

## **Love You True**

by John Halas, ScreenwritersForHire.Com

based on the book, *Love You True*

by Carol Urena

### Logline

Two poetic lovers get the depth of their affection tested in the ultimate proof of love.

### Characters

**Henry (M)** - Twenties. The male protagonist of the story. He is tall, lean, and wiry. He is deeply in love with Isabella, a feeling that is equally reciprocated. However, their love gets tested when he gets drafted to go to war. He encounters several obstacles that prevent him from getting home on time, leading those back home to assume that he is dead. He eventually makes it back home just when Isabella is about to get married off to another man. He has a pigeon, Walter, who sends and delivers notes to him.

**Isabella (F)** - Twenties. The female protagonist of the story. She is beautiful, with curly black hair, hazel eyes, and glowing skin. She shares a passionate romance with Henry but faces the toughest test of loyalty. When Henry gets drafted and fails to return, he is presumed dead. There is pressure from Isabella's father, a noble, to get her married to one of her teeming suitors. However, Isabella keeps finding excuses to delay the decision as she still hopes that Henry will make it home miraculously. Just when she cannot make any more excuses and is on the brink of getting married, Henry shows up, and she is overwhelmed with joy.

## Three-Act Summary

### **Act One**

- 12th century. A small village by the sea. Two young lovers, Henry and Isabella, are lying on the shore on a picnic mat. Walter, Henry's loyal pigeon, is perched on a branch not too far from them. The sea is calm, and the wind is soothing.
- Henry admires Isabella and professes his love for her. He then produces a parchment and reads a poem to her. The first set of poems in the manuscript are read in a voice-over. Isabella smiles and produces a parchment of her own, then reads her reply to Henry's poem. The next set of poems from the manuscript are read in her voice-over.
- Just then, a continuous tolling of the warning bell is sounded. Henry and Isabella scurry to their feet and gather their picnic materials in haste. Henry cuckoos to Walter, who flies down from his perch onto his shoulder. The two lovers share a frantic kiss and a prolonged hug as melancholy music plays in BG.
- In an arena in front of the king's palace, all the able-bodied young men are assembled. Henry is among them. The king makes the battle speech and urges the young men to get ready to ship out in defense of their kingdom right away. The men march straight from the palace, through the streets, and toward the sea, where several warships are waiting for them.
- From a window in a building across the street, Isabella watches as Henry marches past her through the street. They lock eyes in an emotional moment before Henry is forced to look away and focus on his march. Walter is perched on his shoulder.

### **Act Two**

- Henry is standing at the deck inside the warship, looking toward shore as the ship sails away. On the shore, Isabella weeps and cradles the shirt he wore on their last picnic. Henry nods, teary-eyed, and shouts to Isabella that he will write to her every fortnight. Isabella nods and wipes her tears, then waves him goodbye as the ship sails away.
- In his bunk on the ship, Henry writes a letter, seals it, and attaches it to Walter, who flies away in the direction of Henry's kingdom. Isabella receives Walter, who flies in through her window. She eagerly rips open the letter and begins to read as Henry's voice reads in the BG. The next set of poems from the manuscript are read. Isabella eagerly scribbles, drops her perfume oil on the letter, seals it, and attaches it to Walter, who flies back toward the sea in search of the ship.
- Walter eventually makes it to the ship and is gladly received by Henry, who eagerly rips the seal open and reads the letter, breathing heavily. Isabella's voice comes on in the BG as he reads the next set of poems in the manuscript. Henry finishes the poem, presses it to his nose, and closes his eyes momentarily. He then turns his attention to Walter, feeds him, grooms him, and places him in his perch for a good night's sleep.
- The war rages. Several ships in Henry's fleet sink into the ocean, but Henry's ship makes it out of the fight. In the end, both warring parties have seen enough destruction, and the surviving soldiers call a truce. They decide to return to their homelands and call off the war for at least a decade.
- As Henry and the rest of the survivors begin to sail home, a mighty storm hits and begins to rock their boat. Henry's surviving fleet is scattered all over the sea, and they get swept very far away from each other. Henry looks around from his ship and sees the rest of the ships hitting rocks and sinking into the seas. A huge wave hits Henry's ship, and he blacks out.

- Henry wakes up on the shore of a strange island with the scattered debris of his ship all over the place. There are no other survivors. He salvages valuable items from the ship and manages to make camp for the night, just as Walter flies down to perch on his shoulder from a tree branch. He cradles Walter and weeps bitterly.
- Nighttime. Henry is seated with Walter by a fire close to a rock. He is lost in deep thoughts. Suddenly, he gets up, grabs a parchment from the salvaged items from the ship. He finds a twig and locates an ink plant, then begins to write as legibly as he can. The next set of poems in the manuscript are read in Henry's voice as he writes. He also adds a note about being marooned on an unknown island and promising to do what it takes to make his way home. The next morning, he attaches the letter to Walter and sends him on his way.
- Walter flies around for a while. He gets lost along the way as huge winds carry him farther and farther away from the course. He tries to fly against the wind but ends up hurting his right wing. Eventually, he is carried to another strange island, where he is forced to lay low, recuperate and wait for his broken wing to heal. Meanwhile, back home, word spreads about the tragic loss of the fleet, and the kingdom is thrown into mourning.
- Isabella refuses to believe that Henry is dead, despite others trying to give her reasons to. She cries as she writes a letter to Henry, and the next set of poems from the manuscript are read in a voice-over by her. She cradles the poem to her chest and weeps.
- Back on the island, Henry is making efforts to build a raft while looking out for Walter. He is disappointed. Days turn to weeks, and Henry continues to write poems and keep for Isabella, hoping that Walter will fly back with a response from her one day. His hair begins to grow longer, and his beard is unshaved. He also eats from the island trees and leaves and drinks wine salvaged from the ship.

- Several attempts at building a raft fail, and Henry sinks into the shore, exhausted. At home, Isabella continues to write letters and keep them for Henry.

### **Act Three**

- Several months later, Isabella's father sits her down and informs her that it is time to take another suitor. Isabella tells him that she is not ready, but he is adamant. She decides that she will put the suitors to the test, and whoever passes will be her husband. However, she needs another month to decide on the most appropriate task. Her father reluctantly agrees.
- A month later, Henry finally builds a raft on the island and sets sail with some food supplies. He comes across a cargo ship, and the Captain takes him on board and promises to get him home. Meanwhile, Walter has fully healed and begins to make his way home.
- The time of reckoning arrives, and Isabella is faced with the inevitable. The suitors line up, and Isabella gives them her test. She gives them a riddle in a poem. Whoever can solve the riddle will marry her.
- The suitors all try and fail. Isabella's father insists that she must choose a man from the assembled group. Just as a weeping Isabella is about to make a choice, Henry appears and reads out the answer to the puzzle in a poem of his own. Isabella rushes into his arms, and the two lovers are reunited. The kingdom is thrown into jubilation, and Henry is given a hero's welcome.
- The next day, Walter arrives home; Henry and Isabella are ecstatic. They read the rest of the poems to each other and get married a week after that.