

******This script is copyrighted and the sole property of Colette Mazunik.
For information regarding rights and royalties contact
colette@blissstreetstudios.com.******

SWIMMING

A Ten-Minute Play

by

Colette Mazunik

Swimming

By Colette Mazunik

Characters:

KATE

GARY

KATE

I want you to be in love with me.

GARY

You want me to be in love with you.

KATE

I want . . . Yes. I do.
(Pause.)

GARY

Okay.

KATE

Okay?

GARY

Okay, I'll be in love with you.

KATE

You will?

GARY

Yeah.

KATE

Are you in . . .

GARY

Yeah.

KATE

You're . . . ?

GARY

Yeah.

KATE

Good.

(Pause.)

Good. I love you too.

(HE puts his arm around her. SHE lays her head on his shoulder.
HE touches her face with his other hand.)

GARY

When . . . did you first . . .

KATE

Your second week of work. The staff meeting. When you . . .

GARY

I shouldn't have done that.

KATE

No. You were wonderful.

(Pause.)

I'm uncomfortable.

GARY

You're uncomfortable?

KATE

No—I don't mean . . . I'm not *uncomfortable*. I'm gonna move my head. My neck—

GARY

Your neck was uncomfortable.

KATE

Yes.

GARY

Okay.

KATE

I was scared to move. Like I might break the spell.

GARY

Yes.

(THEY kiss. Pause. HE picks up her hand in both of his and begins to examine it.)

Your hands are sweaty.

KATE
(Trying to pull her hand away.)
My hands are sweaty!

GARY
(Keeping hold of her hand.)
Kate, it's okay. Your hands are sweaty. It's okay.

KATE
No it's not. No, it's not okay.

GARY
It's fine.

KATE
Let go.

GARY
Kate.

KATE
Let go.

GARY
(Letting go.)
All right.

KATE
I wanted to have sensuous hands. With long elegant fingers.

GARY
Your hands are fine.

KATE
No they're not. Look at them. Big knuckles. Blotchy. Sweaty.

GARY
It's okay. I like them fine. You're real. May I hold your hand? Please?

KATE
Do you really want to?

GARY
Do I really want to? No, Kate, it's an act of charity. Yes I really want to.

KATE

Okay. You've been a character in my head so long. I mean—you're real. And I'm terrified.

GARY

Terrified?

KATE

Yeah.

GARY

Of me?

KATE

Yes! No. But you're real now. And that means—you can see me the way I really am—and I've got these hands, and I'm awkward, and I'm nervous, and I don't know how to say the right things.

GARY

(GARY takes her hand and kisses the inside of her palm.)
You're scared because this is real.

KATE

Yes! I knew what to do with you in my head. I don't have a clue what to do with you in real life.

GARY

What did you do with me in your head?

KATE

I'm not telling you that!

GARY

Why not? What was it?

KATE

It's none of your business.

GARY

It's none of my business! You were doing it with me, and it's none of my business? Come on.

KATE

No.

GARY

Why not? Are you embarrassed?

KATE

Yes!

GARY

Come on. I won't laugh. Come on.

KATE

You won't laugh?

GARY

Scout's honor.

KATE

Okay. Ahh, this feels weird. Okay. Okay. I imagined we went to pre-marital counseling.

GARY

You imagined we went to . . .

KATE

Yeah. Just to see, you know. To do all those compatibility tests and stuff like that. You wanted to know!

GARY

You're embarrassed about that? I thought it was going to be something sexual.

KATE

Yeah, sometimes. Yeah. But everybody does that.

GARY

You wanted to go to pre-marital counseling?

KATE

This is embarrassing!

GARY

To take compatibility tests?

KATE

They do that. They have these tests—like what was your family like, and how do you feel about money—because they say that like ninety percent of relationships end because of conflict over money—and what's your vision for the future—everything.

GARY

And what? We come out like what—a hundred percent compatible?

KATE

No. Of course not.

GARY

Of course not?

KATE

No, silly.

GARY

Why not?

KATE

Because I'm part of the equation and I don't think there's a soul in the world I could pass that test with.

GARY

That sounds a bit extreme.

KATE

Well there's always hope.

GARY

Why don't you think you're compatible?

KATE

Because I grew up in India—and saw my first American movie when I was sixteen—and I never learned the rules to football—and I can't swim, and I can't ski—and I don't like roller coasters—and my family's idea of a good time is to sit around and argue about philosophy or religion or politics, or all three at once, which is very intimidating to any of the friends I've ever brought home. And I'm ridiculously tight with money—and I'll look down at you if you don't rewash plastic baggies, and I'm terrified of ever having a joint bank account—and I want kids, but if I ever get pregnant, I'll probably have twins.

GARY

Wow. You know, you're worried about things I would never even think to think about. It's cute.

KATE

It's not cute. Don't belittle it.

GARY

No, it's just . . .

KATE

These things matter. It's the small things that make or break a relationship. I know this. I read books about it.

GARY

You really do, don't you.

KATE

Yeah.

(THEY laugh. Pause.)

GARY

You really can't swim?

KATE

I really can't swim.

GARY

You wanna learn? I'll teach you.

KATE

Many have tried. Many have failed.

GARY

I'll teach you. I used to be a lifeguard.

KATE

Well, that's comforting.

GARY

No. Seriously. I'll teach you. There's a pool in my apartment complex.

KATE

Okay.

GARY

Okay.

(THEY kiss.)

KATE

How about you?

GARY

How about me?

KATE
Your turn. Did you imagine . . . things we'd do.

GARY
I did.

KATE
And—would you care to share?

GARY
Hmm . . . no, I think I'll pass.

KATE
No, no, no. Not fair.

GARY
Well, let's see, I imagined we were sitting in marriage counseling, and . . .

KATE
Gary!

GARY
I'm kidding. I'm kidding. Okay. True story. I imagined we'd go camping together in the foothills of the Rockies and a bear would come and steal all our food and we'd have to catch fish and skin rabbits and live off the land until we could hike back to civilization.

KATE
You did?

GARY
Yeah.

KATE
I skinned rabbits?

GARY
Actually, no. I skinned rabbits. It was kind of a sexist, I'm the male I will provide kind of thing.

KATE
Of course.

GARY
You were, you know, in the tent, barefoot, washing dishes.

KATE

You think that's bad: I imagined knitting you a sweater for a Christmas present.

GARY

You knit?

KATE

No!

GARY

Well, I imagined your car broke down, and you were stranded on the side of the road, and I drove by and stopped and fixed it.

KATE

Do you know how to fix cars?

GARY

No.

KATE

You're silly.

GARY

I'm silly! Who's the one that wants to go to pre-marital counseling before we've even had an official date?

KATE

Not *now*. That's not fair, Mr. I'm-gonna-skin-a-fish-with-my-bare-hands. Do you even fish?

GARY

I did with my Grandpa when I was like five.

KATE

I can fish.

GARY

Oh can you now?

KATE

I'm a very good fisherman. I could teach you.

GARY

Okay.

KATE

Okay.
(Long pause.)
Am I scaring you off?

GARY

No. You're not scaring me off. Am I scaring you off?

KATE

No. Silly. Not yet. Am I saying the right things?

GARY

No.

KATE

No!?
(HE ruffles her hair.)

GARY

No.
(THEY kiss.)