

Oh Chad

Characters

CHAD and GWYNETH. (16) A classically romantic couple.

Setting

A bare stage.

CHAD and GWYNETH must part. They begin in a dramatic 'we must part' pose.

GWYNETH: Oh Chad!

CHAD: Gwynnie!

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CHAD: Gwynnie!

GWYNETH: Oh Chad!

CHAD: (*clasp*ing GWYNETH to his chest) I'm right here, Gwyneth. I'm right here. I will always... be... here.

GWYNETH: But we must part, Chad! They're tearing us apart! It's so upsetting!

CHAD: (*holding his palm to her heart*) In here, Gwynnie. I will always... always... always be in your heart. (*he puts her palm on his heart*) Our hearts beat as one. You must always remember that.

GWYNETH: Chad, Chad, Chad. (*pause*) Chad. (*fast*) Chad, Chad, Chad, Chad, Chad. (*pause*) Chad. (*she sobs*) Chad!

CHAD: I know. I know. I know exactly what you mean.

GWYNETH: Oh Chad!

CHAD: I know.

GWYNETH: Oh Chad!

CHAD: I know.

GWYNETH: How can your parents do this to us? You have to talk to them!

CHAD: I have, Gwynnie. I have to no avail.

GWYNETH: They cannot be availed?

CHAD: There is no availing them.

GWYNETH: It's monstrous.

CHAD: Unfeeling.

GWYNETH: So unfeeling. Don't they know the depth of our feeling? Why are they unaware of the deep deep depths to which our feelings go?

CHAD: The deep depths of our true love.

GWYNETH: The truly deep depths.

CHAD: Our hearts are entwined.

GWYNETH: We were meant to be together!

CHAD: And now...

GWYNETH: Now.

CHAD: Now.

GWYNETH: Oh Chad!

CHAD: Gwynnie!

GWYNETH: Despair!

CHAD: Horror!

GWYNETH: They're tearing us apart.

CHAD: Rending us asunder.

GWYNETH: Ripping our hearts from our bodies.

CHAD: Shredding our love to bits.

GWYNETH: Stomping on our hearts!

CHAD: Stomping and shredding!

GWYNETH: Oh Chad.

CHAD: Oh Gwynnie.

GWYNETH: Oh Chad.

CHAD: Gwynnie.

GWYNETH: Chad! Chad! Cha –

CHAD: (*interrupting*) Gwynnie! Gwynnie. Must we go over and over this my love? It breaks my heart over and over to have to relive your pain and torture. Perhaps we should just let things go. Let the dust fall where it may. Let our hearts beat as one... from a distance.

GWYNETH: This cannot happen to us.

CHAD: But it has.

GWYNETH: We cannot allow the evil adults to separate us.

CHAD: But they have.

GWYNETH: There must be something we can do!

CHAD: There is nothing.

GWYNETH: I defy nothing!

CHAD: It is what it is, my dove.

GWYNETH: I defy that nothing is what we are left with!

CHAD: The bags have been packed. The boxes are closed.

GWYNETH: I defy packed bags! I defy closed boxes!

CHAD: I leave tomorrow.

GWYNETH: (*pose*) Devastation.

CHAD: Calamity.

GWYNETH: Chaos!

CHAD: (*not quite as sad as he should be*) It is sad, Gwyneth. So terribly, terribly sad. It's a real... (*he sneaks a look at his watch*) Yep, it's a bummer. (*snapping back into it*) It's devastating!

GWYNETH: Heartache!

CHAD: But we will write. I'm sure we will write. Long hand written notes on a creamy sea of linen cardstock with flowing fountain pen. We surely will shun all forms of modern technology for more romantic forms of communication. It is the only way for those in the depths of true love. Anything else would be... uncivilized. We will keep in touch, Gwyneth. I'm positive we will.

GWYNETH: No.

CHAD: No?

GWYNETH: No!

CHAD: What do you mean no?

GWYNETH: There are no boundaries for a love such as ours. This love is deeper than the love that launched a thousand ships. This love is greater than the poison that killed Romeo and the dagger that did in Juliet. There are no boundaries for the deep depths of true love. This love is so intense, so true, I have no doubts you would fall on your sword and kill yourself after hearing of my death as Antony did for Cleopatra. You would, wouldn't you, Chad?

CHAD: But, ah, hmmm, death is so, what about the distance, Gwynnie? The distance that has been thrust upon us? There's no getting around that.

GWYNETH: How far away is it really?

CHAD: Day and a half drive.

GWYNETH: That's nothing! We will make arrangements to meet half way. We will meet every weekend. We must see each other Chad, we must look into each others' eyes, and hold each other close. Letters are nothing but a pale comparison. We will defy our parents and scoff at the law. Nothing will keep us apart! Nothing! The bonds of true love will never break! Our love must not be denied! Oh Chad! Oh Chad! Oh... Chad? What are you doing, Chad?

During the above CHAD has moved away from GWYNETH.

CHAD: No.

GWYNETH: No?

CHAD: No.

GWYNETH: (*wee bit of tension*) What do you mean no?

CHAD: I mean, it was nice and all...

GWYNETH: Nice?

CHAD: Really nice. You're a nice girl. And we had a great run. *(he bops her on the shoulder)* A swell run. A real swell run.

GWYNETH: *(hands on her hips)* You're calling the greatest love story of all time, 'a run?'

CHAD: But there are other stories out there, Gwynnie.

GWYNETH: Oh are there.

CHAD: There are other plots. Other scenarios. Other people in those plots and scenarios.

GWYNETH: So what are you saying, Chad? What exactly are you saying? Lay it out for me. Lay it aaaaaaalll out. So there's no misunderstanding of any kind.

CHAD: Oh... Gwynnie...

GWYNETH: *(impatient)* Give it up, Chad.

CHAD: We're breaking up. For reals.

GWYNETH: Breaking up? Breaking. Up.

CHAD: *(sighing)* Yeah.

GWYNETH: YOU are breaking up with ME.

CHAD: Sorry.

GWYNETH: Huh.

CHAD: You understand, right? I'm moving halfway across the country. This never would have lasted. You know it. I know it. It's common knowledge that long distance relationships never work out. Better that we nip this in the bud before anyone gets really hurt. *(he bops her gently on the shoulder)* Chin up kid.

GWYNETH: *(turning away)* I see.

CHAD: Gwynneth?

GWYNETH: *(more to self)* Chin. Up.

CHAD: Gwynnie?

GWYNETH: Hmmmm?

CHAD: You ok?

GWYNETH: Oh yes.

CHAD: Are you sure?

GWYNETH: Oh sure.

CHAD: Really sure?

GWYNETH: As sure as I can possibly be.

CHAD: You're taking this well. Really well. Spectacularly well, much better than I expected.

GWYNETH: Why, my chin is up, Chad. I'm treating the situation with a raised chin.

CHAD: If you want to cry, I brought a handkerchief.

GWYNETH: Well isn't that the sweetest thing. A handkerchief. You're such a good boyfriend. Aren't you, Chad?

CHAD: For now.

GWYNETH: For now.

They both share a laugh.

CHAD: You want a ride home?

GWYNETH: No.

CHAD: I don't mind.

GWYNETH: There's no need. I'll have Walden pick me up.

CHAD: Who?

GWYNETH: *(she pulls out her cellphone)* I had a date set up with him for tomorrow, but since we're done now...

CHAD: Walden?

GWYNETH: Walden.

CHAD: Walden???

GWYNETH: That's right.

CHAD: You set up another date right under my nose?

GWYNETH: Oh Chad. (*pats him on the cheek*) This never would have lasted. You know it. I know it. We should nip this in the bud.

CHAD: I knew it first. I knew it first!

GWYNETH: If you'd like to believe that, go right ahead. Long distance relationships never work out.

CHAD: What about the true deep depths of love? What about driving for a day and a half? A day and a half is nothing!

GWYNETH: Things change.

CHAD: From five minutes ago?

GWYNETH: I'm a speedy girl.

CHAD: Speedy all right, you sped me right out of your life!

GWYNETH: You're not pouting, are you Chad?

CHAD: (*clearly pouting*) No.

GWYNETH: Good. Keep your chin up.

CHAD: (*muttering*) I'll tell you what you can do with your chin...

GWYNETH: Goodbye Chad.

CHAD: Gee whiz, Gwynnie.

GWYNETH: Have a nice life.

CHAD: I hope Walden is a horrible kisser. (*stalks off*)

GWYNETH: (*with pity*) Oh Chad. Chad. (*she shakes her head and sighs*) Chad.

— THE END —