

MOONLIGHT KISSES

Stuart Spencer

Moonlight Kisses was first produced in the Ensemble Studio Theatre Marathon of One Act Plays. It was directed by Barnett Kellman and featured Sarah Jessica Parker as Robin, Cecilia Peck as Cecilia, and Tom Isbell as Lewis.

Scene 1

Lewis's room, one a.m., Thursday night. "When I Fall In Love" plays.

The room is empty. After a moment, Lewis and Cecilia appear in the hallway light. He shows her through the door as the music fades out and the room lights come up.

LEWIS

You like it?

CECILIA

It's so *you*.

LEWIS

(proudly)

Yeah. It is me.

CECILIA

I'm mad about it. I've never seen anything so ... *small* in my entire life.

LEWIS

Go on ... have a seat.

(He remembers his manners.)

Here, let me take your coat.

(He hangs it and his tuxedo jacket on a hook. Underneath the jacket he is wearing a tux shirt, a bow tie, and a pair of jeans.)

CECILIA

Thanks, I can't sit.

LEWIS

What do you mean?

CECILIA

I can't sit. It's the dress. It's a dancing dress. You're not supposed to sit in it. It's just for dancing.

LEWIS

How do you drive home?

CECILIA

What do you mean?

LEWIS

How do you drive a car if you're not supposed to sit?

CECILIA

You *can* sit, you're just not *supposed* to. It's the lines. They're designed vertically so that when you move it all sort of flows, like this - from your shoulders all the way down to your ... oh you get the point.

LEWIS

You really like the room?

CECILIA

Some people really have a way of owning a place.

Yes - I like it.

LEWIS

And it's convenient besides. The medical staff dining room is right down the hall, they give me a parking space in the hospital garage, the E.R. is one flight down, directly below us as a matter of f- ...

(Cecilia tries to sit gracefully on a weight bench.)

CECILIA

Wait a minute - the E.R.?

LEWIS

Yeah.

CECILIA

As in Emergency Room?

LEWIS

Yeah.

CECILIA

How creepy. All that ... *stuff* going on right downstairs.

(She looks distastefully at the floor.)

LEWIS

It keeps me sharp - living like this. Only the essentials. Work, food, sleep.

(She crosses to the bed, where he is sitting.)

CECILIA

You were always the bravest.

(She kisses him.)

The bravest and the handsomest.

(She kisses him again.)

And the best kisser.

(They kiss again but after a moment ...)

LEWIS

Hey, wait a minute. Whoa. Just ... let's hold on.

CECILIA

Oh God, Lewis, I'm so sorry. I'm so embarrassed.

(She straightens herself.)

Have you got a mirror?

(He indicates the chest of drawers, and she goes to it.)

CECILIA (con't)

Every time I get close to you, I don't know what happens but whatever it is, it sure as hell smears my gloss.

(She takes out her gloss and re-applies it.)

LEWIS

It was my fault. I'm sorry. Old habits.

CECILIA

You know, Lewis, all we ever needed was more time. Better circumstances wouldn't have hurt either. I mean, maybe if I had moved into the city like you wanted me to ... I don't know, maybe it would have worked.

(Lewis has picked up a LaCrosse stick and tosses the ball around as he speaks.)

LEWIS

You did your best.

CECILIA

Did I?

LEWIS

You weren't up for it, that's all.

(She turns away from the mirror.)

CECILIA

Excuse me? *Who* wasn't up for it?

LEWIS

And you were a good liar too, that was always a problem. If mendacity hadn't come quite so easily, we might have had a chance.

(She snaps her gloss case shut.)

CECILIA

Well, if that's the way we're going to be about it.

LEWIS

Hey listen, I kind of liked that about you.

CECILIA

I put everything I had into that relationship, Lewis
...

LEWIS

(overlapping)

... something ballsy about it ...

CECILIA

(overlapping)

... right up until the day I broke up with you!

LEWIS

(overlapping)

... something not-give-a-damn about it ...

... the day you what?

CECILIA

Broke up with you.

LEWIS

Cece, I broke up with you.

CECILIA

Well, we are just re-editing history tonight, aren't
we.

LEWIS

I can tell you the exact moment. We were in your car,
driving back from Watermill, from the beach. No, that's
wrong. Manhasset: we had dinner with your family.
That's right. And it was night. And I said, "You're not
up for this, why don't we break up?"

LEWIS

For God's sake, Lewis, we went out for two months after
that.

LEWIS

So you do remember.

CECILIA

I remember the night, but we didn't break up - not
then.

LEWIS

It was the beginning of the break up. It was the first time we talked about it. And the only reason we didn't right then and there was that you begged me not to and I didn't.

CECILIA

And we broke up in June.

LEWIS

I went to LA in June.

CECILIA

And I broke up with you before you went.

LEWIS

We broke up in May, Cece.

CECILIA

Where's the John?

LEWIS

Huh?

CECILIA

You do have your own John don't you? Or do you have to go down the hallway?

LEWIS

Right in there.

(He points to a door. She heads for it.)

CECILIA

You have absolutely no light in this dump. You can't even see a door.

(She is gone.)

An unexplained light change, which, we will learn, means that the scene has shifted to 6:30 pm the following night, Friday.

As he speaks Lewis takes off his tie, then his shirt.)

LEWIS

The reason I know I remember this right is because of what happened right before. We were on Grand Central Parkway, right next to La Guardia. It was night and a jet, a big mother of a jet - you could tell from the hump - it made a low pass like it was going to land. Its spotlights were on and it was coming right down the middle of the highway and for a second - I didn't say it - but for a second I thought he was going to bring that thing down right in the middle of the parkway. I was blinded by the spotlights, and all I could see was white - white light.

I thought, What do I do? Grab the wheel? Yell something? Slam on the brakes? The plane is going to land on the car!

LEWIS (con't)

But then it passed over, just like that, and it came down on the landing strip. It was all an illusion. It just *looked* like it was going to come down on the parkway.

And we both ignored it, like it didn't matter, like we weren't scared, even though I knew we were. Both of us. Scared of something big and nasty going to land on top of us and it was going to happen before either one of us got up the nerve to say *Hey wait a minute! Let's get out of here!*

(Robin enters, with an overnight bag in her hand.)

And it was right after that, I said *You act like you're not up for this. And you're not up for it, I'm not either. So let's quit kidding ourselves. Let's give ourselves a break. Let's go see if there's somebody else out there."*

ROBIN

And what did she say?

(Lewis has his pants off.)

LEWIS

Claimed her make-up was running. It's Cecilia's favorite exit line.

ROBIN

Did you?

LEWIS

Did I what?

ROBIN

Break up with her?

LEWIS

I've just been telling you, for God's sake ...

ROBIN

Then why is it so important? If you know that you did?

(She holds up a racy black shirt.)

Why do you think? Too style-breaker?

LEWIS

Yes.

ROBIN

You're right.

(She looks for another.)

LEWIS

It's not important, you're right. Nothing is important.

(He nuzzles her.)

Getting dressed is not important.

ROBIN

Lewis, don't start ... Lewis ...

LEWIS

What? I'm just being friendly.

ROBIN

I'm going to get ideas and I have to get ready. I'm meeting Cecilia in half an hour.

LEWIS

Be late.

ROBIN

She hates it when you're late.

LEWIS

That's because she wants to be one who's late.

ROBIN

Lewis ...

LEWIS

Then just don't go.

(They kiss. She breaks away and holds up a tamer top.)

ROBIN

Here - what about this?

LEWIS

I like it.

(He hops playfully onto the bed.)

ROBIN

Would you put some clothes on? You're driving me nuts.

(She slips on the top.)

LEWIS

You were wearing that the day I met you.

ROBIN

I was?

LEWIS

Yeah. With shorts.

ROBIN

I don't believe you remember that stuff.

LEWIS

I remember everything.

(Another light change. Robin crosses and sits on the edge of the bed and Lewis scoots in next to her. Distant party sounds.

(Lewis talks throughout the light change.)

You were sitting with your toes in the water of Charlie's parents' pool and I left the party to get some air and I said ...

... Hi there.

ROBIN

Hi.

LEWIS

Not much of a party person, are you?

ROBIN

Not really.

LEWIS

Aren't you cold out here?

ROBIN

The water's warm.

(He sticks his toes in.)

LEWIS

Wow. It is. It's really warm.

Cecilia told me you're at Vassar.

ROBIN

I'm going to be a senior.

LEWIS

I always liked Vassar. Pretty campus.

ROBIN
Where'd you go?

LEWIS
William and Mary.

ROBIN
That's a good school.

LEWIS
Then Columbia Med.

ROBIN
You're a doctor?

LEWIS
Resident.

ROBIN
How do you know Cecilia?

LEWIS
We used to go out.

ROBIN
Oh.

LEWIS
You?

ROBIN
I just met her tonight.

LEWIS
Really? She acted like she knew you.

ROBIN
I don't know anyone here except Charlie. Charlie's my
cousin.

LEWIS
Really?

ROBIN
Yeah.

LEWIS

Gee, I'm sorry about that.

(She laughs.)

ROBIN

You know Charlie, I guess.

LEWIS

I know everybody at this party.

ROBIN

Except me.

LEWIS

Except you.

Actually, Charlie and I go way back. He's one of my best friends.

ROBIN

You must be crazy.

LEWIS

Why is that?

ROBIN

Well if you don't like him and he's one of your best friends.

LEWIS

Loyalty, you know? You've got to stick with people.

ROBIN

But if you don't even like him ... it sounds crazy to me.

LEWIS

Well I am crazy, you're right about that. I've got a list of things I'm crazy about. My favorite thing is when I find something new for my life. Or somebody.

(The lights change back to the room.)

LEWIS

And then I kissed you.

ROBIN

No.

LEWIS

Yeah, I leaned over and I ...

(He leans over to kiss her.)

ROBIN

No you didn't. You asked if you could kiss me.

LEWIS

I don't remember that part. I just remember this ...

(He kisses her.)

ROBIN

Mmm ... mmm ... Wewis ... I'm going to be late.

LEWIS

Don't go.

(She gets up.)

ROBIN

I have to go.

LEWIS

Call her and cancel.

ROBIN

She's already on her way into the city. Besides, you're on call tonight. You don't have time for this yourself.

(Lewis pulls on his boxers and talks to his crotch.)

LEWIS

You hear that? I'm on call tonight. Relax.

ROBIN

And we've got tomorrow night, right?

(He gets up and pulls on his surgeon's scrubs.)

Right?

LEWIS

Well, not exactly.

ROBIN

What do you mean?

LEWIS

I'm on call tomorrow night too.

ROBIN

How can you be on call two nights in a row? Don't they make arrangements or something?

LEWIS

Actually, I ... I volunteered.

ROBIN

You *what*?

LEWIS

Ernie wanted to go out to Sag Harbor with Matt and I said I'd cover. It just seemed like he needed the break and I figured I owed him one.

ROBIN

So Ernie and Matt get the weekend in Sag Harbor and I sit around on Saturday night filing my nails, waiting for you to go off call.

(She gets her bag.)

LEWIS

I owed him the time, Robin. He covered for me last month.

ROBIN

You couldn't call me and tell me not to come?

LEWIS

I wanted you to come. I wanted to see you.

ROBIN

When? Tomorrow afternoon you've got a LaCrosse game with Charlie, Sunday you're going to watch the playoffs with Budge. That leaves Sunday night.

LEWIS

Right, okay. We'll go out Sunday night. Have dinner.

ROBIN

I have to go back Sunday. I've got an eight a.m. class this term I can't miss.

LEWIS

Okay, well ... I screwed up.

ROBIN

Next time, just call.

(She takes her suitcase to the bed to zip it up.)

LEWIS

Listen, you like LaCrosse, right? So you come to the game tomorrow and come over to Budge's on Sunday. It's not like we won't be together. We'll be together, okay? What are you doing?

ROBIN

I'm going back tonight after the party.

LEWIS

Robin, what else can I do? I can't just cancel everything.

ROBIN

Call me this week.

LEWIS

Robin ...

ROBIN

What's the point? Humiliation? I don't come down here for this. I really don't. I come to see you, to be with you, not watch you play LaCrosse, not go to Budge's and watch the playoffs, not to go to parties with Cecilia. To be with you.

LEWIS

I know but I'm ...

ROBIN

You're very busy. Okay, so am I. I'm trying to get a degree in English Lit. I have a paper to write on James Joyce and the Affirmative Voice of Molly Bloom in Ulysses.

LEWIS

The what?

ROBIN

The affirmative voice of Molly Bloom. How she observes all these terrible things around her in her life, but she is still life affirming - she ends the novel chanting her mantra: *yes, yes, yes*

LEWIS

Oh.

ROBIN

The point is, I make room for you.

LEWIS

I hate it when you do this.

ROBIN

And you know what the worst part is? It's deliberate. I'm here at your convenience and I'm never allowed to forget that. Or the fact that you could be going out with six other girls if you wanted to. All I've heard since I went back to school in September is *I need to see other people, Robin. I need to be free, Robin. I need to see how it goes, Robin.* And the worst part is ...

LEWIS

I thought that *was* the worst part.

ROBIN

The worst part is you're so charming about the whole thing. I'm nose deep in charm, Lewis, so knock it off. If for just once in your life you weren't charming! If you were just *you*.

LEWIS

God you're beautiful. This must be what they call raving beauty.

ROBIN

It's *raving* beauty.

(She takes her bag to the weight bench.)

LEWIS

Whatever it is, you've got it.

(He follows her.)

I'm sorry about this weekend. It was bad planning. But I'd like you to stay and we'll, well ... we'll have both mornings, right?

ROBIN

Right.

LEWIS

I'll take you to brunch at Mortimer's.

(She almost protests, then relents.)

ROBIN

You're a pig.

LEWIS

I know.

ROBIN

I hate you.

LEWIS

I know. Will you stay?

ROBIN

Yes.

LEWIS

Thanks. You're the best.

ROBIN

I know.

(They kiss.)

But right now I'm going to be late.

(He takes her bag, sets it down, and walks her to the front door. She exits and he closes the door after her. He stands facing the door, his hand still on the knob.

The lights change. As we're about to discover, it's Thursday night again.

Cecilia enters from the bathroom.)

CECILIA

You've got a gorgeous back.

(She goes to him and runs her finger down his spine.)

It's from swimming, isn't it. I remember those swimmers in high school always had these drop dead backs.

LEWIS

I'm sorry. I'll put my shirt on.

(He crosses to his surgeon's shirt.)

CECILIA

Don't be sorry. My God, if I can't at least look at your back without controlling myself, what's the world coming to?

(She takes the shirt away from him.)

CECILIA (con't)

I don't know why those outfits are so sexy. Must be the prospect of the earning power they represent.

(She throws it aside.)

CECILIA (con't)

Go ahead, leave it off. You're not on call tonight, are you? That's not until tomorrow I thought - when Robin gets here. Isn't that why she and I going to the party?

(She sits on the bed.)

LEWIS

I sleep in it. They make great pajamas.

(He takes the shirt and puts it on.)

CECILIA

You going to bed?

LEWIS

It's late. I have to get up.

(He pulls out a sleeping bag, unzips it, and throws it over the bed.

Cecilia stands to make room for him.))

CECILIA

We all have to get up. It's the unfortunate consequence of the sunrise. Let's see ...

(She checks her watch.)

... I've got exactly six and a half hours to drive back to Manhasset, go to sleep, get up and get myself into Daddy's office, where I can spend all day losing his call, and putting his documents into the shredder instead of the copier, and bringing him coffee with milk and sugar in it even though I know he likes it black. I like with milk and sugar, you see, and I get terribly confused.

CECILIA (con't)

But you know what's so great about Daddy? He just goes ahead and drinks it like it couldn't matter. And it's *thick*, it's like syrup I've got so much milk and sugar in there - and he has a heart condition besides, Daddy does, so he's not supposed to have any cream at all.

CECILIA (con't)

And when I lose a call? He says they'll call back if it's important. Same with the shredder. *Shredder, copier*, he says. *It's easy to get confused*. How am I going to improve under these conditions?

(He has made the bed and moves to her compassionately, but she retreats to the chest.)

CECILIA

I'm not good for much of anything, Lewis, in case you hadn't noticed. I wish just being rich was still good enough. I should have gone to college, I know that. I did two years at Katie Gibbs, you know. I don't often mention that. But Katie Gibbs is not college, not by a long shot. They don't even make you wear white gloves anymore.

You know what I like about Robin? She goes to college, but she doesn't brag all over the place about it. You can go have a drink at the Sherry Netherland with her and you don't get beat over the head with the latest God damned Greek tragedy she just read.

I bet you love going out with her, don't you. You're so lucky Lewis. I wish I had a little bit of luck like you.

(She crosses to where he is now sitting on the bed.)

People always stick to you, for some reason. I do. I stick to you.

(She puts her arms around his neck and they sprawl across the bed. He makes a small noise of surprise.)

CECILIA (con't)

Just hold me! Just hold me! I really need you to just hold me!

(He holds her.)

LEWIS

Now listen, you're in a moment, that's all. I know, I've been there. When I broke up with Peg? I cried ... *cried* Cece. I didn't know where I was for months, stumbling around, incoherent, disoriented. But afterwards, I realized, it was just a moment.

(She lifts her head.)

CECILIA

You did it with her after you broke up, didn't you.

LEWIS

With Peg?

CECILIA

You did, didn't you.

LEWIS

No, no, she was just a friend. We hung out together, that's all.

CECILIA

That weekend in December we all went up to Caitlin's place and Robin couldn't go because she had exams? You both stayed in, you and Peg. You stayed in Sunday afternoon while the rest of us went out skiing. When we got back she was asleep and you were in the shower.

LEWIS

She was lonely, that's all.

CECILIA

And there were other times too, when you were maybe more careful. Weren't there.

Weren't there.

LEWIS

I'll admit I've got a weakness, Cece. When somebody wants me - not necessarily for sex, in this case it was sex, but it could be anything - when they require me like that, it's hard not to give. It's very hard.

LEWIS (con't)

I'm not happy about it, but there it is. I wish I could resist it, but I think somehow I have a *duty* by these people. And I know I don't, and I know I shouldn't even get involved in the first place, but it's just so erotic, to have someone demand me like that. To start quivering when I get up next to them, like a gorgeous animal. How can a person not give them what they need?

CECILIA

I'm so glad you told me that. It's nice to know other people are crazy too.

LEWIS

You're not crazy.

CECILIA

No. Good for nothing. Neurotic. Desperate, maybe. But not crazy.

LEWIS

Cece ...

CECILIA

You want to know what I did last weekend? I went out to a bar, a disco in fact. On Long Island. In a mall. And I got drunk and I walked around drinking toasts to you. Lewis. This boy I used to know.

LEWIS

Don't tell me thi- ...

CECILIA

I'm just walking up to strangers, you understand.
Making them drink toasts to you. *This is to Lewis. The man to whom all people stick. The man I'm stuck to.*

LEWIS

Cece, you're embarrassing me.

CECILIA

I can't help it! I need you! Sometimes I need you so much and I can't stand it that you're not there at *all* anymore! If you were just there a little bit ...

(She kisses him.)

CECILIA (con't)

Please? Just a little bit?

(She kisses him again and he responds. They roll back onto the bed, starting to get serious.)

Wait, wait ... I think we'd better ...

LEWIS

What?

CECILIA

Protection.

LEWIS

Oh, right ...

CECILIA

I left some in the bathroom. I'll be right back.

(She gets up and disappears into the bathroom.)

The lights change. It's Friday night. Robin enters through the front door.

Lewis rolls over and looks up. He's been napping.)

LEWIS

Robin?

(She goes right to her bag and crosses to the chair with it.)

ROBIN

Don't get up.

LEWIS

What time is it?

ROBIN

Don't get up I said! It's ten thirty.

(She's putting things in her bag.)

LEWIS

What's going on? What happened to the party?

Where's Cecilia?

What is going on?

(He touches her on the shoulder.)

ROBIN

I'll scream if you touch me!

(She buries her face in her hands. He crosses to get a tissue and hands it to her. She snatches it from him without looking up.)

LEWIS

Here.

Now, what.

ROBIN

Lewis, did you ever ... do anything? With anyone else?

LEWIS

Like what? What do you mean?

ROBIN

With anyone else. That's what I mean.

LEWIS

When?

ROBIN

Ever.

LEWIS

Robin, I'm almost twenty eight. I've had other girlfriends.

ROBIN

Since me.

LEWIS

No, of course not.

ROBIN

Don't lie.

LEWIS

I'm not lying.

ROBIN

Don't lie, Lewis.

LEWIS

I'm not.

ROBIN

Just don't lie.

LEWIS

Robin ...

ROBIN

If you can't tell the truth, just say so.

LEWIS

How could I tell you I couldn't tell the truth if I couldn't tell you the truth?

ROBIN

What do you have to say to me?

LEWIS

About what?

ROBIN

Lewis, no! You've got to say it! I'm not going to say it for you! It doesn't mean anything if I say it, and then you say *Okay, you're right, I admit it*. I'm not going to tell you and then you just nod your head. That's not good enough Lewis! You say the words! Speak it, Lewis. Say it out loud!

You could say it to Cecilia.

(She turns around and faces out to audience, away from Lewis as the lights change.)

LEWIS

What are you talking about? Robin.

Robin.

(Cecilia has appeared in the bathroom door in a cocktail dress and two drinks in her hands. She crosses down to Robin. Lewis fades into the shadows as the lights complete their change.)

Party sounds. Friday night.)

CECILIA

What are you staring at? Hm?

ROBIN

Oh nothing. I'm just ... nothing. I'm here now.

(Cecilia hands her a drink.)

CECILIA

Here.

ROBIN

What is it?

CECILIA

A drink. They were fresh out of hard drugs.

ROBIN

Oh, I don't think I should.

CECILIA

Don't be difficult. Here, vodka tonic.

ROBIN

I really wanted a tonic.

CECILIA

Okay, we'll split it. You take the tonic. I'll have the vodka.

(She takes a sip and hands it to Robin, who takes a sip.)

ROBIN

I wish Lewis were here.

CECILIA

That old party hog? What for?

ROBIN

I just feel better when he's here,

LEWIS

Lewis won't ever be there until you don't need him. Then he slobbers all over you like a St. Bernard.

ROBIN

Well, what can I do?

CECILIA

Don't ask me. You're talking to an also-ran. Any ideas I might have, you don't want to know about.

ROBIN

What do you mean?

CECILIA

I mean you don't want to know. I wouldn't want to cause any trouble.

ROBIN

What kind of trouble?

CECILIA

Not trouble. Just ...

ROBIN

Just what?

(Brief pause.)

CECILIA

Give him his own medicine. He blows you off, you blow him off. He breaks a date, you break one. He messes around with some other girl, you go out with somebody at school. He'll come around.

ROBIN

What do you mean, messes around?

CECILIA

If, I'm talking.

ROBIN

No you're not.

CECILIA

Robin, don't get paranoid. You want another drink? I'm dying.

ROBIN

Did he say something to you?

CECILIA

About what? No.

ROBIN

You just saw him last night. What did he say?

CECILIA

Nothing.

ROBIN

Is he seeing somebody else?

CECILIA

It wasn't anything like that.

ROBIN

What wasn't?

(Brief pause.)

CECILIA

If I tell you, promise you won't get crazy. He loves you Robin. Really, he does. And I'm crazy about the two of you together. I wouldn't want anything to happen to that.

Come on, let's get another drink.

(She steers Robin upstage towards the bathroom door as the lights change.)

Robin exits through the door as Lewis crosses down and intercepts Cecilia as the lights have finished the change. Thursday night.)

LEWIS

You've got to go now.

(Cecilia crosses to the mirror.)

CECILIA

I know. I'm going.

LEWIS

That wasn't fun.

CECILIA

No, it wasn't, was it. Just let me get my hair back together and I'll get out of here.

(She starts a cross towards him.)

CECILIA (con't)

Why do people do things that aren't fun? I wonder. Maybe they think they're going to be fun and then when they aren't ...

(She trails off and fixes her hair for a beat.)

CECILIA

I guess I'll see you tomorrow night then. I'm picking Robin up for the party. Unless you don't want me to now. I can meet her instead. Maybe I'll tell her to meet me, that way ...

(She trails off again and finishes at the mirror.)

There.

(She goes to put on her raincoat.)

I guess I look good enough for the Long Island Expressway at two o'clock in the morning. What do you think? You think I look good enough for the Long Island Expressway at two o'clock in the morning?

LEWIS

Can't you ever shut up?!

I'm feeling like I want to puke and you can't shut up about your hair!

CECILIA

I'm sorry. I'm going.

LEWIS

And don't call me. Don't come over tomorrow to get Robin and don't call me. This is it.

CECILIA

All right Lewis. This is it. Whatever you say. I guess you know what you want, don't you.

LEWIS

There are no possibilities with you Cecilia. I'm sorry but that's the way it is. With you, the world is just this tiny place that exists between the east end of Long Island and the Hudson River. There's just you and the drive to Watermill and the drive back. And when we get there we mix a drink and wonder if we should go over to Charlie's and swim in the pool, or go to a movie, or go to the beach. But it never really matters because no matter where we go, we never really have a conversation because there's nothing to say.

That's why we broke up in the first place, Cece. Because there is nothing to say. Because nothing is possible. I thought there was after we broke up. I thought then maybe we'd have fun again. We'd fall back into that thing we used to have, when it didn't seem to matter. Whatever happened, it was good.

LEWIS

But it didn't work that way. I really wanted it to, but it didn't. And it's making me sick to my stomach. It's making me want to crawl out of my skin, or puke it up, whatever it is inside of me that makes me do this.

Just don't come back. If we see each other, that's fine. Just don't come back.

(Cecilia exits.)

The lights change. Friday night. Lewis goes to the bathroom door.)

LEWIS

Okay?

Okay?

Listen, if you're not going to at least answer me ...

Listen, I really hate it when you try to make it into morality, that's all. It's not morality, for Christ's sake, it's ...

ROBIN

(Through the bathroom door.)

Quit swearing.

LEWIS

... it's human nature. All right. I'm sorry. I'm sorry but I didn't think she counted. Peggy is an old girlfriend of mine and old girlfriends aren't the same. It's a whole different category. If I had picked her up at some bar or something, fine, that I could understand. But she happened to be at Caitlin's with us for the weekend and there we were. We're friends. And that's part of our friendship - to do that.

Robin?

(To himself.)

This is like being in therapy.

Robin, did you hear me?

(Robin enters from the bathroom with the phone in her hand, which she slams down on the chest.)

ROBIN

I heard you.

LEWIS

What was that?

ROBIN

That was a telephone.

(She starts going through her bag.)

LEWIS

You were talking on the phone?

ROBIN

Trying to. I could barely hear over all the shouting.

LEWIS

I was saying something.

ROBIN

I had to talk to Cecilia.

LEWIS

Oh lovely. Just who we need.

ROBIN

Don't blame her.

LEWIS

What are you looking for?

ROBIN

Money.

LEWIS

Money for what?

ROBIN

Train fare.

LEWIS

Train fare for what?

ROBIN

I'm certainly not spending the night here!

LEWIS

Wait a minute!

ROBIN

I told you, it's over.

LEWIS

I told you about Peggy. I spoke the words!

ROBIN

I'm getting on that train and it's over!

LEWIS

There aren't any trains. It's almost eleven.

ROBIN

There's an eleven twenty. I called them too.

LEWIS

An eleven twenty to Poughkeepsie? Who the hell goes to Poughkeepsie at midnight?

ROBIN

I need five and a half dollars.

LEWIS

I don't have it.

ROBIN

Lewis.

LEWIS

I didn't cash my check today.

ROBIN

Okay, fine. I'll go back and get it from Cece. She's still at the party.

LEWIS

Listen, look, spend the night anyway.

ROBIN

I'm no spending this night or any other night with you Lewis. Ever.

(He kneels before her.)

LEWIS

I love you Robin. I really love you. I don't want anybody else. I don't want Peggy or Cece or anybody.

ROBIN

What do you mean, Cece?

Oh my God, you ... ! Lewis!

LEWIS

But I'm admitting it! Doesn't that count for something?

ROBIN

You said only Peggy!

LEWIS

Okay, I exaggerated! But that's it! Just Peggy and Cecilia!

(She crosses away from him then come back for her bag. He intercepts her.)

ROBIN

Don't touch!

(He holds on.)

Don't touch I said!

(She pushes him down.)

When I met you, I never thought you ... *I thought you were a gentleman!*

You were so charming and ... and ... and elegant, like people used to be. Like you read about - people in other times and other places. You didn't act like one of those people from today.

I remember looking at you across the pool, in the afternoon. You were standing there with your Cape Codder in one hand and your Ray Bans in the other, and I almost fell right into the pool, you were so *forties*.

And then at night, everybody was inside watching that stupid video Charlie made of his Airedales and you came and sat by me and I thought you were going to grope me or something. But you just leaned over, you looked at me really close and you asked if you could kiss me. I don't think anybody's actually asked if they could have a kiss for about thirty years.

And I said yes. I said yes, yes, yes you can kiss me. I felt like Molly Bloom. I just kept saying yes inside. Because it was so perfect, and you were kind and thoughtful and ... kind.

But it doesn't matter anymore.

(She goes to her bag.)

ROBIN (con't)

I'm going to miss my train.

LEWIS

No it does. It does matter!

ROBIN

If it matters, then why did you do it?

LEWIS

When I met you, sitting by Charlie Minot's swimming pool of all ridiculous places, with you looking like an absolute vision with your shoulders back and your chin up, I fell in love with you in the first second, the very first. I'm not saying I never felt that way before. I did. Maybe for a day, or a week, or a month. But with you I kept getting up every morning thinking *I must have stopped thinking this way* - but I hadn't. I kept falling in love with you all over again, every day.

And all of a sudden summer was over and you were coming down on weekends and I was going up. I actually found myself getting on trains to Poughkeepsie, and then it was winter, and I was still doing this because there was nobody else as beautiful as you. And I didn't want anyone as much as I wanted you. Do you know what that does to a person like me?

It makes me nervous! It makes me crazy! It makes me do crazy things! It scares the hell out of me and makes me run away. And if there's nobody to run to, then I have to find somebody. And if you go looking for somebody, they're going to show up, right? I mean if you go out *looking*?

But there wasn't. I tried to find them, but they weren't there. I tried not to need you, but it didn't work. I tried to make love to them and it just made me sick. So I gave up. And I'm begging ...

(He kneels.)

LEWIS (con't)

I know that's not very charming or anything. I know that, but that's what I'm doing. I'm begging. Don't let me keep running. Please? Help me stop. Stand in my way. Trip me fall. Make me fall.

Help me try.

(Beat.)

ROBIN

Lewis, this is not in the slightest bit charming.

LEWIS

I know that! That's what I'm saying!

ROBIN

It's very unrefined.

LEWIS

For Christ's sake, Robin, I'm begging!

ROBIN

I know. And I'm saying yes.

LEWIS

What?

ROBIN

I'm saying yes.

LEWIS

Thank you!

(He hugs her around the legs.)

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

ROBIN

I accept - for now, anyway. I accept the good with the bad. I accept that you may change and you may not. I accept that at this moment you are in terrible need.

Yes, Lewis. Just like Molly Bloom.

Yes ... yes ... yes.

(The lights fade to black.)