

50 KISSES COMPETITION, LONDON SCREENWRITERS
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I LOVE YOU. ANON.

BY

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2 pages plus title page

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INT. ULTRA MODERN OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

VIVIAN, a stylish 45 year old, sits crossed armed in her office watching a gushing staff member receive roses by a delivery guy. Vivian counts five bouquets taking pride of place on desks. She rolls her eyes.

Then she spots an envelope in her intray. It has a lilac ribbon tied at one corner. She opens it and finds an invitation. It's impressive; black with gold embossed lettering. It reads "St Valentine's Night of Poetry, Saracen's Head Hotel". On the back is a poem, titled "A Lady Sweet and Kind".

VIVIAN

There is a Lady sweet and
kind, was never face so
pleased my mind. I did but see
her passing by, and yet I love
her till I die.

Her gesture, motion, and her
smiles, her wit, her voice my
heart beguiles. Beguiles my
heart, I know not why, And yet
I love her till I die. Anon

Vivian scans the office but the staff look absorbed in their own affairs. She reads the final line on the invitation, "Bring a poem to share".

She laughs to herself then googles "famous love poems".

INT. SARACEN'S HEAD HOTEL - EARLY EVENING

The room is lit by huge white candles. Waiters dressed in nineteenth century garb offer wine and hors d'oeuvres. Buoyed by the atmosphere, Vivian nods to people Jane Austen style. She sees a woman and a man smiling at her. Both look full of mirth and humour so she joins them.

WOMAN

To courtship!

VIVIAN

To romance!

MAN

And everything in between!

WOMAN

Your inspiration tonight?
Dickenson, Keats, Shakespeare?

VIVIAN

Elizabeth Browning.

WAITER

Excues me, Ma'm. Your suitor
awaits your poem.

The waiter hands Vivian a lilac rose and gestures to the stage. Vivian makes her way to the small stage.

VIVIAN

If thou must love me, let it
be for nought. Except for
love's sake only. Do not say
"I love her for her smile, her
look, her way of speaking
gently, for a trick of thought
that falls in well with mine."

For these things may be
changed, and love, so wrought,
may be unwrought so.

She pauses and a man catches her eye. He holds a lilac rose and smiles cheekily at her. She recites the end of the poem while holding his gaze.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

Love me for love's sake, that
evermore Thou mayst love on,
through love's eternity.

He kisses the rose and blows her the kiss. Vivian acknowledges the gentle applause from the crowd. She walks over to join the man.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

Oh Husband, how thou does
continue to surprise me.

He embraces her and they kiss slowly and lovingly.

END