

LOVE'S DOORSTEP

*A Comedy By
© Greg Vovos*

CHARACTERS

STELLA: A woman.

JONES: A man.

TWO OTHER WOMEN: Promiscuous women.

SETTING

The doorstep that leads to Stella's home.

TIME

Evening after Stella and Jones' first date, and all the time that follows.

SYNOPSIS

Stella and Jones' first date together forever changes their lives.

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LOVE'S DOORSTEP

Lights up on a couple standing outside a door that leads to Stella's home.

JONES

I had a great time.

STELLA

Good.

JONES

May I call you?

STELLA

Anything's possible.

He goes to kiss her and she stops him.

I don't think we should move too quickly.

JONES

Either do I. Good night then.

She goes inside. He immediately pulls out a cell phone and dials.

Hi. I just wanted to make sure you made it home okay.

STELLA

(Yelling from inside house.) Yes. Thank you. Good night.

JONES

(Still on the phone.) Good night. I love you.

STELLA

(Still from inside.) No, you don't.

JONES

I do. Good night.

He exits. Moments later he comes back with flowers. He knocks on the door. When she answers, he hands her the flowers.

I just wanted to thank you for last night.

STELLA

It's still last night.

JONES

Is it?

STELLA

Yes. Now I don't mean to be rude, but I really need to go to bed.

JONES

Yes, I'd love to come in. I need it too.

STELLA

Excuse me.

JONES

There's no reason to be embarrassed. We all have needs.

STELLA

I am not inviting you in.

JONES

Why not?

STELLA

Because we've only been on one date!

JONES

So.

STELLA

So I'm not inviting you in.

JONES

Okay, I get it.

STELLA

What do you get?

JONES

You're a traditional woman. I like that about you.

STELLA

I don't want you to take this the wrong way because I'd hate for you to keep hanging around my doorstep, so I'll make it as plain as possible: Leave!

JONES

I will. But it will be the most difficult time of my life.

STELLA

Good luck and good night.

He begins to exit but quickly returns to her door and knocks. She answers.

JONES

I've been thinking about you. About our future.

STELLA

What future?

JONES

I don't think we should waste anymore time.

STELLA

You need to go home now.

JONES

May I call you in the morning?

STELLA

How about if I call you?

JONES

(Laughs.) I'm not falling for that one.

STELLA

Okay. Call me in the morning. But you must leave now.

JONES

I'll leave but my heart will remain on your doorstep.

STELLA

You should be more careful where you leave your heart.

She closes the door. He sits there. He's stewing. After a moment, he knocks. She answers the door quickly.

STELLA

Listen—

JONES

(*Angry/desperate*)--Now you listen here, Stella. I will not stand for this behavior any longer. Do you understand me?

STELLA

What?

JONES

I am who I am and no matter how much I love you I will not sacrifice my identity for you.

STELLA

You are insane.

JONES

Of course I'm insane. You have driven me to the brink of insanity with all your outlandish demands. There has to be some sort of give and take, and if you are unwilling to compromise then I just don't see how this relationship can continue.

STELLA

You're right.

JONES

I am?

STELLA

Yes. I am unable to give in to your demands, and I think we should go our separate ways.

JONES

Okay. Fine then.

STELLA

Fine.

She slams the door on him. He pauses for a moment. He knocks on the door.

JONES

(*Meekly.*) Stella, honey? I miss you. I think perhaps I made a mistake earlier. Clearly I asked too much of you. I want you to know that you don't have to compromise in the least. I will make all the sacrifices for this

relationship. After all, there is no reason that both of us should suffer. And as the man, I feel it should be I who bear the brunt of this—

She opens the door quickly.

STELLA

You are spineless!

She slams the door on him. He knocks violently. She does not answer.

JONES

Who do you think you are, Woman?!? You can't slam the door on my face. I will not tolerate such treatment. You hear me? Do you hear me? Open this door immediately. Don't make me come in there.

He goes to kick in the door. She opens it just as he is about to do so and he falls flat on his face. (If this proves too tricky in staging, he can simply hurt himself by knocking too hard on the door.)

I was just in the neighborhood and I thought I'd drop by.

STELLA

What do you want?

JONES

We need to talk.

STELLA

I really don't think there's anything left to say.

JONES

I have something to say.

Pause.

STELLA

Well, what is it?

Silence.

JONES

Sweet dreams.

*She closes the door. He stands a moment.
He knocks on the door. He knocks again.
She answers and is wearing a robe. Pause.*

I'm sorry.

STELLA
For what?

JONES
I can't remember.

STELLA
You should go home.

JONES
Maybe this is my home.

STELLA
This is not your home.

JONES
It could be. You said yourself that anything's possible.

STELLA
It's late.

JONES
You know I would do anything for you.

STELLA
Do you mean it?

JONES

I'd stop the world from spinning if you asked me to.

STELLA

(Gently.) How about if you just see other women?

JONES

Other women, plural?

STELLA

That's right. Plural.

He exits. Silence. He re-enters with two women, one on each arm. They laugh and laugh and laugh.

JONES

And here it is! Have you ever seen a door more beautiful?

The two women simultaneously whisper something suggestive into each of his ears.

(Shocked.) What?!?! I can't do that! I only went out with you because Stella made me.

One woman slaps him on the cheek; and the other woman slaps him on his other cheek or punches him in the gut. The women exit together, frolicking. He rubs his cheeks. Stella comes outside.

STELLA

Maybe you should come inside.

JONES

Don't do this if you feel sorry for me.

She rubs his cheeks.

You have a nice touch.

She smiles and kisses him. Their kiss leads them inside.

Once inside we hear the sounds of love: moaning, banging against the door. Then laughter or some climactic sound.

Silence and the fight begins. We hear the sounds of pots crashing, doors slamming, etc, whatever the creative team thinks best.

JONES
OH YEAH?!?!

Door slam from inside the house.

STELLA
YEAH!

Another door slam, or some equally jarring sound, preferably a CYMBAL CRASH. Then a SILENCE.

Time passes and she sneaks out carrying two suitcases. She wears a coat. As she is about to leave the stage, he appears at the door.

JONES
Where are you sneaking off to?

STELLA
I'm not sneaking.

JONES
What's with the suitcases?

STELLA
I don't know.

JONES
Suddenly you don't know?

STELLA
I left you a note.

JONES
I couldn't read your handwriting.

STELLA
I have lovely handwriting.

JONES
I couldn't make heads or tails out of it. Tell me why.

STELLA

I'm sorry.

JONES

'I'm sorry' is bullshit.

He grabs her firmly.

(Demanding) Tell me why!

STELLA

I think you love too much.

He releases her and she leaves. Then in his best Stanley from STREETCAR.

JONES

SSSSTTTTEEEELLLLLLAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!!!!

He goes back inside.

Time passes. Stella enters carrying a bundle on a stick, like that of a hobo. She knocks on the door. He answers.

JONES

(As if trying to recognize her.) Stella, right?

She nods.

(Checks his watch.) You've been gone a year, you know?

She nods again.

Perhaps you'll be happy to learn that I no longer love as I once did.

STELLA

Oh.

JONES

I've found loving myself to be very satisfying, from a mediocre standpoint. *(Pause.)* I'm quite content.

She begins to exit.

Did you want your house back?

She nods. He begins to exit.

STELLA

Would you like to stay?

He shakes his head no. She crosses to the door, opens it and turns to him.

I don't believe you, Jones! I think you love just as you always have.

JONES

How would you know?

STELLA

(Indicating the bundle.) I have your heart right here.

JONES

My heart?

STELLA

I warned you not to leave it lying around.

JONES

You don't have my heart.

STELLA

It's right here in my bundle.

JONES

I want it back. You got your own heart.

STELLA

Come and get it.

He crosses aggressively to her to get the bundle, but she evades him.

Once she is sure his movements are calm, she gives the bundle to him and he looks inside. Then we hear the bundle crying.

JONES

And it's my heart?

STELLA

And mine too. Let's go in.

JONES

Maybe we're moving too quickly.

He looks as if he smells something stinky.

Did you just fart?

STELLA

Come inside. I think we need to change our heart

They go inside, close door and LIGHTS OUT.

END OF PLAY