

VALERIA

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A Play in One Act

by

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Cast of Characters

Valeria: A woman in her early 20s;  
posh, from money.

Danny: A man in his mid 20s; a  
poet, thinks himself a  
working class hero.

Scene

A small studio flat belonging to DANNY.

Time

The present.

Scene 1

SETTING: We are in DANNY's studio flat. It is shabby, with clothes, bottles and books strewn about the place. From the decor (vintage posters, thick rugs, typewriter, etc.) and the poor upkeep, it is clear that the owner of the flat fancies himself a bohemian or creative of some kind. A ripped and soiled couch sits centre-left of the room. An unmade mattress lays at its foot. A small, round table with four chairs stands off to the side of the room and props up an ashtray and the remains of several ready meals.

AT RISE: The flat is empty and unlit, but noises can be heard outside the door - laughing, the jangling of keys.

(The door opens and DANNY and VALERIA enter the flat, attached at the lips. They cross over the room and fall onto the mattress together. DANNY pulls a throw off of the couch and uses it to cover them both. They fumble about. Clothes - a sweater, shoes, a bra - find their way out from beneath the throw.)

DANNY

Hold on.

VALERIA

There.

DANNY

Wait.

(VALERIA laughs lightly.)

DANNY

Sorry.

VALERIA

It's alright.

DANNY

God. Hold on.

VALERIA

I'm holding, I'm holding.

(More fumbling from beneath the throw, then DANNY throws VALERIA off of him.)

DANNY

Shit.

VALERIA

Don't worry, it happens.

DANNY

Not to me. If you want to leave, you can.

VALERIA

Bit late. I'll stay. We can try again later if you like.

(They lay together for a moment in silence.)

VALERIA

I like your flat. It's got your personality.

DANNY

You don't know my personality.

VALERIA

I've got an idea.

DANNY

What's your name again?

VALERIA

Valeria.

DANNY

What's that, Italian?

VALERIA

Spanish.

DANNY

You Spanish?

VALERIA

No.

DANNY

I'm Danny.

VALERIA

I know.

(VALERIA grabs Danny's sweater from the floor and pulls it over herself before standing up. She inspects a stack of dog-eared books.)

You read a lot.

(She picks up the top book from the stack. Reading its cover:)

"Howl."

(Imitates a baying wolf.)

DANNY

Hey!

(He jumps up, still half-stripped, buckling his jeans as he strides towards her. He grabs the book out of her hands and returns it to the stack.)

DANNY

Hands off my stuff.

VALERIA

Oh yeah?

(She moves closer to him. He turns away.)

DANNY

I'm tired. You don't mind if I go to bed, do you?

VALERIA

Not at all.

(They both lay back down on the mattress.)

DANNY

I have to head out early tomorrow. I might be gone when you get up but you can let yourself out.

VALERIA

You trust me alone in your flat?

DANNY

Nothing here worth stealing.

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)