

Apartment 3B

A Pocket Musical

Written and composed by

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Characters:

Lover A

Lover B

The Psychic

The Priest

The Landlord

Song list:

Seasons - Lover A

Your Light - Lover B

Pretty Little Parasite - The Psychic

You Will Be Loved - The Priest

The Curse of Apartment 3B/Young Love - The Landlord

5 characters, 5 songs, 5 monologues. Made for Digital Platforms.

September 1st, autumn in the city. A brown brick building: first floor rental is a \$20/reading Psychic shop. Second floor is THE LANDLORD's apartment. Third floor is THE LOVER's apartment, 3B. Across the street is a house of worship. Top of show, Lovers A and B are in their apartment, it's the middle of the night. THE PSYCHIC is getting coffee from a 24 hour diner on the corner. THE PRIEST is working on notes for a lecture. THE LANDLORD is in the apartment below THE LOVERS, looking out the window towards the house of worship.

LOVER A:

I love you so much. I went to bed, our bed, thinking that. We were falling asleep and you had taken my reading glasses and put them folded up on the bedside table with so much care, and I was almost dreaming but I felt you kiss my forehead and whisper goodnight and I thought "I love you so very much, so much that words cannot explain it." Like the love songs and the old ballads and the fairy tales. Isn't it weird, when you're a little kid, you never question these fairytales where the parents just die from happiness or love? And for a while I thought it was really weird, but I felt like that last night. I love you so much I could keel over and die, like my heart could burst out of my chest and do a cartoon tap-dance. And, I mean, we're getting married! (*laughs*) That's so surreal to say aloud. We're getting married, you and me, at that adorable little chapel on Bakers street with the ivy running down its side. How did I get so lucky to meet you? It's like the start of Romeo and Juliet, from the moment I laid eyes on you I knew that we would be together forever. It was fate, or whatever scientific concept is closest to fate. I know, I know, it's been months since you proposed, but it keeps hitting me in little bursts. We're in love. We're getting married! It's like the second time I asked you to move in with me and you said yes, wonderful but I kept having to check out of the corner of my eye that it was real and you were really still there. You were so careful when we first met, I love that you let me see under that careful mask. But you have to feel it too, don't you? This feels right in a way, like it was always meant to be, the inevitable conclusion of us meeting that one time at the bakery. It's like yesterday to me, that first day, when they switched the names on our orders and you ended up with my coffee and I got your muffin? It was like we were meant to be. Like fate pulled us together from the other sides of the universe. And then everything has been so wonderful and I think my heart could burst! Just... (*happy noise*)

Song: Seasons.

Sung by LOVER A

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I FELL IN LOVE IN SEPTEMBER
YOU SHOWED UP IN BLUE, MY HEART LEAPT AND THEN YOU
WERE THE ONLY CONTENDER
AND I CANNOT LIE WHEN I SAY THAT I WAS
STUCK WITH THIS TENDER
FEELING INSIDE, LIKE NOTHING TO HIDE
AND NOTHING TO ENDURE
WE MET TWO YEARS AGO IN SEPTEMBER

AND THEN OUR FIRST KISS WAS NOVEMBER
I THOUGHT I COULD FLY WITH THE STARS IN YOUR EYES IT WAS PERFECT, BUT
BETTER
WE MOVED IN BY JUNE, SUMMER BURST INTO BLOOM
WITHOUT YOU I COULD NEVER
IMAGINE SUCH LIGHT, YOU'RE THE SUN TO MY SKY
OUR LOVE COULDN'T BE SEVERED
THOSE SUMMERS WITH YOU WERE A PLEASURE

LET JANUARYS COME AND GO
YOU'RE FIRE IN THE FIERCEST COLD
I'LL SPEND AGES CHASING AFTER THE SUNLIGHT OF YOUR LAUGHTER
AND I'LL HOLD ONTO OUR PATTERNS, CONSTELLATIONS IN OUR SOULS

AND WE'RE TO BE WED IN SEPTEMBER
THE PHRASE SOUNDS SO OLD, BUT FOR YOU I'LL BE BOLD
I THINK THIS IS FOREVER
AND I CANNOT LIE, I'LL LOVE YOU TILL I DIE
I'M NEVER GONNA LET GO
AND I'LL SAY I DO IN SEPTEMBER
'CAUSE THE SEASONS MEAN NOTHING TO LOVE.

~

Song: Your Light.
Sung by LOVER B:

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HOW CAN I BEAR BREAKING YOUR HEART?
YOU'LL BE FINE, THOUGH. (LIES, BUT I HAVE TO CONVINCING MYSELF)
SLEEP MY ANGEL DON'T YOU WAKE, IT'S MY MISTAKE
HAVE NO FEAR, I WON'T BE HERE TO STEAL YOUR LIGHT AWAY

DREAM OF LOVE
THE KIND I CANNOT FIND TO STEAL EACH BREATH YOU TAKE
SO HERE YOU'LL STAY. PLEASE DON'T WAKE
SLEEP MY ANGEL DON'T YOU CRY, IT'S JUST GOODBYE
HAVE NO FEAR, I WON'T BE HERE TO BREAK YOUR DAYLIGHT

BRILLIANT LIGHT,
I NEVER MEANT TO DULL YOU WITH MY SHADOWED STATE
I LOVE YOU SO, MY STAR, I'LL AWAY

SLEEP MY ANGEL BURNING BRIGHT, I'LL DO YOU RIGHT
HAVE NO FEAR, I WON'T BE HERE
HAVE NO FEAR, I WON'T BE HERE
SLEEP, MY LOVE, I'M LOST AND GONE MY DEAR

~

LOVER B:

I want to leave you a note, but I know if I turn around to look at you I'll never be able to walk away. And, you know, I don't want to, walk away that is, but it's better. For both of us. I know this, but then if I turn around, see you sleeping there alone, God, I could never say no to you. You know that, love, don't you? I am a coward, I could never say no. I love you too much. Which is why I'm leaving. I don't want to smother you, or force you into anything you don't want. You said yourself that everything seemed to be happening so fast. I don't want to be going too fast for you, trapping you in when you have so much to give to the world! So yeah, it's three in the morning and I'm trying not to look at you as I pack my bags. God, we just co-signed on the rent for this place. I feel bad, this feels wrong, but you deserve the world and I... I can't give that to you, and I refuse to keep you from it just because I love you. God, I love you. I wish... I wish this could work. And I know that I'm breaking your heart by doing this, and I ... but you deserve someone who can give you the world. And I... can't. I don't know how to. So... I guess this is goodbye. I love you. Goodnight. (they turn to leave, then turn back) I can't do this. I can't break your heart. (they groan. Or curse. Very quietly) I don't want to hurt you. I love you so much, too much, I've loved you since the moment I met you. And I don't know how to tell you that whatever you see in me isn't there. When I'm with you I want to believe in it, I want to believe I could be the person you see me as, but... and you're just so perfect! How do I say that? How can I do this to you? (a beat) I love you so much. Too much. I'm so sorry.

THE PSYCHIC:

Well. When that pair of lovers walked by my office I knew they needed my divine intervention. It wasn't a pairing destined to work out, anyone with the most basic understanding of auras could see that. The colors clashed all over, it was horrible, horrible I say! And I know that at first they dismissed my warnings but one - the smart one, if I do say so myself - did come back for more advice! So! What else could I do but give my professional opinion? It really was a shame, two people so unimaginably different trying to make it work together, and by some unknowable certainly not spirit-given logic thinking to make it permanent? I mean, what were they thinking?! Those two? Together? Uh-uh-uh, I'm not an idiot. I can see those divorce papers coming from a mile away, honey! So I tell the kid, "Hey! You've got your whole life ahead of you! So does your partner! Why keep yourselves shackled to each other before you've even really lived?" And the kid goes "huh" and I think Breakthrough! And of course, it was the easiest twenty bucks I've made in my life but... I worry for that kid. Thinking about getting married, and so soon too! Like, what were they thinking?!

Song: Pretty Little Parasite.
Sung by THE PSYCHIC.

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SURE YOU'RE YOUNG IN LOVE AND CLUELESS
WANT FOREVER FROM YOUR FIRST PICK
KID JUST LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE

LOVE AIN'T COFFEE-DATES AND SUNTANS
YOU'LL GET THROWN INTO THE DEEP END
ONE TOO MANY TIMES TO BE NICE

SO TAKE IT FROM ME! LOVE AIN'T FREE
IT'S LETTING YOUR HEART GET BROKEN
RUN WILD WHILE YOU CAN BE
THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING YOU BACK
IF THERE'S STARS IN YOUR EYES, THEN LET THAT LIGHT BE YOUR GUIDE
BUT TAKE IT FROM ME, THE LOVE IS NOTHING
BUT A PRETTY LITTLE PARASITE ILLUSION

SONGS SAY ROMANCE IS A BIG THING
BUT! FOREVER'S PRETTY DAUNTING
DON'T MAKE PROMISES YOU CAN'T KEEP

YOU'LL BE BETTER TAKING TIME TO
FIGURE OUT WHAT GOALS YOU WANNA DO
THAN NEGOTIATING SOMEONE ELSE'S DREAMS

SO TAKE IT FROM ME! LOVE AIN'T FREE
IT'S LETTING YOUR HEART GET BROKEN
RUN WILD WHILE YOU CAN BE
THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING YOU BACK
IF THERE'S STARS IN YOUR EYES, THEN LET THAT LIGHT BE YOUR GUIDE
BUT TAKE IT FROM ME, THE LOVE IS NOTHING
BUT A PRETTY LITTLE PARASITE ILLUSION
A PRETTY LITTLE PARASITE ILLUSION
A PRETTY LITTLE PARASITE
A PRETTY LITTLE PARASITE

~

THE PRIEST:

I got the call just as I was about to head home from work. It was strange, because I had just confirmed them booking the wedding for September 24th, and then suddenly it seems that half of the young pair has disappeared into the night. I tried to comfort the child, truly, but what could I say? It would be a cruel test of god to break up the couple, when they were so clearly in love. Yes, God works in mysterious ways, but that does not change the heartbreak the poor dear felt. So I cancelled the wedding booking and we talked deep into the night about the ways of love and the universe. And then, when we ended the call, I asked myself how this happened. It feels naive to say they appeared to be deeply in love, but that is the truth. I have to wonder, if love like that doesn't last then what type does? I meet hundreds of people every day, and I like to think that I can tell at least some of the time when people are happy. And those two... those two seemed genuinely happy. Call it the luster of young love, but it fooled even an old priest like me. So I'm left repeating the words I told that young voice on the other end of the phone, wondering how I know them to be true. Because I believe what I said was true, just as much as I have faith in the kindness of God. I know that love will win, in the end. But when I say that to a crying voice on the other end of a call, I always have this moment of doubt. How do I know this to be true? How can I believe with such certainty? And then God reminds me. Every time I call into doubt these promises, I look to God and God reveals to me that love is the most powerful force this world has ever seen. So I tell you all here today what I know to be true, as I told that young soul, I hope God shows to you.

Song: You Will be Loved.
Sung by THE PRIEST

~

STRANGERS MEET, FIRES DIE
THE WORLD KEEPS SPINNING EVERY TIME
DARKNESS RISES, COMETS FALL
THROUGH ALL THIS CHANGE, THE WORLD STANDS TALL

I DON'T KNOW WHERE I DON'T KNOW WHY
BUT I KNOW LOVE, IN THE END, WILL TRIUMPH
SO SAY A PRAYER AND DO NOT CRY
YOU WILL BE LOVED IN YOUR LIFE

LOVERS END AND SEASONS CHANGE
PLANS CAN ALIGN, WHEN THEY DON'T IT SEEMS STRANGE
BUT I BELIEVE THERE'S STRENGTH IN YOU
THROUGH ALL THIS CHANGE, YOUR LIGHT SHINES THROUGH

I DON'T KNOW HOW, I DON'T KNOW WHEN
BUT I KNOW LOVE WILL WIN IN THE END
SO SAY A PRAYER AND DON'T YOU CRY
YOU WILL BE LOVED IN YOUR LIFE
YOU WILL BE LOVED IN YOUR LIFE

~

THE LANDLORD:

So for the third time I've got an empty apartment in 3B, and I gotta wonder if it's cursed. Every time, ads in the paper, I've got this apartment with a nice view for a cheap price in comparison to what some of the other folks are offering. It's the perfect place for a nice young couple to settle down in, right in between the touristy coffee places and the regular grunge of the city. What more do the people want? But no, every single couple seems to move out just when they've gotten settled. Like this pair. Nice folks. Paid their rent on time, like looking at a hallmark film every time I passed them on the stoop. Made me miss my old college days and such. Good people. Then, five months after they move in, suddenly all I'm hearing is sobbing for a solid week and then they move out. Not even much of an explanation, but from what I heard it sounds like they broke up or something? And just... come on, three times is a pattern. So I'm thinking, okay, is it the apartment? But no, that's just superstition and whatnot, nobody'd bother to curse a perfectly good apartment. I just don't get it, though. They seemed so in love! Everyone I rent the place to seems so in love! I don't understand it.

Song: The Curse of Apartment 3B/Young Love.
Sung by THE LANDLORD

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I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUNG LOVE
ONE DAY HOT, THE NEXT DAY COLD
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUNG LOVE
FIRST SO TIMID, THEN SO BOLD
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUNG LOVE
HERE IT IS, THEN THERE IT GOES
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUNG LOVE
I JUST HOPE THE LOVING SHOWS

FIRST THEY'RE CLOSE AS THEY CAN BE
THEN THEY'RE CRYING ON THE FLOOR
LIKE SOME ANCIENT PARODY
LOSING LOVE JUST LIKE BEFORE
AND I WONDER WHAT IT MEANS
WHEN THEY SAY THEY STILL ADORE
THEIR OLD LOVER THAT THEY LEAVE
AS THEY MOVE BACK OUT MY DOOR

I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUNG LOVE
ONE DAY HOT, THE NEXT ONE COLD
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUNG LOVE
FIRST SO TIMID, THEN SO BOLD
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUNG LOVE
HERE IT IS, THEN THERE IT GOES
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUNG LOVE
I JUST HOPE THE LOVING SHOWS

SO THE ADS NOW LIST 3B
AS A SOLO PLACE TO CRASH
I'VE NO ROOM FOR TRAGEDIES
JUST PAY THE RENT IN CHECK OR CASH
STILL I'LL MISS THOSE PAST STORIES
TWO YOUNG LOVERS, GONE TOO FAST
WONDER HOW THAT CAME TO BE
GUESS I'LL NEVER GET TO ASK

I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUNG LOVE
ONE DAY HOT, THE NEXT DAY COLD
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUNG LOVE
FIRST SO TIMID, THEN SO BOLD
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUNG LOVE
HERE IT IS, THEN THERE IT GOES
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUNG LOVE
I JUST HOPE THE LOVING SHOWS

I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUNG LOVE
I GUESS NOW I'LL NEVER KNOW

(A phone-call comes in. The Landlord takes it. Spoken)

Whatsat? You want to rent 3B as a couple? ... Sure, what the Hell. I'll get the paperwork.

(sung)

I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUNG LOVE
BUT THAT'S YOUNG LOVE, I SUPPOSE

-END-