

# **UNLOVE ME**

a ten minute comedy  
by Charles Grayson

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## **UNLOVE ME**

### **CAST**

Miranda: 25-45  
Carter: 25-45  
Henrietta: 25-75

### **SETTING/SYNOPSIS**

The office of Dr. Henrietta Miller. When true love proves too inconvenient,  
Miranda and Carter must enlist the worst counselor in the business.

(The office of HENRIETTA MILLER, private marriage and relationship counselor. MIRANDA and CARTER, new clients for an emergency first session, are standing patiently.)

CARTER

I'm really not liking this idea.

MIRANDA

Carter, keep an open mind.

CARTER

Miranda, have you read the reviews on this woman? She can't keep clients. She's a loon! This is a terrible plan.

MIRANDA

Shh, shh. She's coming.

(In flies Henrietta, nutty and unconventional, taking all of her notes on Post-its.)

HENRIETTA

Well, hello there, young lovers! Please, please, please have a seat. My name is Henrietta and this is your lucky day. That's right! I make people love each other. Again. Or for the first time. I have a sterling reputation—if you don't go on Yelp. Or Google.

CARTER

(to Miranda)

Are you serious with this—?

MIRANDA

Carter, behave. My mother recommends her highly. She helped them with their marriage.

CARTER

Well, you're dad's in Poughkeepsie living with her best friend, so—

MIRANDA

CARTER!

CARTER

Fine.

HENRIETTA

It would appear we have a grumpy grinchy naysayer amongst us!  
(motions to Carter)

CARTER

I'm not naysaying any—

HENRIETTA

Young man!

CARTER

I'll shut up.

MIRANDA

Ooooh, I like her already.  
(to Carter)

We have to do this.

HENRIETTA

Yes, we do. Now I see this is an emergency appointment so I have not had a chance to read your file. You must be—  
(grabs at post-it, throws it away)

—Maggie.

MIRANDA

Miranda.

HENRIETTA

Of course, And you must be—  
(grabs at another post-it, throws it away)

—Chandler.

CARTER

Carter.

HENRIETTA

Naturally. Well, congratulations are in order. The first milestone is agreeing to take action. Something my last husband simply could not bring himself to do.

CARTER

Last husband?

HENRIETTA

These things can be tricky to navigate. And it's obvious by how far away you are sitting from each other that there's tension. I'd like to talk about that. But first, let's start with you telling me a little bit about yourselves. Whaddaya say, lovebirds?

MIRANDA/CARTER

Sure/Okay...

(From here on out Henrietta will regularly rip out and write on new Post-its)

HENRIETTA

*Fantabulous*. I'm so excited for this healing, aren't you?

CARTER

(aside, to Miranda)

You have got to be kidding me...

HENRIETTA

Christopher, I heard that.

CARTER

Actually, it's Carter.

MIRANDA

You're being captious.

CARTER

I'll shut up.

HENRIETTA

Thank you, Mindy. You know, I always love an origin story. So how long have you two lovebirdies been tangling wings?

MIRANDA

Three months.

HENRIETTA

Oooh, the early days. The most exhilarating time in a relationship, isn't it? How did you meet? Origin, origin, origin!

MIRANDA

I'm head of the biology department.

CARTER

I'm head of the chemistry department.

MIRANDA

We were asked to work together to write a department textbook.

HENRIETTA

A biology textbook?

MIRANDA

No.

HENRIETTA

A chemistry textbook?

CARTER

No.

HENRIETTA

A biochemistry textbook!

CARTER

(nonplussed)

Look at that, she put it together.

MIRANDA

Jesus, Carter...

CARTER

She's on her own path. She doesn't even hear me, anyway.

HENRIETTA

So you two have a great biochemistry together. Very sexy. It was like that with my second husband—

CARTER

Second husb—how many exactly did—

HENRIETTA

Two intellects matching wits in the academic world. Oh my god that's just about the cutest thing ever! And kinda hot. No? It's very real for you two, isn't it?

MIRANDA

A little too real, actually...

HENRIETTA

Calvin?

(He gets up to think. From here on out, Carter is leveled and somewhat sad.)

CARTER

It's undeniable.

HENRIETTA

So things got hot and heavy late nights writing the book, I guess?

BOTH

Yes. And that's the problem...

HENRIETTA

Problem?

MIRANDA

We have to finish this textbook. Let's just say we never get any work done.

HENRIETTA

So what's sewing the discord? What's Chris doing that's a problem for you?  
(She grabs another Post-it)

Go!

MIRANDA

Well...I need you to tell Chris to stop writing me poems.

HENRIETTA

Poems?

MIRANDA

Yes.

HENRIETTA

Is he writing you bad poems?

MIRANDA

No, they're absolutely delightful and beautiful.

HENRIETTA

That must be terrible for you.

MIRANDA

Well, I'm certain that I will find them insufferable in six months.

HENRIETTA

Naturally. Anything else he's doing that is so dreadfully hurtful?

MIRANDA

He's incredibly attentive which I'm sure I will find suffocating in six months.

HENRIETTA

Attentive...?

MIRANDA

Yes.

HENRIETTA

Well, over-crowding a loved one can be so off-putting no doubt. Carter, bad boy, bad boy.

CARTER

(a serious aside)

I can't help myself.

MIRANDA

And—he keeps trying to take care of me.

HENRIETTA

What?? Oh, well it sounds like you have a scoundrel on your hands.

MIRANDA

Oooohhhh, he is a scoundrel. Everyone around the office knows he's a player.

HENRIETTA

Ohhh, so we have a playboy of the western world on our hands.

MIRANDA

I mean everyone told me he was a...

HENRIETTA

A playboy, skirt-chaser, a philanderer—

CARTER

All right! ...I was.

MIRANDA

But then...

CARTER

Then there was you.

HENRIETTA

Well, this is wonderful! Okay, now you, Romeo.

CARTER

Me what?

HENRIETTA

Three things that are causing issues in your relationship with Miranda.

CARTER

She's so soft and sexy. It's distracting.

HENRIETTA

So bothersome.

CARTER

And she keeps writing me letters every morning about what her day will be like.

HENRIETTA

And you find these letters annoying?

CARTER

No, I live for them. I wait for them every morning as I have my coffee. It's like a ritual now. They're beautiful. She's a great writer, too.

HENRIETTA

What a dent in your productivity that must be.

CARTER

The worst.

HENRIETTA

Number Three?

CARTER

When I kiss her body, I feel at one with her.

HENRIETTA

Ew.

CARTER

I can't have that.

HENRIETTA

Yukkity yuk.

CARTER

Right? I just can't get close enough to her. I just ... Henrietta, it's unacceptable!

HENRIETTA

Well it sounds like the office scoundrel, this lothario, this...

MIRANDA

Don Juan?

HENRIETTA

Oooh. Good work, grasshopper. This Don Juan has been broken. You two seem to love each other. What's the problem??

MIRANDA

The problem is we don't fight.

CARTER

The problem is we never argue.

MIRANDA

We get along famously.

CARTER

Secretly.

MIRANDA

We have burner phones.

CARTER

We make love constantly.

MIRANDA

In hotel conference rooms.

CARTER

In her office.

MIRANDA

In his office.

CARTER

Her car.

MIRANDA

His car.

MIRANDA

I'm pretty sure I love him more than any there man I have ever known.

CARTER

I know I love her more than any other woman I have known.

HENRIETTA

Well, it looks like my work here is done!

MIRANDA

We didn't come here to have you to bring us together.

CARTER

We need you to break us up.

HENRIETTA

Why?? You two should be married!

CARTER

We are married!

MIRANDA/CARTER

TO OTHER PEOPLE!

MIRANDA

Not to each other...

HENRIETTA

(she consults her notes)

I'm sorry. I don't follow...Ohhhhh. This will require a blue post-it.

MIRANDA

Tell us we're wrong. Tell us we're sinful, Dr. Henrietta. Make us unlove each other.

CARTER

Tell us we can't be together.

MIRANDA

I have to stop loving him.

CARTER

I have to stop loving her.

MIRANDA

It's the only way.

CARTER

This wasn't supposed to happen.

MIRANDA

It wasn't supposed to last this long.

CARTER

The feeling was supposed to go away.

MIRANDA

It just won't go away.

CARTER

Why won't it go away?

MIRANDA

We can't have that. He's married; I'm married.

HENRIETTA

I see.

MIRANDA

We'll lose everything.

CARTER

Life was easier before I found love.

MIRANDA

I was perfectly happy being miserable.

TOGETHER

(to each other)

But...the way she/he makes me feel...

MIRANDA

We need you to take us back to before the textbook.

HENRIETTA

Before you met?

MIRANDA

Yes. We have a deadline and we need to focus.

HENRIETTA

I don't understand.

CARTER

We need you to ... unlove us.

HENRIETTA

Unlove you?

MIRANDA

Yes! Unlove us!

HENRIETTA

I'm sorry. I'm not qualified to un-love people. Though my success rate might suggest that...

MIRANDA

All due respect, Henrietta, your success rate is 10%. That's why we're here. Google has you at 1 out of 5 stars.

HENRIETTA

Lies! Goddamn media!

MIRANDA

You are absolutely qualified to unlove us. It's perfect, don't you see? We need the 90% and the other four stars. Need I remind you of the yelp reviews?

HENRIETTA

I really wish you wouldn't.

MIRANDA

We need you for what you're good at. We need you to break us UP. You have a 90% success rate!

HENRIETTA

I do...I do! I really do, don't I? I've had four husbands. I'm uniquely qualified for this position. Love is a delusion. I save people from heartbreak, from the tragedy of love. I could rebrand myself. Dr. Henrietta: Love Exorcist! Okay...Do you love this woman?

CARTER

Tragically.

HENRIETTA

Do you love this man?

MIRANDA

Ridiculously.

HENRIETTA

Well, we're putting an end to this healthy goodness, right now. The Unlove Doctor is in. Carl and Melissa, let the healing begin!!

END PLAY