

LOVE IS

By Rod

This sketch was originally written for Mothering Sunday. It is based on 1 Corinthians 13 vv 4- 7 which occur through the passage. Much of the humour comes from adults playing the part of the two boys [or girls!]

CAST

Tom *Young boy [could be girl with suitable name change]*
Ed *Brother of Tom [again, could be a girl with suitable name change]*
Mum *Must be female. Their mother.*
Reader

The scene is early morning with Tom, Ed and Mum preparing to set off for school. ENTER Tom with bag full of books in his arms. He sits down and starts eating breakfast, pouring cereal into bowl.

Tom *Come on, Ed, hurry up. [Ed ENTERS also carrying a bag which he is doing up as if hurrying to get ready. He sits and starts breakfast, pouring cereal into bowl]*

Ed *I'm going as fast as I can.*

Tom *You're such a slowcoach. I'm always waiting for you.*

Reader *Love is patient.*

Tom *[At this point Ed pushes Tom's his bag and all his possessions, books, pens, etc fall out on the floor.] Oh rats.*

Ed *Na, na, nana, na. Who's holding us up now?*

Tom *[Kneeling down to pick his things up] Oh, bog off! You could at least help me to pick them up.*

Ed *Pick 'em up yourself. After all you dropped them.*

Reader *Love is kind.*

Ed *[Getting a Gameboy out of his bag] Anyway, I'm too busy. [Starts to play on Gameboy. He gets up to walk away from Tom]*

Tom *Too busy with what? [Looks up. Gets up and starts to look at Gameboy enviously] Oh, your Gameboy. The one you got for your birthday. I wish I had one. It's not fair. You're so lucky.*

Reader Love does not envy.

Ed *[Playing on Gameboy]* Oh wow! Look, 20 thousand points on level 6. You've got to admit, Tom, I'm pretty cool when it comes to computer games. *[Reading from screen. Meanwhile Tom is returning to table. He pours salt into Tom's cereal bowl.]* "Congratulations, yours is the top score ever. Enter your name at the top of the Hall of Fame – Superchamp." *[Showing Gameboy to Tom]* How about that then?

Reader Love does not boast.

Tom You may be good at computer games but who came first in his class last term? My report said, "He is a model pupil. He deservedly came top."

Reader Love is not proud.

Ed *[Sitting down]* Model pupil! Teacher's pet, more like. You're nothing but a swot and a creep.

Reader Love is not rude.

Tom I don't mind being Teacher's Pet. It has its advantages. It means I get the best seat. I can choose who I sit next to. I don't have to sit next to girls! And because teacher thinks I am clever she lets me read any book I want. I'm reading Harry Potter at the moment. *[Gets out this book from his bag to show Ed]*

Reader Love is not self-seeking.

Ed *[Chanting mockingly]* Teacher's pet, teacher's pet.
We all think you're very wet.

Tom *[Sneering]* At least I'm not 'Class Dimbo' who always comes bottom. And has to do extra work in break time. *[Starting cereal. He tastes salt and pulls a face of disgust]*

Ed Right you creep. *[He attacks Tom]*

Reader Love is not easily angered.

Tom *[As Ed lands a blow]* Ow, that hurt. I'm going to tell Mum you hit me. You'll be in trouble.

Ed See if I care.

Tom And I'll tell her you stole the chocolate biscuits from my lunchbox last week.

Reader Love keeps no record of wrongs.

ENTER Mum.

Mum Hello you two. Are you ready to go to school?

Tom Mum, Ed hit me and it really hurt. And last week he

Mum Now, now, Tom, I don't want to hear you telling tales.

Reader Love does not delight in evil.

Ed Well he tried to steal my Gameboy because he's jealous.

Tom You fibber. I never.

Mum *[Realising Ed is lying]* Did he really try to steal your Gameboy, Ed?

Ed *[Looking away]* Yes.

Mum Really?

Ed Well, er.. No. Actually, he didn't.

Mum That's better. It's better to tell the truth isn't it?

Ed I suppose so.

Reader Love rejoices with the truth.

Mum Anyway, I don't like to hear you two arguing. I'd rather hear you getting on. *[Opening her arms]* Come here both of you and let me give you a big hug. *[Boys approach. She enfolds them in her arms]*

Reader Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Mum *[Releasing boys]* Now, are you two going to be friends again?

Tom Yes, sorry Ed.

Ed Sorry, Tom.

Mum It's much better when we get on, isn't it.

Tom & Ed Yes, Mum.

Mum After all, we are family. *[She holds out her hands, one to each boy either side of her. Boys take her hand but each pull away playfully]* United we stand. Divided we fall. *[She lets go of boys who fall over because they were pulling away from here. This is all done in good humour]* Come on you two, up you get. Let's go to school.

Tom & Ed Yes, let's. *[Mum leads off. Boys follow arm in arm, the best of friends.]*

Reader Love never fails.

THE END