

The United Plays of America – Iowa – Crashing Tulips
 By Claudia Haas
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CAST: 2 female

Margaret – female (20's) – reserved

Beth – female (20's) – gushes

SYNOPSIS: A tale of tulips and love and marriage and do they all go together?

PLACE: Pella, Iowa during the tulip festival in May

TAGS: romantic comedy, LGBT

(Lights up on MARGARET and BETH arriving at the downtown park where the tulips are being set up. Use the audience for the park. They have coffee. It is dawn.)

BETH

What a glorious first day for the tulip festival. Everywhere there will be ribbons of color.

MARGARET

Rainbows.

(BETH goes to grab MARGARET'S hand.)

Now now. You know I don't go in for public displays of affection.

BETH

But no one is here yet. No one can see ... or criticize.

MARGARET

I didn't like them when I had a boyfriend and I don't like them now.

BETH

You had a boyfriend?

MARGARET

Didn't every gay teen experiment with being straight? I mean – this is Iowa.

BETH

I didn't.

MARGARET

You are the exception that proves the rule.

BETH

I am exceptional. Glad you realize that. Come on, let's tiptoe through the tulips before everyone gets here. In one hour, Pella will go from a town of 10,000 people to 100,000.

MARGARET

Too many water trucks spraying the tulips. We'll get soaked.

BETH

Then we'll lay down in a tulip bed to dry.

MARGARET

I don't think so.

BETH

Yeah, didn't think you'd go for it. (Beat.) We need to talk.

MARGARET

That sounds ominous.

BETH

And in keeping with your comfort level, maybe we should do this in private.

MARGARET

Very ominous.

BETH

Behind the water trucks.

(THEY move.)

We've had a really good year together.

MARGARET

And....

BETH

I was thinking of how we met. We were both loaded up with tulips and crashed into each other.

MARGARET

"Crashing Tulips." That could be the title of a romance novel.

BETH

Let me say what I need to say.

MARGARET

Do I want to hear it?

BETH

I don't know.

(Beat.)

MARGARET

Go ahead. Get it over with.

BETH

Marry me. I mean

(BETH gets down on one knee and produces a ring.)

Will you marry me?

MARGARET

Oh – expletive!

BETH

Not the answer I was hoping for. Maybe it's too early/

MARGARET

/Beth! That's not/

BETH

/And sometimes I can be impetuous/

MARGARET

/I actually like/

BETH

/I thought we had a great year/

MARGARET

/EXPLETIVE, BETH!

BETH

You already said that. The meaning is clearer I you say the actual word.

MARGARET

You know I don't curse and well. I had plans. And you just expletived it up.

BETH

I just/

MARGARET

/Beth! Stop!

(MARGARET gets down on one knee and produces a ring.)

MARGARET (cont'd)

I wanted to go first. You *know* I have a thing about being first. Will you marry *me*? Please.

(Now they are both on their knees. BETH cups MARGARET'S face.)

I love you more than the millions of tulips in Pella today.

BETH

I love you more than all the two lips in the tulips here today.

MARGARET

You always have to one-up me.

BETH

Because you always have to go first!

(Maybe there's a small public display of affection. You decide what it is as the lights go down.)

END OF PLAY