**Follow Your Heart**

**By**

**Sean Morgan**

**Cast of Characters**

**Tom:**

**Katherine:**

**Scene**

**Central Park, New York**

**Time**

**Present Day**

**ACT I**

**Scene 1**

***Tom is wearing a tuxedo as he walks his dog in central park. He sits on a bench with his head in his hands.Katherine is wearing business attire. She sits down on the bench next to him with a dog on the leash.***

**KATHERINE**

**(without looking at him)**

**Is there room for one more sufferer on this bench?**

**TOM**

**(without looking up, sounding miserable) The more, the merrier.**

**KATHERINE**

**(putting on lipstick)**

**If you could choose between one million dollars with a year of hell or possibly living the rest of your life in lower-class drudgery, which would you choose?**

**TOM**

**(without looking up) Is this a rhetorical question?**

**KATHERINE**

**(still doing makeup)**

**No.**

**TOM**

**(looking up, looking fake happy)**

**I guess that depends on your definition of hell and the likelihood of the drudgery.**

**KATHERINE**

**Exactly... You’re a very keen observer for a "down and out" man on a park bench.**

**TOM**

**I’m not exactly "down and out." I’m wearing a tuxedo.**

**KATHERINE**

**That makes me even more suspicious.**

**TOM**

**I’m supposed to be at my wedding rehearsal.**

**KATHERINE**

**I thought you were supposed to get cold feet on the *actual* wedding day.**

**(CONTINUED)**

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| **CONTINUED:** | **2.** |

**TOM**

**I guess I have early-onset cold-feet syndrome.**

**KATHERINE**

**(laughing that turns into an empathetic tone)**

**Well it looks like we are both in a predicament. Do you love her?**

**TOM**

**Well... Of course I love her... She’s a friend, a partner, a trusted companion... But...**

**KATHERINE**

**Hmmm... You don’t *love love* her?**

**TOM**

**That’s what I’m trying to figure out.**

**KATHERINE**

**Have you ever read the book "Blink"?**

**TOM**

**No, but I’ve heard of it.**

**KATHERINE**

**The author makes a case that we make most of our decisions within the first few seconds in relationships and many other cases. What did you think when you first met her?**

**TOM**

**(with a sense of hope)**

**I trusted her, I liked her... (his head falls in his hands again) I never felt the passion.**

**KATHERINE**

**How did you end up so invested if you never felt the passion?**

**TOM**

**I guess because she was always there for me. I never had to be alone. I knew something was missing. But looking for something else would mean breaking her heart and being alone in the process.**

**KATHERINE**

**What’s the missing part? Passion? Passion is fleeting.**

**TOM**

**Maybe passion isn’t the right word. Maybe I’ve never experienced love before, but I can imagine it. Finding the person you love should be like finding a book you**

**(MORE)**

**(CONTINUED)**

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| **CONTINUED:** | **3.** |

**TOM (cont’d)**

**never want to get to the end of. With Lexy, I feel like I already know the whole plot.**

**KATHERINE**

**I see. I guess your problems make mine seem minuscule.**

***And I have a million dollars at stake.***

**TOM**

**You mean your question wasn’t a thought experiment?**

**KATHERINE**

**No, I’ve been offered a position in my company that pays one million dollars a year. It involves flying to a new bank every three days as a salesperson for financial services. I’ve done a similar job for the past year and I hate it, but I keep thinking of what a million dollars can buy. I have so many dreams. But I don’t know how to do them without money. The real question is, what is a year of my life worth. I’m thirty. This could be the year I finally meet the one and start a family. Or I could spend the year in airports and hotel rooms and then focus on my dreams with a boatload of cash. U don’t know what to do. (starting to look worried and speaking for rapidly) I can’t control when I meet my soul mate anyway, so it’s almost a moot point. But then again, I don’t want to meet the love of my life when I’m miserable. I want to be a happy person meeting a happy person. (looking flustered) I don’t know... My biological clock is really ticking away.**

**TOM**

**Yeah, I think I can hear it.**

**KATHERINE**

**(short laugh)**

**You wouldn’t understand. I literally want to steal babies when I see mothers holding them on the street. The instinct is taking me over.**

**TOM**

**(laughs, then gets serious)**

**Actually I do understand. I really want to have a family now. It just kicked in this year.**

**KATHERINE**

**Would your fiancee make a good mom?**

**TOM**

**Oh yeah, she’d be great.**

**(CONTINUED)**

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| **CONTINUED:** | **4.** |

**KATHERINE**

**I think we’d both prefer the other person’s shoes right now.**

**TOM**

**Maybe. Your heels look really uncomfortable and they’re totally not my style.**

**KATHERINE**

**(laughing)**

**You’re really funny in a corny-slash-not funny way.**

**TOM**

**Haha! Actually I’ve been in your shoes before in a way. My father owns a big company and I was offered a high paying position, but I chose to follow my own path. I’ve never regretted it.**

**KATHERINE**

**Hmm, you’re more brave in business than in love.**

**TOM**

**Yes, I’ve always been an emotional decision maker with matters of the mind. But with matters of the heart...**

**I’ve used my mind.**

**KATHERINE**

**It’s so much easier to solve other people’s problems.**

**TOM**

**I know, I’m surprised therapists are so well paid.**

**KATHERINE**

**What’s your name?**

**TOM**

**Tom. What’s yours?**

**KATHERINE**

**Katherine**

**TOM**

**What’s your dog’s name?**

**KATHERINE**

**Mikey. Whats yours’?**

**TOM**

**Floozy.**

**KATHERINE**

**Floozy?**

**(CONTINUED)**

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| **CONTINUED:** | **5.** |

**TOM**

**It used to be fluffy, but Floozy seemed to suit her personality more.**

**KATHERINE**

**Oh.**

**TOM**

**I think my dog likes your dog.**

**KATHERINE**

**I think your dog gets around a lot.**

**TOM**

**True, but I think this time she wants to settle down.**

**KATHERINE**

**Your dog just doesn’t want to be alone.**

**TOM**

**True, but my dog thinks your dog is different.**

**KATHERINE**

**Could your dog tell that within the first few seconds of meeting?**

**TOM**

**From the moment it sniffed your dog’s butt.**

**KATHERINE**

**(laughing)**

**Wow, that went from cute and romantic to kind of gross. But you shouldn’t say things like that. You’re about to be married.**

**TOM**

**Yeah, but my dog is still completely unattached.**

**KATHERINE**

**What would *your* ideal wife be like?**

**TOM**

**I thought I wanted trust, sincerity, devotion, and I still do, but I guess there’s even more. I want to be with someone I can stay up all night with, just talking in bed. And someone that would go on a weekend trip to Rome or Paris. Someone that really gets me. Someone that understands my flaws but loves my soul. Someone to laugh with.**

**KATHERINE**

**Well, you hit the nail on the head. I thought that’s what we all wanted.**

**(CONTINUED)**

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| **CONTINUED:** | **6.** |

**TOM**

**I think we all want what the last person couldn’t provide.**

**KATHERINE**

**No, I think some people value some things more than others. More than anything, I want someone who will chase dreams with me. Well, not just chase them...**

**manifest them.**

**TOM**

**What are your dreams?**

**KATHERINE**

**I have some dreams that are big... Business dreams, artistic dreams, but also the dream of a family, the dream of dancing salsa in Cuba, or boating the canals in Venice... romantic dreams.**

**TOM**

**You don’t need a million dollars to do those things.**

**KATHERINE**

**(with sadness)**

**Maybe not.**

**TOM**

**Solving other people’s problems *is* so much easier. I just want to scream at the top of my lungs for you to follow your heart and forget about the money. But to you, it’s a real dilemma.**

**KATHERINE**

**When you put it like that, I feel stupid.**

**TOM**

**Only as stupid as I feel.**

**KATHERINE**

**(looking into Tom’s eyes, and starting to tear up)**

**Why is it so hard for me to follow my heart!?**

**TOM**

**(softly, seriously, with empathy)**

**When we’re children, we only know our hearts. I don’t know when or how exactly we lose our way.**

**KATHERINE**

**(brokenhearted, but hopeful) How do we find our way back?**

**(CONTINUED)**

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| **CONTINUED:** | **7.** |

**TOM**

**(smiling/laughing)**

**You’re asking a "down and out" guy on a park bench?**

**KATHERINE**

**(trying to cheer up)**

**At least you’re wearing a tuxedo...**

**TOM**

**How about I solve your problem, you solve mine, and we promise to do what the other person says.**

**KATHERINE**

**(still sad, but cheering up) This sounds like a terrible idea.**

**TOM**

**No, no it’s not. It makes perfect sense. I mean the pain of indecision is sometimes worse than the wrong decision. Actually there is no wrong decision. Every day you gt to start over. Okay, you may not get a million-dollar offer tomorrow, but you have an infinite number of free choices every day.**

**KATHERINE**

**What are you suggesting I do?**

**TOM**

**I need more information. What is something you’ve always longed to do?**

**KATHERINE**

**Salsa dance in Cuba.**

**TOM**

**Okay, I suggest that you go home and book your flight to Cuba.**

**KATHERINE**

**(skeptical)**

**Wow, you’re right, this is really easy. And you’ll do whatever I tell you to do?**

**TOM**

**I will if you will.**

**KATHERINE**

**Call off the wedding and fall in love with someone.**

**TOM**

**You can’t exactly fall in love on command.**

**(CONTINUED)**

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| **CONTINUED:** | **8.** |

**KATHERINE**

**Yes you can; I read about it in a psychology magazine. I just haven’t found anyone I wanted to fall in love with yet.**

**TOM**

**Okay, how’s this work?**

**KATHERINE**

**You find someone that you are willing to plunge into love with... Then you ask each other a series of personal questions. Then you look into each other’s eyes for two minutes. (naively, with hands in the air) Then you fall in love.**

**TOM**

**Now the trick is to find someone to fall in love with.**

**KATHERINE**

**I knew within the first few seconds I could fall in love with you.**

**TOM**

**Really?**

**KATHERINE**

**Yes, I think it was as soon as you said you had early onset cold-feet syndrome. I knew then that if "push came to shove," I’d be willing to fall in love with you.**

**TOM**

**(laughing, then getting serious) I could fall in love with you too.**

**KATHERINE**

**Don’t do me any favors.**

**TOM**

**I’m not. I knew I could fall in love with you... As soon as you told me I was a "keen observer for a ’down and out’ man on a park bench."**

**KATHERINE**

**(laughs)**

**TOM**

**So what do we do now?**

**KATHERINE**

**I guess now we look into each other’s eyes for two minutes.**

**(CONTINUED)**

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| **CONTINUED:** | **9.** |

***He turns to face her directly.***

**TOM**

**Why is this so hard?**

**KATHERINE**

**When we were children this was easy; I don’t know how we lost our way.**

***As they gaze, the lights dim. Curtains close.***



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