

YELLOW ROSES

Cast

CARA-various ages throughout the play, only makes yellow roses

AIMEE/ESME/CORDELIA/AMARA-various female presenting roles

DAVID/KEVIN/CONNOR/PHILLIP-various male presenting roles

LENNON/DILAN/VAL/DEIRDRE-various roles

Setting

Many locations, A playground, a school interior, a wedding

Time

Modern Day, Various moments throughout Cara's life

Scene 1

(Lights up on a grade school playground. Each actor has a quiver that holds various colored roses instead of arrows. CARA is seen playing by herself. AIMEE and DAVID are playing together.)

AIMEE

You're my best friend!

(she hands him a yellow rose)

DAVID

Mine too!

(he hands her a pink rose)

Wait what?

AIMEE

Is that..?

LENNON

Oh my gosh! David likes Amy!

DAVID

NO NO NO I DON'T! The rose is yellow I swear!

(CARA, who has been watching the whole time, walks up to him)

CARA

It's okay, my mommy says that everyone like likes someone at some point.

(DAVID and AIMEE run off in opposite directions, probably screaming)

CARA

Wow, like liking someone must be a lot of fun!

Scene 2

(The hallway of a middle school, CARA and ESME are walking to their lockers together. Right after, KEVIN appears, throwing around pink roses like it's no one's business)

KEVIN

Esme, you get a rose!

(he hands one to ESME as DILAN enters)

Cara, YOU get a rose!

(He hands one to CARA)

Dilan, YOU get a rose!

(He hands one to ESME)

EVERYBODY GETS A ROSE!

(KEVIN exits)

ESME

Well that's not how I remember that saying going.

DILAN

Can you believe that guy? Throwing these around like they're some toy. They're supposed to mean something.

CARA

How'd he get so many in the first place? I can't even make one.

ESME

Me neither. I was told we have to "wait for the right person", but that's clearly not the case I guess.

CARA

He'll get over it in a week.

DILAN

Yeah, and unleash his pink-a-palooza on some other unsuspecting group of people. Maybe he'll stop at a nursing home.

CARA

Still, this might be the first time someone's given me one of these.

DILAN

Don't even go there

CARA

Of course not! I have self respect thank you. I do wonder...

(She reaches into her quiver and pulls out a yellow rose)

CARA

Yeah that makes sense. Love can only be so blind.

ESME

I think love would need to stop perceiving objective reality if someone ever fell in love with a person like that.

(ESME also pulls out a yellow rose)

Cheers to love being stupid!

(The two clink the roses together)

DILAN

Ha, yeah cheers!

(DILAN reaches for their quiver with the intent to join in, but the rose comes out pink)

Oh no. That's awful and bad.

ESME

Oh my God Dilan I'm so sorry, I didn't mean-

DILAN

It's okay, I don't get it either.

CARA

I guess it can be that blind.

Scene 3

(The setting shifts to the interior of a high school classroom, CARA is looking through her quiver of arrows)

CARA

(takes out yellow rose)

Nope

(takes out another yellow rose)

Nope

(takes out another yellow rose)

Dang it! I thought there were supposed to be more when you grew up.

ESME

What's the problem?

CARA

You know how Val gave me that red rose?

ESME

Well, yes, they were pretty up front about it.

(A flashback ensues as the audience sees VAL walking towards CARA. All the other actors become apart of this vignette)

VAL

Hey... Cara... Um... I've been thinking about this a lot and... YOU'RE SUPER COOL
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!

(He aggressively hands her a red rose while CONNOR, presumably their hype man, loudly blows on a trumpet)

CONNOR

(Singing extremely off key)

They love you giuuuuuuirl

(The flashback ends)

CARA

Yeah, well I've been trying to find a red rose for them, but all that's showing up are these stupid yellow ones.

ESME

You're not into him. So what?

CARA

So, I'm sixteen and I still haven't given anyone a red rose! Hell, I haven't even given someone a pink one!

ESME

Hey, it's okay. I haven't gotten one either, remember?

(Just then, CONNOR shows up.)

CONNOR

Hey Esme.

(suddenly, he pulls out a pink rose for her)

ESME

Oh. Hi Connor. I'm sorry but-

(she reaches for her quiver and pulls out a pink rose)

Oh. Nevermind then. Sorry Cara, but can I-

CARA

Yeah it's fine. Don't worry about it.

(they exit and leave CARA to herself)

CARA

Is there something wrong with me?

(The scene changes to a college classroom. CARA doesn't move, it's as if time has passed her by. During this moment, CARA continues to only pull yellow roses out of her quiver time and time again)

Scene 4

(First month of college, the ensemble starts throwing around red and lavender roses, as if people are just getting together all the time.)

CARA

WHY

(PHILIP enters with a comically large bouquet of these roses)

Hi Philip, OH MY GOD

Hi Cara! Look at all these roses people have given me!

CARA

Yep. Super. That's awesome and great. Huh, lavender ones too. They just saw you and were like "Yep that's the one"?

PHILIP

I guess, I haven't really thought about it. Man, I have to go through all of these to see if I have a red one in return for someone.

CARA

People are really just throwing these around aren't they?

PHILIP

Have you gotten any from anyone?

CARA

One of my classmates gave me one

(Another flashback occurs, PHILIP exits and CORDELIA enters)

CORDELIA

Hi Cara, are you dating anyone right now?

CARA

Not at the moment.

CORDELIA

Well, do you want to date me?

(she hands CARA a red rose)

CARA

Ummmmmmmm

(CORDELIA exits, leaving CARA with the red rose in her hand)

CARA

I thought that maybe I was into girls, you know, since I've only ever had guys ask me out. But look!

(She takes out a yellow rose and places it in her other hand)

I mean, I'm in college now, and I still haven't given anyone a red rose. How long do I have to wait?

PHILIP

I suppose as long as it takes right? You never know. I might not even have a red rose for any of these people. Well, Amara's pretty great. She's pretty and smart and knows how to make me laugh... Where was I? Oh yeah! Why don't we check right now to prove my point.

CARA

Fine. Let's see 'em.

(PHILIP rifles through his quiver, pulling out various yellow and possibly pink roses)

PHILIP

Nope. Nope. Nope. Nope. OH WAIT...! Nope. Nope.

(He finally pulls out a red one)

AHA! This is Amara's! I knew it!

CARA

Why didn't you try hers first then? And why did you think that would make me feel better if you knew?

PHILIP

I wanted to create some suspense.

(CARA glares at him)

And to show you that the right person will show up, even if it takes time.

CARA

I know you're trying to help but this is just making it worse.

PHILIP

Well, I'm sure it'll work out. Just you wait.

(PHILIP exits)

CARA

But I've done nothing but wait.

(AMARA enters)

AMARA

CARA DID YOU HEAR-

CARA

YES

AMARA

Geez okay. I'd thought you'd be happy for me

CARA

I am! (sighs) I'm sorry, I don't know what's been with me lately.

AMARA

Well, you have all of the rest of college to figure it out.

Scene 5

(The scene shifts one final time, to AMARA and PHILIP'S wedding day. CARA stands to the side as the couple have their first dance, red roses in their hair)

CARA

I still don't get it

(DEIRDRE enters upstage as AMARA and PHILIP fade out. DEIRDRE is holding a blue rose. CARA notices and walks up to them)

CARA

Deirdre is that you?

DEIRDRE

(DEIRDRE, startled, attempts to hide rose)
Unfortunately

CARA

Whatcha got?

DEIRDRE

...You already saw it, didn't you.

CARA

Sure did.

DEIRDRE

Fine.

(They show the blue rose to CARA)

CARA

Blue? I've never seen that one before

DEIRDRE

No one warns you until it happens.

CARA

What does it mean?

DEIRDRE

It's the impossible. Something that will never be.
(She looks back at where the couple dancing was)
I loved Philip too.

CARA

I had no idea.

DEIRDRE

No one did.

CARA

(thinks for a moment)

You want to dance?

DEIRDRE

What?

CARA

Dance with me.

(She offers her hand, eventually DEIRDRE takes it. For a moment, they dance. It's awkward, but comfortable)

DEIRDRE

I don't think I've ever seen you dance with another person.

CARA

I usually don't. When I was younger people assumed there was something else behind it. I kinda just gave up after that.

(During this part of the conversation, CARA and DEIRDRE move to go get water and sit down)

DEIRDRE

Was there?

CARA

What?

DEIRDRE

Something else.

CARA

Not once. I'm not sure there ever will be.

DEIRDRE

What do you mean?

CARA

Watch this

(She pulls out a bouquet of yellow roses)

All yellow. I've never given anyone a pink or red rose.

DEIRDRE

I'm sure you'll make one eventually.

CARA

Everyone keeps saying that, but I don't think that's true. I'm not actually sure I'm capable of making one.

DEIRDRE

Oh. That doesn't seem so bad.

CARA

It's not until everything's about the other ones. "Oh you just haven't found the right person yet", "It'll change with time". No it won't!

(She throws the bouquet to the ground, it scatters all over the stage)

DEIRDRE

Hey!

CARA

They used to matter so much.

DEIRDRE

They still do. Why do you think we both came to this wedding?

(DEIRDRE starts to pick the roses off the ground)

CARA

The same reason I asked you to dance.

(PHILIP and AMARA re enter, they also kneel down and start to pick them up)

PHILIP

Hey cool! Look at all these yellow ones! Here, you get a rose
(He hands one to CARA)

And you get a rose

(He hands one to DEIRDRE)

And you get a rose too!

(He hands one to AMARA)

AMARA

Philip, you give me one of these every day.

PHILIP

But you're my best friend!

AMARA

I know, dear.

(she hands him one in return, she also gives DEIRDRE and CARA roses too)

DEIRDRE

Okay, my turn.

CARA

No way, it's mine, they're the best ones after all.

(They start handing around yellow roses as it goes to BLACKOUT)