

CUPID AND PSYCHE:

AN INTERNET LOVE STORY

A one-act dramedy by
Emma Rosecan, Alexis Stickovitch and Maria Hernandez

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

IZZY, a little tomboy, a little girly, hopeless romantic.

REED, tomboy. Laid back.

OLIVIA, girly. Dramatic.

JASON, jock. Muscley. Not very bright.

AXEL, skinny. Artsy. Intuitive.

TRINA/TERRANCE (voice only), ambiguous teen girl/guy.

AARON, tall, handsome teen.

SETTING

Bedroom: Stage right has a computer on a desk and a chair. Stage left has a bed. Other "room" props as seen fit. While filming the video blogs, a tripod faces the bed.

Outside the school: Tree stage left, entrance to school. Two benches center stage with some shrubs.

Scene 1 – Bedroom.

Scene 2 – Bedroom.

Scene 3 – Bedroom, the next night.

Scene 4 – Outside the school in the morning.

Scene 5 – Bedroom.

Scene 6 – School at lunchtime.

Scene 7 – Bedroom.

Scene 8 – School in the morning.

Scene 9 – School at night.

Scene 10 – Room, tripod single spotlight. Night of dance.

Options for computer chats:

1. Hear Aaron's voice offstage and Izzy talks while typing.
2. Projection of online chat, while still hearing Aaron's voice.

PRODUCTION NOTE

It would be best for the audience to hear the music whenever Izzy does. While "Jane Doe" by Never Shout Never is suggested, your production should feel free to use any suitable song for which you can get permission, or to write an original song.

SCENE 1

(A video blog. Spotlight on a girl sitting on a bed facing a tripod. She clicks the camera on.)

IZZY: ...Homecoming isn't just one of those things you invite people to... But you don't want to go alone. Especially when all my friends have dates; annoying, but cute nonetheless. I don't know why guys don't like me. Everyone says I'm pretty, but apparently that's not enough. You have to be smart like Reed, or outgoing like Olivia. They never have trouble finding dates for the dance, not that they have to worry about that anymore. It really, really bothers me that— *(Beat.)* Never mind. *(Beat.)* On the flip flop, today in Latin class we finally got to mythology. We started with my favorite. The story of Cupid and Psyche. You know, Psyche was the last of her sisters to get a boyfriend too. Everyone agreed she was, in fact, the prettiest, but all her suitors were too intimidated to talk to her. It got to the point where her desperate parents went to the Oracle to see if she would ever get married. The Oracle told her parents to leave her on the side of the mountain and her husband would find her there and take her with him. And he did. And everything was awesome, except for the fact that Psyche's husband never let her see what he looked like. This didn't bother her, but her sisters convinced her looks are everything. So she decided one night to turn on the lights. And like that he was gone. He was there just long enough for her to see that he was the gorgeous god Cupid. *(She leans forward to turn off the camera:)* If I ever had someone that loved me like that, I'd never turn the lights on.

(She turns camera off.)

SCENE 2

(Izzy, REED and OLIVIA are in Izzy's bedroom.)

OLIVIA: So, can you believe that Jason still hasn't bought homecoming tickets yet? It's less than two weeks away and he hasn't actually asked me yet, formally. He just assumes I'm gonna go with him.

REED: Well, you are, right? I mean you've been dating for like, twenty years.

OLIVIA: Well of course I am, but that's not the point. I don't want our relationship to be not a big deal. It needs to be a huge deal. And he needs to ask me in front of every one, so they can be jealous of how much we love each other.

REED: Ew. I hate PDA.

OLIVIA: *(Enunciates each word:)* Just because you and Axel have lost the spark...

REED: Just because I don't feel the need to broadcast my relationship like some insecure little...

IZZY: WOAHH, guys, cool it. There is no need to be so dramatic. At least you guys have boyfriends.

REED: Izzy, you don't need a boyfriend.

IZZY: *(Under breath:)* Easy for you to say.

OLIVIA: Anyway, I told you I would set you up with Jason's friend, Bart.

REED: He doesn't shower.

IZZY: I don't want to be set up with anyone. I want a romance. I want... Well, I'll know it when I see it.

OLIVIA: Better hope you see it soon. Homecoming is, like, next week –

REED: No pressure or anything—

OLIVIA: Listen. You don't have to be in love with him. You just need a date. *(Throws a magazine at Izzy:)* Here. This is how I got my boyfriend.

IZZY: Cosmo? Really? Have I sunk that low? *(A long pause. Awkward shifting:)* Guys!

(She throws the magazine at Reed.)

OLIVIA: At least give it a try.

REED: *(Picks up magazine:)* Ooh, look: "101 Ways to Go From Nice to Naughty!"

OLIVIA: It'd be a major buzz kill to go to the dance with a third— *(She looks at Reed:)* Fifth wheel.

REED: You know we love you, right?

IZZY: You have a funny way of showing it—

REED: But we're always making room for you, and never get to fully enjoy ourselves.

OLIVIA: Let's cut the crap. It's our senior homecoming and I don't want to be stuck dancing with you all night—

REED: Harsh, Olivia.

OLIVIA: Like you weren't thinking it.

IZZY: Alright, alright, I'll look at the magazine.

REED: It looks like there is something about online dating.

OLIVIA: OMG so many couples meet online.

REED: Didn't you start chatting that guy you met on the discussion board? And you said that he lives in the next town.

OLIVIA: Wait, you met a guy online? On what discussion board?

IZZY: (*Embarrassed:*) A...mythology...discussion...board.

OLIVIA: (*Laughing:*) I'm sorry. That's just too — (*Pause.*) GOD YOU'RE SUCH A NERD!

(*She breaks out laughing.*)

REED: Does he have a Facebook?

IZZY: He sent me the link —

OLIVIA: Well did you click on it?

IZZY: Well, not yet —

OLIVIA AND REED: (*Pushing her out of the way:*) MOVE.

(*They go to computer and stalk. This takes a moment.*)

IZZY: It's that one — (*Beat.*) No, that link —

(*Beat.*)

OLIVIA: So wonderboy's name is Aaron —

IZZY: Aaron's kind of a sexy name —

OLIVIA: If you're Aaron Carter —

IZZY: Oh, funny.

REED: I think it's that link there —

OLIVIA: That one?

REED: Dude, he has no picture.

OLIVIA: He's probably really, really ugly —

REED: Either that, or he has no friends to take a picture of him —

OLIVIA: Or he really is Aaron Carter

IZZY: Stop being ridiculous, he just got the account a few days ago —

OLIVIA: Sure he did –

REED: That explains why he has no friends!

IZZY: Guys, stop it!

OLIVIA: I think that we should send him a friend request!

(Olivia friends him on Facebook. Izzy groans and falls face first on her pillow.)

IZZY: *(Muffled:)* You guys suck.

REED: We're just trying to help.

(More muffled complaining.)

OLIVIA: Do you want to go to the dance or not?

(Izzy sighs heavily.)

REED: That's the spirit!

OLIVIA: Then maybe you can convince Aaron to do a show for us –

REED: Yeah, with that one song he wrote –

OLIVIA: I think it had the word candy in it?

(Izzy throws a pillow at Olivia's face.)

REED: This is gonna bug me, I'm looking up the name of the song. *(She clicks:)* OOH. He's already accepted your friend request. *(Click:)* Aaaaand – *(Click, then, singsong:)* He sent you a message!

(She holds an awkward wink for a few seconds.)

OLIVIA: What's wrong with your face?

IZZY: WHAT? *(Popping out of bed:)* He sent me a message? *(She fixes her hair:)* Lemme see.

(She gets up from the bed before clumsily tripping over Olivia. She dusts herself off before shoving Olivia out of her way.)

Move. Move. Move. Move. Move. Move. NOW.

(She sits at the computer.)

OLIVIA: *(Snickering:)* You're welcome.

(Izzy sits at the computer reading the message.)

REED: So. What did he say?

IZZY: He said: "Hey Izzy. Thanks for adding me. I wish I could talk to you tonight, but I have to go to work. Hopefully, we can chat tomorrow. Does seven work for you? VPM."

REED: What's VPM?

IZZY: *(Embarrassed:)* It's an acronym.

OLIVIA: For what?

IZZY: Goodbye. *(Pause.)* In Latin.

(Olivia and Reed look at Izzy incredulously before bursting into laughter and coughing "nerd" under their breath. Izzy types.)

REED: What are you saying?

IZZY: I said *(Pause.)* Seven sounds fine.

OLIVIA: That's it?

REED: Kinda cold isn't it?

OLIVIA: You should flirt with him a little.

IZZY: How?

OLIVIA: See, this is why you don't have a boyfriend.

SCENE 3

(Izzy is alone in her bedroom at the computer with headphones on. Facebook is open on screen. Timestamp says 7:22. She sighs and is about to close the computer when a message appears in Facebook chat.)

AARON: Hey. Sorry I'm late.

IZZY: Hey. No problem.

(Awkward pause. She starts typing, but deletes what she wrote.)

AARON: So.....how are you?

IZZY: I'm good. You?

AARON: Me too. *(Another awkward pause.)* Well this is awkward. We used to talk all the time in the forum. Why does it feel like something is different?

IZZY: Because it's just us this time?

AARON: I guess so. Now it feels more personal.

IZZY: I know. It's like we are this awkward couple that just started dating or something. Haha.

AARON: I wish.

(Pause.)

IZZY: Thanks. *(Pause.)* Me too.

AARON: ...So is this our first date then?

IZZY: Yeah. I guess so.

AARON: :)

IZZY: :)

AARON: ;)

IZZY: Woah, slow down. This is only our first date. LOL what kind of girl do you think I am?

AARON: My kind of girl.

IZZY: Classically cheesy. I love it.

AARON: Have you ever heard the song "Jane Doe"? It reminds me of you.

IZZY: I've never heard it before.

AARON: You should listen.

IZZY: Okay...hold on. (*Listens to clip of song:*) I love it! Brb. Moms calling me for dinner. Can you talk when I get back?

AARON: The whole night is free for me.

IZZY: Sounds good.

SCENE 4

(Outside of a school. Izzy is sitting on a bench with headphones on. The song from the night before is playing.)

OLIVIA: Izzy...

(Poke. Izzy doesn't move.)

Izzyyyy.....

(Hard poke. Izzy pulls headphones off, and the music fades.)

IZZY: *(Yawning:)* Whaaaaaat?

REED: You look tired, were you up doing homework all night?

OLIVIA: Were you crying all night? Did the cyber date go badly?

IZZY: Not exactly...

REED: What do you mean?

IZZY: Well, it was kinda awkward at first, but it went surprisingly well. We stayed up almost all night talking. I actually fell asleep at my keyboard around 2:30.

OLIVIA: What do you mean awkward?

REED: Does he have a bad sense of humor?

OLIVIA: Was he just trying to be funny the whole time?

REED: Oh god, is he a "LOLz-er"?

OLIVIA: Does he ride the LOLli-copter?

REED: Does he go to LOLlapalooza?

OLIVIA: Wearing his LOLler-skates?

(Olivia and Reed are doubled over laughing.)

IZZY: *(Speaking loudly:)* For your information, he's very funny

and sweet. We actually had a lot in common. We like the same books, same bands and people on youtube. We got along really well. We are going to talk online again tonight, and...I'm actually kinda excited.

OLIVIA: Well, if he's so wonderful how come he isn't your date to the dance yet?

IZZY: I was going to ask him tonight.

REED: Oh, that's awesome! I can't wait to meet him.

OLIVIA: Awww. You and your internet date. How...cute.

IZZY: What's that supposed to mean?

OLIVIA: Nothing, nothing. So...what are you wearing?

SCENE 5

(Izzy is in her bedroom opening Facebook on her computer. A chat pops up.)

AARON: Hey.

IZZY: Hey.

AARON: How was your day?

IZZY: It was pretty good. Nothing exciting really. You?

AARON: Actually, I ran into my ex-girlfriend today.

IZZY: How'd that go?

AARON: It was...awkward. Did I ever tell you about her?

IZZY: No.

AARON: Well, I had liked her for a year before I ever asked her out. We had a lot of fun together, but we didn't get to see each other much. We just never seemed to be free on the same days. One day, I went to her house to surprise her for our three-month anniversary. Her mom told me she had a friend over, but I could go right up to her room.

IZZY: She was there?

AARON: She was there...with a guy. I left before she even noticed I was there.

IZZY: Wow. That's awful.

AARON: Yeah, it kinda was. She was the first person I really opened up to. I never really got over it. But this time it was easier to face her.

IZZY: Why?

AARON: I guess that...I'm over her.

IZZY: How did you get over her?

AARON: Well, actually, I like someone else.

IZZY: Oh. Well, good for you. (*Takes a deep breath:*) Actually, I had something I wanted to ask you...

AARON: Yeah??

IZZY: Well, there is this homecoming dance Friday....

AARON: Homecoming... I'm following you so far....

IZZY: ...So I was thinking...

AARON: I would love to go with you.

IZZY: Cool.

AARON: Cool beans.

IZZY: I'm wearing teal. Match me?

AARON: Teal is...blue, right?

IZZY: Dark greenish-blue.

AARON: I knew that.

IZZY: Uh-huh.

AARON: I know how to get to the school. Should I just meet you there?

IZZY: Sure. Meet me there at 8.

AARON: Cool. So...I guess I'll see you in two days!

IZZY: Just two days!

AARON: Can't wait.

IZZY: Me neither. Goodnight.

AARON: Sweet dreams.

SCENE 6

(The next day in front of the school. Reed and Olivia are eating lunch on a bench.)

REED: Where's Izzy?

OLIVIA: She'll be out in a minute.

(Reed nods. JASON enters.)

JASON: Babe, where's my sammich?

OLIVIA: What sandwich?

JASON: You said you would make me a sammich!

OLIVIA: I never said I would make you a sandwich.

REED: Axel always wants me to make him a sandwich too. Why do guys always want their girlfriends to make them sandwiches?

JASON: Cuz it's quicker than pie.

(Walks off stage.)

REED: She seems really happy, doesn't she? She couldn't stop smiling when she told us that she was going to homecoming with Aaron. I think she really likes him.

OLIVIA: Well... *(Exhales:)* I don't really know about this whole Aaron thing. Something seems...off.

REED: What do you mean?

OLIVIA: It's hard to describe. He just seems a little too "perfect." You know what I mean?

REED: No, I don't know.

OLIVIA: Well, he likes the exact same stuff she does. He compliments her all the time. He agreed to go to the dance with her, and he doesn't even go here.

REED: I guess I can see what you mean...

OLIVIA: And how creepy is it that he knows what she looks like, but she doesn't know what he looks like? What if he is, like, a 40-year-old internet predator?

(Izzy enters.)

IZZY: Who's a 40-year-old internet predator? Mr. D? Yeah, he's a creeper.

(Awkward pause. Reed and Olivia exchange glances.)

What?

OLIVIA: Actually, we were talking about Aaron...

IZZY: *(Defensive:)* Well...what about him?

REED: Well, have you actually met him...or spoken to him on the phone?

(Izzy opens her mouth to answer but Olivia cuts her off.)

OLIVIA: *(Sternly:)* No. You haven't. You have no idea who this guy is. Do you really think it's safe meeting up with him? Have you even told your parents?

IZZY: Well, I don't have a reason to not trust him.

REED: Well, you don't have a reason to trust him. Hear me out, Iz... No one here knows him. Actually, we don't know anyone who knows him. You met him ONLINE. Do you even know what school he goes to?

IZZY: It never came up.

OLIVIA: Exactly. I think he's hiding something.

IZZY: You guys are being so dramatic. He's not a predator.

REED: Well. At the very least, he's probably ugly.

OLIVIA: Worst case scenario he's an internet creep.

IZZY: (*Yelling:*) STOP IT! JUST STOP IT, OKAY? (*Deep breath:*) Talking to him was your idea. You both didn't seem to have a problem back then. What's the deal now?

(Reed and Olivia stand surprised for a moment.)

REED: Izzy, calm down.

IZZY: No. I know why you guys have a problem with him. You guys are just jealous. Your boyfriends are jerks and they don't give you the time of day. You didn't care if I had a boyfriend to make me happy... You just didn't want me to embarrass you at homecoming.

REED: You know that's not true. Tell her, Olivia.

OLIVIA: (*Pause.*) Well, yeah, I mean.....

IZZY: I've had enough of this. I'm outta here.

(Izzy walks away.)

REED: See what we did?

OLIVIA: I don't wanna be right, but I think I am.

REED: I just hope she doesn't get hurt.

SCENE 7

(Izzy paces around her room, sits down at her computer, opens Facebook, Aaron chats her.)

AARON: Hey. Whats up? (:

IZZY: Nothing.

(Pause.)

AARON: Is something wrong?

IZZY: No. Well... This may seem random, but...what school do you go to?

AARON: Why?

IZZY: Just wondering.

AARON: Well, you know. County.

IZZY: None of my friends there know you...

AARON: It's a big school.

(Reed pops up on her chat.)

REED: Izzy. I'm so sorry about this morning. Olivia is too. But you have to hear us out.

(Izzy types back to Aaron.)

IZZY: Hey, can I call you? I don't really feel like talking on chat.

AARON: Yeah, okay.

REED: Izzy, I know you're there. Answer me please.

(Izzy slams computer shut. Dials phone number. Two rings, Aaron answers. Voice sounds muffled.)

AARON: Hello?

IZZY: ...Aaron? *(Pause.)* ...Are you there?

AARON: Yeah. *(Pause.)* Izzy, is there something wrong? Cause I have a lot of homework. I can't really talk. I want to. But I can't right now.

IZZY: That's fine. See you tomorrow night?

AARON: Definitely.

IZZY: Okay. Oh. About that though...

(Aaron hangs up. Izzy stares at the phone, confused, then dials another number. The other end picks up.)

TRINA: Hey Izzy.

IZZY: Hey Trina. How are you?

TRINA: Good. A little stressed, you know? But not too bad. How bout you?

IZZY: I'm good. Actually, can you help me out?

TRINA: Sure. What's up?

IZZY: Well, you still go to County, right?

TRINA: Yep.

IZZY: Do you know anyone named Aaron?

TRINA: I know a couple of Aarons. You are going to need to be a bit more specific.

IZZY: Well...he takes Latin. I think he has a red car...

TRINA: No, I can't think of anyone. So, who's this Aaron guy anyway?

IZZY: He's... I guess I don't really know who he is.

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