

101 Breakups

by Jason Pizzarello

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1m, 1f

Comedy/Drama

(A park. A man JACK and a woman JILL, tumble on to the stage, presumable down from a hill and through a patch of bushes. They fall on the ground over each other and lay there laughing. JACK is wearing a best man's wedding suit, and JILL is dressed in an awful fluffy bridesmaid's dress.)

JILL: That. Was. Epic.

JACK: A masterful escape out of the worst wedding I've ever been to.

JILL: It was nice though.

JACK: Absolutely. It was beautiful.

(They laugh.)

JILL: The shrimp things were good.

JACK: I didn't see the shrimp.

JILL: Your loss. There were tiny baby shrimp on top of larger shrimp. It was kinda disturbing actually but delicious.

JACK: I'm sorry I missed it. But glad I found you.

JILL: What are we doing, Jack?

JACK: We're hiding, Jill.

JILL: Hide and seek. Without the seek part hopefully.

JACK: We took quite a tumble.

JILL: We must've bumped our crowns.

JACK: Let me see.

(JACK examines her head.)

JILL: Find anything?

JACK: A big crack. Runs all the way down your face. Right. To. Here.

(He touches her lips. [He kisses her].)

JILL: Are we playing doctor?

JACK: Right. Without the doctor part.

(They [almost] kiss again.)

JILL: This is. What is this?

JACK: This is something.

(They stare each other. They get shivers and shake them off.)

JACK: Wow.

JILL: Creepy.

JACK: I think I have very very strong feelings for you.

JILL: Those feelings are...mutual.

JACK: I think...I love you.

JILL: Uh huh. Yup. I love you.

JACK: Yes. Oh. You do? That was a leap of faith. Am I breathing? Am I breathing again?

(JILL pretends not to be able to breathe. JACK performs mouth to mouth. JILL coughs and they laugh and giggle.)

JACK: We can't do this. I can't do this.

JILL: Huh?

JACK: I can't. Sorry.

(JILL punches him and laughs. JACK doesn't.)

JACK: We have to break up.

JILL: But...what?

JACK: Sorry.

JILL: But we're not even together.

JACK: I know but I see where this is going.

JILL: We just said we love each other!

JACK: I know. It was beautiful. I meant it. I do. And I think we'll date very briefly before we get engaged. I don't have any doubt about that. And we won't wait long because we won't be able to. We'll have the most beautiful wedding. Not in this park. But near a waterfall. We'll barely be able to hear our vows over the rushing water. And we won't wait long either before having a little bird in the nest. A girl. And then another. A boy. And then another. A girl. And as we raise our three amazing children—oops we had one more—four. Our four amazing children we struggle and fight and make up and challenge ourselves again and again and fall more and more in love. Before we know it our children have children of their own. Except for that last one, he's in the peace corp. Anyway, life doesn't pass us by. We absorb it. And we grow old with grace and ease and still after all

those years, are madly in love. And at the end of our lives we can't imagine it going any other way or ever being apart. The thought of being apart even in death, breaks me. I can't. I can't handle the loss of you. The pain of losing you is worse than never having you in the first place. And so I think it's better if we just...don't.

(Pause.)

JILL: You know what? I think I must have hit my head after all, Jack.

JACK: I'm sorry, Jill.

(JILL heads back up the hill.

JACK rubs his head.)

End of Scene.