

A script from



## "The Box"

by  
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**What** Cliff and Em begin their journey into marriage full of love and romantic dreams, but also aware that things won't always be easy. Many years later, they find their fears coming true and struggle just to hold things together. Can they find the "glue"? **Themes:** Marriage, Love, Relationships, Commitment, Faithful, Husbands, Wives, Romance

**Who** Em  
Cliff

**When** Over the course of 40-50 years

**Wear  
(Props)** Bench  
Box  
Kitchen table with laptop  
Couch

If you choose to use the same actors to play all three scenes, then there will need to be two costume changes. This can be done simply with jackets or sweaters, hair pulled back in a bun, glasses, hats, etc.

If you choose to go with three different sets of actors, then give each "Em" a consistent costume piece so the audience knows that it's the same woman, but the years have passed, i.e. a blue scarf or a red sweater. Give each "Cliff" the same thing with a team sports hat or shirt. In one scene, he could wear a Yankees cap and in the next scene he could have a Yankees t-shirt, etc.

**Why** Ephesians 5:22-33.

**How** This script takes place in three different scenes. Divide the stage up into three different scenes with a bench (stage right), a kitchen table (center) and a couch (stage left). You can use the suggested music in the script for scene changes.

**Time** Approximately 10-15 minutes

## Scene One

*The stage is set with a park bench (Stage Right). On the bench is a nice wooden box. Em, a young woman in her early 20's, enters SR. She's intently looking at a clue on a sheet of paper. She looks downstage right, into the audience, looking for her "prize". She reads the clue aloud, to herself, trying to figure out where to go.*

**Em:** *(Reading the cover of the note) "Clue Number Seven" (opening the inside of the note, which should be on a brightly colored, and easily recognizable piece of paper) 'Love is not love which alters, when it alteration finds, or bends with the remover to remove.'*

I have no idea what this means. It must be Shakespeare. "Love is not love which alters, when it alteration..."

*Looks, and finally sees, extreme DSR, a sign over a business. She reads the (unseen) sign and laughs out loud, then reads the sign out loud)*

"Quality Cleaners and Alterations."

*She hurries over to the shop and notices an envelope, taped to the proscenium SR wall. She un-tapes the envelope and excitedly pulls out another piece of paper.*

The boy is an idiot. A pure, romantic idiot. *(Reads)* "My sweet Em. Clue Number Eight: The end is near...a bench and a box." A bench and a box ...a bench-

*Looks at the "clue," trying to figure it out. Looks around. Sees the bench. On the bench is a nice wooden box, about the size of a shoebox.*

Ah. A bench. And a box

*Tentatively approaches the box. Tentatively opens it. Pulls out a smaller ring box. Opens it. Pulls out the engagement ring and sits down on the bench, overwhelmed with happiness and anticipation.*

*Cliff, a young man in his early 20's, enters, USR of Em and the bench. He has been watching the whole thing from a distance. She doesn't see him. He watches her for a moment, gauging her reaction, then sneaks up on her and quickly sits on the bench by her. She is startled for a moment, then gives him a huge hug.*

**Em:** *(Looking at the small note)* Yes.

**Cliff:** Yes? You will?

**Em:** I will.

**Cliff:** Because it looked like you were hesitating at the Cleaners.

- Em:** I was just trying to figure out William Shakespeare ... or whoever that is.
- Cliff:** Yeah, well...being an English major does have some benefits. So...you're sure?
- Em:** I'm sure!
- Cliff:** No doubts?
- Em:** No-
- Cliff:** *(Interrupting)* I'd understand if you had some doubts. Because, you know, Em, I'm probably never going to make much money.
- Em:** I don't care about money!
- Cliff:** Well, you say that now, but maybe in twenty years you will. In twenty years you may want-
- Em:** *(Interrupting him)* In twenty years I'll be married to you, money or no money.
- Cliff:** *(An "over zealous puppy")* I want you to be sure.
- Em:** I am sure!
- Cliff:** *(Calming down a bit)* Great. No doubts.
- Em:** *(More conversationally, almost to herself)* The only doubts I'd ever have-
- Cliff:** *(Interrupting. Too awful to consider)* See! I knew it! You **do** have doubts! You don't love me.
- Em:** I love you, you idiot! Will you just be quiet for a minute?! I don't have doubts. It's just that...I mean, I've been thinking... *(quickly patters this off, really not too worried about it all, but just wanting to "get it out of the way")* Your parents are divorced. And my parents...well...they might as well be. I'm sure none of them went into it assuming they were going to split up, or expecting for it to be this...awful ordeal. I just don't want to get to some point, like them, years from now, when we look at each other and say, "Where's the glue?" *(After a beat)* You know?
- Cliff:** *(Takes a moment. Then, he stands her up and turns her to face him, his hands on her shoulders)* Okay. Okay. Look. You love me, right?
- Em:** Of course I do. You bet.

- Cliff:** (Wraps her up in a hug, then continues his "sell") And I love you. That oughta be glue enough. And, if not...we'll just...make up the rest as we go along. *(In his mind, it's settled.)*
- Em:** *(A beat. Then she, "sold," kisses him)* You should be a salesman. So...do I get to keep the box?
- Cliff:** Yes. You can keep the box, if you promise to fill it up.
- Em:** With what?
- Cliff:** With...I don't know...stuff. Important stuff.
- Em:** *(She quickly looks at the "Love is not Love" clue, and puts it and the ring box in the wooden box)* Deal. *(She then reaches out to shake his hand, sealing the deal. He pulls her in with his hand and, as he leans in to kiss her again, a quick blackout)*

*The actors go to small lit dressing tables far downstage left and right, and do a quick hair, makeup, and costume change, which will age them 20 to 25 years. While they make the quick change, a song, possibly the Beatles "All you Need is Love," plays.*

## Scene Two

*Cliff and Em are now in their mid 40's, married, with three kids. As the scene opens, Em is sitting at a kitchen table, Down Center Stage, looking at a laptop computer. Cliff, wearing a shirt and loosened tie, enters behind her.*

- Cliff:** *(Peeved and primed for a fight)* Why don't you ever answer the phone?
- Em:** *(Looking at her computer. Lightly)* And hello to you too. I didn't hear it ring.
- Cliff:** So, why didn't you answer your cell phone?
- Em:** *(Glancing at her cell phone on the table)* Huh. My battery must be dead.
- Cliff:** Perfect. I buy you an expensive phone and you can't even remember to keep it charged.
- Em:** *(Not angry. Just wondering what's going on)* Whoa. What's your problem?
- Cliff:** You! You are my problem!
- Em:** *(Trying to lighten up the moment a bit)* Well...now that we've got that narrowed down.

**Cliff:** *(Ignoring her so he continue his rave)* I get off work early because you thought I should be the one to "bond with Jenny over her driver's license". I drive all the way up to her school to get her. I drive all the way back down to the driver's license office. I stand in line for two hours only to find out I've got the wrong birth certificate. You told me you got Jenny's **original** birth certificate out of the safe deposit box. But, you gave me a copy! And they won't take a copy!

**Em:** Huh. I could've sworn that I put the original in the safe deposit box, and left the copy here.

**Cliff:** Well you didn't.

**Em:** Hey! It was an honest mistake! I didn't do it on purpose!

**Cliff:** Of course you didn't! I'm not sure you ever do anything "on purpose". So, where's the original?

**Em:** *(Not sure)* My box?

**Cliff:** What?

**Em:** I guess it's in my box.

**Cliff:** *(Brusquely)* Where?

**Em:** Right here. I had it out yesterday trying to find- *(as she pulls it out from under the table, Cliff interrupts and violently grabs it from her.)*

**Cliff:** Just let me see it! *(Starts angrily shuffling through it.)*

**Em:** *(Deeply wounded, on the edge of tears)* Cliff, I...I-

**Cliff:** *(Interrupting again, as he digs through the box)* There's no birth certificate in here. What is all this junk? *(Throws a pile of stuff from the box onto the table where Em is sitting.)*

**Em:** *(On the edge)* It's just...important stuff.

**Cliff:** *(Pulling stuff out)* Oh, I can see that. A movie ticket to...*(reading)* "Sleepless in Seattle" *(throws in on the table).*

**Em:** That was -

**Cliff:** *(Ignoring her)* A traced hand. *(Sarcastically)* **That's** special. That's gotta be worth a fortune. *(Throws it on the table.)*

**Em:** That's Eric's-

- Cliff:** *(Ignoring her)* Oh...and a chicken scratch note which says-
- Em:** *(She gently interrupts him, quoting the note by heart, finishing the sentence)* "Love is not love which alters..."
- Cliff:** *(He now recognizes the note and stops, almost "slap in the face" short. He takes a long beat before he finishes the sentence) ...when it alteration finds."*

*They both sit in silence for a moment, looking at the note. Finally Cliff gently hands it back to her, as a humble apology.*

- Em:** So...what happened to the English major?
- Cliff:** *(After a long beat)* I don't know. I guess he got lost...
- Em:** *(Gently)* You think he might ever show up again?
- Cliff:** *(After a pause)* I don't know...
- Em:** *(After a pause)* How did it get like this?
- Cliff:** I don't know. *(Another pause)* Assumptions, I guess.
- Em:** *(Not understanding his drift)* Assumptions.
- Cliff:** *(Slowly)* That work and house, and kids and sex and...and...all of this would do it.

*A little over two pages have been omitted from this preview. To read the rest of this script and perform it, download the full version at [SkitGuys.com](http://SkitGuys.com)!*

**ENDING:**

- Em:** *(Teasing)* Just what I needed. A new glue stick.
- Cliff:** Just in case. Well, go on, now. Read the note, woman.
- Em:** *(Unrolls and reads the note. Cliff mouths the words while she's reading it, and finally speaks the last sentence out loud, with her)* "You were called to travel on the same road and in the same direction. So stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness." That's lovely, Cliff. *(She hands the note to Cliff. He rewraps the glue stick with the note.)*

**Cliff:** It is, isn't it? Well written **and** the honest to God truth. (*Hands Em the glue stick*) Here you go. Stick that in there.

**Em:** Thank you.

**Cliff:** You're welcome. (*Flirting a bit*) So...what are you keeping in that box these days?

**Em:** (*Flirting back*) Oh, just some...stuff.

**Cliff:** What kind of stuff?

*As they walk, slowly, off the stage.*

**Em:** Well, I guess you're just gonna have to take the time to find out, now, aren't you?

**Cliff:** I guess I will. I guess we'll just have to talk about it all the way to Atlanta, now won't we?

**Em:** If you play your cards right. You gonna play your cards right?

**Cliff:** (*With a twinkle in his eye*) You bet.

*Lights fade.*