

“The First Dance”  
By Daniel Takacs

Dramatis Personae:

BRIDE

GROOM

TAYLOR, male, 20's-30's. Friend of the newlyweds.

ALLISON, female, 20's-30's. Friend of the newlyweds.

“The First Dance”  
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(A BRIDE dancing with a GROOM. Beautiful music plays.  
Lights fade up to reveal ALLISON and TAYLOR watching.)

Ugh. They're so fucking happy.  
ALLISON

And what a great song.  
TAYLOR

Sure.  
ALLISON

She looks — that dress!  
TAYLOR

It is white.  
ALLISON

And the cake!  
TAYLOR

Yep. Cake.  
ALLISON

True love. Look at how they're looking at each other.  
TAYLOR

Pssshh.  
ALLISON

Really?  
TAYLOR

Really.  
ALLISON

(Pause.)

Love? Sure. True love?...  
ALLISON

TAYLOR  
They've been together for years.

ALLISON  
Right.

TAYLOR  
Right.

ALLISON  
And the limit is like, ten. So...

TAYLOR  
I disagree.

ALLISON  
You would.

TAYLOR  
Oh, I would?

ALLISON  
Classic you.

TAYLOR  
What does that mean?

ALLISON  
You're a romantic. You still believe in true love because you've never been in it.

TAYLOR  
Yes, I have.

ALLISON  
Not like, whatever you call it with Katie. Like, love-love.

TAYLOR  
And you have?

ALLISON  
Yes! And you know what? In the end, it's just another thing. I mean special, sure. Specific? Sure. But eternal? Transcendent? No such thing.

TAYLOR

Come on, it's their wedding, just be nice.

ALLISON

True love... only at first. Pretty soon you're just...

TAYLOR

Please. Will you please — ?

ALLISON

Yes?

TAYLOR

Is it so impossible to fathom, just for tonight, that something good is happening? That life isn't just... empty? That maybe they have something special? That can't be explained? That's good?

ALLISON

It's a fantasy. This... is a pleasant fairy-tale, a circus meant to keep us too busy to notice that dreams don't really come true. Christ, you're too much. One hookup and you think you know heartache.

TAYLOR

It wasn't Katie I was in love with.

ALLISON

Oh, yeah? Who then?

(TAYLOR looks away.)

ALLISON

Me?!

TAYLOR

No!

(TAYLOR looks at the BRIDE. Pause. ALLISON takes this in. She doesn't have a retort for that.)

TAYLOR

But they're happy.

ALLISON

Yes. Yes they are.

TAYLOR

True love.

(Pause.)

ALLISON

You know, they have Margarita shots at the bar.

TAYLOR

I don't feel like drinking.

(Pause.)

ALLISON

There's no such thing as true love.

TAYLOR

Then why am I... heartbroken?

(A long pause.)

TAYLOR

You're probably right, love is just a —

(ALLISON kisses TAYLOR, long. Pause.)

ALLISON

I know I'm not her...

TAYLOR

But I'm not him, either.

(Pause.)

ALLISON

Maybe you can find the one — twice?

TAYLOR

One can dream.

ALLISON

One can drink.

(Beat.)

Margarita shots?

TAYLOR

(Pause.)

Do they put salt on the little rims?

ALLISON (*yes*)

(They banter as they exit towards the bar. Music swells over them.)

I hope not.

TAYLOR

Is it even a Margarita without salt around the rim?

ALLISON

I prefer sugar around the rim.

TAYLOR

You're such a girl.

ALLISON

You're a girl!

TAYLOR

Am not!

ALLISON

(ALLISON and TAYLOR exit. Music swells as the dance ends. The GROOM dips the BRIDE, they kiss. Applause and shouts.)

End.