

INT. CLASSROOM. LATE AFTERNOON

A brightly lit classroom, the fluorescent lights shining down on everything below it. Tables and chairs scattered around the sides of the room. The students are dispersed on the floor arguing amongst themselves. The teacher sitting at the centre of this madness jumps off of the floor, dusts herself off, slips her shoes back and walks to the front of the classroom. The brightness of the fluorescent lights adding to her distinguished natural glow. The teacher takes a deep breath, claps her hands twice and begins to speak. Her voice smooth and sweet like honey yet assertive, causing the students to stop and listen.

TEACHER:

Love is an energy that is free to flow through anything and anyone. Love travels where it is called to go and where it is needed. Love is internal and external. Love can be found in many places. Everyone has-or will have-their own experience with love, and sometimes we forget that love can come in many different forms. The key to finding love-real love, true love-lies within.

She smiles, then pauses, takes a long glimpse at the sea of faces similar to her own glaring back at her. She laughs to herself then speaks again.

TEACHER:

Now I'm sure all I asked was a simple question, like I really didn't think you guys could over complicate this.

The students slightly embarrassed take a minute to calm themselves down and gather their thoughts.

TEACHER:

... silence. Something I never thought you were all capable of. Less than 5 minutes ago you all had something to say and now ... silence.

A student raises their hand swiftly, all the other students let out a sigh of relief, as there is less pressure on them.

STUDENT 1:

so based on what you just said miss, love can't actually be explained.

TEACHER:

Is that a question or a statement?

STUDENT 1:

ermm... statement.

TEACHER:

Do you care to elaborate or does anyone else have anything to add.

STUDENT 2:

Basically what she is saying is that love is such a big concept, that cannot be put into a box with one label, how I love, What I love, how I receive love will be different to everyone else.

STUDENT 3:

I agree, like I love my dog, I really do, I can feel it within my heart. But I don't really get that same feeling with my brother, like he's just my brother, and I didn't have much of a choice in that. so what I'm saying is do I love my brother or is he just my brother.... do you get it?

TEACHER:

So you believe love is a choice? You choose who you love, what you love like self love for example. What about the concept of love at first sight?

All the students take a moment to pause and reflect on what the teacher said. She notices one student with her head down, seeming uninterested and slightly uncomfortable with the conversation.

TEACHER:

Amarna, you've been quite throughout this session, do you have any thoughts on what we are discussing.

Amarna looks up, and stares directly into the teachers eyes.

STUDENT AMARNA:

Miss I don't really understand. We are in this class to learn about building confidence, working on our self-esteem, and aspirations. What does

learning about love have to do about any of this. And no I do not believe in love at first sight, I don't even know if love actually exists.

The teacher stares directly at Amarna, more impressed than bothered by what was just said. The teacher takes a step back and perches herself onto the old wooden desk behind her.

TEACHER:

Thank you Amarna for sharing your thoughts, remember all your opinions matter in this class. Now listen up everyone, I am very aware of the purpose of this class. Lack of confidence, low self-esteem, lack of aspirations, motivation, etc all mean the same thing, and that is simply that you do not know who you are. And at this age I don't expect you to, but if you do not know who you are then you do not know where you are going. If you don't know where you are going, then you'll end up stuck, lost, or simply somewhere you didn't want to be.

How many of you in this class can honestly say you love yourself, or even simpler like yourself.

The key to knowing yourself is learning to love yourself. Why? because when you learn to love yourself, you learn to accept yourself for who you are flaws and all. You in turn make better choices for yourself, learn to stand up for yourself, and express who you are freely. Exploring love as a whole and what it means to you will help us understand how to love ourselves and how we want to express love in our lives.

The teacher takes a minute to catch her breath, all the students including Amarna stand up, and click their fingers in response to what the teacher just said. The teacher smiles and joins in with the clicking.

ALL STUDENTS:

Yasssss Miss!

