

An Excerpt from

# ALFRED KINSEY: A LOVE STORY

A Play by

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## Two Excerpts From

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From Act I: Kinsey finds himself at an upscale brothel called Cupid's Retreat, where he attempts to take the sex history of the establishment's madame -- Dee Gee. The play's first flashback takes him back nearly 20 years, to the beginning of his sex studies.

DEE GEE

I'm afraid my sexual history would take a very long time, Doctor.

KINSEY

I have plenty of time.

DEE GEE

Perhaps not so much as you think?

(Slight pause)

DEE GEE (CONT'D)

Didn't you suffer some sort of fainting spell at your lecture today?

KINSEY

Oh! That was nothing. I have a weak heart. Doctors have been telling me since I was sixteen that I'm going to die of it. I suppose one day they'll be right.

DEE GEE

Our business does require a great deal of stamina, doesn't it?

(In response to HIS questioning look)

DEE GEE (CONT'D)

Oh, yes. You and I are both in the same business, Dr. Kinsey -- the business of S-E-X!

(Lights down on DEE GEE and KINSEY, up on the office area where LINDA, now a young Midwest college girl, circa 1930s, enters.)

LINDA

But you can't be finished taking my sex history already, Professor Kinsey! I've only been here twenty-two minutes. Not even a whole half an hour!

(A slide appears that says *Biology Department, Indiana University*. A second slide says *1938*. Slide out. KINSEY walks into LINDA's light with HIS folder and pencil. HE appears younger and more vigorous. LINDA is now an innocent and chatty 20 year-old, bursting with life and barely repressed sexual energy.)

KINSEY

All done, Linda. Unless you have any questions.

LINDA

Well, um ... I, uh, I just want you to know that I absolutely adore your marriage course! I thought it would be the usual boring stuff all about, y'know, how you shouldn't do it until you get yourself good and married. Nothing really helpful about how to actually -- you know -- well -- how to do it! In Wabash no one even talks about doing it, let alone shows slides of people doing it the way you do! I grew up on a farm and I used to watch the animals doing it, but that's not the same thing, is it? God, I hope not!

KINSEY

Well, if you have no further ...

LINDA

And my cousin and I, y'know? We used to sneak into the hayloft and ... Not that we ever actually did it, of course! But I told you all this already, didn't I?

KINSEY

You did. And I thank you. And I think we're done.

LINDA

That thing I told you? About how sometimes I ...?

(SHE makes a face and a vague gesture with HER hand in the general direction of HER genitals.)

KINSEY

Yes?

LINDA

I actually do that a little more often than I said I do.

KINSEY

How much more often?

LINDA

A ... a lot more.

(Slight pause)

LINDA (CONT'D)

Two or three times a week. Sometimes every day. Actually, just about ... every day.

(KINSEY corrects a marking on LINDA's answer sheet.)

LINDA (CONT'D)

Is that normal? Doing it that much?

KINSEY

Nothing is more natural in a young person than a strong sex drive, Linda. Good bye.

LINDA

But wait! On our first day in the marriage course you said there's no such thing as normal.

KINSEY

"Natural" and "normal" are not the same thing.

LINDA

They're not?

KINSEY

“Natural” is what occurs in nature. “Natural” is simply what is. “Normal” is just someone’s misguided idea of how things should be. I’ve collected over a million gall wasps, Linda, and no two have ever been exactly alike.

LINDA

But what does that have to do with ... with S-E-X?

KINSEY

If you paid attention in my C-L-A-S-S, Linda, you would K-N-O-W! No go!

LINDA

Oh please tell me! Nobody’s going to marry the girl who fails the marriage course!

KINSEY

Doesn’t it stand to reason that human beings are going to be just as diverse -- if not more so -- than insects!?! One middle-aged man, when I asked him how many orgasms he had, said “one.” I said “you mean one a day, one a week?” He said “No. Just one.” About ten years ago. He said he was sitting on a piano stool when it happened.

LINDA

What was he playing!?

KINSEY

An exercise for one hand, I suppose.

LINDA

Oh, Professor Kinsey!

KINSEY

Other people have three, four -- even five orgasms a day -- every day.

LINDA

That can’t be healthy!

KINSEY

For those people, it is. And now you really must go, and I must ...

(KINSEY begins to show HER out.)

LINDA

Oh please don't make me leave yet! He won't come near me if he sees me come out this soon!

KINSEY

Who won't come near you?

(SHE pulls KINSEY to the window.)

LINDA

Down there. See that boy?

KINSEY

I've noticed him hanging about before. Who is he?

LINDA

John Sanders. Isn't he dreamy?

KINSEY

Is he waiting for you?

LINDA

John has figured out that if a girl comes to give you her sex history, Dr. Kinsey, and stays in here less than an hour, she's ... well, it's pretty obvious that she's ...

KINSEY

A virgin.

LINDA

But if a girl comes out after two hours or more ... well! Then John will try to talk to her.

KINSEY

Why don't you make the first move and talk to him?

LINDA

Respectable girls don't do things like that!

KINSEY

But ... If you stay in here for two hours or more-- aren't you just as loudly proclaiming to the whole world that you are not, as they say, "respectable?"

LINDA

"Respectable" doesn't mean you don't do it! Respectable just means you pretend you're not doing it!

KINSEY

But ...

LINDA

Please let me stay. I could help you file your sex histories! Oh! Is this one Alice Mae Hanson's? She's in my sorority and she was in here yesterday -- for hours!

KINSEY

Linda, I've decided to let you stay.

LINDA

Oh goody!

KINSEY

But you'll have to work for it. Next door you will find two young women pinning gall wasps into display boxes. While you're waiting, you can make yourself useful and help them.

LINDA

But ... I don't like bugs. They're creepy!

KINSEY

These insects do not creep -- these insects are dead.

LINDA

Ugh! That's even worse!

KINSEY

Your sorority sister, Alice Mae Hanson, didn't seem to mind handling them for two hours yesterday.

LINDA

I knew it! That little ...!

KINSEY

And when you do speak to Mr. Sanders, please tell him I'd like to see him. Good  
bye, Linda!

(HE pushes HER out, then goes to the "window" and looks out.  
Lights back up on Cupid's Retreat. DENNIS enters with a Dr. Pepper  
for KINSEY.)

DEE GEE

Dr. Kinsey! Your refreshment has arrived!

KINSEY

Hm?

(KINSEY is examining the S&M props and costumes.)

KINSEY (CONT'D)

Oh! Yes. Thank you.

DEE GEE

Please excuse the clutter. We're in the middle of loading in a new show here at  
Cupid's Retreat.

KINSEY

What sort of entertainment do you ....?

DEE GEE

Very special entertainments, for a very select clientele.

**END OF FIRST EXCERPT**

**From the beginning of Act II. A flashback to 1946. Kinsey and John Sanders have been collecting sex histories for eight years and during that time have become lovers.**

Lights up on the bed area where KINSEY, with some difficulty, is attempting to set up a 16mm movie camera on a tripod. HE will continue setting up the camera, on and off, throughout the scene. JOHN enters.

KINSEY

What took you so long, Sanders?

JOHN

It's Sunday morning, Prok, for Christ's sake!

KINSEY

Is it?

JOHN

We just got back from two weeks on the road. I'd like to spend some time with my wife.

KINSEY

I told you to bring Linda with you.

JOHN

She's at church with the kids. What are you doing?

KINSEY

Take your clothes off, Sanders. We're going to film ourselves having sex.

JOHN

We are?

KINSEY

Yes.

JOHN

Why?

KINSEY

There's only so much we're going to learn from talking to people.

JOHN

Prok, I told you, I ...

KINSEY

We need direct observation.

JOHN

We've tried that.

KINSEY

Pah! Hiding in closets, peeking through keyholes while prostitutes service their clients -- that's getting us nowhere. We need film. And we need to see ordinary people engaged in sexual activity -- not professionals.

JOHN

We are professionals, Prok.

KINSEY

Yes, but we're not prostitutes, are we?

JOHN

Sometimes I'm not so sure.

KINSEY

What's bothering you, Sanders? Out with it.

JOHN

Gebhard tells me you want to include Mr. X's pedophile log in the book.

KINSEY

It's a gold mine of raw data.

JOHN

It's the diary of a child molester!!!

KINSEY

We can't turn our backs on important data just because we don't like the source.  
Many of the children X experimented with ...

JOHN

I don't think scientific experimentation was foremost in his mind, Prok.

KINSEY

Many of these children exhibited a very strong sexual response.

JOHN

So he says! There's no way to validate any of it!

KINSEY

Well, we'll ... we'll put in a disclaimer, we'll ....

JOHN

We'll get roasted alive if the book comes out with this kid stuff in it!

KINSEY

No one gets that excited about science books. Now come along. We haven't got all morning. Strip!

JOHN

No, Prok.

KINSEY

Hm?

JOHN

I told you in Kansas City I'm not ... we're not doing that anymore.

KINSEY

Not for personal reasons, Sanders! Our personal sexual relationship is at an end. I accept that. You've made your sudden change of feelings for me abundantly clear.

JOHN

My feelings for you haven't changed one bit.

KINSEY

But this is for the Project, Sanders! It's purely clinical.

JOHN

Which is exactly why I can't do it.

KINSEY

You're not making any sense today!

JOHN

Sorry, Prok. I just can't.

KINSEY

I know you can, my boy.

(KINSEY tries to kiss JOHN, but JOHN dodges it and moves away.)

JOHN

I've told you. That stuff's over.

KINSEY

Fine! Damned inconvenient at this juncture, I must say, but fine. May one ask why, suddenly, after ...?

JOHN

I'm a grown man now, Prok. Fooling around with cock is kid stuff.

KINSEY

Is it?

JOHN

When you're a poor kid with no responsibilities, who cares where you stick it in?  
But I own a house now, I have a career, a family.

KINSEY

Do you see what you're doing? You're allowing these artificial symbols of social responsibility to suppress your own natural and healthy homoerotic feelings.

JOHN

How many histories do we have of guys who were twos and threes in their youth, then settled down to zeros and ones when they got older? You count those guys as homosexuals, even if they haven't had a same-sex encounter in twenty years.

KINSEY

Because they only stopped H activity under societal pressure, just as you're ....

JOHN

That's speculation! What the data show is that most people grow out of that stuff. I just grew up, that's all.

KINSEY

And I haven't?

JOHN

Oh, you're one of the most grown up people I know.

KINSEY

Then how do you explain why I haven't ...?

JOHN

Because you're a real homo, Prok. You always have been. Christ! Don't you even know that?!

(Lights up on the club and DEE GEE.)

DEE GEE

Well? What do you say to that, Doctor?

(JOHN turns and exits. KINSEY watches HIM go.)

DEE GEE

Well, Doctor?

KINSEY

I'm sorry ... what?

DEE GEE

How can you rhapsodize about sexual openness when you keep your own sex life such a deep, dark secret?

(KINSEY rejoins DEE GEE and prepares to continue taking HER sex history.)

KINSEY

How old are you?

DEE GEE

How old do I look?

KINSEY

Let me ask the questions, please

DEE GEE

As long as you ask the right ones.

KINSEY

I will. Age?

DEE GEE

That's not one of the right ones.

(Slight pause)

KINSEY

How about religion?

DEE GEE

Oh, absolutely.

KINSEY

I mean ... would you mind telling me your religious affiliation?

DEE GEE

Certainly. I'm a Pagan.

KINSEY

Excuse me?

DEE GEE

I'm a Pagan. I worship multiple deities.

KINSEY

How interesting. I've never . . .

DEE GEE

You mean you don't have a little box for "Pagan?"

KINSEY

Well I . . . I have a box for religion, but there's no established code for Pagans.

DEE GEE

But we Pagans have been around for ages and ages, way before Christ or Buddha or that Mohammed fellow.

KINSEY

Point well taken. Let's, um, let's make up a code entry for it right now, shall we? "P" means "Protestant," so we can't use that. How about "PA?" Or "PN."

DEE GEE

Why not "P-G?"

KINSEY

Indeed. Why not?

(KINSEY makes the notation.)

DEE GEE

Are you going to have room in that big, full brain of yours for one more piece of information, Doctor?

KINSEY

I think so.

DEE GEE

But what about your small, weak heart, Dr. Kinsey? What do you have room for in there? Let me see.

(DEE GEE puts HER hand on KINSEY's heart.)

DEE GEE (CONT'D)

I sense a deep love of nature. Oh! And a passionate love of music. You almost became a concert pianist, didn't you?!

KINSEY

Hardly. Please, I'd prefer if you didn't ...

DEE GEE

And *Quartet*.

KINSEY

I beg your pardon?

DEE GEE

You love something called *Quartet*.

(SHE removes HER hand from HIS heart.)

KINSEY

It's ...it's just a film.

DEE GEE

Just a film? You've seen it seventeen times. And yet you still cry like a baby every time the music teacher tells the young piano student that he'll never make it as a concert pianist.

KINSEY

How do you know these things?

DEE GEE

You can't hide the secrets of your heart from me, Dr. Kinsey.

KINSEY

But ...

DEE GEE

Shhhh! Because I am the secret of your heart. Now, what about Mrs. Kinsey? How much do you love her? Let me see.

(SHE goes to touch HIS heart again, but HE prevents HER touch.)

KINSEY

I love Mac very much.

DEE GEE

Funny name for a wife. "Mac." Is it because she's built like a truck and dresses like a lumberjack?

(DEE GEE laughs. KINSEY is angry.)

KINSEY

No. Not in the least.

(SHE stops laughing.)

DEE GEE

Sorry. I'm not used to being around men who truly love their wives.

KINSEY

Have you ever lived on a farm for more than one year?

DEE GEE

I should think you'd like us Pagans, Doctor. We worship nature, just as you do.

KINSEY

Have you?

DEE GEE

We worship rocks and flowers, rivers and trees -- pregnant bellies and penises. We believe everything in nature has a spirit inside of it, animating it.

(Slight pause)

DEE GEE (CONT'D)

No. I have not lived on a farm. But I've played a farmer's daughter on that stage once or twice.

KINSEY

Mrs. Sapphire ...

DEE GEE

Why don't you just call me "Dee Gee?"

KINSEY

I'd like to continue with your sex history.

(SHE takes HIS hand.)

DEE GEE

Oh, I would, too, Doctor, very much. But I'm afraid that just thinking about you and your wife, about how very much you love her, about how sweet and rare that kind of love is ...

KINSEY

Yes?

DEE GEE

Well ... that just makes me so goddamn horny I can't think straight.

(SHE reaches for HIM and HE pulls back. Lights down on DEE GEE and Cupid's Retreat, up on JOHN. KINSEY retreats back to JOHN and begins to fiddle with the camera set-up again, trying to load film and continuing to have problems with it.)