

Masquerade

Every marriage bed has its cast of characters.

A Full Length Romantic Comedy in One Act

by James Hutchison



Also available from www.jameshutchison.ca

A Christmas Carol – Two versions available. *Every man has the power to do good.*

When Scrooge's nephew Fred finds some letters Scrooge had written to his sister Fan a long time ago the past is unlocked, and Scrooge learns how his fear of poverty and pursuit of wealth have cost him a chance for love and genuine happiness.

CAST OF 10+ - Two Act Drama, 6M, 4W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes

CAST OF 25+ - Two Act Drama, 15M, 10W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes

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James Hutchison writes comedies, dramas, and mysteries. He also interviews other playwrights, actors, and directors about the business and creative aspects of theatre, film, and television. You can read his interviews on his blog and download his plays at www.jameshutchison.ca.

Masquerade – Every marriage bed has its cast of characters.
A Romantic Comedy in One Act by James Hutchison

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

JERRY: The lover

SARAH: The wife

GLENN: The husband

TINA: The real estate agent

WALTER: The used car salesman.

Jerry and Tina both speak with British accents unless otherwise indicated.
Walter has a Southern accent.

Jerry, Glenn, and Walter are the same person.
Sarah and Tina are the same person.

SETTING

Glenn and Sarah's bedroom suite.

TIME

Scene 1: Saturday afternoon

Scene 2: Later

Scene 3: The following Saturday

Scene 4: Later

Scene 5: Wednesday

Scene 6: Friday night

Scene 7: Saturday

STORY OF THE PLAY

Sarah loves her husband Glenn. She also loves her Saturday afternoons dressing up and acting out her fantasies with her lover Jerry. But once Glenn finds out about the affair he tells Sarah he wants her to make a choice between him and her lover – or he will put a gun to Jerry’s head and blow his brains out – which wouldn’t be so strange – except for the fact – that Glenn and Jerry are the same man.

Author’s Note:

It’s important to remember that Glenn and Sarah are playing a game. The game is both fun and intellectually stimulating. Much of the dramatic action happens within the context of the fantasy they have created where each is responding to the twists and turns being played.

For Nicole

SCENE I: SARAH & GLENN's BEDROOM SUITE - SATURDAY

Setting: This is a large and luxurious bedroom suite. One exit leads to the ensuite and a door leads to the hallway. A large trunk with the lid closed is sitting off to one side of the room. A bottle of wine is on the table along with a partially eaten baguette and a slab of cheese.

At Rise: SARAH and JERRY are role playing a romantic adventure between HENRI MATISSE and ISABELLE. Both are average middle-aged people – maybe a little overweight and showing the signs of age – wrinkles and loss of hair and the need for reading glasses. In my mind they are more akin to William Macy and Francis McDormand than Richard Gere and Julia Roberts. That I think makes their battles in the bedroom more relatable. They use corny French accents.

HENRI (French Accent)

My dear, a great artist requires inspiration.

ISABELLA (French Accent)

I don't understand Monsieur.

HENRI fills ISABELLA's wine glass.

HENRI

It is very simple ma chérie. I find you (*beat*) inspiring.

ISABELLA

Oh, Monsieur, you flatter me.

HENRI

Nonsense. My dear Isabelle, you are the most beautiful woman in all of France.

ISABELLE

Oh, Monsieur Matisse now you make me blush.

HENRI and ISABELLE drink deeply.

HENRI

I speak only the truth.

ISABELLE

And the truth is I am a great admirer of your work. Your paintings are so full of color. So full of passion!

HENRI

Ah, once this was true but sadly, it is true no more. The passion has vanished. Poof. The muses have abandoned me. I have lost zee spark. And I will paint no more.

ISABELLE

Oh no Monsieur, say it is not so.

HENRI

It is so.

ISABELLE

Oh, this is a great tragedy. If only there was some way for me to give you zee spark.

HENRI puts down his wine glass and takes ISABELLE's hand.

HENRI

Ah...my dear Isabelle...there may be a way, but – dare I ask?

ISABELLE

But you must ask. (*Beat*) I dare you.

HENRI kisses her hand and continues working his way up her arm.

HENRI

And if you refuse me?

ISABELLE

Oh, how can I, a simple peasant girl, refuse the great Henri Matisse? I will do anything Monsieur.

HENRI and ISABELLE are lip to lip.

HENRI

Then make love to me. Here now – in my studio – beneath the blank canvas.

ISABELLE breaks away from HENRI

ISABELLE

Oh, Monsieur Matisse you ask too much. I am a married woman. How can I betray my husband?

HENRI circles around ISABELLE kissing her neck and nibbling her ears.

HENRI

Your husband is a dull and boring man who has no imagination and understands nothing of love and desire. I love you Isabelle. I long to feel the delicate embrace of your body and the softness of your lips on mine.

ISABELLE

Do not say such things Monsieur.

HENRI

Without you my life is an empty vessel and an endless void of despair not worth living. Only your naked body and sweet embrace can inspire and restore me.

HENRI crosses to ISABELLE and rips open ISABELLE's blouse.

ISABELLE

Oh, Monsieur! You make me dizzy with desire.

ISABELLE rips open HENRI's shirt.

HENRI

Embrace your desires mon chéri and after we make love – my dear sweet Isabelle – I want to paint you – I want to make you my masterpiece for all the world to see.

HENRI rips off ISABELLE's skirt.

ISABELLE

Oh, Monsieur how can I deprive the world of such genius. Take me – take me – and do what you want with me.

HENRI

Your body shall be my canvas!

ISABELLE and HENRI kiss passionately and fall back onto the bed.

BLACK OUT

SCENE II: SARAH & GLENN's BEDROOM SUITE - LATER

JERRY and SARAH are in loungewear. The ISABELLE and MATISSE costume are strewn about. SARAH is enjoying her wine as JERRY emerges from the washroom drying his hair with a towel. HE looks at SARAH for a long moment before speaking. JERRY speaks with a British accent unless otherwise noted.

JERRY (British Accent)

Did you have fun, luv?

SARAH

I had a blast. I had no idea you were so good with a brush.

JERRY

Well, I've been practicing my technique. That's the difference between a real artist and an amateur, isn't it? Practice.

SARAH

Well Monsieur, you can practice on me any time you want.

JERRY

You are a naughty girl.

JERRY and SARAH kiss.

JERRY

So, what did you have in mind for the rest of the afternoon?

SARAH

Well, I thought it might be nice to celebrate our anniversary.

JERRY

Our anniversary.

SARAH

Yes.

JERRY

Good Lord, has it been a year already?

SARAH

It has. And to mark the occasion I got you a little something.

JERRY

Did you?

SARAH

Yes. Here

SARAH takes a gift box from her vanity and hands it to JERRY.

JERRY

What is it? A little something for our afternoon adventures.

SARAH

Not exactly. Why don't you open it up and find out?

JERRY opens the gift box and takes out a watch.

JERRY (No accent)

Oh. It's a watch.

SARAH

Yes.

Pause

JERRY (No accent)

A very expensive watch.

SARAH

Yes. Put it on and let's see how it looks.

JERRY puts on the watch during.

JERRY (No accent)

Are you sure you want to do this?

SARAH

Of course, I love our afternoons together.

JERRY (No accent)

Yes, but this is going a bit too far don't you think.

SARAH

Not at all. I wanted to get you a little something to show my appreciation. Don't you like it?

JERRY (No accent)

I didn't say I didn't like it. But it is a rather extravagant gift. Did you keep the receipt?

SARAH

You don't want it.

JERRY (No accent)

Well, it's not that I don't want it – it's just well – (British accent) – well to tell you the truth – this makes me feel a little guilty.

SARAH

Guilty? About what?

JERRY

Your husband.

SARAH

My husband?

JERRY

Yes. We never talk about him, do we?

SARAH

We're not here to talk about him.

JERRY crosses to the bed.

JERRY

No, I suppose not. (*Jerry stands looking at the bed.*) Which side of the bed does he sleep on, I wonder? I prefer the left.

SARAH

Do you?

JERRY

Yes.

Beat

SARAH

He prefers the right.

Beat

JERRY

Does he?

SARAH

Yes.

Pause

SARAH

You're sure you prefer the left?

JERRY

Oh, yes. But you wouldn't know that, would you? We've never spent a night together, have we? Just these Saturday afternoons.

SARAH

Did you want to spend the night?

JERRY starts going through the closet looking at GLENN's clothes.

JERRY

Tonight?

SARAH

Well not tonight, no. But maybe one weekend when my husband is out of town on business. We could have a whole weekend together. How does that sound?

JERRY

Sounds like you're getting serious. I must say he does have rather good taste in clothing though, doesn't he?

SARAH

Not really. I do most of his shopping.

JERRY

Do you?

SARAH

Yes.

Pause as Jerry looks through the suits in the closet.

JERRY

Do you think he'd mind if I borrowed one of his suits?

JERRY takes out a suit jacket.

JERRY

I have a wedding to go to in a couple of weeks.

SARAH

Not a good idea. He might notice it missing.

JERRY

Would he?

Pause as SARAH looks at JERRY.

SARAH

Yes. He would.

JERRY puts the jacket on. It fits perfectly.

JERRY

Shame. We're about the same size wouldn't you say.

SARAH

Yes. I would.

JERRY

In all things?

Beat

JERRY

He isn't less of a man than I am, is he?

SARAH

Why? Would that matter to you?

JERRY

It matters to some men.

Pause

Women too.

SARAH

Well, it doesn't matter to me.

JERRY removes the jacket and tosses it on the bed.

JERRY

You know sometimes when you're with me it's almost as if he doesn't exist.

SARAH

Oh, he exists.

JERRY

Well of course he exists. I mean you're his wife. These are his clothes. This is his house, isn't it?

SARAH

What's gotten into you?

JERRY

I'd like to meet him.

SARAH (She laughs)

Meet him? Well, that's not likely to happen, is it?

JERRY looks at a framed photo of SARAH and GLENN

JERRY

Oh, you never know. We could run into each other at the bank, or in the food court at the mall. This photo was taken on your honeymoon in Cancun, wasn't it?

JERRY picks up the framed photo and looks at it.

SARAH

You know damn well that's our tenth anniversary in Tuscany.

JERRY

Really? Mmmm. You look so happy. Things started out well, didn't they?

SARAH

They did. We were very much in love.

JERRY puts the photo back on the shelf.

JERRY

Were you?

SARAH

Yes.

JERRY

And now?

Pause.

And now we have a comfortable life.

SARAH

Do you?

JERRY

Yes. We do.

SARAH

Pause.

Do you think he knows about us?

JERRY

No. No, he doesn't.

SARAH

Well then. He must be a complete buffoon.

JERRY

Oh, I quite agree. Sometimes he can be a real clown. But he can also be quite kind and understanding.

SARAH

Can he?

JERRY

Yes. That's one of his best qualities.

SARAH

Then why on earth do you need me?

JERRY

Because you're exciting.

SARAH

More exciting than your husband?

JERRY

Well, you have to admit there comes a time in most marriages where the passion simply fades.

SARAH

Does it?

JERRY

SARAH

Oh, yes. I remember the day it happened in my marriage. Our sons were on a sleep over. Which meant we had the entire house to ourselves and instead of spending the morning making love we went grocery shopping. We got up. Showered. Dressed. Had breakfast and went grocery shopping. My heart sank because that meant my marriage was going to be like so many other marriages. Routines replace spontaneity. Practicality replaces passion.

JERRY

And yet you're still together.

SARAH

Well, we've had our struggles. Who hasn't? But no one knows me better than Glenn, and over the years we've grown comfortable with each other. I have my charity work, and he has his golf. We're happy in our way, but if you hadn't come into my life, I don't think Glenn and I would still be together. You know that. What we have works. I need you. I want you. Isn't that enough?

JERRY

And your husband – does he need you? Does he want you?

SARAH

He'd rather spend his Saturday afternoons golfing than be here with me. Why? What's this all about?

JERRY

It's the watch you see.

SARAH

The watch?

JERRY

Yes. The watch.

SARAH

Don't you like it?

JERRY looks at the watch.

JERRY

I didn't say I didn't like it, but it was a rather extravagant gift, don't you think? It must have cost you a fortune.

SARAH

I wanted to get you a little something to show my appreciation. What's wrong with that?

JERRY

It makes things a little – too real – for me.

I don't see why it should.

SARAH

You don't?

JERRY

No.

SARAH

I see.

JERRY

Pause.

Well then considering the gift and all perhaps it is time you told your husband about us.

JERRY

And risk losing you? I don't think so. *(Beat)* There's no telling how he might react.

SARAH

Maybe we could all have lunch?

JERRY

Well, that's not going to happen now, is it.

SARAH (Laughing)

Why not? Doesn't he eat lunch?

JERRY

Of course, he eats lunch.

SARAH

Well then, it's not impossible?

JERRY

Jerry, why don't you stop talking about my husband and get over here and give me a kiss.

SARAH

Sorry honey cup, but I can't. I have to head out a little early today, if you don't mind. I'm meeting a friend, and I don't want to be late.

JERRY

JERRY starts to get dressed.

SARAH

Oh really? A friend? You've never done that before.

JERRY

I know. I'm sorry. I should have told you earlier.

SARAH

Do you have to go? Glenn won't be home until late and...

JERRY

...and you thought we could play another game?

SARAH

Yes.

JERRY

Which one?

SARAH

My Wonder Woman costume just came back from the cleaners. We could play the superhero and the rock star.

JERRY looks at the trunk.

JERRY

Does your husband ever ask you what you keep in this trunk?

SARAH

No.

JERRY

If you were my wife and you had this large trunk in the bedroom and you kept it at the back of the closet – I'd be very curious to know what was in it.

JERRY opens the trunk. HE pulls out a whip.

SARAH

Yes, well Glenn's not the curious type.

JERRY

He's never asked about it.

SARAH

Never.

Pause

Never? JERRY

Never. SARAH

JERRY cracks the whip.

Maybe he's having his own affair? JERRY

He's not having an affair. SARAH

No? *(Beat)* But you are. JERRY

With you. SARAH

And that makes it alright. JERRY

Yes – of course – that makes it alright. SARAH

JERRY acts as if he's heard something.

Did, you hear something? JERRY

No. SARAH

I thought I heard the front door open and close. JERRY

From the bedroom? SARAH

Yes? JERRY

JERRY listens intently.

JERRY

Must be my imagination.

SARAH

Yes. Must be. You have quite the imagination. Say, why don't we play the preacher and the call girl? You like that game.

JERRY

I wish I could, luv, but I told you – I'm meeting someone.

JERRY tosses the whip back into the trunk.

SARAH

Oh. You really are meeting someone?

JERRY

Yes. *(Beat)* Tina.

SARAH

Tina?

JERRY

Yes.

Pause

SARAH

There isn't really a Tina, is there?

JERRY

Isn't there?

SARAH

No.

Beat

SARAH

Is there?

JERRY

Tina is as real as I am.

SARAH

Oh, for crying out loud Jerry, you're confusing me.

JERRY

I don't mean to confuse you. I only meant to tell you about Tina.

SARAH

Actually Jerry, now that I think about it, I want you to go. This isn't any fun for me, and if you're not going to play by the rules then I see no reason for you to stay.

Beat

JERRY

You want me to go?

SARAH

Yes. I'm finding you somewhat irritating at the moment.

JERRY

I'm sorry you feel that way.

SARAH

Are you?

JERRY

Yes. Of course. You don't want any help with the cleaning up?

SARAH

Nope.

JERRY

Are you sure?

SARAH

Yes.

Pause.

JERRY

Okay then. I guess, I'll let myself out, shall I?

SARAH

Yes. Please do.

JERRY crosses to kiss SARAH but she turns away from him. He looks at her a moment and then crosses to the door and exits. SARAH grabs the jacket JERRY had tossed on the bed and hangs it back up in the closet. A moment later JERRY rushes back in.

SARAH

Well, that was quick. Have you changed your mind, or did you forget your car keys?

JERRY

I can't leave through the front door. There's definitely somebody downstairs. What time did you say your husband would be home?

SARAH (Matter of factly)

The same time he always gets home. Around six.

JERRY peaks out the window.

JERRY

Then why is his car in the driveway?

SARAH

Because he went with friends. That's why.

JERRY

But his car wasn't here when I arrived.

SARAH

Are you sure about that?

JERRY

Well, even if it was, I can't go downstairs now. *(Beat)* He'll see me.

SARAH (Playing it up)

You're right. *(Beat)* You'd better climb out the window then.

JERRY

The window?

SARAH

Yes, the window. If you're so afraid of running into my husband, why don't you climb out the window?

JERRY considers this option for a moment and then deciding to play along.

JERRY

Alright then. Good idea. Yes. That's exactly what I'll do.

JERRY opens the window.

SARAH

Oh, you're not really going to do it, are you?

JERRY

Why not?

SARAH

Because it's dangerous.

JERRY

But it was your idea.

SARAH

I was calling your bluff.

JERRY

You know, on second thought, maybe it would be best if your husband came upstairs and found the two of us together in your bedroom.

SARAH

Is that right? Could be a long wait.

JERRY

Yes, I suppose it could.

JERRY and SARAH stare at the door – for a long moment.

JERRY

I say, your husband doesn't own a gun, does he?

SARAH

Yes, as a matter of fact he does.

JERRY

Good Lord. Where does he keep it?

SARAH

It's locked away.

JERRY

Are you sure?

SARAH

Yes.

JERRY

He doesn't carry it with him?

SARAH

No.

JERRY

No?

SARAH

No. He doesn't like guns.

JERRY

But he has one.

SARAH

He never uses it.

JERRY

I think the window is the better option.

SARAH

He's not going to shoot you.

JERRY

All the same I'd rather not stick around and find out.

JERRY climbs through the window and speaks to SARAH from the roof.

SARAH

If you're going to leave use the door. You could fall and hurt yourself.

JERRY

I won't fall.

SARAH

I don't like this game.

JERRY

What game?

SARAH

This one. You running off with the unsuspecting husband coming home early.

JERRY

This is no game Sarah. Even the mildest of men can become violent in the right situation. Him finding us here – is the right situation.

SARAH

Fine go. Make your escape. I'll see you next Saturday.

JERRY

Yes. Until next Saturday.

SARAH ignores JERRY and doesn't answer.

JERRY

Ta ta, Sarah.

SARAH ignores JERRY and doesn't answer.

JERRY

Say hi to your hubby for me.

SARAH ignores JERRY and doesn't answer.

JERRY works his way along the roof and out of sight. SARAH begins to tidy the bedroom tossing costume bits and pieces into the trunk while grumbling to herself.

SARAH

Of all the bloody nerve. He has no right to do that. No right at all. You can't just go and change the bloody rules. I thought we'd agreed Saturday afternoons are for me and Jerry not for me and Glenn.

Do you think your husband would mind if I borrowed one of his suits? Oh, we'll all have lunch together. Why doesn't he eat lunch? Yes, of course he eats lunch. He's ruined a perfectly good afternoon – we were having so much fun and then off he goes out the window and down the drainpipe for God knows what reason. I suppose he thinks it's funny. Well, it won't be very funny if he breaks a leg or an arm. It would serve him right. He had no right to do that. No right at all. That bastard.

GLENN enters the bedroom. GLENN is SARAH's husband. GLENN is also JERRY. He has changed into a golfing shirt.

GLENN

Hello cupcake.

SARAH doesn't answer.

GLENN

Beautiful day out.

SARAH doesn't answer.

GLENN

Have you been stuck inside all afternoon?

SARAH doesn't answer

GLENN

Thought I'd come home early. Thought maybe you and I could do something.

SARAH doesn't answer.

GLENN

Are you alright?

SARAH

No, I'm not alright.

GLENN

Oh. What's wrong?

SARAH

You know perfectly well what's wrong.

GLENN

How could I know what's wrong?

SARAH

What are you up too?

GLENN

I'm not up to anything.

SARAH

No?

GLENN

No.

SARAH

Well, I'm glad to see you didn't hurt yourself climbing off the roof.

GLENN

Climbing off the roof? What on earth are you talking about?

SARAH
You could have been hurt.

GLENN
Lucky for me I wasn't then.

SARAH
Are you deliberately trying to annoy me?

GLENN
Not at all.

SARAH
I see you decided to keep the watch.

GLENN (With a British Accent)
Oh this. Found it in our driveway. Some poor chap must have dropped it.

SARAH
Careless of him.

GLENN
Yes. Nice watch.

Pause

GLENN
Rather expensive though, don't you think?

SARAH
Not at all. It was a gift after all.

GLENN
Yes.

Pause

GLENN
So, what have you been up to?

SARAH
Nothing. Absolutely nothing. I spent the afternoon reading a book.

GLENN
Oh?

Pause

GLENN

What book?

SARAH

Twenty-Four Hours in the Life of a Woman. You should read it.

GLENN

I did. You recommended it. I didn't much care for it. I mean what sort of a woman abandons her husband and children and runs off with a man she's only known for little more than a day?

SARAH

The sort of woman who marries a man who makes her feel unhappy, unfulfilled, and miserable.

GLENN

If she was unhappy why didn't she get a divorce? Having an affair is the coward's way out – don't you think?

SARAH

No. I don't. And she didn't have an affair. She left her husband and the miserable life he'd created for her.

GLENN

Clearly, we have different viewpoints about the story. You seem to feel this woman's actions were justified, and I don't.

SARAH

So, you think she should have stayed and been miserable, I suppose.

GLENN

I didn't say that. Don't try and twist what I'm saying into something else.

Beat

GLENN

Why aren't you dressed?

SARAH

Because I took a shower.

GLENN

But you showered this morning.

SARAH

Did I?

GLENN

Yes.

SARAH

Well, I decided to have a long hot shower this afternoon as well. What's wrong with that?

GLENN

And what's this bottle of wine doing here? And this cheese and this bread.

SARAH

I was hungry. I had some wine and cheese. What's the big deal?

GLENN

There are two glasses.

SARAH

Yes. Do you want some?

Beat.

GLENN

No.

Pause

GLENN

I must say this is rather odd, don't you think?

SARAH

The only odd thing around here is you.

GLENN

What are you talking about?

SARAH

You've gone and ruined a perfectly wonderful afternoon.

GLENN

Why? Because I came home early?

SARAH

Yes. You're not supposed to come home early. That was part of the deal.

GLENN

What deal?

SARAH

I think I'm going to get dressed and go out. Maybe see if Rachel wants to catch a movie or something.

GLENN

I thought we were going to dine in tonight. Make pasta.

SARAH

Oh, you can do what you want. I'm going out.

GLENN

Are you?

SARAH

Yes.

Pause.

GLENN looks at the trunk sitting in the middle of the bedroom.

GLENN

So, what's this then?

SARAH

What's what?

GLENN

This. This trunk.

SARAH

That's nothing. You leave it alone.

GLENN

I don't think I've ever seen it before. When did you get it?

SARAH

Ages ago. I keep it in the closet.

GLENN

Well, it's not in the closet now, is it?

SARAH

No.

Funny I never noticed it before.

GLENN

Beat

So, what's in it?

GLENN

SARAH crosses to the trunk and pushes it back into the closet.

Comforters.

SARAH

Comforters?

GLENN

Yes.

SARAH

Oh.

GLENN

Pause

No need to look, then?

GLENN

None.

SARAH

Beat

Comforters.

GLENN

Yes. Comforters.

SARAH

Beat

If you say so.

GLENN

You're being quite the jackass you know.

SARAH

GLENN
Am I?

Pause

GLENN
I don't mean to be.

SARAH
Alright out with it. What's bothering you?

GLENN
Well, you see I was at the dentist on Tuesday, and while I was in the waiting room I read an article in a publication called Modern Family. Oh, by the way they asked if they could move your appointment to this coming Saturday.

SARAH
Saturday?

GLENN
Yes. Why is that a problem?

SARAH
I have plans.

GLENN
Do you? What plans?

SARAH
I'm meeting Rachel and the girls for lunch.

GLENN
Am I invited?

SARAH
No. Girls only. Besides you have your golf.

GLENN
Right. Anyway, I was reading this article at the dentist.

SARAH
Is there a point to your story?

GLENN
The article was about infidelity.

SARAH
Was it?

GLENN
Yes. How to tell if your spouse is having an affair.

SARAH
Doesn't sound very interesting to me.

GLENN
On the contrary. I found it quite interesting.

SARAH
And why is that?

Beat

GLENN
Because you show all the signs.

SARAH
Do I?

GLENN
Yes, you do. You've grown emotionally distant.

SARAH
I don't think that's true.

GLENN
No? Well, we certainly don't share things like we used to.

SARAH
You mean I don't sit around listening to you go on and on and on about your problems all the time – is that it?

GLENN
That's not fair. I listen to you as well.

SARAH
I'll admit that through the years you've tried to listen, but it doesn't last very long. Old habits resurface, and we go back to the old ways of communicating. But I've accepted that. We simply don't like a lot of the same things. So, you have your friends, and I have mine, and we share a house.

GLENN

I'd rather like to think of this as a home instead of a house.

SARAH

A home then.

Beat

SARAH

Are there any other signs?

GLENN

Yes. *(Beat)* I seem to get on your nerves more.

SARAH

Well, that's certainly true – especially today.

GLENN

And you've been spending a great deal of money on all kinds of things including lingerie that you don't seem to be sharing with me.

SARAH

Oh, come on I don't spend that much money. It's nothing compared to what you spend on fishing gear.

GLENN

You spent a fortune on dry cleaning last month, and on Thursday I signed for a package from some place called The Costume Shoppe.

SARAH

Those are our costumes for the Venetian Ball we're going to next weekend.

GLENN

Are they?

SARAH

Yes. We're going to that charity thing I helped organize, remember? For the Homeless Foundation.

GLENN

Oh, right.

SARAH

We've raised over half a million dollars this year.

GLENN
Have you?

SARAH
Yes.

Beat

GLENN
That's wonderful. I'm proud of you.

SARAH
Thank you. Now, was there something else?

GLENN
Yes, as a matter of fact there is. We've stopped making love.

SARAH
Now that's not exactly true, is it?

GLENN
When was the last time you and I made love?

SARAH
We make love every week.

GLENN
No, we don't. We haven't made love since March.

SARAH
Has it really been that long?

GLENN
Yes.

SARAH
Mmmm. I have to admit to feeling a little unsatisfied myself these last few months. Maybe there's something we could do about it.

GLENN
What did you have in mind?

SARAH
I'm not sure. I need to think about it. Did you want to make love to me now?

Now? GLENN

Yes. Now. SARAH

Pause

Not really. Not really in the mood. GLENN

Pause

Me neither. You've sort of killed the mood you know that Glenn. SARAH

Can you blame me? GLENN

Oh yes, I think I can. SARAH

Beat

Tell me the truth Sarah. Are you having an affair? GLENN

Pause

No. No, I'm not. SARAH

Pause

You don't want to reconsider your answer? GLENN

I see no reason to. SARAH

Well, I'm very glad to hear it. I don't know what I'd do if you cheated on me. That is a relief. And here I was getting worked up over nothing. How silly of me. GLENN

Yes, it is silly of you. You're being very silly. SARAH

GLENN

So, you're not having an affair.

SARAH

Nope.

GLENN

Because I wouldn't let you go without a fight. If I ever found out you were cheating on me I'd take the bastard out behind the shed and beat the living daylights out of him.

SARAH

I had no idea you could be so jealous.

GLENN

Well, maybe you don't know me as well as you think.

SARAH

No?

GLENN

No. You're the most important thing to me in the world Sarah, and I'll fight for you any way I can. I love you, cupcake.

SARAH

Do you?

GLENN

Yes.

SARAH and GLENN stand across the room from each other.

BLACK OUT

SCENE III: SARAH & GLENN's BEDROOM SUITE – THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY

SARAH is dressed as Cleopatra. JERRY is dressed as CAESAR. There is a jug of wine and a bowl filled with grapes. JERRY speaks with a British accent except where indicated.

CAESAR

I have come to conquer Egypt.

CLEOPATRA

By force?

CAESAR

By seduction if possible. Bloodshed if needed.

CLEOPATRA

And why should Egypt and her Queen bow to the mighty Caesar?

CAESAR

Because Rome rules the world. And I am Rome. When you bow before Caesar you bow before Rome.

CAESAR grabs CLEOPATRA and gives her a rough kiss.

CLEOPATRA

I am of royal blood and can give myself only to someone else of Royal Blood.

CLEOPATRA breaks away from CAESAR and slaps HIM across the face.

CAESAR

Ouch! Do you mind? That hurt.

CLEOPATRA

Oh, you can dish it out, but you can't take it, uh.

CAESAR

You want to get a little rough, do you?

CLEOPATRA

You want to make me your slave? Tie me down and whip me?

CAESAR looks at CLEOPATRA for a lingering moment.

CLEOPATRA

What is it now?

CAESAR

By George, I think that's the wrong wig.

CLEOPATRA

No, it isn't.

CAESAR

Yes of course, that's your Mistress of Darkness wig, isn't it?

CLEOPATRA

Is it?

CAESAR

Yes.

CLEOPATRA looks at herself in a mirror. CAESAR eats grapes

CLEOPATRA

You're right. How silly of me. I'll change it.

CLEOPATRA goes into the trunk and takes out a slightly different wig.

JERRY

Don't you ever get tired of these games, luv?

SARAH

No. I don't.

Beat

JERRY

You know I had coffee with your husband yesterday.

SARAH

Oh, you're not going to start that again, are you?

JERRY

Start what?

SARAH

The whole husband – lover thing.

JERRY

I thought you liked games.

SARAH

This is a game then, is it?

JERRY

Sometimes I just want a good old-fashioned roll in the hay instead of all this...window dressing.

SARAH

We could play the travelling salesman and the farmer's daughter if you want.

JERRY

You're not listening.

SARAH

I'm listening. I just don't like what I'm hearing.

JERRY

Anyway, I had coffee with your husband.

SARAH

You must have looked rather silly talking to yourself at the coffee shop.

JERRY

We go to the same gym.

SARAH

Do you. (*Finishing adjusting the new wig*) There how does that look?

JERRY

Stunning.

SARAH

Shall we start from the beginning.

JERRY

I thought that maybe if I met him and talked to him, I'd be able to make sense out of all this.

SARAH

All of what?

JERRY

The afternoons here with you playing games. Don't you feel any guilt about having an affair? About having me here in the very bed you share with him every night. Doesn't that bother you?

SARAH

Oh, for God sake, no. And it shouldn't bother you either.

JERRY

Well, it does. I'd just hate to be in his shoes, if you know what I mean.

SARAH

No, I don't know what you mean.

Beat

JERRY

Your husband seems like a decent fellow.

SARAH

Does he?

JERRY

Oh, yes. I think under different circumstances he and I could be friends.

SARAH

Golfing buddies.

JERRY

Exactly. Did you know he writes poetry?

SARAH

Yes, I did. When we first got married, I worked graveyards at the Post Office sorting mail and Glenn would always make my lunch and write me silly little love poems and leave them in my lunch bag.

JERRY

Would he?

SARAH

Yes. So, is that what you two talked about? Poetry?

JERRY

Poetry and other things.

SARAH

What kind of things.

JERRY

Rugby, the future of mass media, Lance Armstrong, and marriage.

SARAH

Marriage?

JERRY

Yes. He was talking about some book called *A Good Marriage is Just a Fantasy*.

SARAH

By Dr. Shasta.

JERRY

Yes. Apparently, this Dr. Shasta is all the rage, at the moment.

SARAH

His book has been on the New York Times best seller list for over two years.

JERRY

Even so, this Dr. Shasta strikes me as a bit of quack, don't you think?

SARAH

Not at all. Glen and I found his advice to be very helpful and healing.

JERRY

Really?

SARAH

Yes. He believes that in order for a marriage to work couples need to have a strong physical and sexual connection.

JERRY

Do they?

SARAH

He views sex as a spiritual, emotional, and physical manifestation of a couple's compatibility. And I happen to agree with him. *(Beat)* Don't you?

JERRY

Healthy sex makes for a healthy marriage.

SARAH

Of course, it does. How many of our friends have we seen divorced over the years?

JERRY (No accent)

Too many I'm afraid.

SARAH

Exactly. I'm not saying a boring sex life is the only reason our friend's marriages fell apart, but it's certainly been a factor.

JERRY (No accent)

Keep the sex alive and you keep the marriage alive.

SARAH

Yes. And he believes that in order to help couples discover their passion they should explore their fantasies.

JERRY (No accent)

And that's where I come in.

SARAH

Yes, and I do so appreciate it darling. The British accent was a nice touch.

JERRY

Well, you've always had a thing for British accents, haven't you?

SARAH

I have. I'm so glad we understand each other.

JERRY

Even so Sarah, I think you need to be honest with your husband and tell him about us and let the cards fall where they may. You can't have it both ways.

SARAH

Why not? The whole point of these afternoons was so you and I could have it both ways.

JERRY

Maybe you and Glenn should try to spice things up.

SARAH

Glenn? He's not the least bit interested in dressing up and playing games.

JERRY

I guess this sort of thing isn't for everyone, is it?

SARAH

No. That's why Dr. Shasta recommends that if either partner feels uncomfortable exploring fantasies then sometimes it can be necessary to create an alter ego so to speak.

JERRY

One with a British accent, perhaps.

SARAH

Yes. Exactly. And I do so appreciate the effort sweetheart. Please don't mess things up.

Pause

JERRY

Glenn already suspects you of having an affair Sarah.

SARAH

Yes, I know.

JERRY

That's why he's so upset. He loves you and he feels betrayed.

SARAH

And what about you? Do you love me?

JERRY

I must admit that over the course of our affair I have grown to love you. You're a spectacular woman Sarah. Smart. Beautiful. With a wonderful sense of humour and adventure. I see a side of you your husband doesn't.

SARAH

Good. I'm glad to hear it. Because I'd like to make a proposal.

JERRY

A proposal. Not marriage, I hope.

SARAH

No, certainly not marriage.

JERRY

Well, what then?

SARAH

I was hoping you'd be open to the idea of us seeing each other more than once a week.

Beat

JERRY

Oh, really? Are you sure that's a good idea?

SARAH

Glenn seems to be rather unhappy with the way things are, and I thought maybe us seeing each other twice a week would be more satisfying.

JERRY
Oh, I see.

Beat

Would we meet here, or at my place?

SARAH
Your place?

JERRY
Yes, my place.

SARAH (Laughs)
I didn't know you had a place.

JERRY
Of course, I have a place. I have a complete life outside our Saturday afternoons together.

SARAH
Do you?

JERRY
Yes. It's a nice flat. Nothing too big. It's just a bedroom with an office and a guest room with a living room and a combination dining room and kitchen. But the view is marvelous. You can see the mountains.

SARAH
Can you?

JERRY
Yes. The sunsets are spectacular. I was lucky to get it. It's a corner unit. There's a tennis court and a swimming pool and a games room. And best of all – no kids. Adults only. Not that I mind kids but I never did marry and so I never had children.

SARAH
No?

JERRY
No. (Beat) That's one of my biggest regrets. Not having kids. Still, it's a nice life. I'm downtown so I'm close to the theatre and the tube station. I must warn you though I'm a bit of slob really.

SARAH
Are you?

JERRY

Yes. I'm always leaving dishes in the sink and my socks on the bedroom floor. I suppose that comes from living on one's own. You tend to get a little sloppy.

SARAH

Do you?

JERRY

Yes. *(Beat)* You'll have to give me some notice before you come over so I can tidy up the place. And we'll have to give my sister the heads up. She's staying in the spare bedroom at the moment. I wouldn't feel comfortable with her in the flat while we have it off. Her and her husband are going through a bit of a rough patch, but I'm sure they'll iron it out. They always do.

SARAH

Well, I don't want any part of that life. I don't want to do housework with you, and buy groceries, and meet your sister and go for family gatherings. I just want the romance, and the excitement, and you making love to me.

JERRY

But maybe I want more than just sex. I know this began as something physical, but it's grown beyond that. I have real feelings for you Sarah, and I hate that Glenn gets to wake up with you in the morning, and I don't. I want you to tell him about us. He has a right to know.

SARAH

Oh, good Lord, you're not going to stop this until I agree to tell him, are you?

JERRY (No accent)

Nope.

Beat

SARAH

And if I agree to tell him, do you promise not to mention Glenn for the rest of the afternoon?

JERRY

Yes. I do. Legion's honour.

Pause

SARAH

Alright then. I'll do it.

JERRY

You will?

Yes. SARAH

Pause

When will you tell him? JERRY

Does it matter? SARAH

Yes. JERRY

I'll tell him when he gets home. SARAH

Good. I'm glad. JERRY

Now for crying out loud can the mighty Caesar continue his conquest of Egypt. SARAH

Certainly. Rome must have Egypt. CAESAR

And Egypt must have Rome. SARAH

Rome must plow the fertile river valley and plunder Egypt's hidden chambers. CAESAR

CAESAR chases CLEOPATRA around the bedroom.

BLACK OUT

SCENE IV: SARAH & GLENN's BEDROOM SUITE – LATER

SARAH is getting dressed into a Venetian Party dress with a mask. GLENN's costume and mask are on a hanger by the closet. GLENN enters dressed in casual golf clothing.

SARAH
You're running a bit late.

GLENN
Am I?

SARAH
Yes.

Pause

GLENN
Well last week I was early, and you didn't like that.

Beat

SARAH
Where were you?

GLENN
I stayed at the club house and had a drink.

SARAH
Did you really?

GLENN
Yes, I had a nice chat with a lady friend of mine.

SARAH
A lady friend.

GLENN
Yes.

Pause

SARAH
Do I know her?

I shouldn't think so.

GLENN

Beat

No?

SARAH

No.

GLENN

Beat

What did you two chat about?

SARAH

Roman history.

GLENN

Beat

Roman history.

SARAH

Yes. We talked about Roman history.

GLENN

Beat

All afternoon?

SARAH

Roman history and other things.

GLENN

What kind of things?

SARAH

GLENN

British football, space exploration, Philip Seymour Hoffman, and marriage. It was just chit chat you know. Nothing in any depth. Next Saturday though we're going to play a round of golf.

Are you?

SARAH

Yes.

GLENN

Pause

SARAH

Is she married?

GLENN

Yes. Her husband's a used car salesman.

SARAH

He didn't join you.

GLENN

He doesn't golf. Bad back. So, how was your afternoon?

SARAH

It started out rather frustrating, but it ended well.

GLENN

I'm glad to hear that.

GLENN looks at his costume.

GLENN

You know I'm not sure I feel like going out tonight. Sydney is going to be there with that new wife of his. I don't really like her. She's far too young for him, don't you think?

SARAH

We're going. I'm on the organizing committee.

GLENN

I just don't feel like going to a party and making small talk. Do I really care if Janet and George are buying a place in Phoenix? I don't think so.

SARAH

Oh – stop it – you like parties. You have a good time.

GLENN

No, I don't. I only act like I'm having a good time.

SARAH

What's that supposed to mean?

GLENN

It's not supposed to mean anything. Don't you ever pretend you're having a good time when you're not?

SARAH

Of course. Who doesn't?

GLENN

Exactly. I do it all the time.

SARAH

Do you? All the time?

GLENN

Yes.

SARAH

Like when we're having dinner with your parents.

GLENN

Oh, yes. Definitely, when we're having dinner with the parents. Or the weekly staff meeting. We all play different roles all day pretending to be something we're not. It's all quite tedious, don't you think?

SARAH

And just what are you pretending to be right now.

GLENN

Right now? I'm not pretending to be anything. I'm glad to be home. I miss spending time with you. We work all week and then it's the weekend and Saturday afternoons I play golf and God knows what you do, but I'd rather just spend the afternoon with you.

SARAH

Oh, stop it Glenn. You're making a complete mess of everything.

GLENN

A complete mess of what?

Pause

SARAH

Can't we go back to the way things were.

GLENN

What are you talking about? Go back to what?

SARAH

Go back to the way we had things.

GLENN

Before the watch, you mean?

SARAH

Fine. I'll take the stupid watch back. Will that make you happy?

GLENN

If only it were that simple cupcake.

SARAH

Alright fine. Have it your way. *(Beat)* Glenn, I'm having an affair.

GLENN laughs and starts to put on his costume.

GLENN

You're having an affair? I doubt that very much.

SARAH

His name is Jerry.

GLENN

I know a Jerry.

SARAH

At the gym?

GLENN

Yes. We had coffee the other day.

SARAH

I'm having an affair with Jerry at the gym.

GLENN

Do you mean you're having an affair at the gym with Jerry, or do you mean you're having an affair with Jerry from the gym?

SARAH

I'm having an affair with Jerry. Your friend from the gym. It's been going on for more than a year. There I've told you. Are you happy?

GLENN

I'm absolutely stunned. I had no idea.

SARAH

That's not exactly true now, is it? You agreed to this.

GLENN

Oh really? Do you have something in writing?

SARAH

It was a verbal agreement.

GLENN

Ah well, verbal agreements aren't worth the breath they're written on, are they.

SARAH

You don't seem very upset. I had sort of thought you would have prepared a bigger reaction.

GLENN

You're right. *(Beat)* By God, I should have a bigger reaction.

GLENN prepares himself for a bigger reaction – taking a more dramatic pose.

GLENN

You're having an affair! How dare you betray me! And with Jerry – my close personal friend from the gym. It must stop immediately. Do you hear me? I forbid you to ever see this man again.

SARAH

Now why would I do that? I like my afternoons with Jerry. You're the one that seems unhappy.

GLENN

Of course, I'm unhappy. You've been unfaithful.

SARAH

If you're so unhappy perhaps...you should move out.

GLENN

What? Move out?

SARAH

Yes. I think that's a good idea. You should move out. Why don't you go and stay with Jerry?

GLENN

Why, if I ever lay my hands on that bastard, he'll wish he'd never been born.

SARAH

I told you I don't like this game, but if you want to play it then let's play it and see where it leads.

GLENN

Oh, you're serious about me leaving.

SARAH
Yes, I'll even help you pack.

GLENN
Do you know what that could mean?

SARAH
I won't have to listen to you snore.

GLENN
It could mean lawyers and divorce and selling the house.

SARAH
I told you I don't want to go back to the way things were before Jerry came into my life. Our life. We were talking lawyers and divorce back then, remember?

GLENN
This home is as much mine as it is yours.

SARAH
I never said it wasn't.

GLENN
Everything in it is half mine.

SARAH
Of course.

GLENN
Everything?

SARAH
Yes.

GLENN
Including what's in this trunk?

GLENN pulls the trunk from the closet.

SARAH
Yes.

Beat

GLENN

I get half the comforters.

SARAH

Of course.

GLENN opens the trunk and pulls out a Mexican Sombrero.

GLENN

And just what exactly is this?

SARAH

It's a Mexican Sombrero. What does it look like?

GLENN

What do you use it for?

SARAH

That's none of your business.

GLENN

There wouldn't be any castanets in here – would there?

SARAH

Yes, as a matter of fact, there are.

GLENN

Interesting.

GLENN reaches in and pulls out a thick leather collar with studs.

GLENN

And what's this?

SARAH

It's a collar.

GLENN

Do you wear it?

SARAH

No, he does.

GLENN

Does he?

SARAH takes the collar and the hat and tosses them back in the trunk and closes the lid.

SARAH

Yes, he wears the collar and the Mexican Sombrero and pretends to be a Chihuahua.

GLENN

I had no idea you were so twisted.

SARAH

You're not supposed to do this. That was part of the agreement. No judgment. You've totally destroyed everything we've created and put me in an even worse mood than you did this afternoon.

GLENN

I don't see how I could have done that. I was having a drink with Tina.

SARAH

Tina?

GLENN

Yes, the woman at the club.

Beat

SARAH

Her name is Tina?

GLENN

Yes.

Beat

SARAH

And is she as real as you?

GLENN

Yes.

Beat

SARAH

As real as Jerry.

GLENN

Of course.

Beat

SARAH

I'd like to meet this Tina. Have her over for dinner maybe? Her and her husband.

GLENN

The used car salesman.

SARAH

Yes.

Pause

GLENN

Well, I'll mention it to her next Saturday, shall I?

SARAH

Yes, why don't you do that. Now are we going to the party or not.

GLENN

Of course, we're going to the party. I love parties.

SARAH

Do you?

GLENN

Yes, why would you think any different?

Beat

GLENN

Do you still want me to move out?

SARAH

Oh yes. Going to the party changes nothing. I expect you to pack your bag and be out of here no later than noon tomorrow.

GLENN

Sorry can't do it cupcake. You're the one having the affair. Not me.

SARAH

Is that right?

GLENN

I've never cheated on you Sarah. Never. Not once.

SARAH

Well, I'm certainly not moving out.

GLENN

Then I guess you'll just have to listen to me snore, won't you.

BLACK OUT

SCENE V: SARAH & GLENN's BEDROOM SUITE – WEDNESDAY

GLENN is in the bedroom. He has arrived home from work. He kicks off his shoes and loosens his tie. He takes his jacket off and hangs it up in the closet. He takes off his pants and puts his pants on a hanger. He is left in his dress shirt, underwear, and socks. He notices a tray containing a readymade Pitcher of Mojitos, two glasses, and some fresh strawberries. There is a knock at the bedroom door. He walks over to the door and opens it.

TINA (SARAH) wearing a blond wig, a sharp business suit, and carrying a portfolio enters. TINA speaks with a British accent unless otherwise noted.

TINA (British Accent)

Oh, I'm sorry Glenn I didn't realize you weren't dressed.

GLENN

I was just changing out of my work clothes.

TINA

Well don't let me stop you. I'll avert my eyes.

GLENN crosses and grabs a robe and throws it on.

GLENN

That's all right I'll throw on a robe.

TINA

Are you sure?

GLENN

Yes.

TINA

You have such a beautiful home. And the location. I have to tell you when this goes on the market there will be an absolute flood of offers.

GLENN

Will there?

TINA

I hope you don't mind but I let myself in.

GLENN

Did you.

TINA

Yes, the key was right where you said it would be.

GLENN

Was it?

TINA

Yes. Is your wife here by any chance?

GLENN

Uh. Sarah? I don't know. Is she?

TINA

She's your wife Glenn. Don't you know.

GLENN

No, I'm afraid I don't.

TINA

Oh, that's right I remember now. You said she was going on a safari.

GLENN

Did I?

TINA

Yes, she left this morning, I believe you said. You told me it had been a dream of hers to go to Africa and feed the Wallabies.

GLENN

I don't think Wallabies are native to Africa.

TINA

You've never heard of the African Wallaby?

GLENN

No.

TINA

Rare creatures. It's a shame you couldn't join her.

GLENN

Someone has to stay here and water the plants. Especially the philodendron. It was a gift from my mother.

TINA

Do you like gardening?

GLENN

Not really?

TINA

That's too bad. I love it. I love to get dirty.

GLENN

Do you?

TINA

Yes, I'm a dirty girl. I love to get my hands in the mud, so to speak.

GLENN

Listen um. Um...I'm sorry but...

TINA

Tina.

Beat

GLENN

Tina.

TINA

Yes, Tina Chadwick from Blue Sky Realty. We chatted last Saturday at the Golf Course.

GLENN

Sorry, didn't recognize you. Your hair is different.

TINA

I hope you don't mind, but you said to drop by any evening this week.

GLENN

Did I?

TINA

Yes. And I thought, why not Wednesday?

GLENN
Why not?

TINA
As good a day as any other.

GLENN
Certainly.

TINA
Good old hump day.

GLENN
Yes. Good old hump day. *(Beat)* So, you enjoy golf.

TINA
Very much.

GLENN
My wife doesn't. I've tried to teach her, but she just can't seem to get the grip right. But then Sarah never was much for competitive sports. She's more of a – games person.

TINA
Not me. I love to get physical. Always have. I played rugby in college, you know.

GLENN
Rough sport for a woman.

TINA
Yes.

Pause

GLENN
So, you wanted to see the house?

TINA
Oh, I've seen it. The master bedroom's the last place I need to have a look at.

GLENN
Well, here it is.

TINA
It's roomy.

GLENN

Yes, we had the upper floor remodeled when our sons moved out.

TINA

You did a lovely job of it.

GLENN

We like it.

TINA

I say Glenn would you have any Mojitos by any chance? It's a rather hot day and I'm terribly thirsty.

GLENN

As chance would have it – apparently, I do.

TINA

That is a coincidence, isn't it?

GLENN

Yes, isn't it.

GLENN pours two drinks

TINA

Are you sure we should be doing this?

GLENN

Doing what?

TINA

Having a drink in your bedroom with you practically naked in that bathrobe and me here so recently separated from my husband and your wife on an airplane heading to Africa. Things could end up going too far.

GLENN

You're recently separated?

TINA

Yes.

Beat

GLENN

Bad marriage.

TINA

Yes.

GLENN

I'm sorry to hear that.

TINA

Yes, my husband Walter never seemed to listen to me. We had a happy marriage, but he kept changing the rules.

GLENN

Did he?

Beat

TINA

Yes.

GLENN

Sounds most inconsiderate. Cheers.

GLENN and TINA drink.

TINA

Cheers. I was very happy with the way things were but then he went and screwed everything up. What is it about men that makes them so willing to screw up the life they've built with the person they say they love?

GLENN

Men aren't the only ones to blame, you know. I recently discovered that my own wife, Sarah, has been unfaithful.

TINA

Oh, you poor dear. That must have been devastating.

GLENN

It was.

TINA

You wouldn't be up for a little revenge then, would you?

GLENN

Revenge?

TINA

Yes, you know. Having an affair of your own.

GLENN

That wouldn't be my first choice.

TINA

But we all have needs. Physical desires.

GLENN

That's true.

Beat

GLENN

You know my wife and I haven't made love for some months.

TINA

How horrible. What's life without sexual pleasure? It's as necessary to happiness as the air we breathe. Don't you agree.

GLENN

That's a bit extreme don't you think. You're certainly not going to die without sex.

TINA

But what's the point of living if you can't experience one of God's gifts. I remember one time when Walter and I were having problems we didn't make love for almost two years. That was one of the most depressing times of my life and I swore I would never put up with that sort of neglect again. A marriage without sex isn't really a marriage, is it.

GLENN

There are other things to consider, don't you think?

TINA

You mean like children?

GLENN

Yes, children.

TINA

But children grow up. They leave home.

GLENN

Yes, but there are also financial considerations.

TINA

Oh, those are just excuses, if you ask me. That's why Walter and I are getting a divorce. The children are all grown up and the house is paid off, so we'll sell it and split the proceeds and start new lives. Oh, we'll always have some connection. The children guarantee that but it's time for Glenn and me to move on.

GLENN

You mean Walter? Right?

TINA

Right. Walter. Did I say Glenn? Sorry must have been a slip of the tongue.

GLENN

You don't see any way for you and Walter to reconcile.

TINA

Perhaps. That's why I'm here.

GLENN

So, you can reconcile with Walter?

TINA

In a manner of speaking. I hope you'll forgive me for being so forward Glenn, but I find you terribly attractive.

GLENN

Is this Tina speaking or Sarah?

TINA

Does it matter?

GLENN

It matters.

TINA

Come on Glenn. I want us to be lovers.

GLENN

I told you I wasn't really looking for an affair.

TINA

You shouldn't knock it until you've tried it. Might I suggest we meet every Wednesday night. Would that work for you?

GLENN

I don't know.

TINA (No Accent)

You wanted something outside of our Saturday afternoons – isn't that right? Well, here it is.

GLENN

It's just when I had talked about something beyond Saturday what I had meant was – something with Sarah.

TINA

Oh, the wife. How dull. How boring. Don't you find this more exciting?

GLENN

I didn't say it wasn't exciting and it's not that I don't appreciate the efforts it's just...

TINA

What? Don't you find me attractive?

GLENN

Of course, I find you attractive.

TINA

I thought you liked blonds.

GLENN

I do.

TINA

Well, aren't you lucky then.

GLENN

Sarah.

TINA

Tina.

Beat

GLENN

Tina.

TINA

Yes.

TINA begins kissing GLENN seductively along the neck.

GLENN

Tina, I ... I just wanted ... you see ... you see...when...you see...I didn't just ask you here to evaluate the house.

TINA

That's better.

GLENN

I've wanted you from the moment I first saw you bending over on the putting green.

TINA

You mean to tell me that the drinks – you in that bathrobe – your wife being on safari was just a set up.

GLENN

Yes, I brought you here hoping that you felt the same way. But I wasn't sure, and now that I've told you how I feel it's too late to take it back.

TINA

You don't have to take it back. I feel the same way Glenn. I just want to be loved and needed. Is that too much to ask?

Beat

GLENN

No. Of course not. That's all any of us wants.

TINA

Good. I hope that means Walter won't continue to make things so difficult. Now, I'm feeling a little tense – would you mind rubbing my shoulders?

GLENN rubs TINA's shoulders.

TINA

Mmmm. That feels good.

GLENN continues to rub TINA's shoulders.

TINA

You know it's very hard for you to give me a proper neck massage with me wearing this jacket. Here let me make it easier for you.

TINA's takes her jacket off and lets it fall to the floor.

TINA

Is that better?

GLENN

Yes.

TINA undoes her blouse and lets it fall to the floor.

TINA

And this?

GLENN

Much better.

TINA undoes her skirt and lets it fall to the floor.

TINA

You rub more than necks, don't you?

GLENN

What did you have in mind?

TINA undoes GLENN's robe and lets it fall to the floor.

TINA

Why don't you surprise me.

TINA and GLENN kiss.

BLACK OUT

SCENE VI: SARAH & GLENN's BEDROOM SUITE – FRIDAY NIGHT

At rise SARAH is in bed reading Outlander by Diana Gabaldon. She flips a page. GLENN enters the room in his pajamas and bathrobe. He looks at SARAH

GLENN

All settled in for the night.

SARAH (Looking up from book.)

Sorry what?

GLENN

Going to bed.

SARAH

Yes.

GLENN

Tired.

SARAH

A bit.

GLENN

Busy week.

SARAH

No more than usual. How was your week?

GLENN

A bit unexpected to tell you the truth.

SARAH

Well, that keeps life interesting, doesn't it? The unexpected.

GLENN

Yes, but I do like a certain amount of predictability.

SARAH

Who doesn't?

SARAH goes back to reading her book.

GLENN

What are you reading?

SARAH holds up the book so he can see the title.

SARAH

Outlander.

GLENN

Oh. (*Beat*) Enjoying it?

SARAH

Trying to.

GLENN

Is that the one about the time travelling pirate?

SARAH

No. Not exactly.

GLENN

Oh. I thought it was.

SARAH

Aren't you tired?

GLENN

Not really.

SARAH

Well, if you're not tired go and watch some TV and let me read my book.

SARAH goes back to reading her book.

GLENN

Would you look at us. Here it is Friday night and we're at home when we should be out dancing or going to the theatre.

SARAH

You don't like the theatre.

GLENN

I like dinner theatre.

SARAH

Yes, well who doesn't.

SARAH goes back to reading her book.

GLENN watches her for a long moment before speaking.

GLENN

What was the last play we saw?

SARAH (Slightly annoyed.)

I don't know.

GLENN

It's been a while.

SARAH

Yes.

Pause

GLENN

Oh, I remember it was Private Lives by Noel Coward.

SARAH

Was it?

GLENN

Yes.

SARAH (Putting her book down)

Is there something you want to tell me? You seem restless.

GLENN

I was just thinking about my golf game tomorrow.

SARAH

What about it?

GLENN

I was thinking of cancelling it. Spending the afternoon with you.

SARAH

Oh, I wouldn't do that, if I were you. Besides, I won't be home. I'm meeting Rachell and we're going rock climbing.

GLENN

Are you?

SARAH

Yes.

GLENN

I didn't know you liked rock climbing.

SARAH

Thought I'd give it a try. Something new. Something unexpected.

GLENN

Right then. I suppose I'll just do my teeth and come bed then, shall I?

SARAH

Up to you.

GLENN heads to the bathroom in order to brush his teeth. SARAH goes back to reading her book and then stops. SHE looks towards the bathroom and gets an idea. She puts down her book – gets out of bed and grabs a pillow and hides around the corner, so GLENN won't see her when he comes out of the bathroom. After a long moment GLENN enters from the bathroom and heads towards the bed. SARAH runs up behind him and clobbers him over the back with her pillow.

GLENN is stunned for a moment and turns to SARAH. She whacks him in the face with her pillow and then retreats.

GLENN

Why you! Get back here.

SARAH

Make me.

GLENN grabs his own pillow and attacks SARAH. GLENN and SARAH have a big pillow fight each giving as good as he or she gets. They are having a lot of fun and laughing and afterwards fall back on the bed exhausted. They look at each other happily.

BLACK OUT

SCENE VII: SARAH & GLENN's BEDROOM SUITE – SATURDAY

At rise the bedroom suite is empty but lying across the bed is a WONDER WOMAN costume and a 1970s one-piece Elvis jumpsuit. SARAH enters with a tray containing a pitcher of martinis, two martini glasses, some olives and snacks. GLENN enters.

GLENN

Sarah.

SARAH

Jerry, thank God you're here. I'm so looking forward to today.

GLENN

Sarah, it's me Glenn.

SARAH

Oh, good Lord, what are you still doing here? Please be a darling and let me have my afternoon with Jerry.

GLENN

I can't do that Sarah. You have to make a choice.

SARAH

And what about you? Will you have to make a choice?

GLENN

What does that mean?

SARAH crosses over to her JEWELLERY case and gets an earring.

SARAH

Look what I found.

GLENN

An earring?

SARAH

Yes, in our bed. And it doesn't belong to me.

GLENN

Are you sure about that?

SARAH

Oh, quite sure. Who does it belong to, I wonder? Are you having an affair?

Hardly.

GLENN

You show all the signs.

SARAH

Do I?

GLENN

Oh yes. And if you're going outside our marriage to satisfy your carnal desires you have no right to deny me my afternoons with Jerry.

SARAH

That's not fair. You tricked me.

GLENN

You were a willing participant.

SARAH

Alright then – you've left me no choice – I'll simply have to – kill Jerry.

GLENN

Kill Jerry?

SARAH

Yes.

GLENN

That should be interesting.

SARAH

Since you seem so unwilling to give him up – I see no other solution. No jury in the world would convict me.

GLENN goes and grabs the gun case and unlocks it.

SARAH

What are you doing?

GLENN

Getting my gun.

SARAH

Glenn. Don't.

GLENN

Why not?

SARAH

Because I don't want you fooling around with a loaded gun, that's why.

GLENN

You care more for this Jerry fellow than you do for me.

SARAH

That's not true. Would you rather I had an affair with someone other than Jerry.

GLENN

You wouldn't.

SARAH

I might. I'd rather keep Jerry as my lover but if you force me to look elsewhere, maybe I will.

GLENN

You wouldn't dare.

SARAH

Suppose I had liver cancer – would you deny me my needs and desires if I'd been given a death sentence?

GLENN

Of course not. This is just an example – right?

SARAH

Yes.

GLENN

You shouldn't make light of such things.

SARAH

I'm not. But we've all been handed a death sentence. I could choke on a piece of lettuce. Suffer a brain aneurism. Get ripped to shreds by a herd of African Wallabies. Death is a daily possibility.

GLENN

Part of the arrangement was that we could end this if either one of us felt uncomfortable.

SARAH

Do you have something in writing or was it a verbal agreement?

GLENN

You know very well I have nothing in writing.

SARAH

Well then, if I were you, I'd get out of here before Jerry arrives.

GLENN

You want me to leave? Just so you and your lover can play one of your ridiculous games.

SARAH

No judgments remember, and don't call them ridiculous.

GLENN

Why not? They are ridiculous. Two adults dressing up in costumes just so they can make love. It's pathetic.

SARAH

You're welcome to watch if you want.

GLENN

I don't think so. Next thing you'll be suggesting a threesome.

SARAH

Why, does that interest you?

GLENN

With you and Jerry? No thank you.

SARAH

What about you, me, and Tina?

GLENN

Well, that's not likely to happen, is it?

SARAH

Really? You don't think she'd be up for such a thing?

GLENN

It was one time. It won't happen again.

SARAH

I hope you two practiced safe sex – even if it was just once.

GLENN

Worried about illegitimate children?

SARAH

Hardly. Herpes. Syphilis. Gonorrhea. Hepatitis. Genital warts. HIV. I worry about those things. That's why what we have works so well. There's no risk.

GLENN

I hope you and your lover have been doing me the same courtesy.

SARAH

Of course. He's completely faithful to me.

GLENN

How can you be so sure? Maybe he's already seeing someone else.

SARAH

Oh, I doubt that. I'm more than enough for him – don't you think.

GLENN

Listen Sarah, what you and Jerry have has grown into something far bigger than a casual once a week roll in the hay.

SARAH

And what's wrong with that?

GLENN

In some ways you like him more than me.

SARAH

Yes, I like Jerry. Why not? He's fun. He makes me laugh. Or he did until a few weeks ago. But that doesn't mean I don't love you. It just means I need something more.

GLENN

The physical affair I can understand – maybe even forgive. But this emotional affair is another matter entirely.

SARAH

I don't believe in calling a friendship with another person – other than your significant other – an emotional affair. For God sakes aren't we civilized enough to have male and female friends.

GLENN

So, you think men and women can be friends.

SARAH

I do.

GLENN

What about husbands and wives? Can they be friends?

SARAH

Aren't we?

GLENN

Then I'm asking you as a friend to break it off with Jerry, or I swear to God I'll hold a gun to his head and blow his brains out.

SARAH

Oh, we're back to that are we.

GLENN listens and turns his head.

GLENN

Did you hear something?

SARAH

No, but I'll bet you did.

GLENN

That's probably Jerry now.

SARAH grabs the gun from GLENN

SARAH

Even if it is. You're not using this.

GLENN

Give that back.

SARAH

No.

GLENN

Fine, I'll just have to kill him with my bare hands then, won't I.

SARAH

Yes, why don't you do that.

GLENN exits the bedroom

*SARAH walks over to the photograph of her and Glenn on their 10th Anniversary
slams it down on the shelf.*

The door reopens.

	SARAH
Jerry, thank God.	
	WALTER (With a Southern drawl.)
Jerry? Who the Sam hell is Jerry?	
	SARAH
Glenn?	
	WALTER
Do I really look like your husband?	
	SARAH
You bear a striking resemblance.	
	WALTER
I apologize for bothering you mam, but you and I have something important to discuss.	
	SARAH
Do we?	
	WALTER
Yes, you see my wife Tina – and your husband – are having an affair.	
	SARAH
Oh, you're Walter, are you?	
	WALTER
That's right mam. Walter Chadwick from Chadwick's Auto Discount Mall.	
	SARAH
How nice to meet you.	
	WALTER
My wife you see, for lack of a better word, has been behaving like a bit of a whore.	
	SARAH
That's a rather cruel thing for a husband to say.	
	WALTER
What else am I to call her?	

SARAH

You could try darling or sweetheart or love. I think that would be far more appropriate. You're certainly not going to win her back by calling her names.

WALTER

So, you think there's a chance I can get her back.

SARAH

If you love her.

WALTER

I do. I love her more than anything in the world. So, I hope you'll understand if I tell your husband – that if he doesn't stop messing around with my wife – I'm going to take him into the woods and feed him to the bears.

SARAH

Really.

WALTER

Yes, really. Do you know how devastating it is for a man to discover that his wife has been unfaithful? Do you know how deeply that hurts? How worthless and unwanted it makes him feel.

SARAH

Well, maybe you two aren't compatible anymore, and if you've lost zee spark maybe it's time you two went your separate ways.

WALTER

But that's not what I want.

SARAH

Then why don't you tell Tina that. Not me. Goodbye Walter. You can find your way out I take it.

SARAH shoves WALTER out of the room.

SARAH crosses to the trunk and pulls out the TINA wig and puts it on.

JERRY enters.

JERRY

Tina!

TINA

Yes Glenn, it's me.

JERRY (With a British Accent)

Don't you mean Jerry.

TINA

Oh no I want to talk to Glenn. Jerry hasn't arrived yet.

JERRY

No?

TINA

No.

JERRY/GLENN

Alright – Glenn then. What do you want?

TINA

I want you. I want to lay my head on your chest and listen to your heartbeat. I want you to wrap your arms around me and hold me close. I don't want to give you up. Please don't make me.

GLENN

Can't we just have our one night together? Can't that memory be enough?

TINA

I'm not asking for much, am I? Just one evening a week. Can't we fit that into our schedules?

GLENN

And what does your husband have to say about all this?

TINA

Walter – oh he won't mind. He's gay.

GLENN

Is he? I had no idea.

TINA

Oh, yes. He puts on a good front, but I know the truth. His real soul mate is his best friend Martin. They met in college. In fact, they were roommates. Well more than roommates really. I just wish – that in this day and age – he had the courage to be himself and not live a lie.

GLENN

Odd thing is I had heard that Walter was in a rage over our affair.

TINA

He tends to overcompensate. It's all part of his macho act.

GLENN

I see.

TINA

So, did you want to stay here and spend the afternoon in bed, or did you want to go golfing like we planned and let Sarah and Jerry have their fun.

GLENN

What do you want?

TINA

I think Tina and Glenn should go golfing.

GLENN

Do you?

TINA

Yes

Pause.

GLENN

Well, we'd better hurry then. We have a tee time at 1:00.

GLENN exits.

TINA

Ha, didn't figure on Tina showing up, did you.

TINA takes the wig off and fixes her hair and becomes SARAH once again.

SARAH pours herself a martini as JERRY appears on the roof outside the window. He knocks on the window and SARAH crosses and opens it. JERRY speaks with a British accent.

SARAH

What on earth are you doing out there?

JERRY

I didn't want to run into that crazy husband of yours.

JERRY climbs in through the window.

SARAH

Would you like a martini?

JERRY

No thanks.

SARAH

So, who are you planning to murder?

JERRY

I'm not planning on murdering anyone.

SARAH

That's a refreshing change.

JERRY

I want you to leave your husband and come live with me, Sarah. I want to make love with you in the morning and then go grocery shopping. I want to meet your parents and spend time at family dinners. I want to know your children and find out who your favourite musicians are. I want to go to the movies with you. I want to hold your hand. I want all those things and I'm willing to fight for them.

SARAH

Are you?

JERRY

Yes. You know your husband showed up at the gym yesterday looking for me.

SARAH

Was he alone or did he bring Walter?

JERRY

Who the hell is Walter?

SARAH

Tina's husband.

JERRY

What's Tina got to do with any of this?

SARAH

Her and Glenn are having an affair.

JERRY

Oh, I'm so sorry Sarah. I can't believe he'd do that to you. You must have been devastated when you found out.

SARAH

Oh, it doesn't bother me in the least. At least not as long as he lets you and I see each other. By the way are we expecting anybody else to show up this afternoon? There wouldn't be a Latin lover on the horizon, would there?

JERRY

Do you want a Latin lover?

SARAH

Are you taking requests?

JERRY

No, I'm not taking requests. I'm going to end this once and for all.

JERRY grabs the gun.

SARAH

What are you doing with that?

JERRY

Don't worry. I won't use it unless I have to.

SARAH

I thought you said you weren't going to kill anyone.

JERRY

I have a right to protect myself.

SARAH

Okay then, I'm not going to stop you Jerry. Why don't you, Glenn, and Walter go grab a beer and sort things out. I'll wait here and have another drink, shall I. How does that sound?

JERRY

I'm only doing this because I love you.

JERRY exits. SARAH makes herself another drink while she listens. There is the sound of an intense argument off stage.

GLENN (off)

Listen here you bastard, I've had just about enough of your meddling in my marriage.

JERRY (off)

I'm sorry Glenn, but I love Sarah, and I'm not going to give her up.

GLENN (off)

Well, you can't have her. She's my wife and I love her.

JERRY (off)

If you loved her so much she wouldn't need me. A real husband would be able to satisfy his wife's every need.

GLENN (off)

How dare you. Sarah is the most important thing in the world to me, and I'll fight for her any way I can.

There is a crash and the sound of a fight.

JERRY (off)

Alright that's enough. Back off Glenn, I've got a gun.

GLENN (off)

Having a gun makes you a big man, doesn't it. Well, why don't you use it then?

JERRY (off)

You'd be willing to die for this woman?

GLENN (off)

Of course, I'd be willing to die for Sarah. She's the woman I married. The woman I fell in love with. The woman I want to grow old with.

JERRY (off)

Maybe that's not what she wants.

GLENN (off)

Well, we'll just have to find out, won't we.

There is more crashing and screaming and then a gun shot. Silence. SARAH waits to see who walks through the door.

GLENN enters – his shirt ripped – his hair is tussled. He carries the gun. He comes in exhausted and breathing heavily.

SARAH

Glenn?

GLENN

It's alright.

GLENN puts the gun on the counter.

GLENN

It's done.

SARAH

What is?

GLENN

I told you I was going to kill Jerry – and I did.

SARAH

This is a step backwards. Don't you remember where we were two years ago. If you kill Jerry you're killing whatever chance we have of staying together.

GLENN

I don't believe that.

SARAH

There must be some other solution.

GLENN

I can't think of any.

SARAH

Are you willing to risk losing me?

GLENN

I'm trying to get you back.

SARAH

I understand that, but I need Jerry. And you have Tina.

GLENN

I don't want Tina. And besides I ran into Tina's husband Walter and he threatened to kill me. Can you believe that? He held a gun to my head and told me that if I ever so much as touched his wife again he'd shoot my brains out.

SARAH

Did he?

GLENN

Yes.

Beat

SARAH

You do know he's gay.

GLENN

I had heard he was bi.

Ah well, that explains things then.

SARAH

Yes.

GLENN

Pause.

Well, maybe that's okay?

SARAH

Is it?

GLENN

Yes. Are you sure you shot Jerry?

SARAH

I think I know who I shot.

GLENN

And where'd you put the body?

SARAH

The body?

GLENN

Yes. You can't leave the body lying around for the police to find can you.

SARAH

No, of course not.

GLENN

SARAH and GLENN look at the trunk.

He's in the trunk.

GLENN

Is he?

SARAH

Yes.

GLENN

SARAH opens the trunk.

Oh dear.	SARAH
What is it?	GLENN
This is Walter. Not Jerry.	SARAH
Walter?	GLENN
Yes.	SARAH
Why would I shoot Walter?	GLENN
You were just defending yourself from the angry bisexual husband. Perfectly understandable.	SARAH
Is it?	GLENN
Yes.	SARAH
What are you up to?	GLENN
You want me?	SARAH
Yes.	GLENN
And I'm to give up Jerry?	SARAH
Yes.	GLENN
And you're to give up Tina.	SARAH

GLENN

Yes.

SARAH

Does that mean that Tina and Jerry would be free to get together?

GLENN

Tina and Jerry?

SARAH

Yes, would that work?

GLENN

I hadn't thought of that.

SARAH

Well would it?

GLENN

Not here.

SARAH

Not here?

GLENN

No, not here. Not in our bedroom. This is for you and me. For us.

SARAH

So, Jerry and Tina would have to find another place.

GLENN

Yes.

SARAH

Such as?

GLENN

Oh, I don't know, how about the Super 8 across from the KFC on Lexington?

SARAH

Oh, I think they could do better than that.

GLENN

A little bed and breakfast maybe.

Maybe. SARAH

Beat

How often would they meet?

Once a month? GLENN

Once a week? SARAH

Twice a month. GLENN

Once every two weeks. SARAH

Any particular day? GLENN

Maybe we should make that flexible? SARAH

Yes, it's good to be flexible. GLENN

I agree. SARAH

Beat

And the trunk. What shall we do with the trunk? GLENN

With Walter you mean? SARAH

Yes. Poor Walter. Would you be willing to give up the trunk? GLENN

Do I have to? SARAH

Yes. For now.

GLENN

For now?

SARAH

Yes.

GLENN

Beat

And us?

SARAH

Can we just be us?

GLENN

I don't know. Can we?

SARAH

Can we just try?

GLENN

Pause

Alright. I'll try.

SARAH

That's all I'm asking.

GLENN

But no more games.

SARAH

That's funny coming from you.

GLENN

You know what I mean.

SARAH

No more games.

GLENN

Just us.

SARAH

Yes.

GLENN

They kiss.

BLACK OUT