

This is Steven
(Romantic Comedy)
by
Joe Russo

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CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
Travis Overfield	Main character.	22	MALE
Steven West	Travis's black boyfriend.	22	MALE
Vickie Rigsbee	Travis's aunt	40>	FEMALE
Emmett Rigsbee	Travis's uncle.	45>	MALE

A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT SCENE 6 -

Scene 6 is used as an epilogue that is played after scene 5. The curtain will lower after S.5 And rise for S. 6.

SCENE 1 - TRAIN STATION. A bench.

SCENE 2 - THE RIGSBEE HOUSE - MUDROOM

SCENE 3 - THE RIGSBEE HOUSE - BEDROOM - A simple bed set. Bed. Bedside table.

SCENE 4 - THE RIGSBEE HOUSE - DINING ROOM - A table. Four chairs.

SCENE 5 - THE RIGSBEE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM. A simple couch.

SCENE 6 - THE RIGSBEE HOUSE - BEDROOM - Same as SCENE 3.

ACT ONE

SCENE 1 -

(SETTING: A rural small, backwater country town.
Imagine those dust rollers rolling about continuously.)

(AT RISE: TRAVIS OVERFIELD and his
BOYFRIEND, STEVEN WEST, sit on what seems to be
a bench. Travis checks his watch periodically.)

STEVEN

Are you sure we got off at the right station?

TRAVIS

I'm positive.... There are only three train stations in the county.

STEVEN

But we're twenty minutes late.

TRAVIS

Sweetie you're still on city time. We're out in

(thick country accent)

The country now.

Pause. Travis stands and looks offstage, almost at the
audience.

STEVEN

Are you sure I look alright?

TRAVIS

You look fine will you stop worrying about it.

STEVEN

Okay so... Let's go over this again... We're here to see your Aunt Lorraine

TRAVIS

Aunt Vicki. Aunt Lorraine is the other side of the family. My moms sister. Vicki is my
fathers sister.

STEVEN

Aunt Vicki and Uncle Emmett. Fathers sister got it.

(to himself)

Why do you have so many aunts?

TRAVIS

Correct. Gosh you've been rehearsing this stuff all week.

STEVEN

I'm nervous and you know how I get when I get all nervous.

TRAVIS

Yeah you start to da-da-dadadhuh dhuh dhuh-

STEVEN

Will you shut it -

They move in for a kiss.

TRAVIS

(he fans himself with his hands)

God it's hot. I do not miss this.

STEVEN

Then take the jacket off silly. You'll get heat stroke and that isn't a good first impression.
"Hey aunt Vickie he passed out. I'm Steven. Should we move him?"

(pause)

You know I've been thinking about what they're going to say-

TRAVIS

What who's gonna say?

STEVEN

What If they don't like me cause-

His eyes scream "Cause I'm black."

A yelling from offstage. Travis stands. Smiles as his
AUNT VICKI and UNCLE EMMETT walk onstage.

VICKI

I told you to make a right at the light I did.

EMMETT

And I did and it ended up going back around the same way we came.

VICKI

That can't be right.

(She notices Travis)

Honeybun!

They run to greet each other and she pulls him into a hug.

VICKI

Look at your hair how long it's gotten-

EMMETT

And that on your face?

TRAVIS

My beard?

VICKI

As cute as a toe sack full of puppies.

EMMETT

So grown up.

Travis takes them over to Steven who is now standing.

TRAVIS

Mops, pops, this is Steven.

They both stand almost dumbstruck.

VICKI

(offers her hand)

Well it is very nice to meet you Steven. My friends call me Vicki. But you can call me, mops, ma or Auntie.

(to Emmett)

Emmett shake the boys hand for darn sake.

Emmett still stands and offers a soft grunting sound with a nod of his head.

It gets quiet once again.

VICKI

Okay well let's get a move on you boys must be starving you look starving.... Steven you like ham? I bought a nice ham down at the Piggly Wiggly cost me twelve bucks. TWELVE. Can ya believe that?

Emmett and Vicki start to head offstage. Travis and Steven stay behind and pick up the few suitcases they have.

STEVEN

They hate me.

STEVEN

They don't hate you-

STEVEN

They do. It's like that movie with Katherine Hepburn... What's the name of it...

TRAVIS

They need to warm up to you that's all.

(starts to walk offstage)

And plus they don't need to like you that's my job. So can we go and eat her ham she's been talking about it for weeks.

They grab hands and walk offstage. The lights dim.

SCENE 2 -

The lights are still dim.

VICKI (OFF STAGE)

The house is still the same... except... well except... for this... door... I've told your uncle to fix it... but...

She steps onstage and the lights come up. Travis and Steven follow after her.

VICKI

As you can see he hasn't.

EMMETT

(walking in, carrying the boys' suitcases)

I've been fixin to-

VICKI

He says that a lot.

EMMETT

Well its the truth ain't it?

VICKI

(to Steven)

The bedrooms are all upstairs and there is a bathroom on this floor and one upstairs. I do have to ask though-

TRAVIS

Oh come now mops-

VICKI

I do have to ask that you two sleep separately. Its just um... just... I'm an old lady.

TRAVIS

You. We get it. But I do have to tell you something... its the twenty-first century.

VICKI

Not in my house it ain't.

TRAVIS

Now if you wouldn't mind... I'm gonna show Steven around unless, of course, we need a chaperone.

Travis walks offstage and Steven follows after him.

EMMETT

When did he get too big for his britches?

VICKI

It's that city. That city will kill someone and come after their family. At least here a person will get killed but the killer will leave a twenty and a sorry letter.

(playfully hits Emmett's shoulder)

Come help me with dinner.

The stage lights dim.

SCENE 3 -

On the left side of the stage Travis and Stephen walk on.

TRAVIS

This was my bedroom.

STEVEN

I'm surprised.

TRAVIS

About what?

STEVEN

I thought there would be more...

TRAVIS

More?

STEVEN

You. More posters of Marilyn or Audrey or that God awful Gaga poster you hung up in the living room-

TRAVIS

You don't understand art-

STEVEN

(perplexed)

I don't under-

TRAVIS

You don't. And plus I didn't need posters-

He briefly walks offstage. Steven continues to browse.
Travis walks back onstage- a box in his hands.

TRAVIS

When I had these-

Drops handful of magazines to the floor.

STEVEN

I wonder if every gay man in America started out this way.

Travis takes a seat.

Pause.

TRAVIS

They like you I can tell.

STEVEN

I haven't said more than three words to them all day-

TRAVIS

They do. I can read my aunt like a book. There's something in her eyes. A sparkle I've seen it once before-

STEVEN

Oh yeah?

TRAVIS

She used to tell me the story about when she first met my mom. My father used to bring her over at night and sneak her in but Vickie always knew.

STEVEN

Were they close? Your father and your aunt.

TRAVIS

(crosses his fingers)

Like this.

Pause. Travis touches his coat pocket.

TRAVIS

She said my mother was always beautiful.

STEVEN

She was.

TRAVIS

You know... you're not bad yourself. Not so much as beautiful as handsome.

Steven rests his head upon Travis' shoulder. Travis puts his hand into his jacket pocket.

TRAVIS

I want to ask you something...

VICKI (OFF STAGE)

Dinner! Come and get it!

Travis stands.

TRAVIS

Remember, if anything, say you like her cooking.

Travis leaves. Steven stands there, a confused look on his face. He moves to the right side of the stage where-

SCENE 4 -

A table is laid out and Emmett sits at the head. Vicki stands to the side. Travis and Steven walk in at the same time.

VICKI

Steven I thought you could sit...

(points to the chair in front of her)

There and Travis you can sit... in your normal seat.

Travis takes his seat. The quartet is quiet.

VICKI

Please dig in. As the Italians say mangia, mangia.

EMMETT

I don't think they say that-

VICKI

Nonsense of course they do.

EMMETT

How do you know?

VICKI

How do YOU know? I watch the cooking shows-

EMMETT

Maybe you should watch some more-

Steven laughs. Vicki looks over at him.

STEVEN

I'm sorry... its just... I watch them too -

TRAVIS

Steven here is a cook.

STEVEN

(nodding)

Trying to be. In school for it.

VICKI

A cook how nice! Makes me feel...

Laughs to herself. Steven dishes out some food to Travis, who winks at him. Steven then helps himself.

VICKI

So tell us about yourself.

STEVEN

Well, uh, what'd you like to know?

VICKI

Anything.

STEVEN

Well...

(hard swallows his food)

Uh, I graduate next spring-

VICKI

What about your parents? What do they do?

STEVEN

Uh, my mom is actually a paralegal. Has been for years and my father stayed at home with me.

VICKI

How interesting. And your father likes being at home all day?

STEVEN

He did. He died last May.

TRAVIS

We ran into each other at the hospital by accident. I was still training there and his father was my... patient.

Pause. AWKWARD.

EMMETT

The food is burned.

VICKI

Not burned just overcooked. It's that oven-

EMMETT

You've been blaming the oven for years-

(to Steven)

Look he even thinks its burned.

STEVEN

I don't - no -

TRAVIS

How bout we go out and get something? My treat? A nice sit down dinner some place.

EMMETT

We could go down to Millie's Pig Shop.

TRAVIS

Is that still open?

EMMETT

Best barbecue is Texas.

They stand.

VICKI

I'll drive.

(to Emmett)

You've been driving all day.

They leave. Travis and Steven stay behind.

TRAVIS

Hope you don't get car sick.

They grab hands and walk offstage. The lights dim down.

SCENE 5 -

The quartet walks onstage and the lights come up.

VICKI

Wasn't that delicious?

TRAVIS

There is something about Texan barbecue that I miss...

VICKI

And their pies? How good were they? Millie's been making them for years and years...

(to Steven)

They have anything like that up in the big city?

STEVEN

Not quite.

VICKI

Emmett? Want some coffee? I can put on a pot if you like. Sweetie are you cold? Want me to make some hot coco?

Travis shakes his head no. She walks offstage. Emmett walks over to a chair and picks up a newspaper.

STEVEN

The bathroom? Where is it?

TRAVIS

Upstairs. Third door on the right.

(starts hassling Steven)

Don't stink it up my bedroom is right next to it.

Steven walks offstage. Travis takes the seat right next to his uncle.

TRAVIS

I miss you guys. Why don't you come up for a weekend. You know New York City is a big place. Lots of things to do there.

Emmett mumbles what sounds like a no.

EMMETT

We won't fit in there son. We're country folk. Not city taxi taking fashion folk.

TRAVIS

(looks around, pulling out a box from his coat pocket)

You'll have to come sooner or later cause.... I'm asking for Steven to marry me. Now's the perfect chance with the marriage law passing and everything. We can be happy together.

EMMETT

I was wondering why you was wearing such a heavy coat in ninety degree weather.

TRAVIS

I was gonna do it at the restaurant but Millie was there and you know how Millie gets.

(pause)

I love him, Pop I really do. Instead of being just partners we can be husbands.

EMMETT

(laughs, lowers the corner of his paper down)

Good old Miss Millie. Been at that place for eighty years now. Still as loud as ever though.

TRAVIS

Pop -

EMMETT

You know, I've always told your auntie that your happiness will always be first choice compared to ours. Seeing you like this, happy with that fresh in love smile on that face, reminds me of the day we got you.

(pause, stands and moves about the stage)

You were so sad, as sad as anyone can be granted, and your auntie, bless her heart, took you in her arms and you smiled. You haven't let that smile go.

(pause)

I sometimes think you were the best thing to happen to us. Just like Steven there is the best thing to happen to you.

VICKI (OFF STAGE)

Coffee's ready!

EMMETT

Your parents will be so proud of you, Kiddo. Where's that husband of yours?

TRAVIS

Not yet! SSH! Don't ruin it for me. He's upstairs.

They stand and together they walk offstage. Shoulder over shoulder just like old times.

The stage stays lit for just a few seconds before, finally, dimming down just as Steven rushes onstage, zipping up his pants.

Curtain.

SCENE 6 -

The curtain rises once again. The lights are still low and Travis lays on his bed as Steven tiptoes over to him. Travis welcomes him in.

TRAVIS

I know its late but... I've been wanting to ask you something.

STEVEN

We are not buying a house here.

TRAVIS

No not that.

(pause)

Will you marry me?

STEVEN

I thought you would've made ME ask you and you know how I get when I'm nervous and... and... -

(pause)

I thought you'd never asked.

(reaches over for a kiss)

Yes. Yes I will.

(pause)

But can the honeymoon be in Paris?

Travis laughs. The lights dim down all the way.

Curtain.