

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

(SECOND DRAFT, FOR 50 KISSES FILMMAKERS)

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NOTE to 50 Kisses filmmakers: *Feel free to swap round the genders so that the girl is the main character; or to make the characters gay; or to set the film in any country and make the characters any race, ethnicity, or give them any other attributes eg disability. Also, 'CINEMA' could be a multiplex, a high street cinema or a one night only screening somewhere unexpected. You can also swap 'Evening' for 'Day'.*

INT. BUS [OR TAXI]. EARLY EVENING, VALENTINE'S DAY.

BOY, 12-15, is endearingly dressed to impress: perhaps more geek than chic? He fidgets in anxious excitement. He makes sure no one's looking, puts his hand to his mouth and checks his breath.

INT. BOY'S BEDROOM. EARLIER THAT DAY.

Boy gazes lovingly at his hand. Then goes in for the kiss. It's gentle, romantic. No tongues, but lots of lip.

EXT. CINEMA. EVENING.

Boy waits outside. Here she comes: GIRL, same age (12-15). Perhaps she's taller than him? Either way, she's made a real effort too. He half bows, then awkwardly shakes her hand.

Boy brandishes two TICKETS. She pulls two more TICKETS out of her purse. They shrug and laugh. As they walk inside, Boy checks his reflection in the glass.

INT. BATHROOM. EARLIER THAT DAY.

Boy stares at his reflection in the mirror, then goes in for a snog. Lots of tongue. But his nose is in the way. Opens his mouth wide... his teeth bang on the glass with a <clunk>.

INT. CINEMA.

CLOSE UP as a scary film reflects on Boy and Girl's faces. He looks over at her. She's staring straight ahead. She looks over at him, he's staring straight ahead.

The film suddenly gets very scary. Boy closes his eyes.

INT. BEDROOM. EARLIER THAT DAY.

Boy, with eyes closed, is snogging a VERY LARGE FRUIT OR VEGETABLE [eg WATERMELON, MARROW, PUMPKIN] like he's trying to suck out its innards.

From the Fruit/Vegetable's POV Boy is looking like a crazy man.

Boy pulls away, coughing on SEEDS/PULP etc. He reveals the hilarious 'surprised' face carved into the Fruit/Vegetable.

EXT. STREET / BUS STOP [OR BENCH]. EVENING.

Boy and Girl walk down the street. Their hands move in closer. Now they touch. Now they're holding hands.

They reach a deserted BUS STOP and sit down next to each other. They're close now.

Boy turns to face Girl, but is too scared to look her in the eye.

INT. BEDROOM. EARLIER THAT DAY.

Boy sits on the edge of his bed. A helium BALLOON next to him, dressed up to look like Girl's face, with bits of string for hair and lipstick.

He tries a kiss but the balloon floats away. He holds it steady with one hand and kisses hard. The balloon <pops> in his face.

EXT. BUS STOP. EVENING.

A BUS [or TAXI] approaches. GIRL stands up and walks with a touch of reluctance towards the kerb.

The bus arrives. She turns back round. Their eyes meet. She steps towards the bus.

BOY
(tiny voice)
Wait.

She hangs back. They stand face to face.

Images of all the practice kisses flashback in Boy's mind: hand; mirror; fruit/vegetable; balloon.

Boy takes a deep breath, leans in and plants the softest, most delicate kiss on her cheek. She smiles, happy, and climbs on the bus. The bus drives away.

Boy thinks about it for a second. A smile twinkles in his eyes, travels to his lips. Now he's beaming.

BOY (CONT'D)
Yeeeeaaaahhhh!!!

He leaps into the air.