

opinions

Love isn't always like greeting cards — roses, wine and lace

Don't talk of love.  
Well, I've heard the word before  
It's sleeping in my memory  
I won't disturb the slumber  
Of feelings that have died  
If I never loved, I never would have cried

Does anyone really know what love is? Do they understand it?  
Simon and Garfunkel, performers of the song above, understand love.

And the J. Geils Band, who recorded "Love Stinks," know what love is.  
They know love isn't all roses, wine and lace. It isn't always what we read on a Hallmark greeting card. It isn't like it is in the movies.

Often times, as many of us know, love hurts. It's a deep, aching, raw hurt. It is often the dissolution of dreams, the splintering of hope, the shattering of illusions.

And, as anyone who has played the Game of Love and lost knows, each time a heart is broken, it takes a little longer to mend. Each time we become a little more leery, so much so that each time we begin to fall in love we must ask ourselves: "Is love worth it? Is it worth the hassle, the trauma, the agony?"  
And most of us answer "yes."

Are we a world full of masochists? Do we actually thrive on tears and heartache? Possibly. Or maybe we're just so desperate to find our Knight in Shining Armor, or the ideal woman,

that all the despair and misery love can cause is forgotten in order for us to find our special Someone.

And people, your friends and your family, beg you daily not to give up in the Game of Love. They constantly assure you that there is Someone out there for you. Someone who will like you the way you are. Someone to treat you right. Someone to share your tears and laughter. Someone to have children with. Someone to grow old with. Someone to hold you. Someone to love you more than life itself.

And sometimes, in your room late at night as you stare out the window at a sky full of stars, you wonder if they might just be right. Maybe there is Someone out there for you. And maybe, just maybe, while you sit alone in your room, your Someone is desperately searching in vain for you.

It's then you realize just how lonely you are without your own Someone. And, suddenly, the devastating pain of lost loves has numbed you and you realize all of it — the humiliation, the rejection, the sleepless nights, the hateful words — is worth it if you can just find the one person who will fill that emptiness inside.

You gather your emotions together and, mustering all of your strength, you lay it all on the line. You hold your breath and hope for the best. Maybe this will be right. This time you will find your Someone.

You've come to realize that you will never find your Someone if you don't try. But you also understand that, by trying to find your Someone, you have just opened yourself up for a chance of more pain, more rejection, more tears and heartache.

And, again, you may ask: "Is love worth it?" I can honestly say: I don't know.

But I look at my parents — who celebrated their 26th anniversary last summer. They seem to grow more in love with each other every year. Then I look at my best friend and her husband — newlyweds. They are very much in love, and practically bursting with happiness.

My parents and my friends have each found Someone who loves them the way they are. Someone to treat them right. Someone to share their tears and laughter. Someone to have children with. Someone to grow old with. Someone to hold them. Someone who loves them more than life itself.

Suddenly, I know the answer. Is love worth it? The answer is a resounding, unequivocal "yes."

Jill Bedford is a graduating senior in print journalism, a fan of Simon and Garfunkel and a copy editor for The Daily Collegian. We at the Collegian are saddened by her departure and will miss her terribly.



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