

The Love Application

written by

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INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - DAY

Several shots of DAVE's (30s, suits and bow-tie wearing Love Clerk who both loves love but bitter about other's attempts) office, his certificates, stacks of applications, flag with hearts on it, romance novels on his shelves, and finally his desk.

A big red DENIED stamp on an application, the camera pans up to see THE LOVE APPLICATION title card, and a continuing pan to the office door.

A knock at the door.

DAVE  
Come on in!

SANDY (early 20s, alternative looking, a bitch) peaks their head into the door. First thing you notice is their face tats and piercings.

SANDY  
"Dave?"

DAVE  
Yep! Come have a seat.

Sandy walks into the room, the camera pans from toe-to-head, platform docs, black ripped jeans, rock band t-shirt, collar, face tattoos, and bright hair.

SANDY  
(to someone behind the door)  
Come on.

PIERCE (early 20s, plain Jane type, boring looking) enters sheepishly. They each hold a piece of paper.

DAVE  
Don't be shy, have a seat.

The pair sits down, while Pierce slides into their seat nervously, Sandy basically hops into their seat and makes themselves comfortable.

Dave stares intensely at the snoop tattoo on Sandy's face.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Nice...uhm...dog you got there.  
Very cute.

SANDY  
(angirly)  
It's snoopy.

Awkward silence.

DAVE  
So...have you applied before?

SANDY  
Nah, this is both of our first  
times.

DAVE  
All right, I'll talk you through it  
then... You each have your essay  
portion?

Pierce nods meekly. Sandy grabs their paper.

SANDY  
Yeah we got em.

Dave looks the papers over, his brow furrows in  
concentration.

DAVE  
Well the process is easy really,  
ready?

Wait if-                      PIERCE                      SANDY  
Nah you can go ahead.

DAVE  
Alright... Let's start off easy.  
Pierce McLovin?

The camera starts at Sandy and slowly pans to Pierce raising  
their hand.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Oh! Okay, so you must be Sandy  
Smith.

SANDY  
Yeah that's me.

DAVE  
Perfect. Now i just need Hair and  
Eye color...

Dave looks at Pierce and jots something down. Then looks to  
Sandy.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
I'll just put... 'other'... Okay.  
Occupation?

SANDY  
I'm a vet's receptionist.

DAVE  
(writing as he talks)  
And... Pierce?

SANDY  
They're a tattoo artist.

Dave lets out a giggle.

SANDY (CONT'D)  
What's so funny.

DAVE  
Oh nothing... moving on to some of  
the harder questions, do you want  
kids?

PIERCE		SANDY
Yeah we wanted 2 or 3-	No.	

SANDY (CONT'D)  
Pierce? Do you have a different  
answer?

PIERCE  
(Very quietly and meekly)  
No.

DAVE  
...Okay.

Montage of Dave asking the questions and filling out the  
form. Cutting back and forth between the couple and Dave's  
desk with the application getting more and more filled up.

It becomes more and more evident that Pierce and Sandy don't  
agree on anything.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Alright, let's take a look at your  
essays.

Dave takes out the essay portions that were previously handed  
in.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Ok, Pierce can I ask you about  
your-

SANDY  
I know its long and annoying to  
read but-

DAVE  
Let them speak.

Pierce gives Dave a small but heartfelt smile.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
It seems here, you've made a pros  
and cons list. Not an unpopular  
idea but this is the first time  
I've come across one like this.

Dave turns the page around to show Sandy and Pierce the pros  
and cons list. The camera does a close-up on the paper, it is  
all cons on one side, and one pro on the other.

Sandy grabs the paper out of Dave's hand and reads it.

Close up on Sandy's eyes run down the paper.

SANDY  
What do you mean "Gives me pink  
eye"? That was ONE TIME!!!

Dave looks at the camera.

PIERCE  
You're not even looking at the pros  
Sandy!

Sandy looks at the paper dumbfounded.

PIERCE (CONT'D)  
(under his breath,  
flipping the paper over  
for them.)  
Its on the other side.

SANDY  
Remembered my birthday...no  
gift...had "cake" . What do you  
mean "cake"? I GOT YOU A  
CHEESECAKE!

PIERCE  
YOU ONLY LEFT THE CRUST! AND IT WAS  
BANANA CHEESECAKE.  
(MORE)

PIERCE (CONT'D)  
WHERE DID YOU EVEN *FIND* BANANA  
FRIGGIN CHEESECAKE!

Dave sighs and opens his cabinet to grab his rubber stamp.

SANDY  
IT WAS ON SALE AT DOLLAR TREE WHAT  
DO YOU WANT FROM ME!?

PIERCE  
YOU ATE AN ENTIRE BANANA CHEESECAKE  
FROM DOLLAR TREE?

SANDY  
WELL YOU ATE THE CRUST!

PIERCE  
THAT'S ALL YOU LEFT ME!

Cut to Dave stamping, smooching, and smacking a big DENIED stamp on their application. As they hurl various insults and arguments at each other in the back ground.

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

While waiting for the next couple, Dave organizes the previous papers into the DENIED bin.

While pulling out the papers for his next client he reads the name Parker Benson on the top of the application.

His face falls with the look of regret and loss, the camera zooms in from outside the office on his hollow look.

He looks up directly into the camera and readjusts his face.

He stands up and looks at his certificates, straightening them out one by one. And to the thank you notes left by previous clients.

INT. OUTSIDE DAVE'S OFFICE - SOMETIME LATER

Dave sits in frame like an interview. His bow tie is undone and he looks more unkempt, exhausted.

CAMERA MAN (O.S.)  
So...Who's Parker?

Dave looks at the camera, then folds his face in his hands.

DAVE  
It's nothing.

Dave gives a deadpan stare into the camera.

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

A knock at the door.

BENNY (late 20s, good looking, smart) and PARKER (early 30s, put together, kind eyes) enter the room laughing with one another.

DAVE  
What's so funny you two?

The pair stops laughing suddenly when they see Dave.

BENNY  
You must be our Love Clerk.

Dave forces a smile and takes a sip from his heart shaped mug, studying Benny, his eyes dart to Parker.

PARKER  
(mouthing)  
Sorry.

Dave puts down his mug gently, you can see the longing behind his eyes.

DAVE  
Hi.

Benny clears his throat

DAVE (CONT'D)  
So! You got your essays?

Dave chokes a little when the pair both pull out a stapled packet out of a folder entitled "our future" with hearts all over it.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
That folder is bordering on  
contraband.

Benny looks up at Dave with daggers.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Okay let's start with... Parker  
Benson.

Parker looks up at Dave, raises his hand without saying a word, hoping he doesn't say anything.

Dave jots it down.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
And Benny Howard?

Benny raises his hand.

Dave jots it down but this time a little more aggressively.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
It shows you've applied previously  
and got denied... so you decided to  
switch Love Clerks?

Benny looks to Parker.

PARKER  
Yeah that was my idea.

DAVE  
Real smart of you to do that.  
(beat)  
Well I see most of your application  
has been looked through already, so  
we can just jump to the essay  
portion.

Dave starts reading over Benny's essay.

Benny's leg is bouncing in anxiety, he can't help but speak up.

BENNY  
I think you'll see, especially in  
paragraph 8 section 2, that-

Parker gently touches Benny's arm to tell them to stop.

Dave flips to the page Benny is talking about.

DAVE  
"I know everything there is to know  
about Parker"

BENNY  
That's right.

DAVE  
You really "know everything",  
Benny?

BENNY  
Well-



DAVE

Do you know what their allergic to?

BENNY

Shellfish, sesame seeds-

DAVE

How about his family history?

BENNY

(getting more defensive)

His dad is prone to kidney stones  
and his mom has a fatty liver-

Dave leans in towards Benny.

Parker looks back and forth between Benny and Dave.

DAVE

Do you really think you're the *best*  
fit for them?

Dave realizes he's gone to far as soon as it left his mouth.  
He takes a breath and sits back in his chair.

Parker tries to hold his tongue but cant help it.

PARKER

Do I get a say at all?

Dave waves his hand, letting Parker take the floor.

PARKER (CONT'D)

Benny has been there for me through  
the darkest part of my life.  
They've seen me at my worst and  
brought me back to my best. I know  
the chances of getting approved  
after a previous rejection are slim  
but if you just listen-

Dave looks ashamed, but is still cooling off from the heat.

DAVE

Look, I know you two must really  
like being together but falling in  
love isn't an easy thing-

BENNY

We know that! Love is more than  
just knowing, its complete  
certainty without a doubt.

(MORE)

BENNY (CONT'D)

It's knowing what they like for breakfast, what they don't for lunch. Knowing they hate ice water, but can't drink room temperature water, its gotta be just right. And they prefer Van Gogh over Matisse. They're favorite movie is The Notebook and they'll cry every time without fail because they want to be loved like that. And that's what I'm going to do.

Dave clenches his jaw, defeated, while looking at his cabinet containing his denied stamps.

INT. OUTSIDE DAVES OFFICE - SOME TIME LATER

Parker and Benny are seen leaving the office and closing the door behind them. Just before the door shuts...

DAVE

(sarcastically)

Thanks for-

But the door closes before they could hear anything.

DAVE (CONT'D)

(to himself)

coming.

INT. LOVE CLERK OFFICE - A FEW YEARS AGO

A young Dave's hand reaches up and knocks at the door. From the other side we hear...

LOVE CLERK

Come in!

Enter a young Parker trailing behind Dave, who is eager to sit down.

LOVE CLERK (CONT'D)

You two again?

DAVE

This time we rewrote our essays and even made a statistical chart about why we are meant to be-

Parker touches Dave's arm gently, telling him to stop.

PARKER

Are we ever going to get approved?

LOVE CLERK

Listen, sometimes you get denied because you got a bad clerk, or you had previous offenses, but when you get denied 27 times and 14 of them by the same person...

DAVE

Well maybe 28th times the charm!

LOVE CLERK

I'm sorry honey. It's not. I previewed the essays online, its just not a good match.

DAVE

Then we will be finding a different clerk! Isn't that right, Parker.

Parker sits in his chair defeated.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Parker?

PARKER

Can we talk outside Dave?

Dave packs up his papers and shuffles outside.

DAVE

We just gotta find a new clerk Park, that's all. This one clearly isn't even interested in looking at our new stuff...

Parker looks up from his shoes, tears in his eyes.

PARKER

I think this is it Dave. I just can't keep trying anymore. I'm done.

Parker starts to walk away. Dave jots something down on a piece of paper and runs up to Parker as he gets on the elevator.

DAVE

Parker wait!

Dave tries to hand the paper to Parker but he refuses.

PARKER  
I know. I know.

The elevator doors close on Parker. Dave looks down at the note in his hand. It reads "I love you anyway."

Emotionally distraught he walks to the nearest garbage and starts ripping up his note, then his essay, then his application. Until he stares at a pile of shredded paper in a bin.

Looking up with tears streaming down his face, he notices an advertisement. "BECOME A LOVE CLERK TODAY" "NOW HIRING"

CUT TO:

INT. OUTSIDE DAVE'S OFFICE - SOMETIME LATER

A close up on his face as we move back to the present day office.

DAVE  
(tight smile)  
We just applied together a few  
years back...

Dave gets up from the interview and leaves frame, the camera follows him. We see the door close.

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - PRESENT DAY

Dave awaits his next clients with a dark look on his face that is immediately swept away when he hears.

A knock at the door.

Enter NOA (early 20s, a little dumb, anxious) first who takes a seat immediately without saying a word. Then ANDY (early 20s, equally dumb, but more confident) enters more slowly, really taking in the room.

To both of their surprise, they are wearing the exact same outfit down to the shoes. Noa is clearly in a blonde wig, with their brown hair peaking out of the back.

NOA  
(through gritted teeth)  
I thought you said you were wearing  
blue.

ANDY  
(through a confident  
smile)  
Just so you wouldn't wear it...

DAVE  
Hi... Welcome in. Are you ready to  
get started?

Andy and Noa snap out of their argument.

ANDY  
Yes!

NOA  
Yes!

DAVE  
Alrighty then. Do you have your  
essays?

NOA  
Our what now.

DAVE  
Well we ask our clients to write an  
essay portion...

ANDY  
Of course we have our essays.

Andy pulls out two folded pieces of paper from his pocket.  
The essays written in crayon.

NOA  
We thought it would add a bit of  
pizzazz.

DAVE  
...Certainly. I'll have you read  
these out loud as I'm not sure i  
can...decipher this. But I'm  
getting ahead of myself. Let's  
start with the basics.

ANDY  
Yeah I can do basics.

DAVE  
So which one of you is Noa Trenton?

Noa and Andy look at each other with only their eyes, and  
silent argue about who gets to be Noa.

NOA  
I'm Noa, no H.

Dave gives a look and jots down the name on the application.

DAVE  
So you must be Andy Palmer.

ANDY  
Yup that's me!

DAVE  
Hair color?

ANDY  
Brown.

NOA  
Brown.

DAVE  
Are you sure about that.

Andy and Noa look at each other. Shit.

NOA  
Haha I *just* went blonde! Total spur  
of the moment thing. Just wanted to  
change my hair.

DAVE  
Right...

Close up on the brown hair peaking out of the blonde wig. Noa  
starts to itch that part of their hair.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
I can tell you two are eager to get  
into it so I'm gonna skip to the  
good part.

Andy, stupidly, gets interested.

ANDY  
Well, alright.

Noa gives Andy a nervous look.

DAVE  
On your application you were asked  
a series of "favorites".

ANDY  
Okay...

NOA  
There's literally no way  
right now.

Dave clasps his hands together.

DAVE  
Noa. What is Andy's favorite song?

The two stare at each other for a second.

NOA  
(Pulling it out of his  
ass:)  
Ice...

Andy starts nodding his no.

NOA (CONT'D)  
Can't help falling in...

Andy nods his head no more violently.

NOA (CONT'D)  
Love song?

Andy slightly nods his head yes.

Noa turns to Dave confidently.

NOA (CONT'D)  
Love Song by Sara Bareilles.

ANDY  
(nodding aggressively)  
That's right.

DAVE  
Love Song...risqué choice don't  
you think? That kind of music can  
make you say things you don't  
mean...

Dave jots down something on the application, not breaking his  
gaze from the pair.

Noa takes a big gulp. Andy is unaware that he is supposed to  
be nervous right now.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Andy...What is Noa's favorite ice  
cream flavor?

ANDY  
Oh that's easy.

Noa looks wide at Andy wide-eyed.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
(confidently)  
Rum Raisin.

Noa looks defeated.

DAVE  
Last time I checked you were  
lactose intolerant, Noa.

Noa closes their eyes and takes a deep breath.

NOA  
How do you know that...?

Dave reaches under his desk.

Close up on Dave's finger pressing a silent button.

DAVE  
Same way I know your just here to  
sell this here application on the  
dark web.

Andy grips the arms of his chair.

Close up on Noa as beads of sweat begin to pour down their  
face.

ANDY  
But we were told-

DAVE  
Its basic knowledge that a previous  
*serial* love bomber can't just walk  
into a love clerks office and not  
expect us to pick up on it.

A thud at the door. In walks the Love Police. Pink swat vests  
covered in hearts and fuzzy handcuffs.

LOVE POLICE  
This is the love police! Hands up!

ANDY  
Wait no you don't understand.

Noa begins crying.

NOA  
I CANT GO TO JAIL AGAIN!!!

CUT TO:

INT. OUTSIDE DAVE'S OFFICE - SOMETIME LATER

Dave's tie is undone and he looks smirky.



CAMERA MAN (O.S.)  
So what the hell was that about?

DAVE  
Ah you know, the Love Cartel, every month we have a couple of people with previous felonies come in and try to get an application just to sell it on the dark web. I'm pretty good at spotting them out.

Dave holds up a framed picture of Noa and Andy in the fuzzy handcuffs with the bodyguard and hangs it on the wall.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
New decoration!

CUT TO:

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE -CONTINUOUS

Dave is packing up for the day while the interviewer still asks him questions from before.

CAMERA MAN (O.S.)  
So, what did you do about Parker?

DAVE (V.O.)  
I did what I had to do.

Slow zoom over Dave's desk. Parker and Benny's application is on the top of the stack of papers that Dave is organizing. It reads APPROVED.

THE END