

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 and what will it mean? Cara thinks she can improve her chances of starting a good relationship if she uses sound business principles – has love got a chance?

Cast: CARA A young single female, artistic and a little scornful.
IZZY CARA's friend, happy.
NAOMI Their bubbly, always manic friend.

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

Not For Performance

(A contemporary song about love is playing. CARA is sitting at a desk CS. A couple of screwed up cards lie nearby. CARA is looking through a pile of Valentine's cards with deep deliberation. 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 on again)*
Hmm? Oh, Hi Izzy. How's it going?

IZZY *(looks at cards. Leans over to see what's going on)* What are you doing? Hey, how many Valentine's cards have you got there?

CARA Fifteen.

IZZY Fifteen? You are giving fifteen Valentine's cards?

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

IZZY Thirty one? 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)* Now, there are all sorts of people on here! Is this all your male Facebook friends or something?

CARA No. It's 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 Exactly. 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, to begin with I used this mascara to black out the names of all those who didn't even bother to return a card.

IZZY Wouldn't a pen have been easier?

CARA *(blacks out another name while she speaks)* Yes but this is far more satisfying. I could have been wearing the mascara for them but instead I'm using it to delete 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. This loser *(picks up a card)* obviously got his little sister to make the card!

IZZY That's so sweet!

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

IZZY Harsh! *(picks up a card from the floor and straightens it)* 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 *(points to a card)* 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 *(picks up a card from another pile)* what about that?

CARA Oh, 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 almost bounces onto the stage, smiling broadly 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 boy and he has written really sweet things about me! That's exciting!

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

NAOMI *(puzzled)* Why would I want another?

IZZY Do you know who it's from?

NAOMI *(very coy and giggly)* No – well maybe – well, yes – there's only one person it would be!

IZZY What are you going to do about it?

NAOMI Um – I don't know! Shall I find him? Shall I wait? Phone? *(to IZZY)* Did I mention I'm excited?

IZZY *(smiling)* Yes, and somehow I don't think it will matter what you do next!

(While she speaks NAOMI springs offstage again and exits so that IZZY ends up saying the last words to nobody)

CARA She got one card and she's that excited?

Will CARA understand anything? Will IZZY be able to explain? And what's love got to do with it anyway?

You can instantly download the complete script at DramatisDei.com

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