

## Assignment #5 SEYMOUR AND OLIVIA: A BIOLOGICAL ROMANCE

Once upon a time in a far away place called Loveville, there lived a small charming young fellow named Seymour J. Sperm. He began his life in an almond-shaped gland called a testicle which was located in a sac called the scrotum. This sac hung under a long organ called a penis through which either urine or sperm passed (but not at the same time). Although young, immature, and underdeveloped, Seymour was a dreamer, yearning for far away places. Perhaps even a lovely female sex cell might be in his future. Before he could seek his fortune, however, he needed time to mature and become strong. So, he moved upstairs into the epididymus with millions of his pals and waited until he grew up.

On the other side of town, a young egg cell named Olivia ovum had been developing with many of her friends in an almond-shaped gland called the ovary. She had been there since her mistress's birth waiting for her turn to be sent out into the world, hopefully to meet her special guy. The day finally arrived when Olivia was forced out of the ovary and drawn into a nearby fallopian tube by a waving finger-like structure called a fimbriae. Carried along by the slight contractions of this tube, she came to rest about one-third of the way from where she had entered, excited by the possibility of meeting the man of her dreams. She knew that she'd only be around for about 8 to 24 hours, so she hoped he'd hurry.

Seymour, by this time, felt quite strong and ready to face the world. One day, he noticed an unusual excitement around him as if something important was about to happen. All of a sudden he felt himself being pushed into the vas deferens, a long tube, which carried him and his buddies up and around the bladder, a sac which stored urine. Soon, he was swimming in a sugary fluid called semen which was produced by the seminal vesicles. He felt full of energy now and began to swim vigorously into the ejaculations duct, which passed through the prostate gland, a chestnut-sized gland below the bladder. This gland added more glue to the semen. Seymour also

passed by the COWPER'S gland and received even more sticky fluid. At just the right time, Seymour was forced through the urethra, a tube which usually carried urine (but not now). This tube could be found on the underside of a long organ called the penis which was now hard and filled with blood, "WOW" thought Seymour, "What a Trip!"

Propelled from the penis, Seymour found himself at the back of a long wet tunnel called the vagina. Ahead was a round doughnut-shaped structure called the cervix with an open hole in the center. Bulls eye! He raced for the target with his buddies in close pursuit. Seymour had to hurry, he only had 24 to 72 hours to reach the lovely female sex cell. Full of energy and determination, he swam swiftly through the cervix and into the bottom of a pear-shaped organ called the uterus whose walls were covered with a thick spongy lining of blood vessels. Would he find her, the sex cell of his dreams? Seymour whipped his tail as hard as he could as he moved up into this organ until suddenly, he came to a "T" intersection. Which way should he turn? Looking back over his shoulder, he saw his buddies closing in on him. Now he was really nervous. Turn left? Turn right? Realizing that he only had a 50% chance of success, Seymour took a big breath and swam left.

Soon he entered a long narrow place called the fallopian tube. He swam quickly along its length until there, near the other end, he saw her quietly waiting. His heart skipped a beat. He moved swiftly, closer and closer until he met her. Seymour broke through Olivia's outer cell MEMBRANE that surrounded her and then penetrated her center cell NUCLEUS. Seymour and Olivia each joined their 23 chromosomes to make 46 chromosomes and to begin a new life. The newly formed cell, called a zygote, moved down the fallopian tube and found a cozy spot in the endometrium lining of the uterus. Here, it was to develop into an embryo and then into a fetus which would emerge through the vagina in about 9 months as a new Baby. Seymour and Olivia had met, merged, and lived happily ever after.