BRIDE AND GLOOM (from ROMANTIC FOOLS)

a short comedy by Rich Orloff

(**ROMANTIC FOOLS**, a comic revue for one man and one woman, is published and licensed by Playscripts, Inc. www.playscripts.com)

(BRIDE AND GLOOM is also in Playscripts' anthology NOTHING SERIOUS.)

A small room in a banquet hall. The woman sits in her bridal gown. She looks petrified.

MAN

Lori?... Lori?

WOMAN

I'm not ready.

MAN

Lori!

WOMAN

Five more minutes!

MAN

You said that five minutes ago.

WOMAN

Five more minutes!

MAN

You said that ten minutes ago.

WOMAN

Five more minutes!

MAN

You said that fifteen minutes ago.

WOMAN

Well, when you come back next time, you shouldn't be surprised by my answer!

MAN

I'm coming in.

WOMAN You can't! It's bad luck! MAN So is keeping 134 wedding guests waiting. The man tries to open the door. The woman tries to keep the door shut. **WOMAN** Go away. MAN Lori. **WOMAN** I said, go away! MAN Let me in! The man forces his way inside. **WOMAN** Ouch! MAN You okay? **WOMAN** I broke a nail!... We'll have to call off the wedding. MAN (sweet, and perhaps a bit patronizing) Are you having some pre-marital jitters? **WOMAN** God, I hate you. MAN What's the problem? **WOMAN** I need time to think, that's all. MAN Our guests are waiting.

WOMAN

So they can wait a little longer.

MAN

They've already waited a little longer.

WOMAN

Then they can wait even long—

MAN

Lori, the ice swan has become a duckling. It's time to get married.

WOMAN

I'm not ready.

MAN

I've told the organist to play "Here Comes The Bride" in five minutes.

WOMAN

Well, I hope you and the organist are very happy together.

MAN

Lori, please. What's the problem?

WOMAN

The problem is... I love you.

MAN

Trust me. After a few years of marriage, you'll outgrow it.

WOMAN

And what if I don't?

MAN

I love you, too.

WOMAN

Well, I refuse to marry anyone with such rotten taste in women.

MAN

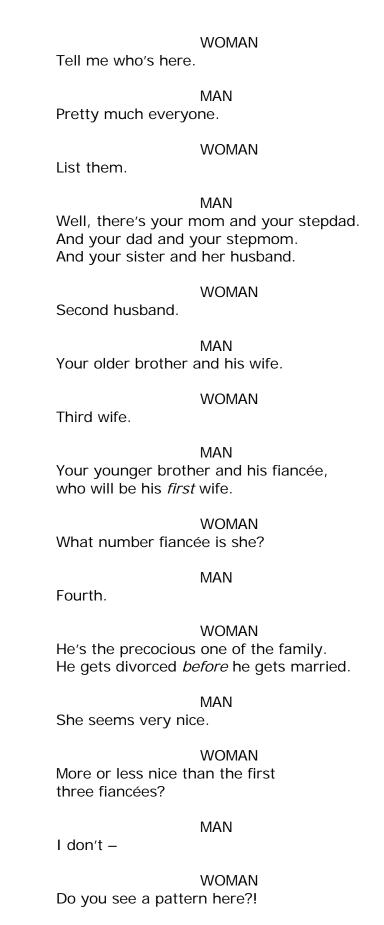
Lori, what's going on?

WOMAN

Andrew, did, did you see my family out there?

MAN

Yeah. So?



MAN

That's them, Lori. Not you.

WOMAN

How do we know? Maybe I have an anti-marriage gene which doesn't get triggered until I say "I Do".

MAN

I doubt it.

WOMAN

I love you, Andrew. I think you're magnificent. And smart, and sweet, and, and, and – I don't want to divorce you!

MAN

Me, neither.

WOMAN

Well, the only way to insure that is to not get married!

MAN

Lori, we won't get divorced.

WOMAN

How can you be so sure?

MAN

Because after living with you for the past year, and creating a home and planning a wedding, I love you more than ever.

WOMAN

You're just nuts, you know that?