enough to go around, that's the trouble.

NICOLE: There's four shirts and three people.

TESSA: But they're not the right colors.

LIBBY: Are they all the same size? That might help us decide.

NICOLE: *(Checks the T-shirt tags.)* This one's a large. So's this one. Extra large. Medium.

LIBBY: Which one was which?

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