

St. Valentine's Day Mascara

by Rod Belt

Theme: Everyone enjoys receiving a card on Valentine's Day, but who will you get one from? Cara thinks she can improve her chances of starting a good relationship if she uses sound business principals – has love got a chance?

Cast: CARA A young single female.
IZZY CARA's friend
NAOMI Their excited friend

Notes: The setting is a common area in a school, college or workplace. CARA needs a desk or table to be working at, along with Valentine's cards. CARA needs a brush or wand and a list of names with many brushed out with a stroke of mascara. Play a few moments of a contemporary pop song about love at the beginning.

(CARA is sitting at a desk CS. A couple of screws up cards lie nearby. CARA is looking through a pile of Valentine's cards with deep liberation. She picks up one, looks at it carefully, then screws it up and throws it to the floor, then takes a mascara brush and brushes through a name on a list. The music slowly fades. IZZY enters briskly.)

IZZY Hi Cara!

CARA *(screws up another card and tosses it away, gets her mascara out again)*
Hrm? Oh, hi Izzy. How's it going?

IZZY *(looks at cards. Leans over to see what's going on)* Oh, not bad. What are you doing? Hey, how many Valentine's cards have you got there?

CARA Fifteen.

IZZY Fifteen? You are giving out fifteen Valentines cards?

CARA Oh no! No, these are the ones I received. I gave out thirty-one!

IZZY Thirty on? Cara, who on earth did you give thirty one cards to?

CARA *(lifting up a list of names)* The people on this list.

IZZY *(looking at the list)* Wow, there are all sorts of people on here!

CARA It is a carefully researched list of people who I believe could be encouraged to take a deeper interest in me. I reviewed each part of my life, the activities I take part in, the groups I mix with, and considered who in those groups had

spent any time talking to me. I thought it was important to spread my net widely.

IZZY That's... terrific. So you listed thirty-one potential admirers and sent cards to them all?

CARA Yes. Each card was a carefully targeted design, depending on what I had observed about the character of the receiver.

IZZY *(continuing to consider the list)* Most of the names are blacked out – what does that mean?

CARA Well, initially I figured who had sent cards back and then blacked out the names of the others using this mascara.

IZZY Wouldn't a pen have been easier?

CARA *(blacks out another name while she speaks)* Yes, but this is far more satisfying. They could have had me putting names up for them; instead I'm using it to remove them from my mind!

IZZY Poetic! So what are you doing now?

CARA *(screws up another card and tosses it to the floor)* Narrowing it down further. Clearly how much someone admires me is reflected in the quality of the card they returned. *(picks up a card)* Obviously got his little sister to make the card.

IZZY That's very sweet!

CARA It's very inappropriate as a way to express your true love for a person! He should have been thinking about me, not his sister!

IZZY *(picks up a card from the floor and straightens it)* Harsh! what about this one? It's not home made.

CARA Too glittery. Glitter is for Christmas.

IZZY I see. *(picking up another)* And this one?

CARA It has cute animals on.

IZZY *(now points to a card on the table)* And this?

CARA Not a bad card but he has promised undying love. That is clearly silly. Dave at the mall responded promptly but it was an e-card. An e-card! What does that say about how much he values me?

IZZY *(points to a card in another pile)* what about that?

CARA I've accepted that one, it's fairly tasteful and the handwriting is good and it arrived promptly.

IZZY Great! What has he written inside?

CARA *(looks inside)* "With love". I admit it's not very inspiring but at least it's not unprofessional.

(They are interrupted by the arrival of NAOMI, who is beaming and clearly excited)

NAOMI Hey guys! What a beautiful day! How's it going?

CARA I'm hoping today will be a success. What are you looking so cheerful about?

NAOMI I got a card! A card, a card, a card! I got a card from a guy and he has written really sweet things about me! I'm so excited!

CARA We can tell. One card and you are this excited!

Continues...

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Not For Performance