LOVE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 OR WHAT ALSO FEELS LIKE 100 YEARS OF GAY SOLITUDE by EMILY ANDERSON

(In LOVE IN THE TIME OF COVID OR WHAT ALSO FEELS LIKE 100 YEARS OF GAY SOLITUDE, a new couple considers homophobia in national healthcare while navigating their relationship.)

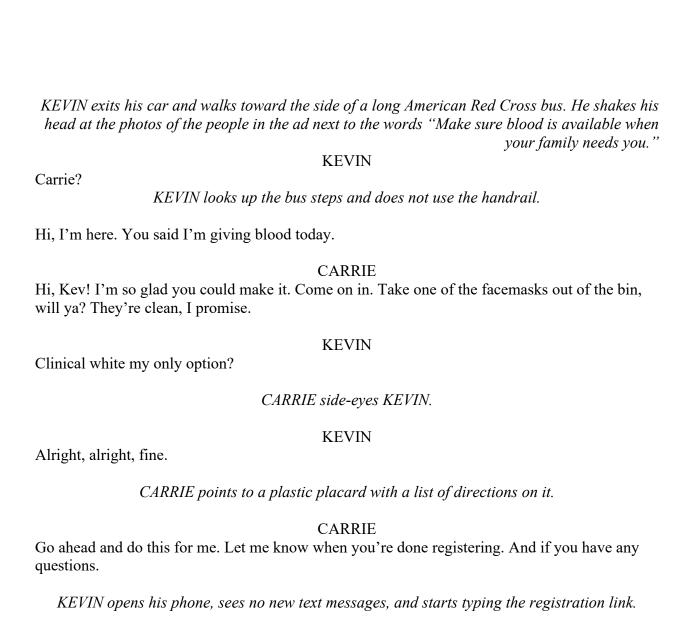
(An American Red Cross mobile blood bank sits in the parking lot between a family-run grocery store and some apartments that look like they were decorated by an industrially-minded-Wes-Anderson type.)

CHARACTERS

- KEVIN, 28. Barista at hottest coffeeshop in town. Wears only earth tones and light pastel colors. Still coming into his sexuality.
 - CARL, 25. Tech guy for company that manages other businesses' WordPress sites. Flirty bisexual who means well but is off-putting at times.
 - CARRIE, 27. Volunteer at blood drive. School nurse. Friend who introduced the pair.

TIME

Early afternoon, the year of our lord 2020. A cloudless day in the Midwest, early April.



CARRIE

KEVIN looks up from his phone.

KEVIN

CARRIE purses her lips and looks down.

KEVIN

Someone walks up the bus entrance, which is also its exit, and now KEVIN can't leave just yet.

CARRIE

By the way, it's super casual, but just wanted to let you know I invited Carl.

You're joking?

Carl, hey!

You're not joking. I need to go then.

KEVIN [hushed tone] I cannot believe you did this to—
CARRIE [hushed tone] Don't act like you don't want to see him. [normal voice] Carl! I'm so glad you made it. Grab a mask, answer the questions, leave a seat between the two of you—
CARL —Oh, come on. Things didn't end that badly—
CARRIE —I need to take care of something—um, well, that's not exactly what I heard—
KEVIN
Carrie! Come on. CARRIE
Sooo, yeah, anyway. The other room, right. I have to do something. In there.
CARRIE leaves.
CARL Kev. What's up? You never texted me back.
KEVIN Well, yeah. I felt weird after, you know
[FLASHBACK to two weeks ago.] KEVIN and CARL sit on CARL's bed They start kissing and pulling off each other's shirts KEVIN says, "I love you."
[Back in the present, at the Red Cross bus.
CARL So, she reeled you in to donating too huh?

KEVIN

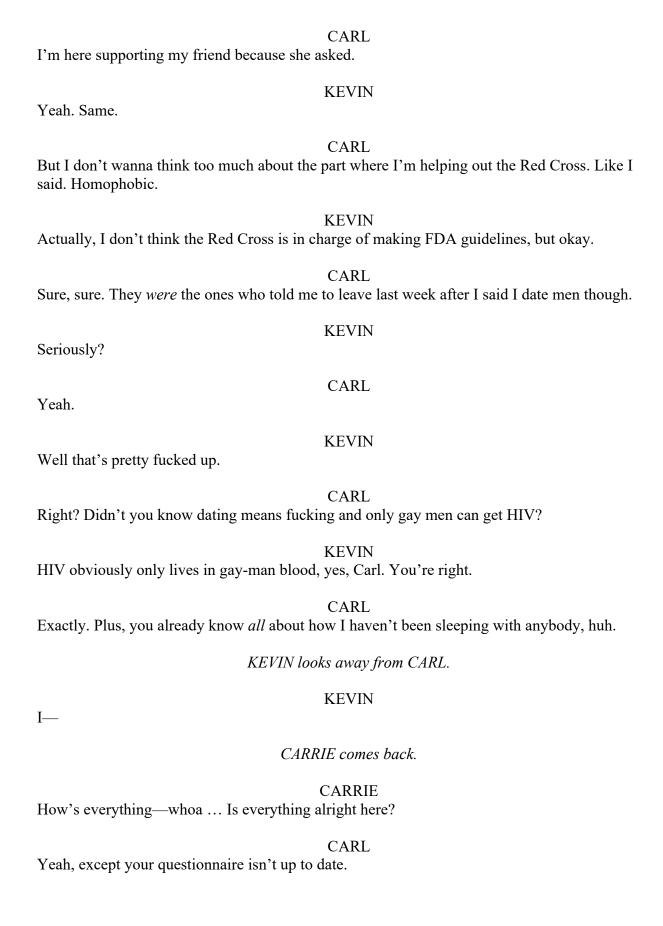
CARL

KEVIN

I mean, obviously, but why wouldn't I want to help.

Um. Okay. Aren't you here doing the exact same thing right now?

Could be the homophobia part, who knows.



CARRIE
What do you mean?
CARL This question. Right here. Asking me if I've slept with a guy in the past twelve months. It should say three.
CARRIE It should say three. That's weird.
CARL So, what do I do?
CARRIE Well, I can't technically let you donate until you fill out these questions. So yes or no to the twelve months?
CARL
Are you kidding me? I'm not answering that.
CARRIE Then I can't let you—
CARL This is bullshit. I don't have to.
You're right, you don't.
CARL I'm out then.
KEVIN Wait, hold on. Hey, Carrie. Uh, it kinda sounds like you're telling your friend he can't donate because he maybe slept with a guy, like, a year ago.
CARRIE Well—I, I'm definitely not saying that. I'm the one who asked you both to come today.
KEVIN Right, so why'd you ask us to come again?
CARRIE Because the rules changed—

CARL
—Yeah they fuckin' did.
KEVIN Sohave the rules un-changed since we've been here?
CARRIE No—but I can't break protocol either.
KEVIN Alright. I respect that—
CARL Why are you siding—
KEVIN —but you know, I could've slept with somebody this last year too—
CARRIE We both know that's not—
KEVIN —so I'm gonna be heading out too.
CARRIE Um. Alright. That's fine. I can let you both know when it gets updated, shouldn't be too long, couple days to a week, max. If you want. I'll get ahold of my boss.
CARL Whatever—that's fine.
CARRIE Maybe you can come back together next time?
Yeah, sure. I would.
CARL Really?
Yeah. As long as you want me to.
CARL I would, yeah.

[nodding] Let's do it.
CARL Okay yeah. Yeah! We can flesh out the details later. I'll text you?
Okay year. Tear: We can fiesh out the details later. The text you?
Yeah, yeah that sounds great.
CARL Cool. See you guys later.
KEVIN See you later.
CARRIE Bye, Carl!
CARL walks out of the bus.
CARRIE Well, that went better than you thought right?
KEVIN Sure, Carrie. I'll see you next time.
KEVIN walks out of the bus and starts typing a new text to CARL before getting in his car

THE END