

Loving Gracie

by

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Work: Love, Rosie (book and movie)

Premise: Best friends falling in love

## CHARACTERS

JOSEPH                      Man in his late 20s. He is tall and skinny, but has recently grown into his looks. He has been in love with his best friend, Gracie, for years.

GRACIE                      Woman in her late 20s. She has always been classically beautiful but always rejects love interests because she is secretly in love with her best friend Joseph.

## SETTING

The lobby of a small hotel on the English coast. The lobby has a few couches, a desk, and a staircase. The specific decor is not extremely important. There must be a large window at the opposite end of the room as the door where people enter the lobby.

(Joseph is standing with his back to the door, looking out the large window. He has a piece of paper and an envelope in his hands. He is reading the letter out loud)

JOSEPH

Grace, my dearest friend, I am not sure if our correspondence can continue. I bought the hotel, like we always dreamed, but I can't truly enjoy myself when I feel like this.

I can already hear you now, asking me what I feel like. I feel terribly sad, Gracie. I miss you. I miss what we could have had together. I feel awful about missing my chance with the girl of my dreams. Yes, you read that right. I've loved you since the day I met you. I hate that you won't ever feel the same way for me. So, for the foreseeable future, our communication must end in order for me to get over this. That's all. There's an open house at my hotel on the twelfth of next month. Perhaps we can reconvene there.

(The lights go dark for a beat. When the lights come back on, Joseph is in the same position but in a new outfit. There are a few banners and balloons scattered about.)

(The door swings open but Joseph does not turn around.)

JOSEPH

Sorry, mate, the open house ended hours ago.

(Gracie steps into the hotel holding Joseph's letter in her hands. She has tears on her face.)

JOSEPH

You'll have to escort yourself out.

GRACIE

Actually, I had something to say first. Then I'll be out of your hair, Joe.

JOSEPH

Grace?

(Joseph turns around quickly, briskly walking towards Gracie. She takes a small step back and puts a hand up, halting him.)

GRACIE

Just- just let me say this first.

JOSEPH

Is that my letter?

GRACIE

It is. Did you mean it? When you said you loved me- that you've always loved me?

JOSEPH

I know it's weird. We can just forget the whole thing. I'm practically over it.

GRACIE

What if I didn't want you to be over it?

JOSEPH

Gracie, what are you saying?

(There is a long pause where neither person speaks. Gracie moves a little closer to Joseph and grabs his hand gently.)

GRACIE

Joe, my sweet, sweet Joe, I love you too. I always have. I just didn't think that you would ever want me so I pushed it away and found other people to love. They couldn't ever replace you, though.

JOSEPH

This can't be happening

GRACIE

It's happening. I love you. And I want to stay here and help you with our dream hotel if you'll have me.

JOSEPH

I don't know what to say. I never thought this would happen. Never even considered it.

(Joseph begins pacing around. Gracie stands still.)

GRACIE

Is this not what you wanted?

JOSEPH

No! Of course it's what I wanted! It's what I've always wanted but it doesn't feel real.

GRACIE

Should I give you some time?

JOSEPH

I think it's for the best if you do. Just for the night, so I can gather my thoughts. I'm freaking out right now, G.

GRACIE

I get that. Can I rent a room for the night then? Wasn't exactly expecting this turn of events.

JOSEPH

Yeah. Of course.

(Joseph moves to the front desk and grabs a room key, passing it to Gracie. Their hands touch for a moment and they freeze, staring at each other. Gracie then turns and exits, going to her room.)

(The lights dim to darkness. When they rise again Joseph is in pajamas, looking at a room key and an envelope on the front desk.)

JOSEPH

No. She wouldn't just leave. Not after that confession last night-

(Joseph opens the letter and reads it aloud)

JOSEPH

J, maybe this was too far fetched. I'm sorry for showing up like that.

JOSEPH (Continued)

I'm catching a taxi to the station and I'll get out of your hair for a minute. Gracie.

(Joseph sets the letter down and puts his head in his hands)