

# First Love

Donald R. Fried





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***We help older performers fulfill their theatrical dreams!***

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## FIRST LOVE

*When they were in their twenties, ROSE and OSCAR had an unconsummated romance. They are now in their 80s and haven't seen each other for 60 years. ROSE arranges to meet OSCAR and plans to seduce him, but it seems as though a few things have changed in six decades.*

## CAST

ROSE: Age 80 or older. Confident, aggressive, a tough old lady.

OSCAR: Age 80 or older. Used to giving in to maintain a quiet life.

Place

Scene 1 is a small cafe, with an implied entrance to one side and a service counter to the other. (Note, if this play is being done with "The Code," it should be performed later, and this is not the same coffee shop.) There may be something to indicate that we are in New York, for example a sign saying "Brooklyn Café." There is a table and two chairs.

Scene 2 is a bedroom. There is a bed (which may be physically there or imagined), and to the side, a table and two chairs.

Time

The Present.

## FIRST LOVE

## SCENE 1

## A CAFE

*At Rise: OSCAR is sitting at the table with a cup of coffee and a stuffed ' OSCAR the Grouch' toy. Next to the table is what looks like it may be another chair, but it is covered completely by a large coat so that we can't see what it is. ROSE enters, carrying a rose. She goes to the service counter and gets a cup of coffee. Then she turns and searches the room, without recognizing OSCAR. It is only on the second pass that she notices the toy and approaches him.*

ROSE: Oscar! It's me. Please don't get up. *(He was making no move to.)*

OSCAR: Hello, Rose.

ROSE: You haven't changed a bit.

OSCAR: Oh, sure.

ROSE: No, really. *(she picks up the Grouch toy.)* I'd have recognized you even without this. Would you have recognized me without the flower? *(waving the rose).*

OSCAR: I didn't recognize you with it.

ROSE: Well, I find it helps to have these kind of things when you're meeting people you don't know. Don't you?

OSCAR: I suppose it would if I could remember why I have them--and what they're supposed to mean.

ROSE: Silly boy. It's not that bad! Did you have a hard time finding it?

OSCAR: Not so much. This was the last one in the store, though, and I had to arm-wrestle a four-year old for it. He never stood a chance! I'm just glad it wasn't his older sister; she was six or seven, and she looked really tough.

ROSE: You still make me laugh. I'm glad you went to all that trouble just because I asked you. You were always considerate, too.

OSCAR: Didn't we break up because you said I was inconsiderate?

ROSE: Yes, among other reasons.

OSCAR: So your memory isn't any better than mine.

ROSE: I was making small talk.

*(Awkward pause.)*

ROSE: I'll bet you were surprised to get my call.

OSCAR: No, I get lots of calls from women I was engaged to sixty years ago. You were the third one this week.

ROSE: Alright, enough with the funny business!

OSCAR: But I thought you said--

ROSE: That was small talk, too. I didn't like your sense of humor all that much in 1950, and it hasn't gotten any better with age.

OSCAR: Sorry.

ROSE: It's O.K. Just don't try so hard.

OSCAR: I'm sorry!

*(Awkward pause.)*

ROSE: I imagine you're wondering why I called after all these years.

*(Oscar starts to make a comment; ROSE gives him a withering glance and he stops.)*

Yes, you were inconsiderate, and yes, I never was crazy about your sense of humor, but those weren't the reasons we broke up. The real reason was that I refused to have sex with you before we were married.

OSCAR: I don't remember that.

ROSE: Maybe you don't but I do. A woman never forgets her first love, and you were my first love. That's something that no amount of time is ever going to change. So we have some unfinished business.

OSCAR: Don't tell me you're still a virgin.

ROSE: Don't be ridiculous. But we never consummated our relationship. I said I wasn't going to have sex with you until we were married. Well, now we are. Married.

OSCAR: To different people!

ROSE: So? My husband's been in a nursing home for a year, and he's got not one, but two girlfriends in there. Would it bother your wife all that much?

OSCAR: Of course it would.

ROSE: Then don't tell her.

OSCAR: I'd never get away with it.

ROSE: We're talking about just one time. It's not like we're going to make a habit out of it. I live clear across the country. How long have you been married?

OSCAR: To Beth, you mean? Fifteen years. She's my third wife.

ROSE: And haven't you cheated since you've been married?

OSCAR: None of your business. *(beat.)* At my age?

ROSE: Don't you have a computer at home?

OSCAR: Yes. What does that matter?

ROSE: And don't you ever look at--those sites--on the Internet?

OSCAR: Well,...sure. Sometimes. On Tuesdays, when Beth's out playing canasta.

ROSE: And don't you ever fantasize about having wild uninhibited sex? The way everybody else in the world seems to be doing?

OSCAR: To tell you the truth, the sites I look at, the women are closer to twenty than eighty.

ROSE: Listen, Big Boy, you're not my dream-stud, either. But this is the real world. I'm here, and I'm making the offer. *(beat, while he considers.)*  
So, what do you say? Tuesday's Beth's canasta day?

OSCAR: Let me think about this for a minute. Do you want a refill?

ROSE: My cup's still full.

OSCAR: I'll be right back.

*(OSCAR rises. He moves the coat from where it has been to his chair, revealing a walker with an oxygen bottle hanging on it. OSCAR puts the oxygen mask over his face, opens the valve, and slowly makes his way toward the counter, pushing the walker.)*

## SCENE 2 A BEDROOM

*(In the room are the table and the two chairs; on the table are a variety of prescription medicine bottles. Nearby are the walker and the oxygen bottle, which are now uncovered. Also in the room is a bed, which may be imagined. If it is on-stage, there is a large lump on it, as though two bodies, one on top of the other, are under the covers.)*

ROSE: (V.O.) Oscar?

OSCAR: (V.O.) *(panting.)* Yes.

ROSE: (V.O.) Are you still with me?

OSCAR: (V.O.) I'm doing the best I can, Rose.

ROSE: (V.O.) Well, let me know before you start this time. I wouldn't want to miss it again. *(pause, while OSCAR pants.)* Should I bring you the oxygen?

OSCAR: (V.O.) Not now. I'm going to try again.

**END OF FREEVIEW**  
***You'll want to read and perform this show!***