

THE LOVE CONTRACT

A Sketch by Tom Attea

Student's apartment. The occupant, AL, is
chasing after his favorite co-ed,
with a contract in his hand and a pen.

AL

Sweetheart, don't leave me! I love you!

JAN

Don't even mention that word to me! What do you know about love?

AL

Please, Jan, I just want a little legal protection.

JAN

Protection? From me? I love you, Al.

AL

And I love you. But what about tomorrow? What if you change your mind?

JAN

I'm not going to change my mind.

AL

But what if you do? I can see the headlines right now.

(quotes)

"Law Student Accused of Rape!" I could be expelled!

JAN

I'm not going to accuse you of anything. I'm leaving!

Good-bye, Al!

AL

(falls on his knees)

Please, don't do that, Jan. You know I love you.

JAN

Well, then --

AL

-- Just fill out this simple Sex Consent Form, and we can go on to enjoy a night of bliss. The first night of a lifetime of bliss. Please, our love depends on it.

JAN

Have all the enchanted castles of love collapsed and left in their place only a lawyer's file cabinet? Are you Paris, risking all for Helen? Romeo, into the family breach? Cyrano, singing into the night against hope? No, you're a law student with a cold, cold "contract."

AL

Will you stop being an English major on me? All I know is, I love you, Jan.

JAN

And, strange as it seems, Al, I love you, too.

AL

Then remove the only thing that stands between us. Needless risk.

JAN

Give it to me!

(takes contract; sits and reads)

"Sex Consent Form." Where did you get this?

AL

I made it up myself. There's not a lot of boiler-plate in this area.

JAN

(reads on)

"I -- "

AL

(romantically)

-- Your name goes there.

JAN

(fills it in; continues)

"I, JAN Greenwood, consent to have sex with Al Parker the night of ... "

AL

Oh, I love you, JAN! The date goes there.

JAN

What is it, the tenth or the eleventh?

AL

(looks at his wristwatch)

The tenth, darling!

JAN

"... March 10th, 1994 between the hours of..."

(to AL)

Hours? I didn't know you were that much of a man!

AL

Only with you, darling. Only with you!

JAN

How many hours, Al?

AL

(looks at watch)

Between the hours of eight and twelve.

JAN

Four hours?

(fills in time, getting excited)

No wonder you want protection, you sex machine.

AL

You say the nicest things. That brings us to the next clause.

JAN

(reads)

"During said period, the aforementioned consents to have up to ten orgasms."

(to AL, excited)

Ten orgasms?

AL

I was being conservative. I didn't want to frighten you and drive you away. You can have more if you want them.

JAN

More? Oh, Al, what a man you are! A dozen? Can I have a dozen?

AL

No problem. I'm so crazy about you!

JAN

What do I do?

AL

Just "x" out the ten, put twelve, and initial the change.

JAN

Anything to make you happy, Al. Anything!

(makes change; reads)

"I hereby acknowledge that I am entering into this agreement of my own free will and that I may choose to renew it with said male from this day forward simply by filling in the new date of sexual consent on the attached page and initially it. Signed ..."

(signs it)

You mean, I still have to sign it if someday we get married?

AL

Yes, darling. You know from the news that marriage affords the partners very little protection against allegations of sexual abuse.

JAN

I'd never abuse you, Al.

AL

And I would never abuse you. But you know the world is fool of idiots who actually do force women to have sex. So they've made this necessary. And, to make things easy, I'll provide us with a revised love contract at such time that will cover us for the duration of our marriage, which I'm sure will be as long as we both shall live.

JAN

Twelve orgasms? I'm sure of it, too.

(hands him contract)

Your turn, darling.

AL

I've dreamed about this for weeks!

(signs it)

Now, all need is a witness.

JAN

Do we really need one?

AL

Hard as it is, we have to hold back, but only for a few moments. I have a witness standing by.

JAN

You do? Who?

AL

The super.

JAN

Oh, Al, you think of everything. But you didn't tell him --

AL

Never, dear. I told him I'm selling you some of my furniture.

JAN

I'd be so embarrassed! What will he think when it's all still here?

AL

Don't concern yourself, dear. I'll tell him I changed my mind, and we fell in love.

JAN

Oh, Al, you're so intelligent!

AL

(as he crosses to front door)

Thank you, darling.

(HE opens the door; SAM, the super, has
been leaning against it and falls in)

Sam, how are you, good buddy?

SAM

Fine, fine -- and I didn't hear a word.

(to JAN)

I hear you're buying some furniture from him.

JAN

Yes, a dozen pieces, actually.

SAM

Oh, that's a lot.

(to AL)

I didn't know you have that much furniture, Al baby.

AL

Will you just sign this?

SAM

My pleasure. Where?

AL

Here, where it says witness.

SAM

Mind if I read it first. I never sign things I don't read.

AL

(takes five dollars from pocket; holds it out)
Why not read this instead?

SAM

You got it.

(signs and takes money)

Thanks.

(to JAN)

Hope you enjoy the furniture, sweetheart.

JAN

Thank you. I'm sure I will.

SAM

Good night. A very good night.

AL

Get out of here!

(helps him out the door; closes it)

JAN

Nothing like privacy.

AL

Oh, forget about Sam. He's just guessing we might like each other.

JAN

Come here, big boy.

AL

I can't wait! Just let me take a moment to file this.

(goes to file cabinet, opens it,
puts in contract, closes and locks it)

Safe at last!

JAN

Just the two of us!

(HE rushes to her, takes her in his arms,
and kisses her passionately)

Kiss me, kiss me! But tell me, do you have condoms?

AL

Yes, yes, yes!

JAN

How many?

AL

A dozen, as per contract!

JAN

Oh, Al! Now I know for sure -- you'll never let me down!

AL

Never, my love! Never!

BLACKOUT

