

No Likey, No Lighty

*The Story of the Glow Worm*

By Sarah Hancock

As the gameshow lights flicker and flash, a little glow-worm waits nervously backstage. Cheering, clapping and laughter echo around the entertained audience and soon this glow-worm is revealed to the awaiting crowds.

For a split second, the glow-worm is overwhelmed. Bright lights beam onto its face - surely finding a match can't be this easy? Dazed and perplexed, the little glow-worm moves toward the light, but is soon stopped in its tracks.

Wearing a red sequined jacket and sporting a slick backed hairdo, is none other than your host, Teri Love.

“Woah tiger! You nearly fell off the stage there, turn around and face this way,” instructs Teri.

The glow-worm spins around to see a leather stool and a partition.

“Take a seat,” cries Teri, whilst encouraging the audience to clap along, filling the awkward silence.

Soon the little glow-worm is sat, but cannot take his eyes off the bright lights above.

“Are those the other contestants?” the glow-worm asks.

Teri shakes his head, revealing that those are indeed studio lights, much to the amusement of the audience. He asks for the lights to be dimmed slightly, before revealing that the female contestants are sitting and waiting behind the partition.

“Welcome to Date Night! Please could you introduce yourself,” Teri asks in a professional tone.

“Oh yes, of course. Hello. My name is Glyn. I'm a three-week old glow-worm and I'm looking for love!”

A round of applause is heard from the audience.

“Well Glyn, you've come to the right place. Behind this partition lies two wonderful ladies who are also looking for the perfect match. They are going to ask you a series of questions to get to know you a little better, before deciding if they'd like to go on a date night with you! How does that sound?”

Glyn nods his head excitedly and soon the gameshow begins.

“Now, contestant number one, what's your name and where do you come from?”

“Hello Teri and Glyn,” replies a soft voice from behind the partition. “My name is Gloria and I'm from the grasslands of Llantwit Major.”

Glyn looks impressed. It's a place he's visited many times before.

"Hello Gloria, it's lovely to meet you. What about you contestant number two? What's your name and where do you come from," asks Teri.

"Well hi there boys," replies a bold voice, "my name is Stella and I'm from the roadsides of Penarth."

Teri looks to Glyn for a reaction, to which the little glow-worm once again nods enthusiastically.

"Now ladies. Have you got a question you'd like to ask our gorgeous glow-worm Glyn? Gloria? How about you first?"

"Well Glyn, I'm intrigued to know. What would you say is your best feature," asks a curious Gloria.

The audience seems impressed and Teri encourages Glyn to answer.

"Hi Gloria. I'd probably say that my best feature is my large, photosensitive eyes. Not only are they good for picking out the perfect dinner spots, but all you have to do is shine a bright light and I'll come running."

A rupture of applause and laughter once again fills the gameshow studio. Glyn not only seems to be a hit with the audience, but his answer seemed to also impress Gloria too.

"And Stella, what's your question please?" coaxes Teri.

"So I like to spend most, if not all of my days up high from the ground. If we were to go on a date, how would you make sure it's somewhere I feel comfortable?"

"Well," replied Glyn, "you don't need to worry because I am blessed with the gift of flying. I have wings you see, so I can fly to you or fly us somewhere? How does that sound?"

"Flying to me sounds good, thanks. I like to stay in the same spot, so that is perfect."

"Great! And who knows, maybe we could reach new heights," replies a more confident Glyn.

More applause erupts around the room, as Teri steps in to segway into the next part of the show.

"Well, two great questions and two great answers! Now Glyn, the ladies have asked you a question, but is there something you would like to find out about them?"

Teri prompts Glyn to look at his question cards, which he tightly grasps.

“Yes of course. So my question is for both Gloria and Stella. What would be your perfect date? Stella, let’s start with you.”

“Well, as you know,” replies Stella, “I prefer to stay closer to home. I guess the perfect date would be grabbing a comfy spot and watching the world go by from up high. Call me boring, but I love nothing more than counting how many red cars drive past in an hour.”

“An interesting answer,” interjects Teri. “And the same question to you please Gloria.”

“Well for me, I really enjoy a game of hide and seek. It seems a little childish I know, but it’s fun!”

“Really? And who would be the hider and who would be the seeker Gloria?.”

“Well, I would have to hide and I think Glyn would have to try and find me. Don’t worry though, I can give him some clues if he gets stuck!”

“Both very interesting answers there. Glyn, what are you thinking?”

“It’s a hard one Teri,” replies a muddled Glyn. “They both seem really fun and both dates sound pretty good to me.”

“Well,” replies Teri, “maybe this next round might help you out, as we get ready to play, this or that!”

The audience excitedly clap along, as the studio lights whirl and an explosion of upbeat music is heard.

“Now,” explains Teri, “this is how the game works. I’m going to ask you a series of questions and all you have to do is decide which answer you prefer - this one or that one. So, contestants, you’re going to need your paddles please.”

The three grab their glitzy paddles that have been prepared earlier by the backstage crew. Upon each paddle lies a picture that will soon be associated with the question Teri Love is about to ask. The studio lights dim.

“Okay, so question number one, would you prefer heading out for a fancy meal or staying in? This or that?”

After some hesitation, all three contestants reveal their paddle boards for the audience to see.

“Well, are you sure you’re not cheating,” jokes Teri, “you’ve all gone for the same answer - staying in! Glyn, why did you go for that?”

“Well, Teri,” replies Glyn, “I actually have zero interest at all in food, so eating out doesn’t appeal to me in the slightest.”

“Interesting, and ladies, what about you?”

The pair also agree with Glyn! Neither contestant looking for love has any interest in food whatsoever.

“Ah yes, I’ve heard you glow-worms are a rather intriguing kind,” remarks Teri. “Let’s move onto question number two, which is a little more personal, but very important. Would you like to start a family, or just keep things small with the two of you? This or that?”

The contestants reveal their paddles, which this time, brings a mix of answers.

“Ah,” spies Teri, “I can see we have a few different answers here. Let’s go to Gloria first. What have you chosen?”

“Well, Teri, I would love nothing more than to start a large family, so I am looking for someone who feels the same way,” Gloria proudly reveals.

“And Stella? What about you?” asks Glynn.

“Well, for me Teri, I would like to keep things just between the two of us.”

Teri turns his attention back to Glyn, “would you like to reveal your answer please single man, sorry, I mean glow-worm?”

“Well like Gloria, I too would love to start a big family of larvae. I feel it’s been my destiny since I was born, I just haven’t found the right person yet.”

“Don’t speak too soon Glyn,” chuckles Teri, “things could soon change here, as it’s now time to reveal our contestants.”

The audience lets out a huge applause and excited whispers ripple around the studio.

“In a moment, Glyn, you will get to see what our lovely ladies look like and ladies, you will get to see our glow-worm Glyn. Now, both of our ladies have lights, which they already emit from their bodies. If they like the

look of you, they'll keep their light on and if they're not too sure, they'll turn their light off. Does everyone understand," double checks Teri.

The contestants nod excitedly.

"Then in that case, single man, please reveal yourself," cries Teri.

The studio lights begin to flash and flicker from up high and the once stationary partition slowly moves, revealing two bright lights from the female contestants. Glyn squints in an attempt to see clearly.

"Ladies, please say hello to Glyn and Glyn, please say hello to Gloria and Stella."

The ladies wave enthusiastically at Glyn. Neither have turned off their lights, leaving Glyn a very happy and relieved glow-worm.

"So," questions Teri, "what do you think of the ladies Glyn?"

Rather flustered by what has just happened, Glyn stumbles to find his words.

"Well, I must say, they are both very, very attractive. Gloria, sorry to ask a personal question, but is that a bioluminescent glow you're emitting there?"

"It is," replies a complimented Gloria, "all natural of course! I only leave it on for special occasions."

Glyn gulps. He is extremely attracted to the beautiful yellow, green glow shining from Gloria's direction.

"Yes," interrupts Teri, "turns out our lovely Gloria is also a glow-worm - what are the chances eh?"

Glyn's attention quickly turns to Stella.

"I also have to say, Stella, you're so beautiful too."

Besotted by Stella's beauty, Glyn becomes entranced and starts moving towards her slowly, quickly intervened by a professional Teri.

"Okay Glyn, steady on there tiger," jokes Teri, encouraging the audience to laugh.

"Sorry Teri," replies Glyn, "it's just that the light shining from Stella is so bright and inviting. I've never seen a glow so powerful before? Stella, what are you?"

“I’m a street light Glyn,” replies a confident Stella, “I’m not all natural like Gloria here, but my electricity flow really could light up your life.”

With that, Glyn begins to become disorientated and a little flustered to say the least. The little glow-worm begins to rock back and forth, his feet becoming less steady and the room begins to spin.

“Uh, I think I need to sit down for a second,” Glyn announces, before slumping onto the nearby chair.

As Glyn takes a moment to compose himself, Teri quickly distracts the audience.

“Well, folks! It all seems a little bit too much for this glow-worm here. Whilst we let Glyn catch his breath a second, let’s move over and speak to the lovely Gloria and Stella. Ladies, what do you think of our Glyn?”

“I think he’s wonderful,” cries Gloria. “I love his wings and the cute little glow he’s given off too. I can really imagine settling down and maybe starting a family together.”

“Well, you certainly have a fan here Glyn! And what about you Stella? Thoughts on Glyn?”

“I think he’s adorable,” replies Stella.

“Well, Glyn, if you’re ready, it’s time for you to choose your match. Are you feeling up to it my friend?”

By this point, an overwhelmed Glyn has managed to compose himself.

“Yes Teri,” he replies. “I’m sorry about that, I was just genuinely taken aback by all the beauty in the room with us!”

“Oh, isn’t he a charmer! Well Glyn,” reveals Teri, “it’s now time for you to choose who you would like to go on a date with, but don’t worry, our audience can help you out. Folks, will it be the lovely Gloria from the grasslands of Llantwit Major? She loves nothing more than a game of hide and seek and has hopes of starting a huge family one day.”

The audience erupts into cheers and applause. It seems this couple could be a glow-worm match in heaven.

“Or, will it be the wonderful Stella from the roadsides of Penarth? A home bird, who likes the simple things in life and is eager to spend her days, just the two of you?”

The audience applauds once more, but it’s a little more faded and soft this time around.

“Glyn,” instructs Teri, “it’s now over to you. Who do you choose?”

The studio lights once again dim and a dramatic tune can be heard whispering throughout. This little glow-worm has a tough decision to make. Should he choose Gloria and live out the rest of his days happily, with a little family to call his own, or should he take a risk and choose the enchanting lights of Stella? Glyn, flustered and confused, takes a moment to think.

Pulses of suspense beat rapidly around the studio. Glyn takes a deep breath.

“Teri,” he whispers, “I would like to go on a date with Stella.”

Lights chase and dart around the room, an upbeat melody booms from the speakers and the audience applaud, cheer and shout from their seats.

“And there we have it! Stella, get yourself over here and say hello to Glyn,” Teri cheerfully announces.

The new couple embrace, Glyn mesmerized by Stella’s beauty.

“So,” questions Teri, “what was it about Stella that sealed the deal for you Glyn?”

“Well, it was a hard decision as both ladies are very attractive, but there was just something about Stella’s artificial glow that just clutched it for me!”

“Well, there we have it folks, but let’s not forget about our lovely Gloria. Gloria, get over here!”

Gloria is met by Teri with open arms.

“How are you feeling?” he questions.

“Well, I am a little gutted I have to admit, Teri,” shares a defeated Gloria, “it’s really hard to find a great match in this day and age, especially one that is still attracted to natural beauty, but I guess there’s plenty more glow-worms in the meadow, right?”

“That’s the spirit! Let’s give it up for Gloria everyone!”

The saddened glow-worm gives the applauding audience a wave, before quickly exiting backstage.

“Well,” Teri cries, “that concludes tonight’s episode of Date Night. Glyn, Stella, we wish you the very best for the future. Keep in touch won’t you and let us know how things go? Let’s give it up for the happy couple folks!”

The new couple give Teri a nod, before leaving the stage in an excited hurry.

“Well folks, that’s all we have time for tonight. Make sure you tune in next week, as we help another eligible bachelor find the perfect match! Goodnight!”

The lights flash and flicker once more around the studio, met with cheering from the spectators. As the theme music plays, the bright lights slowly begin to fade, until the studio is quiet, dim and dark once more.