



IN LOVE WITH ASHLEY¹

By Jérôme C, 13 – Steeven D, 13 – Roxane N, 13

We were waiting for the beginning of the show. On the sidewalk, the crowd was getting excited: Carnival was here!

The 'Red Devils' float was on its way between the Neg' Gwo Siwo and the Carnival Queen. She wore a dress made of flowers: there were hibiscuses, birds-of-paradise, bougainvillea and other typical flowers of Waitukubuli, now called the island of Dominica. This float was headed by a lot of people. They wore scary Sensay costumes made of rope and leaves; they had horns over their huge big-eyed masks and long tails.



That was when I saw a magnificent girl on a roof; she was dancing along with the loud Calypso music. She was as graceful as a goddess. She wore a bright red jumpsuit with two little horns; her hair, which was as yellow as honey, was floating in the wind. In her right hand, she had a long fork which looked as light as a feather. Suddenly, her green-emerald eyes turned toward me. She was beautiful!

Unfortunately, I had to leave because my parents were waiting for me: they wanted to drive up to Portsmouth, early enough to have a boat trip along the Indian River, bordered by mangrove trees, the Bwa Mang' trees.

The next day was Carnival Monday. On this special day, my friend William and I had decided to wear dresses. It is the tradition in most Caribbean islands! Just in front of me, a girl was playing mas', disguised in a boy's costume. She looked

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very nice. Suddenly, she turned towards me, and then pushed me out of the band.

« - Sorry, I don't know why I did that », she mumbled.

« That's okay. », I answered. « My name is Joey and I am fourteen years old. ».

« I am Ashley and I'm fourteen. »

« Huh, would you like to go to the cinema with me tonight? »

« Huh, yes, ok »

« Where do you live? »

« I live over the pharmacy in front of the cemetery. »

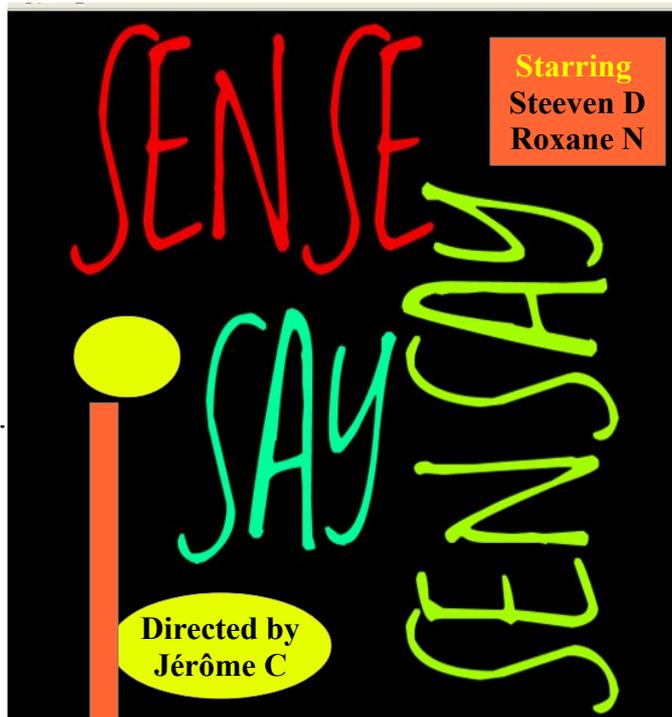
« Ok, see you »

I immediately told William the good news.

« I have a date with the girl I told you about yesterday. »

« Which one do you mean!!! »?

« The girl on the roof! ».



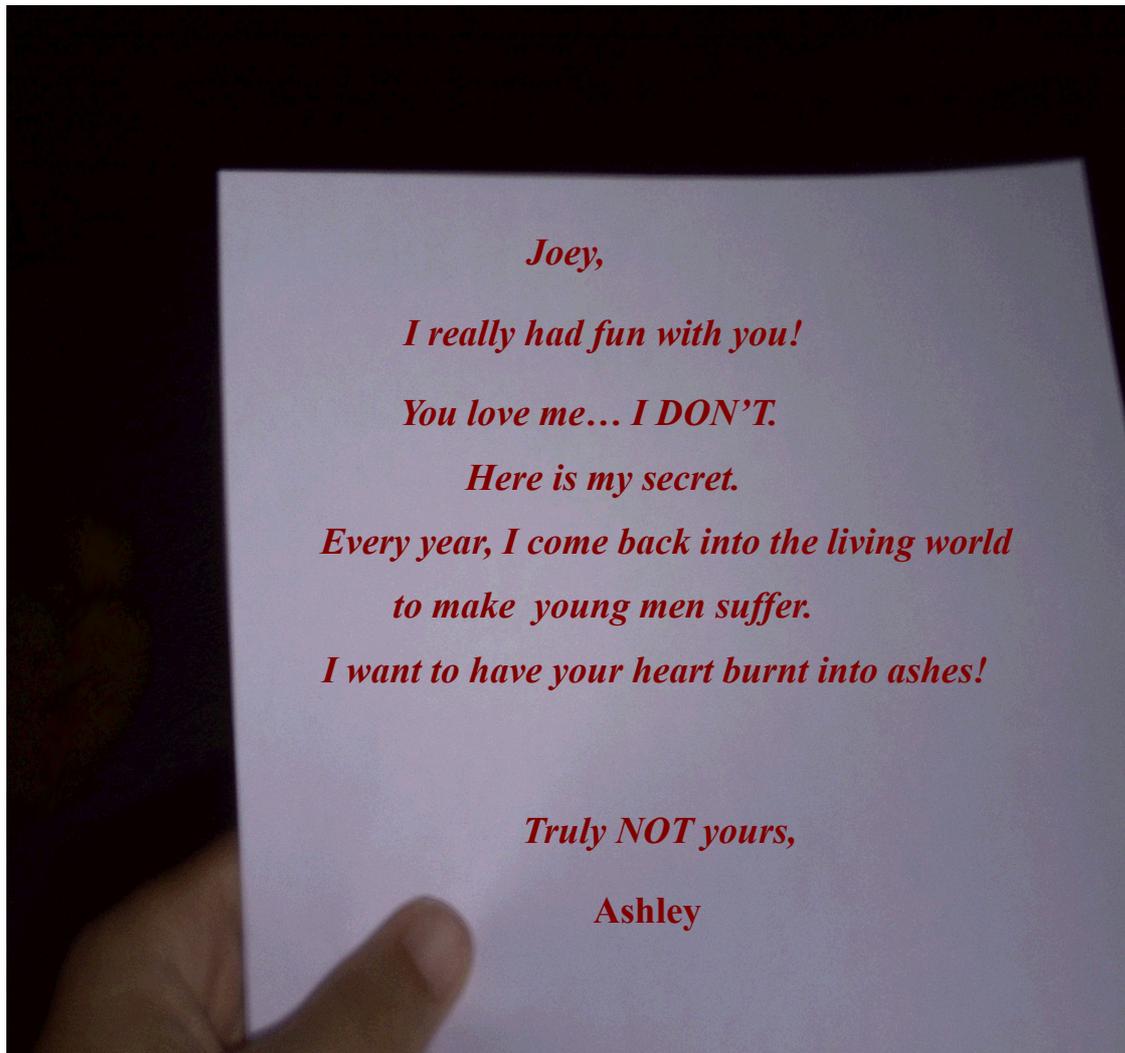
At night, the three of us went to the cinema. She was so beautiful that William kept gaping at her. We decided to see Twilight, a great film.

After the show, William went home and I took Ashley to the restaurant. We had the same menu. A starter with a salad of buccaneer chicken; then, we ordered bread fruit with pork and the dessert was a passion fruit, coconut and guava ice cream.

On Shrove Tuesday, Roseau streets are busy with costume bands and street jump ups. Ashley and I decided to go down to the place where scenes of Pirates of the Caribbean were filmed, We looked for the Sisserou and the red-necked Jaco, two parrots which only live in Dominica but we didn't see any. Then, in the evening, we went to a party. My god! She was fantastic! Together, we danced, we laughed; we had great fun. Then, around midnight, I tried to kiss her, but she ran away.²

² In Love with Ashley by Jérôme C, 13 – Steeven D, 13 – Roxane N, 13

The next day, William gave me a letter from Ashley. It read:



I was sad, very sad. It was Ash Wednesday. Vaval would die, but my love for the emerald green-eyed, honey-haired, fluttering girl would remain alive for ever.

THE END³