

RAW PROVOCATIVE HUMANE PLAYS

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[pwnd]
a play in one act
by
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[pwnd]
a play in one act

Synopsis

Suspicious of the friendship that has developed between his two roommates – his fiancé and his best friend – a young man levels an accusation that unleashes secrets and long-hidden resentments that threaten to tear all of their relationships apart.

Character Breakdown

Todd Valis - 27, Smart, hard working, and devoted to the code of midwestern modern chivalry. A typical college kid - which would be fine, except that he graduated five years ago. Determined to grow the hell up.

Gabe Porlin- 26, Todd's roommate and college best friend. Smart, but not where he thought he'd be five years out of school. Possessed of an acerbic wit - he'd be real funny if you were ever totally sure he was kidding.

Jessica Stanton - 24, Todd's fiancée; shares an apartment with Gabe and a room with Todd. A former girl's-girl who has spent the past 18 months immersed in a world of headlocks and video games. One of the guys.

Setting

The living room of Gabe, Todd, and Jessica's New York outer-borough apartment. White walls, occasional posters, ratty furniture, and lots of electronics. Eleven o'clock on a Friday night.

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Lights rise on the living room of a post-college, post-frat-house two-bedroom apartment. White walls, occasional posters, ratty furniture, and lots of electronics. Late evening.

GABE PORLIN, 26, and JESSICA STANTON, 24, sit on the couch - him in a pair of sweats and a t-shirt, her in a pair of boxers and a tank top. Jessica fidgets uncomfortably, legs tightly crossed. They are deeply engaged in a game on the Playstation.

GABE

Where are you?

JESSICA

I'm by the well.

GABE

He's stabbing me!

JESSICA

I'm coming!

GABE

No, he's using my face for stabbing!

JESSICA

Well, tell him to quit it!

(to the game - a war cry)

ARRRRRRRRRRRRGGGGHHHHH! Take that, motherfuckers!

(to Gabe)

I'm almost there!

TODD VALIS, 27, emerges from one of the bedrooms, unbuttoning semi-official looking uniform shirt of a private security watchman. He takes in the game.

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What level is this?
TODD

Where are you?
JESSICA

Over here! I'm jumping. Do you see me? I'm jumping.
GABE

Gotcha! Watch your back!
JESSICA

Got it. Thanks.
GABE

I gotta pee, for real. A lot.
JESSICA

We're almost there.
GABE

Who is that?
TODD

Zhou Yun.
(quickly)
GABE & JESSICA

Ready?
GABE

Ready.
JESSICA

Alright. One!
GABE

Two!
JESSICA

Three!
GABE

MUSOU!!!
GABE & JESSICA

They both hit a button on their controller and the sound from the game erupts. Jessica is already up and edging her way towards the bathroom, thinking the fight is done. She takes in the screen and stops.

GABE
That didn't even fucking dent him...

JESSICA
(sitting back down)
Shit.

TODD
(to Jessica)
Dumpling! Get the dumpling! Behind you!

GABE
No! Don't!

JESSICA
I know! I know!

GABE
Ready?

JESSICA
Seriously. I'm gonna pee myself!

GABE
Don't! You'll ruin the couch!

Jessica snorts and gives two quick punches to Gabe's arm.

JESSICA

Don't make me laugh or I will!

GABE

Stop musou-ing me!

Jessica punches him again.

GABE

Okay! Okay - watch your back! And one! Two!

JESSICA

I'm sorry!

GABE

Musou!

Jessica pauses the game and leaps up over the back of the couch, launching herself towards the bathroom.

JESSICA

I'll be right back!

Jessica slams the bathroom door behind her. Gabe is shell shocked. He has no idea what to do - his rhythm is broken.

GABE

Okay... Okay...

(calling)

HURRY!

JESSICA

(from the bathroom)

I'd be faster if I had gone a half hour ago when I wanted to!

GABE

Okay! I'm just saying hurry!

Gabe "shadowboxes" with the inactive controller, trying to keep his body in the game. After a beat...

TODD

What are you doing?

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GABE

Shhhhh! I'm trying not to fuck up my rhythm.

JESSICA

(from inside the bathroom)

Where is the toilet paper?

GABE

I don't know! Use a fucking towel! Just get back in here!

Todd bounds over the back of the couch, landing in Jessica's spot. He picks up her abandoned controller and hits the pause button. The sound of the game bursts to life.

GABE

What are you doing?

TODD

Who are we killing?

JESSICA

(shouting panicked from inside the bathroom)

What are you doing?

GABE

(to Todd, in full-on survival mode)

Everybody but me. Watch the spear!

Todd nods. He aims his laser focus at the screen - a calm, cool killing machine.

Jessica bursts from the bathroom in a panic.

JESSICA

What are you doing?

TODD

I'm killing Wang Fun.

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Zhou Yun. GABE

Pause it! JESSICA

Hold on! TODD

Don't fuck up my guy! JESSICA

I'm not going to fuck anything up. TODD

Bang! Todd makes a big move, and it is triumphant.

Take that! TODD

Where is the toilet paper? JESSICA

I think it's in my room. GABE

Jessica bolts off for the second bedroom. As she goes...

Seriously! Don't fuck up my guy! JESSICA

He does this big swinging thing. Watch it. Ready? One, two... MUSOU! GABE

What? TODD

Circle! Circle! GABE

Sound erupts from the game. Jessica emerges from Gabe's room, roll of toilet paper in hand, and bolts towards the bathroom.

JESSICA

Pause it! I'll be right back.

Jessica slams the door of the bathroom behind her.

GABE

(to the game)

Yeah! Fuck yeah! Take that!

Gabe and Todd have fallen into a rhythm. Their fingers dance virtuosically on the controllers. They lean into the game with a hot focus.

Jessica bursts out of the bathroom.

JESSICA

Pause it!

Jessica leaps over the back of the couch, landing between Todd and Gabe. Todd and Gabe continue playing. Jessica reaches for Todd's controller and wraps her hand around it.

JESSICA

Pause it!

TODD

(pulling the controller back away)

Watch it!

Jessica reaches in again to take the controller.

JESSICA

Let go!

She slips the controller out of Todd's hands. Todd retreats to perch on the arm of the sofa, watching them.

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Where is he?
JESSICA

Behind you.
GABE

Where?
JESSICA

There! There!
GABE

I don't see you. Fuck...
JESSICA

On the count of-
GABE

One?
JESSICA

Two!
GABE

FUCK!
JESSICA

Watch it! Get him! Get him!
GABE

I'm trying!
JESSICA

Look out!
GABE

The game spits out a litany of unpleasant sounds - not the sounds of victory. Jessica slams her controller to the floor.

FUCK!!!
 (a beat)
 Fuck.
 (a beat)
 Fuck...
 (a beat)
 Damn it.

Jessica and Gabe stare at the screen. A moment passes as they take in their defeat.

JESSICA
 (to Gabe)
 I'm sorry.

GABE
 (comforting)
 It wasn't your fault.

A beat.

JESSICA
 (to Todd)
 What the fuck is wrong with you?

TODD
 Nothing.

JESSICA
 God *damn* it.

Jessica gets up and storms out of the room into the bedroom Todd had emerged from, slamming the door behind her.

Todd and Gabe sit uncomfortably for a moment. Gabe looks at Todd, opens his mouth to say something. Todd looks away.

A beat.

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You okay?

GABE

Todd shrugs.

A beat.

You want to play?

GABE

Todd shrugs.

A beat.

Gabe gets up and heads for the playstation console.
Suddenly ...

Are you fucking Jessica?

TODD

...No.

GABE

A beat. Todd gets up and walks away. Gabe watches him.

Jessica appears in the bedroom door.

It took us all night. To get to that level. All night.

JESSICA

Are you fucking Gabe?

TODD

Excuse me?

JESSICA

Are you fucking Gabe?

TODD

JESSICA
Right now?

TODD
While I'm at work.

JESSICA
While you're at work? Yes. Is that why you fucked up my guy?
(a beat)
No, I'm not. What the fuck is wrong with you?

TODD
Are you?

JESSICA
No.

A beat.

TODD
Really?

JESSICA
Are you serious?

TODD
I think I am, yeah. One night in a month I get out of work early, and this is what I find.

JESSICA
What?

TODD
The two of you.

JESSICA
Playing *Dynasty Warriors*.

TODD
Dressed like that.

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JESSICA

Like what?

TODD

In your little shorts and your--

JESSICA

I'm dressed for bed.

TODD

Yeah.

JESSICA

In my living room. At bedtime.

TODD

On a Friday night?

JESSICA

He's seen me dressed for bed, Todd.

TODD

Since when is eleven o'clock "bedtime?"

JESSICA

I'm not having this conversation.

TODD

Yes, you are.

JESSICA

What should I be, Todd? Dressed to go to Cavo? You weren't supposed to be home until two.

TODD

(turning on Gabe)

And I'm just saying it's a little bit unusual.

GABE

And I'm just saying it's more than a little bit unusual that my best friend is accusing me of fucking his fiance because she's in her jammies at eleven o'clock on a Friday night.

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TODD

Have you ever known her to be in her pajamas at eleven at night?

GABE

Yes.

TODD

Yeah, you have, Gabe. And that's because every time you have, I've fucked her while you were out earlier that night. And she doesn't like to get all back dressed after.

JESSICA

You know what, Todd, it's not really his business what we do when he's out.

TODD

Well it's damn well my business what you two do while I'm out.

A long beat.

GABE

We were just playing a video game, Todd.

TODD

It's not just about the game. It was the same thing two weeks ago. Pajamas and the *Godfather*.

JESSICA

You're right. I'm sorry. I should always wear jeans whenever you're not in the room. And a sweater.

TODD

Just tell me. And we can talk about it.

JESSICA

I don't know what I'm supposed to say to this, Todd. For real, if you're coming in here and accusing me of... "fucking" someone else - of fucking *Gabe* - because I *sometimes* don't wait until you get home from work to get ready for bed, then I'm not having this conversation anymore. I'm just not.

Jessica turns and picks up her controller, then drops it.

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JESSICA

Except that we have to, because what are we going to do about this?

Jessica and Todd look at each other.

JESSICA

I'm not "fucking" Gabe, Todd. Okay?

A beat.

JESSICA

Okay?

A beat. Jessica turns and takes up her controller again.

JESSICA

Let's play *Red Dead*. We can do that with three people.

TODD

It's not just the pajamas.

JESSICA

It isn't anything, Todd.

TODD

Why were you watching *The Godfather* with him at all?

JESSICA

Jesus.

GABE

It was on, Todd.

TODD

It's always on.

JESSICA

And so we watched it. Every time the three of us go out to an Italian place and one of you gets up to go to the bathroom - the other one reaches out and grabs the other one by the balls? And then goes, "I checked him. He's clean."? And then you to do your little heyena laugh and bump fists and go on your way?

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Okay, I always thought that was just fucked up. And it is. But I get it now. I get why it's awesome. I get the Sonny and Fredo and the "Luca Brasi is sleeping with the fishes." The whole thing. I get it. And from now on, we go to Alfredos, *you* grab his balls, *I'll* say "He's clean." It'll be, like, a whole thing.

(a beat)

I saw your favorite movie. I'm sorry.

TODD

You saw it without me.

JESSICA

Yeah, I did.

Jessica turns and walks into the bedroom. Todd begins to follow her, but...

GABE

You know what, Todd - she's allowed to see a movie without you.

TODD

Excuse me?

GABE

She's allowed to see a movie without you. I'm sorry, but seriously, I love you man, but *that's* the thing I hate. She's your girlfriend, fine, but--

TODD

She's my *fiance*--

GABE

In *either* case, she doesn't belong to you. She's her own person. And she's my friend, and she's Lex's friend, and she's Bobby's sister, and she's any number of different things.

TODD

I know that.

GABE

Fine, then.

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TODD

I'm just saying, that one movie. I would have liked to have watched it with her. I would have liked to have watched her watch it. And you, of all people, should have known that.

GABE

Fine. But it was on and you weren't here. We do a lot of things without you. These days.

TODD

Excuse me?

GABE

Nothing.

TODD

Excuse me?

GABE

We do things without you. We have a lot in common.

TODD

Like what?

GABE

Besides we're both having to deal with this shit?

TODD

Besides that, yeah.

JESSICA

Leave it alone, Todd.

TODD

(waving her off)

Besides that, yeah.

GABE

We have similar tastes in porn.

TODD

Fuck you.

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GABE

No, seriously, we do.

(beat)

Plus we both love you.

(beat)

And we have similar tastes in porn. She likes girl-on-girl. From time-to-time. As a change of pace. And I think that's cool. Especially when the girls have, like, tattoos and glasses and sundresses and shit. So, you know, if I stumble on some nerd-on-nerd lesbian movies, the kind where it's not too arty and they look like they never thought anybody would see it, I give her a shout. And we look at the internets.

TODD

That's not funny

GABE

I'm just saying, if we're not gonna see you but twice a week, and only if we're up after two, you don't get to pick how we pass the time while you're gone.

TODD

So you *are*--

GABE

That's not what I'm saying. I'm just saying.

TODD

That's not something to fuck around about, Gabe.

GABE

I'm not fucking around, Todd. And don't tell me you didn't know she's into that, from time-to-time. As a change of pace. I know about Fort Lauderdale.

Todd shoots a glare at Jessica.

TODD

Jessica?

JESSICA

It came up.

GABE

It was a *year* ago, Todd.

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TODD

(to Jessica)

How does something like that “come up”?

JESSICA

It just does.

GABE

The same way it came up that I screwed Mamie on the swing set behind the church. The same way it came up that Betsy’s sister went down on you in the bathroom at Pugsley’s when she was up looking at schools. Things like that “come up” sometimes.

JESSICA

Wait... Betsy-Betsy?

GABE

(to Jessica)

Yeah.

(to Todd)

You should know that better than anyone. And you know what - after sophomore, junior, senior year living together, and four years since, I can’t believe I had to hear it from *her*.

TODD

I don’t tell you everything, Gabe.

(to Jessica)

And I wish she wouldn’t, either.

GABE

(re: Jessica)

We’re friends.

TODD

No, you’re *my* friend. And some things aren’t for you to know. There are fucking *boundaries*, is what I’m saying. Some things a couple does is just between them.

GABE

Of course. I’m just saying, a threesome in Fort Lauderdale isn’t one of those things.

JESSICA

Gabe--

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GABE

I mean, like by definition it's not.

TODD

This isn't a time to get cute with me, Gabe.

GABE

I'm not being cute. There was a time that would have warranted a call.

TODD

Well that time isn't anymore. And in any case, Gabe, you shouldn't be talking to my girlfriend about stuff like that. That's what I'm talking about.

GABE

And *that's* what I'm talking about - she's not always your girlfriend.

TODD

Fuck you, she's not.

GABE

No, I mean she wasn't being your girlfriend when she was telling me about that. She was being my roommate and my friend - and she *is* my friend - and sometimes friends talk to each other about stuff like that. And I get to talk to her about things like that, and I get to play *Dynasty Warriors* with her *in my pajamas* without you accusing me of fucking her behind your back. Which, incidentally... I'm not. And I can't be her friend if I have to worry about offending you and your fucking property rights all the time. You may be my older friend, but I'm always, *always* going to side with the one who's not making me pick.

TODD

There's a difference between making you pick and asking you not to fuck her.

GABE

I didn't say there wasn't.

TODD

I work sixty-five hours a week.

GABE

Yeah.

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TODD

And I thought I could *trust you* to keep an eye on her.

JESSICA

I don't need anyone to keep an eye on me.

TODD

Well, I certainly don't need him watching porn with you on the couch.

GABE

Sometimes we watch it on your bed.

TODD

God *damn* it!

Todd advances on Gabe. Gabe backs away.

GABE

I'm kidding. Calm the fuck down.

TODD

And I love you, man, but you know the one thing I hate about you? You don't know when to kid and when to not.

GABE

I err on the side of not letting other people's bullshit dictate whether I get to say what I want or not. I can do what I want with my friends. And if you're going to tell her that if she wears that fucking ring it means she can't do what she wants with her's - if it comes with a sign that says "no trespassing by fucking *talking* to me too hard" - then I'm going to tell her to run. Go down to the street right now and hitch back to Toronto if she has to. Because the glories of America are not worth marrying into that shit.

TODD

Whoa. You take that back. That's not why we're getting married.

GABE

I'm just saying, if it were--

JESSICA

It's not, Gabe.

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GABE

I know that's not.

TODD

Then why did you say it?

JESSICA

Just let it go.

TODD

I don't think I will.

JESSICA

Why do you have to do this? Why, Todd?

TODD

Do what?

JESSICA

This. Make this a thing. You're right, you work 65 hours a week. And he's right - that means he and I spend, like, twenty hours alone in this apartment every week. And we've become friends. Good friends. But friends, Todd. And the one night in a month you get home early and this is what you want to do with it?

TODD

Believe me, Jess, there are a million things I'd rather be doing right now.

JESSICA

Then let's.

A beat.

JESSICA

I didn't say "yes" because I didn't want to get shipped back north. I said "yes" because I wanted to stay here with you. But at this point, I don't know why we're getting married anymore, Todd. I mean, I do, and I want to. But I can't look forward to sixty years of this.

TODD

Of what?

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JESSICA

Of sitting home in my pajamas playing video games. And watching movies. And playing parcheesi. And watching fucking girlie porn with your roommate. And yes, we do. Sometimes. *And I look forward to it.* Because I have nothing else in my life. I had you, and I don't know where the fuck you are anymore.

TODD

I'm working.

JESSICA

And *he* doesn't know where you are anymore.

TODD

I'm working. You know where I work.

JESSICA

I don't mean I don't know *where* you are. I mean I don't know *where you are*, anymore. We're young, Todd. I'm twenty-four. It's 11:20 on a Friday night. I should be getting ready to go out to paint the town, you know. I should be out at a bar with my friends. I should be in that bedroom doing loud and terrible things with you because he's out for the night. But I'm sitting here in my pajamas yelling "musou" and storming castles because I didn't think I'd see you before two. And then you'd be too tired to do anything.

TODD

I'm *working*.

JESSICA

Anything, Todd. And you've left me and you've left him with nothing to do but each other. To hang out. And that's what we do while you're gone. We pass the time and we wonder out loud to each other when you're going to get here.

(a beat)

I used to sit on the back of the couch and watch you guys play video games all night - and the three of us had a great time. Do you know it took us three weeks of me sitting on the back of this couch *watching* him play by himself before it occurred to either of us that I could pick up the other controller and play, too. And now we do. And we have a great time. And I miss you. And it has to stop.

TODD

You think I *want* to go to the office all day then sit security for six hours every night?

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JESSICA
Then don't.

TODD
I don't have a choice.

JESSICA
Of course you have a choice.

TODD
I really don't.

JESSICA
We all have a choice. Me. Gabe. We go to work all day, we come home and play video games.

TODD
Well, that's you.

JESSICA
You could, too.

TODD
I really can't.

JESSICA
And what I'm saying is, you'd better.

TODD
I can't. I have to pay for that fucking ring.

A beat.

JESSICA
Excuse me?

TODD
That fucking ring. I have to pay for it.

A beat.

JESSICA

I thought you said it was your grandmothers.

TODD

Well, it's not.

JESSICA

You said it was--

TODD

Because you wouldn't take it if I didn't.

JESSICA

I didn't need a ring, Todd.

TODD

I know.

JESSICA

I *told* you I didn't.

TODD

Yeah, well, I know a certain person who shoved you out of her vagina who wouldn't have let me hear the end of it.

GABE

The girl from Fort Lauderdale?

Todd wheels on Gabe.

TODD

Fuck you.

JESSICA

I would have helped pay for it.

TODD

A girl doesn't pay for her engagement ring.

JESSICA

Why not?

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TODD

They *don't*.

JESSICA

Eventually they do. I mean, community property and such, eventually they do. And in any case, this girl would've.

TODD

Well... I just wanted to get you something nice.

JESSICA

The nicest thing about it is I thought it was from your grandmother.

TODD

Well, it wasn't, so...

JESSICA

How much was it?

TODD

It doesn't matter.

JESSICA

It does.

TODD

It was my money.

JESSICA

Well, your money's gonna be my money before too long...

A beat.

TODD

\$12,000.

A beat.

JESSICA

Are you fucking stupid?

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TODD

Hey.

JESSICA

No, seriously, are you fucking stupid?

GABE

Holy shit.

JESSICA

That's a down payment, Todd.

GABE

Holy *shit!*

TODD

Shut the fuck up, I don't need to hear from you about this.

GABE

I think you might.

TODD

Remember those things I said are between a guy and his girlfriend? Well what I do with my money is *at best* between her and me.

(to Jessica)

And until we're married, I'm not totally convinced it's that.

GABE

Fuck you.

TODD

Fuck *you*.

GABE

Do you not get it? That you have an impact?

TODD

Yeah, my impact is I work fifteen hours a day to pay for that ring - and I'm sorry, Jess, that I wanted to get you something nice to celebrate our fucking *love*. And to pay for that Playstation and that stereo and half the fucking cable.

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All this so you can get out at five o'clock, come home, and play Playstation with my girlfriend all night on *my* fucking PS2. And we're talking best fucking scenario here, Gabe, is that you're just playing playstation with her.

GABE

I thought you said I could use any of your stuff.

TODD

Fuck you, little man.

GABE

You know, you're right, Todd. I do come home every night and play Playstation with your *fiance* - who is living in our apartment with us because *I* invited her to. When her visa was up, all you could do is blah, blah, blah into your pillow all night about how much you were going to miss her. Until *I* came in and said she should just move in here.

TODD

Jess--

GABE

She should just move in here - and you were ready to drive her to the bus station and send her on her way for eight months of late night phone calls and IMs and emails until you broke up because *it's just too hard*.

TODD

I didn't want to ask.

GABE

You didn't have to, is what I'm saying. I was glad to do it. And she moved in here. And it was fine. It was great. And I actually saw you again from time-to-time, which was really great. And given a few months of free shelter, she wrangled NAFTA and she got herself a job. Which was fine. And great. And between you you've got two-thirds of the money coming into this house and I'm still paying half the rent.

TODD

We've got the wedding to pay for.

GABE

The wedding of you and this girl I barely knew until I said, "Let's take her in" and decided to be her friend because I thought it would be something nice to do for you.

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TODD

This has really been bothering you.

GABE

For the past year-and-a-half? Yeah. When I had to sell my Rockhopper? Yeah. When I couldn't go to Atlantic City with you guys and Mark and Erin? Yeah. When I gave my mom a pair of fucking *gloves* for Christmas? Yeah, it did.

TODD

I didn't know.

GABE

You didn't *notice*. And now the icing is you come in and accuse me of fucking her.

TODD

Well, you should have said something.

GABE

I didn't want to have to ask. So yeah, I play with *your* girlfriend in *my* apartment on *your* PS2. Because I can't afford to go anyplace *but* my apartment or to buy my own PS2. So that's what I've got - your Playstation, the *Godfather* on TMC. And a BJ every now and then while you're at work. I think I've got it coming, is what I'm saying.

Todd glowers at Gabe, trying to get the measure of him.

GABE

I'm kidding.

TODD

You're a funny guy.

GABE

Not that funny.

A beat. They stare at each other.

GABE

I'm moving back in with my mom. When you get married? I've got nothing saved and I can't live in this city on my own. So all I'm saying is, if I ever *did* do anything--

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TODD

Did you?

GABE

If I did, maybe it wouldn't be entirely about fucking *her*.

Gabe turns and stalks into his room, slamming the door behind him.

Todd turns to Jessica.

TODD

Jess--

JESSICA

I'm getting out of here.

TODD

Where are you going?

Jessica heads for her and Todd's bedroom, twisting her ring off her finger as she goes.

JESSICA

I don't know. It's Friday night. Things are open.

Jessica disappears into the bedroom. Todd follows her to the door.

TODD

I'm coming with you.

Jessica reemerges from the bedroom.

JESSICA

(beginning to search the living room)

Where are my pants?

TODD

Jess--

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JESSICA

I need my wallet.

TODD

I'm not done talking to you.

JESSICA

I'm done talking to everyone. For tonight.

Todd notices Jessica's hand. He turns and looks into the bedroom, then disappears inside. He reemerges from the bedroom, holding up the ring.

TODD

What is this?

JESSICA

Todd--

TODD

What is this?

JESSICA

I'm not wearing it out.

Jessica charges towards the bathroom. Todd blocks her way.

TODD

The fuck you aren't.

JESSICA

Did you get it insured, Todd?

(beat)

Todd?

TODD

Put it back on.

JESSICA

I can't wear it out.

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Jessica charges past him into the bathroom.

TODD

Then stay in.

JESSICA

(inside the bathroom)

No.

TODD

Will you stop looking for your fucking *pants* and deal with me?

Jessica reemerges from the bathroom, heading past Todd towards her and Todd's bedroom.

JESSICA

(under her breath)

Fuck.

TODD

Jessica!

JESSICA

(still moving)

Todd--

TODD

If you leave here without this ring, you don't get it back.

Jessica wheels around.

JESSICA

I told you *I didn't want it*.

TODD

You know what I mean.

A beat.

JESSICA

So if I was fucking Gabe, that we could have talked about? But not this?

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TODD

I gave you that ring because I wanted people to know. And if you go out without it, it means you don't want people to know.

JESSICA

It means I don't want to walk around with a fucking Hyundai on my hand.

TODD

Put it back on. Or don't go out. Or don't come back.

JESSICA

Because I'm not acting like twelve thousand dollars worth of fiancée?

TODD

Right now? Not really.

Jessica stares at him a moment, then goes to Gabe's bedroom door and bangs on it.

JESSICA

Open up.

TODD

Jess--

JESSICA

Open the fucking door, Gabe.

TODD

Leave him out of this!

Gabe's bedroom door swings open. Jessica pushes her way past Gabe into his bedroom.

TODD

This is between you and me!

Jessica reemerges from Gabe's bedroom, pulling on a pair of jeans - belt through the loops, keys jangling in the pocket.

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JESSICA

This isn't between any of us anymore. You two can fuck each other, for all I care.

Jessica charges out the door, buckling her pants as she goes, slamming it shut behind her. Gabe stands in his doorway. Todd stands in the middle of the room. They look at each other.

Stillness. After a moment.

GABE

You haven't been around, Todd. For either of us.

TODD

I want you gone.

GABE

No.

TODD

By the end of the weekend.

GABE

I've got nowhere to go.

TODD

That's not my problem.

GABE

All the same...

Stillness. They stay locked on each other.

TODD

So that's it?

They stay locked in on each other. A beat.

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GABE

I told her you'd notice.

(a beat)

I'm just saying. We've been friends a long time.

Todd just looks at Gabe. A long, uncomfortable moment. Todd almost opens his mouth to say something, but nothing comes.

A beat.

Todd turns and walks into his room. His door closes with a "click."

Gabe stands alone for a moment.

Blackout.

END OF PLAY

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