

Serendipity (2001)

During the Christmas shopping season in New York City, Jonathan Trager (John Cusack) meets Sara Thomas (Kate Beckinsale) as they both try to buy the same pair of black cashmere gloves at Bloomingdale's. They feel a mutual attraction, and despite the fact that each is involved in other relationships, they end up eating ice cream at Serendipity 3 together, and soon exchange goodbyes. However, both realize that they have left something at the ice cream bar, and return only to find each other again.

Considering this to be a stroke of fate, Jonathan and Sara decide to go out on the town together, and ice skate on the Wollman Rink at Central Park. Jonathan teaches Sara about Cassiopeia, saying that the freckles on Sara's arm match the pattern of the Cassiopeia constellation. At the end of the night, the smitten Jonathan suggests an exchange of phone numbers. Sara writes hers down, but it flies away with the wind. Wanting fate to work things out, Sara asks Jonathan to write his name and phone number on a \$5 bill, while she writes her name and number on the inside cover of a copy of *Love in the Time of Cholera*. If they are meant to be together, he will find the book and she will find the \$5 bill, and they will find their way back to each other. Jonathan is not satisfied with this so they go into a hotel with 28 floors and enter into different elevators to see if they both choose the same floor. They each take a single glove from the pair they purchased. They both press floor 23, but a child gets on the elevator with Jonathan and presses all the buttons, so it is too late by the time he reaches floor 23. The two believe they've lost each other forever.

Several years later, Jonathan is at an engagement party with his fiancé Halley Buchanan (Bridget Moynahan). On the same day, Sara comes home to her house to find Lars Hammond (John Corbett), a famous musician, proposing to her. As their wedding dates approach, each find themselves with a case of cold feet, and decide to return to New York in an attempt to find each other again.

Jonathan and his best friend Dean Kansky (Jeremy Piven) return to Bloomingdale's in an attempt to find Sara. They meet the same salesman (Eugene Levy) and eventually end up with only an address. They meet a painter who recalls that she lived there for a short time after being referred by a placement company, which he identifies as being located in a shop next to Serendipity 3. Jonathan and Dean follow the lead to find that the agency has moved and its former location is now a bridal shop. Jonathan takes this as a sign that he is supposed to stop looking for Sara, and get married to Halley.

Sara takes her best friend Eve (Molly Shannon) with her to New York, where she visits the locations of her date, hoping that fate will bring back Jonathan. At the Waldorf Astoria, Eve bumps into an old friend--Halley--who is there to get married the next day. Halley invites Eve and Sara to the wedding without anyone realizing the groom is Jonathan. Failing in their search, Sara and Eve console themselves with a coffee at Serendipity. Eve is handed the \$5 bill as change.

The day before the big event, Halley hands Jonathan a copy of *Love in the Time of Cholera* as a gift, having noticed him picking up the book every time they're in a bookstore. It is the copy that Sara had written in, and he immediately sets off to find her. He sees people in her house being intimate, when it's actually Sara's sister and her boyfriend. Jonathan then comes back home for the wedding.

Sara decides not to attend the wedding, and starts to return home. She goes to the Waldorf to retrieve her belongings, where she finds Lars, who followed her to New York. While with Lars, she sees Cassiopeia in the sky, and breaks her engagement with him. On the plane the next day, Sara finds that her wallet got exchanged with Eve's. She realizes she has the same \$5 bill which Jonathan

wrote on several years earlier, and gets off the plane to search for him. His neighbors tell her he's getting married the same day. She rushes to the hotel, only to see a man, apparently cleaning up at the end of the ceremony. She is in tears until the man says the wedding was called off. Sara later remembers the jacket she left in the park.

Jonathan is wandering around Central Park. He finds Sara's jacket and uses it as a pillow to lie down. As the first snowflake drops, he sees Sara. They introduce themselves to each other formally for the first time. The film concludes with Sara and Jonathan at Bloomingdale's, enjoying champagne on their anniversary at the same spot where they first met.

Cast

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|---------------------|----|---|
| John Cusack | as | Jonathan Trager |
| Kate Beckinsale | as | Sara Thomas |
| Jeremy Piven | as | Dean Kinsky |
| Bridget Moynahan | as | Halley Buchanan |
| Eugene Levy | as | Bloomingdale's Salesman |
| Lilli Lavigne | as | Bloomingdale's Stock Girl |
| Michael Guarino Jr. | as | Customer At Bloomingdale's (as Michael Guarino) |
| Abdul Alshawish | as | Customer At Bloomingdale's |
| Stephen Bruce | as | Host At Serendipity |
| David Sparrow | as | Josh's Dad |
| Ann Talman | as | Bloomingdale's Saleswoman #1 |
| Crystal Bock | as | Bloomingdale's Saleswoman #2 |
| Gary Gerbrandt | as | Josh |
| Kate Blumberg | as | Courtney |
| Ron Payne | as | Louis Trager |

Memorable quotes (with notes on difficult vocabulary)

Lars: How does Bora Bora sound?

Sara: Very sexy sexy.

How does Bora Bora sound? = che ne dici di Bora Bora?, **Very sexy sexy** = molto molto sexy

Jonathan: Maybe I am just getting cold feet.

Dean: I'm telling you right now British women do not age well. Eight years ago she was a luscious treat, you know, she probably looked like, you know, Baby Spice, now she could look like...

Jonathan: Old Spice.

luscious = molto attraente **Baby Spice** = gioco di parole tra **Baby Spice**, che era l'appellativo di Emma Bunton in quanto membro più giovane del gruppo Spice Girls, **spice**, spezia/e unito all'idea di giovane e vecchio

Dean: I hate to break up a good thing, but we have half a dozen strippers waiting for us, we're late.

Halley: You mean exotic dancers?

Dean: No, I actually mean strippers.

stripper = chi fa lo striptease

Bloomingtondale's Salesman: So... you write for the obituary?

Dean: Absolutely.

Bloomingtondale's Salesman: Hmm. You must be very proud.

Dean: Uh-huh. I'm the one with the last word.

Bloomingtondale's Salesman: Not tonight.

Dean: Yes, I am.

Bloomingtondale's Salesman: Don't think so.

Dean: Absolutely.

Bloomingtondale's Salesman: Fat chance.

Dean: Still talking!

Bloomingtondale's Salesman: Last line!

fat chance = sì, moolto probabile!

Sara: Okay. Favorite movie.

Jonathan: The correct answer is Cool Hand Luke.

Sara: I've never seen it.

Jonathan: Oh, come on. You've never seen Cool Hand Luke? Paul Newman? Oh my god. Come on! "Failure to communicate." Sadistic cop in sunglasses with no name. Reminds me of you in that way.

Sara: Um, favorite New York moment.

Jonathan: This one's climbing the charts.

Cool Hand Luke = *Nick mano fredda*, film con Paul Newman come protagonista

[discussing Lars' music video]

Lars: No, no, no, cut, cut.

Lars' agent: What's the problem?

Lars: Well, the problem is you can't fight off an army of blood-thirsty Vikings with a shenai, it's illogical.

Lars' agent: No, no, see, you're lulling them into submission with the music. See, that's the whole point of the song, really, mystic surrender.

[the Viking is covering his ears in agony]

Lars: You don't think he looks like he hates the music?

shennai = specie di oboe indiano

Eve: Prada! Ooh! Prada! I love this stuff!

Salesman: That's 20 bucks.

Sara: Eve, that's a horrific knockoff! At least my knockoff says 'Pradi,' yours says 'Prado!'

Eve: Well, I say for a dollar I can buy a magic marker and fix it. I'll take it!

knockoff = copia di un prodotto di marca

Jonathan: Forget about privacy laws. You know what privacy laws do?

Leasing Office Temp: No.

Jonathan: They protect millionaires. You know who those millionaires are?

Leasing Office Temp: Who?

Jonathan: Tell him who they are. Tell him.

Dean: Kids your age. Pimple-faced college drop outs who have made unhealthy sums of money

forming internet companies that create no concrete products, provide no viable services, and still manage to generate profits for all of its lazy day-trading son-of-a bitch shareholders. Meanwhile, as a tortured member of the disenfranchised proletariat, you find some altruistic need to protect these digital plantation-owners?

Jonathan: [*reacting to Dean's speech*] Wow!

[*to Temp*]

Jonathan: Come on.

pimple-faced = con il viso coperto di brufoli; **drop-out** = studente che abbandona la scuola o l'università

Janitor: They called the whole thing off!

to call sth off = annullare qc

Eve: You see that is what happens when people get hooked on the new age life they end up sitting at home burning candles for mister right, when mister good enough for right now is waiting at the corner bar!

to be hooked on sth = essere totalmente preso da qc

Eve: And if you're smart enough, you learn from your mistakes. You figure it out. You... you think. You realize that life isn't some elaborate stage play with directions for the actors. Life's a mess, Sara. It's... it's chaos personified.

stage play = opera teatrale

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0240890/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serendipity_%28film%29