

SAMPLE:

12th PREMISE (play)

by

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CAITLIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Caitlin enters with two glasses of wine. She brings one to Con. Music plays.

CAITLIN
So...are you experienced?

CON
Yes. You?

CAITLIN
I've been waiting.

CON
For what?

CAITLIN
Someone who can last longer than fifteen minutes.

CON
Uh-oh. Maybe I should go.

They laugh.

CAITLIN
Failing that, an attorney.

CON
I should definitely go.

CAITLIN
I'll make an exception. You have any special skills?

CON
I play guitar? Is that--

CAITLIN
You want to be lucky number one?

CON
Uh...

CAITLIN
Don't be shy--

CON
Is that something you're interested in?

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CAITLIN

You're not particularly *smooth* are you?

CON

(smiles)

Usually there's less talking involved.

CAITLIN

Your first - who was she?

CON

Her name was Langley.

CAITLIN

Was she older?

CON

No, fourteen - same grade. High school love.

CAITLIN

Love sounds like a big commitment. I'm just talking about sex.

CON

Just sex?

(joking)

I can't, I'm religious.

CAITLIN

Are you gonna want to move in afterwards?

CON

Maybe.

CAITLIN

I thought so.

CON

You're really different, aren't you?

CAITLIN

That sounds like a line?

CON

(laughs)

No. You're just...I don't know...different--

CAITLIN

Different?

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CON

Yeah.

CAITLIN

Different than Langley?

CON

Very--

CAITLIN

With her - it was easy?

CON

Less talking.

CAITLIN

You feel like you're working for it?

CON

I enjoy the effort.

CAITLIN

I'll bet. With her, it was special?

CON

Yes.

CAITLIN

The first time?

CON

Yes.

CAITLIN

Every time?

Before he can answer, she kisses him. Fireworks. Aidan enters.

AIDAN

(to the audience)

Somebody said that when you're loved by someone all your days pass quickly. But when you love...epic pause...it can be a lifetime, breath to breath.

Con and Caitlin pull apart. Aidan watches them.

CON

Happy New Year.

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They kiss again, this time with added enthusiasm. More fireworks, something gaudy like an exploding heart.

AIDAN

(to the audience)

For me, a slow year. I eat a lot of Chinese food. For the fortune cookies; always a generic enough message to be hopeful or condemning, depending on my mood.

Con and Caitlin break their kiss. Caitlin exits. Apart, Christian enters.

CHRISTIAN

(to the audience)

Two months after he died, New Years about, I boxed up his things and gave it all to some charity. If I dream about him at night, when I wake up, I can't move.

CON

(to the audience)

The girl with the flowers turned out to be Caitlin, who turned out to be my first love. Since my last. I was definitely hers. We would do it all. Move in together. Create a routine. She'd try to change me. I'd expect it and avoid. I'd make love to her. Sometimes I wouldn't. She'd blow me in public. It was a great time.

UNIVERSITY ART LAB (WATER COLOR 374)- DAY

Caitlin is glowing, she stands not looking at the subject she is supposed to be painting, but daydreaming instead. Christian stumbles in, leafing through Polaroids, he looks like shit.

Hey.
CAITLIN

Hey.
CHRISTIAN

CAITLIN
You look like shit.

CHRISTIAN
Yes I do.

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He throws a Polaroid to Caitlin, she takes it looks at it, turns it upside down.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

That's me twenty minutes ago.

(noticing her)

You look *great*.

CAITLIN

You look like shit. Who's the leg?

CHRISTIAN

Um...Carolyn? Maybe Cynthia - it's hard to say. She's this one.

(he gives Caitlin a Polaroid of the girl)

I repeat - you look great. What happened?

CAITLIN

(smiles)

Nothing.

CHRISTIAN

Nothing?

CAITLIN

Nothing.

CHRISTIAN

Mmm hmm. I know your secret.

CAITLIN

What secret?

CHRISTIAN

I've seen that face a hundred times before.

CAITLIN

Shut up!

Laughing, he tosses Polaroids of girls he's had at her.

CHRISTIAN

You lost it. You gave it away.

CAITLIN

Guilty. All right? So what if I did?

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CHRISTIAN

Was it good - was it magical? Did angels sing the *Body Electric* when he broke your doors down and stormed headlong into your special place?

CAITLIN

You are so disgusting.

CHRISTIAN

It's my charm.

CAITLIN

Honestly, it was...amazing.

CHRISTIAN

So who's the lucky guy?

CAITLIN

Wasn't you.

CHRISTIAN

Sadly, I am aware. You know it's funny - Con didn't come home last night - I'm worried about him, was gonna call his mom-
-

She concedes.

CAITLIN

We went to the beach and he brought his guitar and played for me.

CHRISTIAN

That son of a bitch. Nice, nice. He treats you well?

CAITLIN

He doesn't take pictures of my vagina.

CHRISTIAN

What a waste. What? I'd still love to draw you. What happened?

CAITLIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Con waits in bed, Caitlin re-enters from the bathroom, post-coital, she's smiling.

CON

So?

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CAITLIN
That was special?

CON
Ouch.

She climbs onto the bed.

CAITLIN
Only joking Casanova.

CON
Casanova? Did you have a good time?

CAITLIN
I don't want to talk about it.

CON
(blurted)
I think I love you.

CAITLIN
Shit, I told you so--

CON
No. I love you. I want to lay naked at
your feet for the rest of my life and
serve you. Do you believe me?

Caitlin laughs at him.

CAITLIN
Are you asking me out?

CON
Um-

CAITLIN
Are you going to buy me breakfast?

CON
Uh - wh-would you like that?
(beat)
Yes, yes, I will buy you breakfast.

CAITLIN
Will you ever hurt my feelings?

CON
No.

CAITLIN
Will you ever cheat?

CON
Never.

CAITLIN
Never?

AIDAN
(to the audience)
Premise three: famous last words.

PREMISE THREE: FAMOUS LAST WORDS - FEBRUARY

CHRISTIAN, CON, AND KEATON'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Keaton and Aidan sit in the living room. Con stands, restless. Aidan has a bong, which is making its way around the room.

CON
What's that smell?

KEATON
Chris is burning something in his room. Hey, there was a program on public access earlier about these tree frogs from Thailand that can switch sexes if they feel like a fuck. Like depending what's around them so they can mate--

CON
Shut the fuck up, Keaton.

Con goes and gets a beer.

KEATON
Okay, not a winner. Aid - you'll like this--

AIDAN
The frogs sounded cool, Keat--

KEATON
Check it - You know how many people get molested by amphibians each year?

Christian enters, wiping ash off his hands.

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CHRISTIAN
What the fuck?

KEATON
No listen. Public radio. It's great.
So apparently each year there are four
women raped by dolphins.

Raped? CON CHRISTIAN
Raped?

KEATON (CONT'D)
Raped by dolphins--

CON
Bullshit--

AIDAN
Can humans and dolphins have consensual
sex?

KEATON
Really dude, listen - I was straight when
I heard this story--

AIDAN
Can they?

KEATON
Dude - This is not a laughing matter.
Apparently another one of these just
happened in Florida. And the coast guard
had to tranquilize the dolphin so it
would get off the woman. But the thing
was the dolphin's dick was still inside
her even though the fish was asleep.

AIDAN
So where does it penetrate?

KEATON
Well, either the vagina, if the dolphin
has good aim. Or get this shit. Right
through the stomach.

CHRISTIAN
I don't believe this.

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KEATON

Here's how it happens. So you get the woman and probably a group of people swimming out where the dolphins are, right? Say like this woman starts getting towards the dolphins, like petting it and shit. And lets say Mr. Dolphin isn't getting any at home - so he's like, "Oh yeah," so she's like, "you like that?" and he's like, "yeah touch it - touch my fin! Touch my fucking fin." But as they explained the mechanics of the dolphin penis on the radio: it isn't gradual like the human dick. A dolphin's penis becomes erect in one and a half seconds.

CHRISTIAN

So does mine.

KEATON

And according to the fish expert, not only does it shoot out real fast, but it's also like hard as iron and sharp as shit too cause--

CHRISTIAN

Cause they don't get circumcised.

KEATON

Right, that and something about the structure of the female dolphin vagina - requires a pointy...um...I don't know. So - when raped by a dolphin, it's actually like being speared.

CHRISTIAN

How big is a dolphin?

KEATON

Bottle nose or Cambodian flat belly?

CHRISTIAN

No you asshole. How big is its dick?

KEATON

Oh, two feet - thick as a horse's.

CON

Okay, I hate to break this up but dolphins don't rape women.

KEATON

Dude, it was on the radio, so--

CON

A lot of shit's on the radio. Celine Dion is on the fucking radio. Dolphins don't rape women because, aside from humans, they are supposed to be the most intelligent species in the fucking world. And to think that a dolphin can't distinguish its usual fuck from someone we go to school with, or whatever, is not real smart.

Con exits the apartment. There is a weird, tense silence. Aidan stands and exits, following Con.

KEATON

What the fuck was that? Not real smart -
FUCK THAT.

(he looks at Christian)

What? I'm the most smartest.

They laugh. The lights change.

A QUIET STREET - NIGHT

Con enters, bizarrely angry, walking home. Aidan enters.

AIDAN

Con.

Con stops and turns to meet him.

CON

Hey...what's up?

AIDAN

Nothing. What about you?

CON

Nothing. Just wanted to go home, I guess.

AIDAN

No, what is it?

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CON

Well, firstly Keaton's too high or too stupid to shut up and I don't want to talk about dolphin rape...nothing to keep me there.

AIDAN

Nothing?

CON

No.

AIDAN

Not your friends?

CON

Not at the moment.

AIDAN

Which?

CON

What?

AIDAN

Which moment? That one or this?

Con smiles. Then does Aidan.

CON

You've completely confused me.

AIDAN

Good.

CON

I can't go home tonight--

AIDAN

Why not?

CON

Before you ask, two things: I don't want to talk about it and B, we got into a fight.

AIDAN

Caitlin?

CON

I don't want to/ talk about it--

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AIDAN
About going/ out on Valentine's Day--

CON
Don't want to/ talk--

AIDAN
Because you stood her up?

Beat.

CON
So she's like - don't come home tonight.
Nice fucking Valentine.

AIDAN
I think the whole thing's a commercial
ploy anyway.

CON
You got one this year?

AIDAN
Yeah, but he doesn't know it yet.

CON
(nervous)
Who's this?

AIDAN
James Dean.

CON
Oh.
(laughs, relieved)
I get it. Little late--

AIDAN
We're having trouble communicating.

CON
Yeah. Us too. Me and Cait - I mean--

AIDAN
Look, you can stay over at mine...

CON
I was just gonna...sleep in my car.

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AIDAN

Well that would be universally stupid.
Like fucking a dolphin. Come on - no one
else has moved in yet. Me alone in a
three bedroom - city views! You can run
around naked. You'll love it.

Awkward pause.

CON

Not tonight okay?

AIDAN

Yeah, whatever. Sorry...night.

Aidan begins to exit. It begins to rain. Con looks up,
then at Aidan.

CON

Aidan - hey.

Aidan turns back.

CON (CONT'D)

Okay, yeah. Cool.

AIDAN

Yeah, cool/ come on--

Con stands still.

CON

Aid. Listen. This is weird to say, but
I think I...look. I know you like me and
that's great. And really flattering and
I think you're a really smart guy - not
just cause me, but you know...I'm
flattered but I'm not gay.

AIDAN

(to the audience)

Famous last words.

(beat, a change:)

I said that once too. I looked at him in
that dark street with shadows on his face
and he was backlit by those nasty out
door halogens and he was a statue. He
was marble. He was beauty like I'd only
wet-dreamed about. I would love to tell
you that we ran home that night and had
fabulous receptive anal intercourse; as
romantic as that sounds.

(MORE)

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AIDAN (CONT'D)

But it would take months and months before I made any headway. The truth was we walked home. I flirted as much as possible. And GOD, I was witty and fast and I made him laugh. And it never entered my mind that there was some core to him that would not be turned by those things and a million more virtues...like my cheek bones. We went into the house, had another drink, and then he found a short play I had written for him...I amended--

AIDAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Con enters, holding a script.

CON

I don't know, dude. I'm no actor...or whatever.

AIDAN

I think you'll do just fine.

CON

You wrote all this for me?

AIDAN

Uh - with you in mind.

CON

(flipping through to the last page)

It uh...I don't think I have the whole thing.

AIDAN

No. That's as far as I've gotten.

CON

You can't leave me hanging, how does it end?

Con sits on the floor, next to Aidan.

AIDAN

I...I dunno yet.

Con smiles. Aidan hands a bottle of Malibu to Con. They drink. Aidan notices a star shaped tattoo on Con's wrist.

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AIDAN (CONT'D)
What are the stars all about?

CON
Oh, this...

Con pulls up his sleeve, revealing a star tattoo.

CON (CONT'D)
This is...Rachel. It's a mark.

AIDAN
A mark?

CON
That it was...real. Every time I'm with
someone...
(he stops himself)
It's stupid.

AIDAN
(taking Con's arm, examining)
No. It's...

CON
I'm pretty tired and pretty drunk. Maybe
I should lie down.

AIDAN
(staring a second too long)
Ok.

Con smells himself, it's bad, he takes off his shirt. On his chest there are a few more stars. He turns around to go into the bedroom. His back is covered in black stars. A constellation of other lovers. Aidan stares. Con goes into Aidan's bedroom.

CON
Aidan.

AIDAN
Yeah.

CON
This the only bed?

AIDAN
Yeah - you take it, I'll sleep in the
bathtub.

CON
No, it's fine.

Con lays down comfortable, getting under a top sheet.

CON (CONT'D)
Really.

AIDAN
Okay.

Aidan undresses, completely uncomfortable. Con watches him. Aidan lays down beside Con.

CON
Comfy?

AIDAN
Yeah. You want a blanket?

CON
Too hot. We'll be fine.

Beat.

AIDAN
What do you dream about?

CON
What?

AIDAN
(embarrassed)
Nothing.

CON
No, it's okay...Aidan.

Aidan looks at Con.

AIDAN
Yeah?

CON
I dream about...ponies.

Con laughs at Aidan.

AIDAN
Shut up.

CON
Good night.

AIDAN
Good night.

CON
Thanks for having me.

Aidan sits up.

AIDAN
(to the audience)
Famous last words.