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The Median Line

a play in one act

by Kitt Lavoie

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Synopsis

The story of a young man coming to terms with his promiscuous lifestyle and trying to find love, perhaps, with the girl next door. With a twist.

Playwright Bio

Kitt Lavoie is author of seventeen produced plays and musical books, including *Twice Rather Perish* and *The Median Line* (both winners of the Herbert J. Robinson Award for Dramatic Writing). His new full-length play, *Makes Three*, recently had its first public reading with The CRY HAVOC Company, which is also currently developing his newest full-length play, *A Writer for Children*. He has directed more than seventy-five shows in New York City, including the original productions of more than thirty plays. Kitt also regularly assists stage and television director Lonny Price, with whom he has recently worked on the Roundabout Theatre's Broadway revival of *110 in the Shade* (starring Audra McDonald and John Cullum), the American Premiere of *Night Season* by Rebecca Liefkowitz, and the PBS filming of the Tony Award winning John Doyle revival of Stephen Sondheim's *Company*. Kitt has also appeared onstage as Macbeth, Benedick (*Much Ado...*), and Roy Cohn *Angels in America*, among others, and has designed sets/lights for more than sixty shows. He holds a Master of Fine Arts in Directing from the Actors Studio Drama School, is a founding member of the Professional Playwrights Workshop at the Players Club and is a Member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers (SSDC). Kitt is Artistic Director and co-founder of The CRY HAVOC Company (www.cryhavocnyc.com). www.kittlavoie.com

Character Breakdown

Zack	A young man in his mid-to-late 20s
Medi	A woman of the same age
Girl #1	A woman in her early-20s whom Zack and Medi met at a bar
Girl #2	A woman in her mid-to-late-20s whom Zack met at a bar
Kate	A woman in her late-teens to early-20s; Zack and Medi's downstairs neighbor
Danny	A man in his mid-to-late 20s; Zack's friend; Kate's brother

Setting

Zack and Medi's Apartment

Time Period

Present day.

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by
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Scene 1

Darkness. Moaning is heard. There is intense sex being had, and it comes to an explosive end. After the act is finished, the lights rise. On stage there is a bed and strewn clothing. On the bed, **GIRL #1** is nude, with her back to the audience, sitting atop **ZACK**, a man in his mid-twenties, who, presumably, is also nude, though a tangle of sheets, comforters, and pillows block the audience's view.

Zack (with a contented, exhausted chuckle) That... that was... well, that was good. Real good. Yeah...

Girl #1 Mmmm... (pulls a long T-shirt over her head) Shower?

Zack In there. (points into the bathroom. Girl #1 rises) You know, you should do this for a living. (He laughs. Girl #1 exits to the bathroom) There are towels under the sink.

Zack lets out a contented sigh. The shower can be heard from the bathroom. From under the covers, an obviously, but not overly, intoxicated voice is heard.

Medi Shit. (Medi emerges from under the sheets and sits up next to Zack. She is buttoning up a man's pajama top) I can't believe we just did that.

Zack What?

Medi Her.

Zack Yeah, I know. She was great, wasn't she—

Medi How did—

Zack Well, not great, but—

Medi I can't believe—

Zack Good. Damn good.

Medi How did you—

Zack And did you notice the way her tongue could—

Medi (enraged, but mostly with herself) How could you let this happen? I thought we weren't going to.... anymore!... What... how could you?

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Zack I don't know.... it's a gift.

Medi A gift... (beat) I just can't believe we did this... again.

Zack What?

Medi Her.

Zack Again? No. I've never been with her, I'd remember.

Medi They're all the same.

Zack No. She was different. They're all different, really—

Medi Shut—

Zack Even the twins. They were different. Surprised me. You?

Medi Shut—

Zack I mean, I couldn't tell them apart in the light. In the dark, on the other hand. I mean, one liked to take—

Medi Shut up.

A beat.

Zack In the light, I could probably tell 'em apart by... which one chews her pencil. (he chuckles, Medi visibly contains herself) 'Cause one does, let me tell you.

Medi begins to laugh with Zack. The tension between them has subsided a bit. A silence falls between them.

Medi Did you tell her?

Zack No.

Medi No? (Zack shakes his head, a bit ashamed) Did you wear a... (Zack shakes his head) Just going to let her find out when she gets... Christ, you know how unfair that is, don't you.

Zack Oh, come on. Don't tell me it wasn't an even trade. I mean, she brought baggage into this bed, too, I'm sure. A girl like that? She's gotta own stock in penicillin—

Medi Shit. (A beat) Just get her out of here, okay?

Zack Sure.

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Medi stands up and begins to circle the bed.

Medi I can't believe you did this again—

Zack We did this ag—

Medi I had a lot to drink—

Zack As did I—

Medi Well, I'm not as tolerant as you.

Zack Look, you were in there. You were playing-- hard.

Medi Well, I was passed out and I woke up with her.... *thing* in my face. What was I supposed to do?

Zack You could have used your tongue to say something instead of—

Medi Hey, I—

Zack Why didn't you say anything?

Medi I don't know. I was confused-- disoriented. I thought she might be someone... important.

Zack So you li—

Medi Yes I did. I put in all that work and what did I get? Nothing.

Chuckles. Medi is standing in the corner. Girl #1 reenters wearing the T-shirt she had on before.

Zack Hey. Nice shower?

Girl #1 Yeah, you've got great water pressure.

Zack I try. (looks to Medi, who nods towards the door) Look, I've got to work early tomorrow, so...

Girl #1 I should really go, anyway.

Girl #1 goes to edge of bed and finds her jeans, then pulls them on.

Zack Yeah. So, you go to that place often?

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Girl #1 Pretty. You?

Zack Uh, no. No. Not as I should.

Girl #1 Hmmm.

Zack So... thanks.

Girl#1 Yeah. So, can I call you?

Zack Sure.

Girl #1 Number?

Zack I'll call you.

Girl #1 Sure. Okay. I'm at 483...

Zack I'll see you around.

Girl #1 (somewhat dejected) Alright... ?

Zack Rick. Rick Kline.

Girl #1 Rick. See you around, Rick. (exits apartment)

Medi Sometimes you are such a fuck, Zack.

Zack What?

Medi What?

Zack What?

Medi You didn't even give her your ri—

Zack Hey, that's the game. That's how it's played.

Medi C'mon. That's no ex—

Zack I didn't come up with the rules, kid. I just play by 'em.

Medi What about her?

Zack What *about* her? She was playing, too. Same game. Same rules. Same reward.

Medi What about me?

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Zack Same game, same rules, same—

Medi Same what? What do I get?

Zack You didn't enjoy—

Medi No.

Zack At all?

Medi No.

Zack Not even her—

Medi No! Jesus Christ...

Zack Why? She really knew what—

Medi She was doing. Yeah. She sure did. And you know what?

Zack What?

Medi She had great tits, too. And she was an incredible kisser, and she knew just where to lick, just where to nip, just how hard.

Zack Yeah.

Medi And you know what?

Zack What?

Medi She's gone. We'll never see her again.

Zack Yeah? But tonight...

Medi Tonight isn't enough, Zack. I want more.

Zack What? What more? Why?

Medi I have tried. I really have. You wanted to try things and—

Zack What more?

Medi Do you remember when it was just you and me? Just us?

Zack That's what you want?

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Medi Do you remember?

Zack Yes. I wasn't happy.

Medi Yes, you were. We were.

Zack C'mon. We were never really...

Medi Yes. Of course we had problems. Everybody does. But—

Zack So you want to go back to just you and— Look, it was your idea as much as...

Medi Fine. Shit, look. I was happy—

Zack Then why—

Medi I was ha—

Zack Then wh—

Medi I *was* happy. Then you decided you needed more. More than us. You needed her. Them. All of them.

Zack What about—

Medi And you know, I understood. I did. I tried.

Zack What about you?

Medi Yes. I wanted it, too. You weren't enough for me, either. Is that what you want to hear?

Zack Well, I didn't—

Medi Sure, I wanted more. I wanted a woman around.

Zack And you have one. You have more than one! You have—

Medi Y'see, that's just it. I don't want all of them. You go out to a bar—

Zack You don't go out?

Medi Not the point.

Zack What is the point?

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Medi The point is that... listen... the point is that you go out—

Zack I go ou—

Medi We go out, whatever. And you meet this woman in a bar...

Zack What woman?

Medi Whatever one is there... available... easy, whatev—

Zack You think it's easy? Getting someone to come back here with us?

Medi And then you bring her back here. Fuck her.

Zack And you?

Medi And, somehow, yes, I always fuck her, too. And she fucks us. And she goes home.

Zack Yes. So? We both get our woman.

Medi No, you get your woman. I don't want that.

Zack What do you—

Medi I want a woman to be with. To talk to. To hold. To be naked with. To touch and to let touch me. To make love with.

Zack I'm missing your point, here. We do get naked. We do make love.

Medi No. We strip. We fuck. We send her home with a fake name.

Zack Listen—

Medi No. Don't you see? I'm glad that you're happy. That's why I didn't mind you bringing these women home.

Zack And now you do?

Medi Yes.

Zack Well...

Medi No.

Zack So, what? You don't want me bringing women home anymore?

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Medi No. Yes. It's not women. It's *these* women.

Zack What women?

Medi The sluts. The ones you can convince to come back here. The ones who ask to come back here. The ones who "own stock in penicillin."

Zack Who does that leave?

Medi Nice girls. Normal girls.

Zack (taunting her) Nice girls don't s—

Medi (the tension is eased. She is kidding with Zack) Don't say it.

Zack What that nice girls don't s—

Medi C'mon. Seriously. Can we look?

Zack Okay. We'll look.

Medi Good (she crawls next to him on the bed.). It's bullshit, you know?

Zack What?

Medi That good girls don't s—

Zack If I can't say it...

Medi Fine. (she curls up next to him in the bed)

Zack G'night.

Medi 'Night.

Zack (a beat) How do you know.

Medi Kristen—

Both Thompson.

Zack Oh, yeah. (chuckles) She wasn't that good.

Medi No?

Zack Dinosaur! Dinosaur! Fuck! Bitch! Dinosaur!

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Medi What?

Zack Sorry, I've got T-Rex Syndrome. (they both laugh in spite of themselves)

Medi That was awful.

Zack Yeah...

Both (slipping into sleep, as the lights fall) ...but I enjoyed it.

Scene 2

Darkness. Silence. Voices are heard off-stage as the lights rise on Zack's apartment. The clothes that had been strewn around the bed are gone. Medi is asleep on one side of the bed wearing the same pajama top she had been wearing earlier.

Girl #2 (offstage) What? Here?

Zack (offstage) Mmm-hmm. This is it.

Keys are heard jangling off-stage.

Girl #2 (offstage) Can't wait to see it.

Zack (offstage) Uh, yeah.

A door is heard opening and closing. Zack and **GIRL #2** enter. Zack is wearing a pair of jeans, a button-down shirt, and a sports-coat. Girl #2 is wearing a tight-fitting skirt and a button-down shirt, perhaps tied off at the stomach-- she should be somewhat disheveled. It has already been a long night of partying.

Girl #2 Hey!

Zack Like it?

Girl #2 Yeah, nice place.

Zack Thanks. (indicating) Kitchen. Bathroom. Window. Bed.

Girl #2 Bed?

Zack (taking out his wallet) Mmm-hmm. (he removes a condom from his wallet and tosses it on the bed) So, what are we going to do about this?

Girl #2 (pouncing onto the bed) C'mere.

Zack approached the edge of the bed.

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Zack Here?

Girl #2 No. (pulling Zack atop her) Here!

They begin kissing, caressing each other, etc. They clumsily kick off their shoes. Girl #2 removes Zack's shirt as they pull the covers over them. Zack begins to unbutton Girl #2's shirt. Before he finishes, she disappears under the covers.

Zack Where are you going? Oh. Oh!

Girl #2 (from beneath covers) Well, well, well. What do we have here?

Zack That would be my... ahhh... Thank you. Thank you much...

A mumbled response is heard from under the covers. Medi murmurs and begins to stir. Medi sits up, stretches, and looks to see Zack on the other side of the bed. Medi quickly realizes what is going on.

Medi No.

Zack Hey...

Medi No.

Zack Well...

Medi No. There is no... no... possible way you've done this ag-- I cannot believe that you wou—

Zack Not now. I'm, uh, busy. Can we go over this... mmm... later.

Medi Can we go... can we... (getting out of the bed) Yeah. Yeah, sure. but I thought we went over this alrea—

Zack Look, um. This kind of, um... oooh... later, okay?

Medi Jesus... (Medi retreats to the back corner of the stage, Zack resumes enjoying himself. After a moment of thought, Medi reapproaches the bed, leaning over the head-board from behind to get right near Zack's ear) Sure. Sure, we can do this later. 'Cause, y'know, I've got plenty to think about while you're... busy. Like, that presentation you've got to make on Monday. Mr. Ames is very anxious to hear what you have to say, you know. (Zack is getting progressively more distracted by what Medi is saying) And if you came through for him, he could really help you with... hey, did you remember to tape the game tonight. No? Who do you think would have taped it? Bill? Jeff? Or... hey. What time are you supposed to meet Jeff at the courts tomorrow? Was it nine o'clock or nine-thir—

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Girl #2 (from under the covers) Hey, what's going on down here, huh? Where'd he go?

Medi Hey, remember that time your sister walked in on us in the shower?

Girl #2 (from under the covers) There we go!

Medi You really are a sick fuck, Zack.

Zack Mmmm...

Medi Or walking in on your parents. Huh? "Oh, George. There! Yes! There! (Medi sinks behind the bed) Yes! Yes! Ohhhh, yes!"

Zack is obviously disgusted by Medi's display. Girl #2 crawls up from under the covers and looks Zack in the eyes. Zack is obviously embarrassed.

Zack I think you had better go.

Girl #2 Yeah. I guess I better.

Girl #2 rises out of bed and buttons up her shirt.

Zack Look, uh... I just have a lot of things on... can I call you.

Girl #2 Sure.

Zack Your number?

Girl #2 I'll see you around. (exits apartment)

Zack Yeah. Sure... Fuck... I cannot believe you did that.

Medi (rising from behind the bed) You can't...

Zack I cannot believe you di—

Medi You cannot believe? You can... You brought her back here.

Zack Yeah. And?

Medi And you brought her back here.

Zack And you... I can't believe you did that. Aren't you... what? Embarrassed? Humiliated?

Medi Yes. A little. Are you?

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Zack Yes... no. But... why? I just... I don't get it. What did I—

Medi You brought her back here.

Zack Yes? And?

Medi And you didn't check with me.

Zack I have to—

Medi Yes.

Zack I have to ask—

Medi Yes.

Zack Every time I meet a—

Medi Yes.

Zack Meet a girl?

Medi Yes.

Zack Every time I want to have—

Medi Every time.

Zack Even if I just want—

Medi Yes.

Zack Even if I just want to get my—

Medi Don't say it. Yes.

Zack Mmmm.

Medi Are we clear? We good?

Zack Uh... no. No, no we're not.

Medi No?

Zack No. What about my... what I want?

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Medi What about what you want? You've been getting—

Zack It's my dick.

Medi Really? And what about me? What—

Zack What, you want my dick? For what? You haven't had any use for it—lately.

Medi Yeah. Well, I used to have plenty to do with it, didn't I? Then you decided...

Zack Yeah. Lay it all on me. Go...

Medi You decided you wanted more.

Zack Yes, I dec—

Medi And I was fine wi—

Zack Fine? Right. Then what is this? Huh?

Medi You got—

Zack I—

Medi Got what you wanted, and I—

Zack So, what—

Medi And I don't get sh—

Zack So—

Medi Don't get—

Zack No, listen... no... So, what do you want? Just you and... we've been over this—

Medi Yes.

Zack Just you and me again? 'Cause—

Medi No.

Zack Look, you've got great hands, y'know. Fine. But it was us for so—

Medi I know—

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Zack Us for so long, and I want mo—I need more. I thought you understood—

Medi (overlapping with "you understood") I understand. And I need mo—

Zack I know. It isn't just me...

Medi (overlapping with "It isn't just me") It isn't just you. I want more, too.

Zack Then why...

Medi Because I want more with you. You want more than these hands, fine. I understand. But find some hands I can talk to. Shit. We've done this before. And it never makes a diff—

Zack Look. I want you to be happy. I do. I... I just... I go out, with you, and we drink and then, you're... I don't know. And I see these girls—

Medi Yeah—

Zack And I just want... to touch them. To let them touch... I don't know... So I bring them—

Medi Just ask me fir—

Zack I try. I would. But where do you go?

Medi I don't... I—

Zack I would let you choose, but you're not—

Medi Look, I—

Zack And they look so good to me—

Medi I know—

Zack Until you show me how—

Medi Yes—

Zack They are... I... I'm sorry. I am. But—

Medi Look, we'll just... just try to stay...

Both Together.

There is a contemplative silence at the two consider the situation.

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Zack But her... she was really good... I mean at—

Medi I know.

Zack But you wouldn't let me bring her ho—

Medi No.

Zack Well, then, where does that leave us? I know that you deserve to get what you—

Medi And I know you—

Zack So we find someone you like...

Medi Hopefully.

Zack Someone nice.

Medi Yeah.

Zack Who chooses her relationships carefully.

Medi Well...

Zack And wants to find someone to love...

Medi Yeah...

Zack And someone to love her...

Medi Yes...

Zack Who is probably a mediocre fuck.

Medi No. (they look at each other) Good sex comes from more than just experience.

Zack I guess...

Medi Do you really need someone who has taught herself to, uh, what, put a condom on with her teeth? Who has ke—, uh, steroid-induced Kegel muscles?

Zack It helps.

Medi Circus tricks.

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Zack Hmm?

Medi It's like the two-headed dog at a carnival. Neat to look at. You'd like to pet it. But do you really want to take it home? Do you want it for yours? Or do you want a dog that loves you? Would protect you? A dog that's *yours*—

Zack Did you see that girl that just left here? No dog, that girl. I don't do dogs.

Medi Damn it...

Zack No, I know. I do. But... I still feel... It's a trade. We can't both have—

Medi We can.

Zack Maybe. But, what that girl was doing... what good girl... what girl that you would accept, could possibly—

Medi Courtnay Hoff.

Zack Mmmm. Yeah.

Medi Nine months.

Zack A good nine months.

Medi For me, too.

Zack Yeah?

Medi Yeah. You know, at the beginning...

Zack When it was just you and—

Medi No. After. After you decided to go out... to find more.

Zack Yeah.

Medi And for a long... what seemed like a real long time... you would bring these girls home, back to our bed. And I would stay in the shadows and watch. Watch you with these women. And you'd be with them and I... they never knew I was here. They seemed to be there for the same reason as you. You know, just to be there. And I would just watch.

Zack Mmm.

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Medi I wanted to be there. But those girls, they wanted you. Not me. I would have been... to much for them.

Zack Mmm.

Medi But Courtnay. She saw me in the shadows, watching. And she was the first... the only... the first one who invited me into the bed with you. The only one... the only time when I felt that she wanted me there... and you wanted me there. And every night... I don't know if you knew... every night you and she, and I would have—

Zack Great, great se—

Medi For the only time ever, I really felt part of it. Even when it was just us... I really felt like I belonged in that bed.

Zack And you were better than you ever—

Medi And, I don't know if you knew... every night, after we... I ... you would fall asleep and she and I would curl up. And we wouldn't talk. We wouldn't move. We would just lay there. And I could feel the length of her body against mine, and feel her breast against my side, and feel her hair against my cheek, and feel her breath, warm and even on my neck. And I have never been happier. I've never felt so close to anyone. Not even you. Because...

Both I was in love with her.

Medi And I miss it.

Zack I knew.

Medi You did.

Zack I knew how happy you were. And I liked it. It made me happy, too. To see you so—

Medi And after she was gone, you—

Zack I know—

Medi You started *this*. These women. Every night. And I don't know them. And I don't know you. And I miss you.

Zack And I—

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Medi And I crawl in bed with you and give them what they want, and you get what you want, and I... I just sit up and hate myself, and you, and them, and you slee—And I just can't do it anymore. I can't.

Zack Okay. Alright. (Zack and Medi take a breath, then curl up next to each other to sleep) Nine-thirty.

Medi What?

Zack Jeff for tennis.

Medi Oh. Right.

There is a knock on the door. Zack gets out of bed and checks his watch. He starts toward the door. He realized that his belt, as well as the button and zipper to his pants are undone just as he is about to open the door. Zack and Medi laugh together. Zack refastens his pants and answers the door. Enter **KATE** and **DANNY**. Kate, while not strikingly beautiful, is very pretty. She is wearing sweat-pants and a T-shirt. Danny is a relatively large man. He is wearing jeans and a T-shirt. Both are about Zack's age.

Danny Zack.

Zack Dan. Kate. Hey.

Kate Did we wake you?

Zack No, no. I was just about to go to bed, but, uh, c'mon in.

Danny Alone so early on a Saturday night?

Zack Yeah, well...

Danny I saw you come in with that girl. Hmm? What happened?

Zack Nothing.

Danny She's gone already? Even you don't go through women that quickly.

Zack Yeah, well. Things didn't work out.

Danny Couldn't score, Zack.

Kate Danny!

Danny Couldn't get in there?

Zack Guess not.

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Kate I, uh... we saw you come in and then I saw that your friend left so, um, we wanted to visit. Thought you might want company. You know. But, uh...

Zack No, I do. Thanks, I appreciate it.

Kate So, we'll just let you get to sleep.

Zack No. No, come in.

Danny Kate, we shouldn't have come up anyway. We've got Sarah's—

Zack Hey, Dan. Really, it's okay.

Kate Actually, we should...

Zack I'm glad you came up, Kate. I do appreciate it. But, I mean, if you'd like to hang out for a while...

Kate No, you sleep. We've got to get up early tomorrow, anyway. Our dad's cousin is getting married tomorrow, so we've got to get up early. So, I should get to bed, too.

Zack Yeah. Okay. See ya' 'round then.

Kate Sure. Goodnight.

Zack 'Night.

Danny See 'ya Zack. Hey, you wanna try to get tickets for a game next weekend?

Zack Sure.

Danny Alright. I'll see what I can do.

Zack Great. See 'ya.

Exit Danny and Kate. Zack turns to Medi.

Zack Her?

Medi Her.

Zack Really?

Both Really.

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Zack goes to the door and calls into the hall.

Zack Kate!

Kate (offstage) Yes?

Enter Kate.

Zack What are you doing Wednesday night?

Kate Nothing.

Zack Good. 'Cause, uh, I've got...

Kate Wait. No. Wednesday's no good.

Zack Thursday?

Kate Thursday? Nothing. Why?

Zack Just wanted to know. Look, I'll call you. Later. Okay?

Kate Yeah. Great. Yeah. So, I'll see you?

Zack Soon.

Exit Kate.

Medi Good?

Zack Mmm.

Zack lays on the bed next to Medi.

Medi Like her?

Zack I never really thought of it, but, yeah. I think so.

Medi Really?

Zack Yeah. I do.

Medi Me, too. She's nice. And she likes you.

Zack She's pretty cute, too.

Medi Yes. Yes she is.

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Zack For old-time sake?

Medi nods. Zack lets out a sigh. Medi reaches over and undoes his belt and pants.

Both Real cute.

Medi begins to sink down towards Zack's unbuttoned pants as the lights fade out.

Scene 3

Darkness. Silence. Voices are heard off-stage as the lights rise on Zack's apartment. Medi is sitting up on the bed, waiting expectantly.

Kate (offstage) Thanks again.

Zack (offstage) No, thank you. I had a great time.

Kate (offstage) Me too.

Keys are heard jangling offstage.

Zack (off stage) So, you want to...

Kate (offstage) No. It's getting kind of late.

Zack (offstage) Yeah. So, I'll see you.

Kate (offstage) Soon.

Zack (offstage) Hey.

Zack and Kate can be heard kissing (mildly) offstage.

Kate (offstage) 'Night.

Zack (offstage) Saturday?

Kate (offstage) Saturday. Call me.

Zack I will.

Enter Zack.

Medi Well?

Zack Well. Yes, very well.

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Medi Happy?

Zack Rather, yes.

Medi I told you.

Zack You did.

Medi No, really. I'm happy, too. Very.

Zack Good. Tonight was good.

Medi Good.

Zack It's weird. I haven't dated in... like...

Both Forever.

Zack These past two weeks have been nice. Just being with someone. Spending time. Having fun. Different fun, you know.

Medi I know.

Zack I know. I had forgotten some things. Just... sharing experiences with someone, other than you, I mean.

Medi I've been trying to get you to...

Zack And the thrill of touching someone's knee. Her thigh. Feeling her breasts against me through her shirt.

Medi I know.

Zack I had just always been too busy...

Medi I know...

Zack Busy trying to...

Medi I know...

Zack Trying to... smear things on them or—

Medi Or something.

Zack Yeah. Something.

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There is a moment of silence between them.

Medi (seeing it coming from Zack) But...

Zack But... it's been two weeks...

Medi Don't...

Zack And, I mean, she's not about to—

Medi Do you have any ide—

Zack Six dates in two weeks. And do you know—

Medi I cannot believe—

Zack Do you—

Medi This is not okay—

Zack She kissed me. Twice. In two weeks she kissed me. Twice.

Medi (overlapping with "twice") She's different. Different than those sluts that you've been...

Zack They made me happy—

The tempo of the argument slows considerably.

Medi They made you come. Kate makes you happy.

Zack Yes. And horny. Okay. I want to see her—

Medi Naked?

Zack No. I really do like her. And I want to spend time with her. But, she doesn't want to... She just wants to be with me. And I want—

Medi You want to be in her?

Zack Or someone. Yes.

Medi I was... stupid... I don't know... to think... Damn it. It's been two weeks. People don't die from that. When it was just us... that was, what sixteen years without you having to go out and find some—

Zack Yeah, but that's when you and I would be, like... what, all the time.

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Medi We can do that again.

Zack It's not the same. It really isn't.

Medi Look. It's just been two weeks. Please, give it a little more time.

Zack Look. I'm sorry. I am. (beat) I'm going out. Don't be here when I get back.

Exit Zack.

Medi Fuck you! Fuck y— Ah, damn it. (sinking down on the bed) Damn it... damn it... damn it.

There is a moment of stillness. Zack reenters slowly. Medi looks up to see him.

Zack Is she really worth it?

Medi I don't know. But you are.

Zack Yeah?

Medi Yeah. C'mere.

Zack walks to the edge of the bed. Medi reaches over and begins to undo his belt as the lights fall.

Scene 4

Darkness. Silence. Voices are heard off-stage as the lights rise on Zack's apartment. Medi is half sitting up on the bed.

Zack (offstage) And so I hear from across the room, "Damn it, Matt, if you're going to throw up, I'm going to put my pants back on."

Kate (offstage) No!

Zack (offstage) Uh-huh.

Kate (offstage) And they knew you were there?

Zack (offstage) Oh, yeah.

Kate (offstage) Wow!

Keys are heard jangling offstage.

Zack (offstage) Yeah. Well, thanks again. I'll call you in the morning?

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Kate (offstage) Uh. Yeah. Hey, um... it's still early, you know.

Zack (offstage) Yeah?

Kate (offstage) It's only eleven-thirty.

Zack (offstage) Yeah. D'you want to come in?

Kate (offstage) Sure.

Enter Zack and Kate. Medi retreats toward the top of the bed. She watches the pair.

Zack You've seen the place, right?

Kate A couple of times. Yeah.

Zack Well, uh... (indicating) kitchen. Bathroom. Window. B--. The window. S'got a nice view.

Kate Really?

Kate goes to window and looks out.

Zack Well, pretty.

Kate Nice, yeah. So, what ever happened to them?

Kate sits on the edge of the bed. Zack throws a look to Medi.

Zack Who?

Kate Your roommate and...

Zack Oh. Well, they ended up together.

Kate Really? So he left the girlfriend?

Zack Eventually. Uh... did I tell you... no, I didn't.

Kate What?

Zack Alright. Listen to this. Towards the end, or, uh, before he broke up with the girlfriend, Nancy...

Kate Yeah.

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Zack Well, I'm coming back to my room, right. And I knew that they had been fighting lately and stuff. But, whatever...

Kate Whatever.

Zack And I get to the door, right. And I put my key in the lock, turn it, open the door, and I hear Cara say, "But Matt, you have to break up with her. You told me you felt about me the way you felt about surfing!"

Kate No!

Zack Yes. And I just shut the door and left. I still don't know if they knew I was there.

Kate Wow! I can't believe that.

Zack I know. I still can't figure out what was worse-- that he said it to begin with or that she took it so much to heart.

Kate Her.

Zack Yeah. I guess so.

They laugh.

Kate So, what did you think?

Zack Of?

Kate The movie.

Zack I liked it. I thought that... what's her name... the cop?

Kate Um... yeah, I know... anyway?

Zack She was good. I liked, uh, the killer and her, the way they played off each other...

Kate Yeah. (indicating the edge of the bed next to her) Sit. (Zack sits) I thought it was a little violent, but...

Zack Sure, but it needed it. I mean, he did kill and mutilate people. If they hadn't shown it, I don't know, it would have seemed fake... contriv— no. Just, I think it worked.

Kate I guess. Still... and the sex...

Zack A bit gratuitous, yeah.

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Kate I mean, that shower scene. And then with the mirror.

Zack (laughs) Yeah. I... after seeing that movie sitting next to you, I feel like I've seen *you* naked.

Kate (with a slightly nervous laugh) Yeah. Huh. But, uh, but you haven't.

Zack Yet.

Medi has been listening closely, and is as shaken by Zack's advances as Kate is. She begins to crawl down the bed toward Zack and Kate as Zack gets more predatory.

Kate But, uh, it was a good movie overall.

Zack looks into Kate's eyes. They are in profile.

Zack You are beautiful, Kate. Do you know that?

Kate Really?

Zack begins to move in to kiss Kate. Medi arrives at the bottom of the bed between them.

Medi You are. You have wonderful eyes. So pretty.

Kate (addressing her answer to Zack) Thank you. And you...

Zack I love you, Kate.

Kate What?

Medi (to Kate) I think. I mean, I love being with you. You're a great girl.

Zack And you make me happier than anyone else.

Kate (flattered) Zack...

Zack I just love being near you.

Medi (to Zack) Don't.

Zack I've never felt like this about anyone before.

Medi (to Zack) Don't.

Kate No one?

Zack Never.

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Medi (to Zack) Don't.

Zack And I don't want to be with anyone else. Not anymore. I just want to be with you. From now on.

Medi (to Zack) Don't.

Kate No?

Medi (to Zack) No!

Zack (to Kate) No.

Zack leans in and kisses Kate.

Medi (to Zack) Don't! Damn it, stop! (Medi pulls Zack away from Kate, then, to Kate) Wait.

Kate (responding to Zack) What?

Zack (Shoving Medi violently to the top of the bed) Nothing.

Medi lays still at the top of the bed as though she were unconscious. Zack leans back in towards Kate and they kiss. After a moment, Zack reaches down and begins to unbutton Kate's shirt. Kate starts slightly as he begins unbuttoning her shirt, but she does not stop him. After the shirt is unbuttoned, he reached behind her back towards her bra clasp. Kate pulls away.

Kate No.

Zack No?

Kate Let's just...

Zack What the fuck is this, huh? C'mon...

Zack leans back in and kisses Kate roughly. He leans her back against the bed. Medi sits up and sees Zack.

Medi Don't! (leaps and grabs Zack) Get off! (Medi pulls Zack off of Kate and holds him as Kate scurries off of the bed and out of the apartment, clutching her shirt together. Then, to Kate) Wait!

Medi lets go of Zack, who slumps down on the bed. He can't believe what he just did.

Zack I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

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Medi Fuck you! Sorry!

Zack I am...

Medi I didn't think you were capable—

Zack I didn't mean—

Medi I don't give a shit what you... I cannot...Damn it! Damn you!

Zack Wait! Please. I fucked up. I know. We've got to fix this.

Medi We?

Zack You. You have to. Please.

Medi What can I fix? Damn it, you tried to... I can't fix this.

Zack What if she calls the... uh... police or... shit.

Medi She won't.

Zack No?

Medi No, I don't think so.

Zack Good...

Medi That doesn't make it okay.

Zack I know.

Medi You do?

Zack Yes. I do. I do. I'm sorry. I've got to tell her—

Zack stands and heads for the door.

Medi Don't. Let her... let her calm down.

Zack But I've got to... I can't...

Medi Just let her calm down.

Zack sits on the edge of the bed.

Zack Alright. I'll... um, I'll wait. (there is a knock on the door. Zack rises) Good.

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Medi No. Let me handle this, okay?

Zack But—

Medi Just let me talk to her, okay?

Zack Alright.

Zack retreats to the side of the stage. Medi goes to the door, takes a breath, and opens it. Danny is standing in the doorway. He hurtles into the room, violently throwing Medi to the ground.

Danny (to Medi) You fucking son of a bitch! (lifts Medi up by the collar) I am going to kill you, Zack! You fucking asshole! (Danny punches Medi and throws her to the floor. He kicks her across the floor as he talks) Touch my sister, huh? Is that... who taught you how to treat women? Huh? My friend, right? Yeah, fuck you, Zack. If you ever come near her again, I fucking swear. (he stops kicking and hoists Medi off the floor again) Fuck that. You won't get near her, 'cause I really am going to kill you, Zack.

Danny shoved Medi across the room. She slams into Zack and crumples to the floor. Zack launched himself at Danny, knocking him to the floor. He leaps atop him and punches him several times, then he lifts him off the floor and throws him on the edge of the bed. Zack holds Danny down to the bed by the neck and punches him once. He cocks his fist back to hit him again.

Zack Look, Dan, I'm sorry. I really am. But you've got to go. I'm sorry.

Danny tries to lunge up at Zack, but Zack punches him back down and punches him again. Just as Zack hits Danny, Kate appears at the doorway.

Kate Zack!

Zack looks up at Kate. As he does, Medi rises from the floor and looks at Kate

Zack Kate...

Medi I'm sorry. I am so sorry.

During this section, Medi moves freely, eventually getting very close to Kate. Kate continuously looks at Zack and responds as though he is talking.

Kate Let him go, Zack.

Medi I will. Please, listen to me. I am sorry. I cannot tell you how sorry I am. I don't know what happened. I don't know what I was thinking.

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Zack But it will never happen again.

Medi I swear.

Kate How could you? We've know each other since...

Medi/Zack I know...

Kate And you said you loved me. How could...

Medi I don't. I'm sorry. I don't know why I said that.

Zack Yes I do.

Medi/Zack And it wasn't fair...

Medi And I'm sorry. I like you. A lot. I do.

Kate Then how could you have...

Medi I'm sorry. You are a beautiful girl. You're a fine friend. And I hoped you would be a fine lover. But you weren't ready. And I wasn't a friend. And I wasn't a lover. I was wrong.

Zack And I'm sorry.

A moment of silence while Kate takes everything in.

Kate Look, uh... let Dan up.

Zack gets off of Danny, who crosses over to Kate's side.

Medi (to Kate) I'm sorry.

Kate Yeah. I'm sorry, too. Look, uh, don't, uh... don't call. I'll... goodnight... uh, just... um. Goodnight.

Exit Kate and Danny.

Zack I am so... so... *sad* right now.

Medi Yeah. That's what it feels like when you care.

Zack I hate it.

Medi It's not easy.

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Zack I hate it.

Zack/Medi But I need it.

Zack She'll never speak to me again, will she?

Medi She will. Probably.

Zack We're not going to get her back, though.

Zack/Medi No. I'll miss her.

Medi A lot

Zack (at the same time as Medi's line) A whole lot.

Zack and Medi look at each other as though they each just found out something that concerns them about the other-- a look resembling that of two actors who have just screwed up the last line of their play.

FINIS

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