

THE GOOD LIFE

A Play

by

Joe Hoover

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### Cast of Characters

TOMMY SHAY      A man in his mid-twenties.  
JANE              His girlfriend, early 30s.  
CINDI              Woman in mid-twenties.

### Scenes

A soccer field in Omaha, near the Missouri River.  
Apartment of CINDI'S fiancée.  
A clearing on the banks of the river.

### Time

Early fall. 1999.

Act 1

SETTING: Dodge Park, a soccer complex near the Missouri River in Omaha.  
Late summer, 1999.

AT RISE: The end of a men's league soccer game. TOMMY unlacing cleats. Enter JANE.

TOMMY  
Hey, you found the fields.

JANE  
I just followed the river.

TOMMY  
Good, good.

(THEY kiss.)

I peeked into my room and you were sleeping so soundly I didn't want to wake you up.

JANE  
Whole bed to myself, I always sleep great.

TOMMY  
Me too. My couch is really comfortable. You're welcome to it. We can switch.

JANE  
I'm fine.

(JANE grabs HIS water bottle and takes a drink.)

TOMMY  
I'm glad you came. You see much of the game?

JANE  
Last few minutes. Your team needs to be more aggressive.

TOMMY  
(smiling)  
We've lost fourteen in a row. Going back to spring of '98.

JANE  
Aren't you upset?

TOMMY

Doesn't get to me. Hey, guess what?

JANE

What?

TOMMY

The left fullback's getting married, and he wants me to—

JANE

That guy didn't stop a thing out there.

TOMMY

He tries. His name is Craig and he's a really nice guy. He asked me to be one of his groomsmen.

JANE

I didn't know you guys were friends.

TOMMY

Neither did I. We've hung out two, three times.

JANE

You must've made an impression.

TOMMY

I guess so.

JANE

People like having you around.

TOMMY

I always get put in these ceremonies. Do a reading. Carry a coffin.

JANE

So it'll be a joyous and consecrated event. Full of love and purity.

TOMMY

I don't know.

JANE

Maybe you should get yourself out of this rut. Screw up once in a while. Ruin your reputation.

TOMMY

What do you mean?

JANE

Abuse a waitress. Steal something.

TOMMY

I don't get it.

JANE

You can't even picture it, can you?

TOMMY

I have enough things. Why would I steal? I try not to clutter my life up.

JANE

Never mind.

TOMMY

Waitresses deserve respect. People don't realize how hard they--

JANE

Forget it forget it forget it.

(Pause.)

What's Craig's fiancée like?

TOMMY

Cindi? She's really great. I knew her in high school. Real positive. Real nice.

JANE

Exactly my point!

TOMMY

What is?

JANE

Everyone in Omaha is too nice. You. Her. Craig. The team's so nice they never let the other guys lose.

TOMMY

They're not all mean in Connecticut. Hartford is very Omaha-like.

JANE

I'm not knocking it down. It's nice you guys are...nice. I just...it makes me nervous.

TOMMY

Is that why you won't move here? Because this city makes you nervous? It's really great here.

JANE

I don't dislike Omaha. It gets under your skin. Every time I visit it goes a little deeper.

TOMMY

It's a nice place to grow up.

JANE

And the Missouri River. So huge. It kind of freaks me out. I love it.

TOMMY

Great public schools...

JANE

Let's go look at the river.

TOMMY

Math and reading. We're like incredible.

(THEY exit.)

Scene 2--A few weeks later. Another soccer game at Dodge Park. JANE and CINDI watching from the sidelines.

JANE

Go you guys. You losers! Get the damn ball in there!

CINDI

Craig and I really like Tommy. We're so glad he can be in the ceremony. Do you think you'll be back in town on the 25th? It's gonna be a fun wedding. No one's going to have to do any work.

JANE

What do you mean do work?

CINDI

You know how some weddings feel that way? Like, work?

JANE

I'm not sure.

CINDI

It's like hard labor being at a wedding sometimes. You feel as if you've been given a pick and sent down into a mine. A mine with white flowers everywhere. That is not how this wedding is going to be.

JANE

Thank God.

CINDI

No one's going to sweat or look bad or get depressed.

(Enter TOMMY running off the field.)

TOMMY

Hey!

JANE

What are you doing out?

TOMMY

Only nine guys showed up today. I'm exhausted.

JANE

They need you in there.

CINDI

Hey there.

TOMMY

Hey Cindi.

CINDI

So, are you as excited as we are?

TOMMY

Yes!

CINDI

It's gonna be a fun wedding. No one's going to be unhappy.

TOMMY

Good!

JANE

Will you get back in! Cmon!

TOMMY

Yes ma'am!

(HE exits.)

CINDI

He's so nice.

JANE

It's all a show.

CINDI

Really?

JANE

I'm kidding. Sometimes I just wish it was.

CINDI

Do you two have plans?

JANE

Yes. I just don't know which way they're going.

(To field.)

Come on you little boys! Control the ball. Play your game. Cross it cross it CROSS IT!

CINDI

Craig always talks about what a big influence Tommy's had on him. They go out all the time after games. Craig told him about his relationship with his mom and how guilty he feels about it? I mean, it's not bad, it's just that Craig feels like he can never match the love his mother gives him. So sometimes he doesn't even try. And then he feels guilty.

JANE

That's complicated.

CINDI

Craig hadn't even opened up to me about that. Do you think that's weird?

JANE

People don't always like to open up.

CINDI

Tommy's the kind of guy that people just look at him and they start telling him things. How's your relationship with your mom?

JANE

Fine. It's fine.

CINDI

My mom doesn't like me.

JANE

No?

CINDI

I mean, she does all the right things, but I don't get that there's much feeling behind it.

JANE

That's too bad. Get back get back get back GET BACK!!! Stop this one. Stopit! C'mon you guys. Let's go Tommy. It's all yours. All you, all you!!!

CINDI

Maybe I should talk about it with Tommy. I'm sure he'd understand.

JANE

He's that kind of guy isn't he? Understanding.

CINDI

Oh yeah.

JANE

You know him pretty well?

CINDI

He was a year ahead of me at Lewis and Clark. Everyone knows him. He's well known.

JANE

What did he do to get everyone to love him? Build homeless shelters? Save drowning kids?

CINDI

No, he just...he has this way. I think you're really lucky. He's great.

(Re-enter TOMMY, grabbing water bottle.)

JANE

Don't you want to win?

TOMMY

It's okay.

JANE

If I was coach, I'd throw you off the team.

TOMMY

Well, thank you Jane. We don't have a coach. We just play. Everything's okay.

(HE exits.)

CINDI

Don't forget you guys need to try on tuxes today!

(To JANE.)

He's like a little kid. I wish more people were like him.

JANE

Why? The population would fall dramatically.

CINDI

I don't know about that.

JANE

Why am I so mean to him? It's like I'm testing him.

CINDI

For what?

JANE

To see if he's for real.

(Pause.)

Or maybe I'm testing myself. To see if I actually love him. What if this means I don't love him? What if this means the writing's on the wall? I'm sorry. I don't mean to dump all this on you.

CINDI

It's okay. I get it. Tommy does that to people. He's so...

JANE

He's so what?

CINDI

I don't know. It's dumb.

JANE

Tell me!

CINDI

It's not like I think about this a lot, but when you have a guy like Tommy, it sorta, you know, keeps things in balance? Everyone goes around gossiping and fighting and cheating on their bar exams. Puking outside the Ranch Bowl and the 18th Amendment. Obsessing over *Maxim* magazine. But then Tommy's on the other side, so it's kinda like even?

JANE

So, he doesn't do any of that stuff?

CINDI

No! Don't you know that?

JANE

I just wondered if there was another side I don't see.

CINDI

There isn't.

JANE

But why doesn't he do those things?

CINDI

Puke outside the Ranch Bowl?

JANE

Yeah.

CINDI

He's Tommy Shay.

JANE

Yeah, but, who's Tommy Shay?

CINDI

Your boyfriend.

(A whistle blows to end the game.)

JANE

Have these guys won since I was here last?

CINDI

No.

JANE

Nineteen in a row.

CINDI

It's okay. They like playing. Hey, this was really fun. When are you leaving for Connecticut?

JANE

Tommmorrow.

CINDI

I hope I see you at the prenuptial. I want to hear more about Hartford. It sounds exciting. Craig! I have oranges.

(SHE exits. JANE takes a drink from TOMMY's water bottle, sprays water on HER face and wipes it off with HER shirt. Enter TOMMY.)

TOMMY

Hey.

JANE

Good game! I'm sorry I snapped at you. I know you were hustling out there.

(Kisses HIM.)

I feel like I just got here and already I have to leave. I'll miss you.

TOMMY

Me too.

(JANE wraps arms around him.)

JANE

So, what do you have planned for this week?

TOMMY

Outside of work, Rotary Club Tuesday. Saturday I'm helping with the Webelos.

JANE

What are Webelos?

TOMMY

Wolf, Bear, Lion Scout. It's before Boy Scouts. My nephew Carter's one. It's a lot of fun. Sometime this week I'm helping my mom can some beets. I think it's beets. Are beets cannabale? That'd be pretty funny. Cannable beets. Like, beets that eat other beets.

JANE

That's funny Tommy. It's awesome you're doing all that stuff. I'm sure everyone will really appreciate it.

TOMMY

Mostly it'll be pretty quiet. Rent a couple movies.

JANE

Tommy, do you ever think of just going wild? Completely cutting loose?

TOMMY

You saw me out there today. I was all over the field. I had a couple really hard slide tackles, I was--

JANE

No. I don't mean soccer. Do you ever think of doing something wrong? Something not helpful, or healthy or good. Tell a bald-faced lie. Spray paint a water tower. Get smashed and puke your guts out and have the most miserable hangover the next day. Poison the beets!

TOMMY

Are you still on this? No, I don't think of doing that stuff.

JANE

Sleep with someone else! Cheat on me! That would be really bad. Sink into the dirt just like all the other guys out there! Oh God you'd kill yourself over that one.

TOMMY

Are you joking?

JANE

No!

TOMMY

Really?

JANE

I mean, I'm not serious. But I'm not joking.

TOMMY

What does that mean?

JANE

You just hear these stories. People who are so perfect and restrained and it builds up over the years and then they have this terrible outbreak when they're 40 and they start drinking and gambling and sleeping around and run out on their wife and kids. It happens all the time.

TOMMY

Are you really worried about this? That's insane.

JANE

People usually do wild stupid things when they're younger and they get over it and then they get on with their lives. But you...

TOMMY

Not everyone does. Some people don't get all wild. Ever. And there's nothing wrong with that.

JANE

I know there's not. But Tommy, you don't understand. It's kind of hard to keep up with you! You're so....good-hearted...and kind...that sometimes I feel like a terrible person when I'm around you. I feel all this pressure. And I can't live up to it.

TOMMY

Jane. I had no idea you felt that way.

JANE

Just, once in a while I do. It's not a big deal. Eventually it goes away and I realize, Tommy wouldn't want me to be unhappy. I don't need to compare myself to him. He's not perfect. And that's fine. I'm just thinking out loud. My mind isn't... I'm hungry. I need to eat.

TOMMY

I make you feel like a terrible person?

JANE

No! It's not just you. Everyone makes everyone feel like a terrible person, because everyone seems so much better than everyone else.

TOMMY

Jane, we've been going out a year and a half since grad school. We love each other. You said if I was happy back home you'd move here from Hartford and we'd start making plans. And I am happy.

JANE

Girls get dumped when they move to where their boyfriends are. Within days.

TOMMY

I can't even imagine doing that.

JANE

There's a lot of things you haven't imagined doing. That couch would be a great place to start dreaming them up. Maybe you should sleep with someone else. Get a little practice.

TOMMY

Are you saying we should break up?

JANE

No. I'm not. I don't want to break up. Don't make this more than it is. I love you. I do. It's just that I have never met anyone like you, and I don't know what to do about it. But I'm thinking too much and you need to forget all of this. Don't do anything wrong. You're a good kid. You don't deserve this. Let's go down to the water.

TOMMY

Jane, I'm here for you. Whatever you need.

JANE

Stop! Stop being here for me! Stop being available for whatever I need! Jesus Christ. Just, leave me alone. It's okay. I'll be fine. Don't mind me. Really. I'm going down to the river. Pick me up me later.

(SHE exits. TOMMY remains, staring after HER.)

Scene 3—That afternoon. Craig's apartment. CINDI is flipping through a binder. Enter TOMMY.

Hey Cindi. TOMMY

Oh, hey Tommy! CINDI

Mind if I come in? I'm meeting Craig, remember? We're getting fitted for our tuxes. TOMMY

Oh, right. But he's not here. I just came by to drop off the wedding binder. CINDI

I thought you lived here. TOMMY

No. CINDI

Is he coming back? TOMMY

Yeah. CINDI

(Silence.)

Do you know when? TOMMY

No. CINDI

(Pause.)

Well, have him call me when he gets back. TOMMY

(Turns to go.)

CINDI

(quickly)

Do you know what my mom said to me yesterday?

TOMMY

No, what?

CINDI

She said, I love you.

TOMMY

That's nice.

CINDI

You don't get it. That's how she said it. I love you. Flat. So if I went out and got burned to death, she'll at least have said it. But not because it meant anything.

TOMMY

Okay.

CINDI

Isn't that pathetic?

TOMMY

So, what do you think it means?

CINDI

I think it means my mom is not in touch with her emotions.

TOMMY

She's not an emotional person?

CINDI

No. And I think that's why I'm with Craig. He cries all the time. He still hasn't stopped crying over that last penalty kick. Brandi Chastain? The women's soccer?

TOMMY

From the World Cup?

CINDI

She scores the goal and they're all piling on each other--he lost it. Went on for days. Two weeks later, he see one of those girls' pictures somewhere, it starts all over.

TOMMY

It's nice that he's not ashamed to be sentimental.

CINDI

Oh, shoot. He probably wouldn't want you to know that. It's kind of his secret side.

TOMMY

I won't tell.

CINDI

Thank you.

TOMMY

So, how does your mom react around Craig?

CINDI

That's a good frickin' question. She is a complete formal person around him. More so than she is around everyone else. Which is saying a lot. She's never said she doesn't like him. But she's also never asked him to go pick tomatoes from the garden. Or ice the cake.

TOMMY

Like he's actually part of the family.

CINDI

And then I start to wonder if she sees something wrong with Craig I don't see. But won't tell me because she doesn't want to be the overbearing mother her mother was.

TOMMY

Wow, sounds like you've got a lot on your mind.

CINDI

It's not as bad as it sounds. Forget I said anything. I like Jane. She really gets into those games.

TOMMY

I know. I know. Do you talk about this whole mother thing with Craig?

CINDI

I don't think I can.

TOMMY

Why not?

CINDI

He'd probably start to cry.

TOMMY

Oh.

(Pause.)

CINDI

He's so grateful to you for talking about his mom.

TOMMY

His mom?

CINDI

About his guilty feelings and all.

TOMMY

Oh, he mentioned something once.

CINDI

It was a big deal for him. He hadn't even told me about that stuff.

TOMMY

Really?

CINDI

I actually really like his mom. She's great. An extremely outer-focused person. She'd sleep in a bed of poison ivy if you wanted. She'd put her hand in a blender.

TOMMY

I've never met her.

CINDI

She'd light a firecracker in her mouth and then jump off a roof if you asked. I swear.

TOMMY

Wow.

CINDI

But I guess since Craig's been around it his whole life he doesn't really appreciate her as much as I do. He's been kind of lonely for guy friends. It's great you let him play on your team. I know he's terrible. But he loves it.

TOMMY

He's not so bad.

CINDI

He is awful. He doesn't do anything out there. He waves his arm to ask for the ball. But his face is like *Don't pass me the ball. For the love of God do not.* You're good. I like the way you pass right when you get the ball. So unselfish.

TOMMY

Some people think I should carry more. Jane gets pissed off when I always make one-touch passes. She thinks I can go right through the defense. At least past the midfield. She's always telling me I can plough through the midfield. Anytime I want.

CINDI

Why do you always pass?

TOMMY

I don't know. I guess I want someone else to get the glory.

CINDI

That's because you're Tommy Shay.

TOMMY

What does that mean?

CINDI

You're Tommy Shay. I really don't know how to explain it. That's just so you.

TOMMY

It's just soccer.

CINDI

It's your whole life!

TOMMY

What do you know about my whole life?

CINDI

Everyone knows.

TOMMY

Everyone who?

CINDI

Everyone everyone! They all love you! Don't you notice the way everyone gets so quiet when you're about to say something?

TOMMY

I mean, people are nice to me. Everyone's nice in Omaha.

CINDI

No they're not. There's a bunch of goddam pricks in Omaha. But even the pricks respect you.

TOMMY

Pricks think I'm a loser.

CINDI

Pricks love you. Douche bags worship you!

TOMMY

Douche bags worship me?

CINDI

Douche bags worship you. Because you're not them.

TOMMY

Really?

CINDI

Oh my God. Tommy. Guys like Towson and Kaster so look up to you!

TOMMY

Towson and Kaster? They never even talked to me in high school.

CINDI

Because they didn't think they were good enough. I just saw Kaster at Barry O's. Wasted. Some, like, 14-year-old hanging all over him. And I was telling him about the wedding, and he was like, "What is Tommy Shay up to? How's Tommy Shay?" He's like, "If Tommy saw me right now, he'd be so disappointed."

TOMMY

What does he care what I think!

CINDI

You're probably the only good person he knows.

TOMMY

Really?

CINDI

Yeah! You give him hope.

TOMMY

But if I've got all this pressure to be good, it's gonna backfire on me when I'm 40. I'm gonna start drinking and gambling and stealing Camaroes.

CINDI

What? No you're not.

According to some people I am. TOMMY

Who? CINDI

No one. Jane. TOMMY

She must be kidding. CINDI

No, she's serious! She wants me to-- TOMMY

To what? CINDI

(Pause.)

You won't tell her I said this? TOMMY

No. CINDI

She thinks I need to be with someone else. TOMMY

Break up and see other people? CINDI

No. Cheat on her. TOMMY

CINDI  
Oh my God. Oh my God! That's nuts. That's...wow. Janey. How can you cheat on her if she asked you to? And would know about?

TOMMY  
Right? She told me to cut loose, break with the past, get it out of my system.

CINDI  
Well, that's one way to show your man you love him. Let him sleep with another gal.

TOMMY

She said she didn't really mean it.

CINDI

Oh. I understand. She's just figuring things out.

TOMMY

But she did mean it. The truth was just under the surface and she accidentally let it out. She wants me to do something really wrong and get a glimpse of how bad things could be and then get back on the right path. And then she went to the river.

CINDI

The river?

TOMMY

She's still there. Told me to pick her up later.

CINDI

I've never gone to the Missouri River. I've never been to Boys Town either.

TOMMY

When Jane started talking to me about all this, her voice, it got kind of terrified. Like as if I was gonna walk into the woods and never come back.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Pause.)

TOMMY

You wanna hear the funny thing? I'd almost consider doing it. Cheating. Just so I'd never see her this way again.

CINDI

Wait, really?

TOMMY

I think, why shouldn't I do something totally different from what I'd normally do. Who's in charge here? I am. Not some image of me. I can do what I want.

CINDI

Wow. Tommy Shay! Busting out!

TOMMY

She also said I make her feel bad because she can't be as good as me! She thinks I'm too perfect.

CINDI

There's nothing wrong with you. The way you are makes up for all the crap everyone else pulls.

TOMMY

That's nice of you to say.

CINDI

But Tommy, have you ever really let go? Just, one night of...everything?

TOMMY

No.

CINDI

Some things?

(TOMMY shakes his head.)

CINDI

Anything?

TOMMY

I've played ding-dong ditch as a kid.

CINDI

Ring the doorbell then run away? That's pretty wild Tommy.

TOMMY

I always felt bad about it after. Those people thought they had visitors. But they came to the door and no one was there. Why was I part of that?

JANE

You've been drunk, right?

TOMMY

I drank too much a couple times. I got a little light-headed. But basically, no.

CINDI

Why not?

TOMMY

I like being in control. I don't need outside...things...to make me something else. I want to just be who I am. And this is who I am.

CINDI

But how do you know this is who you are if you haven't been something else? If you don't have anything to compare with? There's more ground to explore here Tommy.

TOMMY

I've always been this way is how I know who I am. I'm happy.

CINDI

Maybe you could even be happier!

TOMMY

That's an illusion.

CINDI

What is?

TOMMY

That there's always more and more you can have. Our culture's always telling us we have to grab after things that aren't really there.

CINDI

But being drunk is there. It's relaxing! It relaxes you from the stress of life. Yin and yang! You gotta visit both sides, and put it all together.

TOMMY

I just never felt the need. I'm not saying I'm better than anyone else.

CINDI

Don't get me wrong. I think it's great you're this Puritan and everything. I'm just saying...hold on. Are you this Puritan? Have you ever...you and Jane have never...?

TOMMY

I mean...

CINDI

What?

(Pause.)

It's not bad if you haven't. Maybe you're a homosexual. That's okay if you are.

TOMMY

Yeah. I don't think so. Probably would've figured that out by now. I just wanted to get fitted for the tux. I didn't really intend to get into all this.

CINDI

We don't have to talk about it.

TOMMY

It's not what I...

CINDI

Really. Whatever.

TOMMY

It's just...yeah.

(Black. We hear the faint sound of a huge, slow-moving river. Lights up on JANE sitting on the banks of the Missouri. Silence as SHE stares into the water.)

JANE

Ahh the river. Hello Mr. Big Muddy. Going along, so serene and humble. "I'm just a river. No one bothers me I don't bother no one. Come and swim in me and piss and fish and drown. I'll let ya!" What I wanna know is when you're gonna climb outta your banks and flood some villages. Wipe out a few families. Ruin a harvest or two. It's in you! You made all this and you can destroy it all too. A river is not just a river. Tidal shit happens here! It's the tide of Nebraska, and it tugs on the moon above. And the full moon out here turns men not into werewolves but lapdogs! So frustrating watching him play. He passes passes passes. So other people get the glory. Bullshit! It's because he's afraid. If he's too aggressive he'll lose his soul. If he's too *anything*. Christ, we've *lain together*, what, five times! In a year and a half! We have had sex on average once every 3.63 months. And every time we do it he is so embarrassed he won't even talk about it! We've never talked about it! How screwed up!!! We accidentally have sex and we lie there and then he gets up and goes and eats Sugar Corn Pops. And starts talking to me super pally. He gets all pal, all buddy, teammate. Teammate! Bro! Like he's trying to unsex me. Scrape out any sexuality and turn us into a couple fullbacks in the midfield. Sorry, is this too much information Mr. Missouri? I know we just met. But honestly, every night I am here I feel like a little girl, at a slumber party, watching him sleep on that couch. Waiting for the day we can act like normal adults and have regular goddam premarital sex. But we can't because he hates the idea of losing control. I don't think he's ever cut himself and found out he has blood in his body. But one day, I know, everything he's ever held back is gonna surface, and he's gonna drown me. Take me down to the black mud, with the rusted Chryslers and the dead paperboys. Leave me with a kid in my arms and a football calendar on the fridge. And so far from home.

(Black. Lights up on CINDI and TOMMY.)

CINDI

Craig and I had sex 22 times before we got engaged. I mean, not right before. But over those months. And then I said, now that we're getting married let's wait until we're married. That's just my belief system.

TOMMY

Really? That's sort of my belief system. I didn't know you felt that way.

CINDI

I'm a very tradition-oriented person.

TOMMY

I've got kind of a 1940s feeling about my life.

CINDI

Craig's very traditional too. Do you know where he went just now?

TOMMY

No.

CINDI

To get shoe trees. You know, the things you put in dress shoes? To keep their shape? I've never been with a guy who used shoe trees. It makes me feel very grown up. Very ready for this wedding.

TOMMY

I've thought about using shoe trees. Guys at the Rotary Club use shoe trees.

CINDI

And so you're the type of person we want in our wedding. I mean, I'm not a psycho about tradition. I almost said no to tuxes for the wedding. I want everyone to be comfortable. Especially the people in the ceremony. They of all people should have it easy.

TOMMY

I don't mind a tux.

CINDI

Tradition has its place, but the main thing I want is everyone to have fun. The theme I have for it in my mind is an island. An island where everyone is just relaxed. No one worries about anything. Everyone's doing nice things. They wipe frosting from the corners of each other's mouths. My mom doesn't keep saying, You know I love you sweetie, don't you?

TOMMY

Reception's at the German-American Hall, right?

CINDI

There's no A.C. You have to open the door in the back, get the breeze going. I hope someone remembers. Will you do that?

TOMMY

Sure.

CINDI

Otherwise people will be like, that wedding was bullshit! That wedding was hell! Even Craig's mom. She'll be like, Wow, this is not fucking pleasant at all.

TOMMY

I'll open the door.

CINDI

Do you think my life will be over once I'm married?

TOMMY

No!

CINDI

Do you think Craig is strong?

TOMMY

In what way?

CINDI

Just...tough. Do you think he's tough?

TOMMY

In some ways, probably.

CINDI

Craig weeps.

TOMMY

You mentioned that.

CINDI

Craig bawls.

TOMMY

Yeah.

CINDI

Those World Cup dykes? Their own moms probably stopped crying over them by now.

TOMMY

He's an emotional guy.

CINDI

Four months later. They win a game in Morocco. The score in the paper. 2 to 1. He loses it.

TOMMY

It's kind of touching.

CINDI

He didn't play varsity, did he?

TOMMY

No.

CINDI

You were on varsity junior year. He didn't even make it as a senior.

TOMMY

I didn't even play much junior year.

CINDI

He could've practiced for months. He could've gone to a dozen soccer camps. He still wouldn't have gotten past junior varsity.

TOMMY

I'm sure he has other gifts.

CINDI

I think he liked J.V. He was proud to be on Junior Varsity.

TOMMY

They had a good team in '92.

CINDI

He had this silk jacket made up that said Lewis and Clark J.V. Soccer. That's pretty weak, isn't it? Isn't that pathetic? A J.V. letter jacket?

TOMMY

It meant a lot to him.

CINDI

Much as my mom irritates me, she's usually right on target about guys I date.

TOMMY

Mothers do have a way. But still...

CINDI

You know, lately, I haven't even felt like sleeping with him. I think about it sometimes more in, like, medical terms. Which is not an attractive way to think about it.

TOMMY

It sounds like you've got some real doubts about things.

CINDI

Excuse me?

TOMMY

I said it sounds like you've got some doubts.

CINDI

No I don't.

TOMMY

But if you haven't even felt like--

CINDI

It'll come back.

TOMMY

The desire to...

CINDI

I know it will.

TOMMY

What if it doesn't?

CINDI

I love him. We're engaged.

TOMMY

Yeah, but being engaged doesn't necessarily mean you are meant to be together forever. Maybe you two should talk about this.

CINDI

We don't have to talk about anything. We're fine, okay? Okay? You have no idea how nice Craig is to me. It's unbelievable. I got him a goldfish once? After I told him I wouldn't sleep with him? I figured, he could look at the goldfish at night. But it died, like, the next day. And he replaced it, so I wouldn't know. Wasn't that nice?

(Pause.)

Except, he got a completely different colored fish. The first fish was orange. A goldfish. This one was blue. And purple. I don't know what he was thinking. I totally knew he replaced it. A little baby would know he got a new fish. What the hell Craig?

(Pause.)

But the point was he didn't want me to feel bad. That's why he got the new fish. He's like my best friend. That's who you should marry. Your best friend. Are you and Jane gonna get engaged?

TOMMY

I was looking at rings. Pricing.

CINDI

Omigod.

TOMMY

But now there's this order from her to go off the rails. And I don't know. I just don't really get it.

CINDI

Maybe you guys just need more time. Craig proposed to me after four months and I told him to give it more time.

TOMMY

We've been going out for a year and a half. But she won't move here.

CINDI

Well, maybe you should mess up then. Maybe she's right. What if you were with someone? What if I called up one of my friends? You're a cute guy.

TOMMY

I wouldn't actually do it, so it doesn't matter.

CINDI

Come on. Just imagine it. That's what you need to do. *Pretend* you did something wrong and then see how bad you'd feel about it and then get on with your life.

TOMMY

I don't see the point.

CINDI

Girlfriends know, man. They know what guys need.

TOMMY

I've been doing okay on my own.

CINDI

Do you think you're perfect?

TOMMY

I've never said--

CINDI

Do you think people who are engaged don't mess around with other people? I made out with a guy two months ago.

TOMMY

You did not.

CINDI

Hell yeah. I ain't married.

TOMMY

But you're going to be!

CINDI

We haven't said our vows. Everything changes after marriage. I know that much.

TOMMY

Some guy, where, at the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment?

CINDI

Barrett's. We were drunk. Fooled around in his car. But it doesn't matter. He was from Tulsa. I'll never see him again. I don't really consider that to be--

TOMMY

I so do not believe this. You of all people. You're so excited about your wedding.

CINDI

It's a wedding! It's one night! It's not my entire life!

TOMMY

But your marriage is!

CINDI

The marriage will take care of itself. It'll get on its little track and it'll go and we'll take things as they come. I'm the type of person who can let bygones be bygones.

TOMMY

Bygones? That's not a bygone. Cindi, you should probably think about this.

CINDI

Oh, Tom, I don't want to be moralized at. I really don't.

TOMMY

I remember you in high school. You were so sweet. You had this white sweatshirt. It said, ESPRIT, in different colors. ESPRIT.

CINDI

Everyone wore ESPRIT sweatshirts.

TOMMY

Yeah, but you didn't have any acne and your hair was clean.

CINDI

What?

TOMMY

You had a lot of good things going for you and I never would have thought you'd grow up to...to...

CINDI

Well, I did. What about it? Girl with clear skin makes out with drunk lawyer.

TOMMY

I'm not saying your skin, your outward things are what matters.

CINDI

A lot of the girls at Lewis and Clark washed their hair.

TOMMY

You know what I mean. I'm trying to talk about the things that might have given you an advantage that other girls didn't have. You have to be respectful with your gifts.

CINDI

I am. I use them.

TOMMY

Maybe you should consider...I try, for what it's worth, to see whatever gifts I have as ways to help other people. I'm not saying I'm perfect. But I do think that, because I don't have any personal issues, I am freed up to reach out to others.

CINDI

Hold on hold on hold on hold on. You don't have personal issues?

TOMMY

No, I don't.

CINDI

Wow, you are really--

TOMMY

Just hear me out. You know how when someone starts talking to you and you're just waiting for them to finish so you can say what you want to say? Like, you're not actually listening to them? I actually listen to other people. And then, when they are done speaking, I look at them. And *then* I think about what I want to say. They appreciate it. They tell me they've never been listened to like that before. I'm not saying I'm some saint. I just think I have something unique to offer. Can't I acknowledge that?

CINDI

Who? Who do you listen to like that?

TOMMY

I was talking to Sunny Caruso a few weeks ago. Bumped into her at the mall, and just listened to her, with no ulterior motives. She was telling me about watching this worker guy aerate the neighbor's lawn. Which for her was oddly sexual. And then it reminded her of this other guy she slept with--she's just telling me all this standing outside PF Chang's. It reminded her of this guy she picked up at a bar who about twenty minutes after they had sex put on his clothes and left. And never called her again. And how that happens to her a lot, but she keeps doing it because she thinks this time it will be different. Then she stopped talking and saw that I was really listening to her, and she started crying.

CINDI

Sunny Caruso was the trashiest girl at Lewis and Clark and no one didn't want to bag her. You wanted her then and you still do. You were not just listening to her with your whole pure heart.

TOMMY

You don't know what was going on inside me!

CINDI

You're the one that doesn't know what's going on inside you! Don't lie to yourself. People who are really good and think they're never bad are a lot worse than people who are terrible but at least know how awful they are.

TOMMY

I'm not saying I don't have any flaws. I'm just grateful that I'm not self-centered.

CINDI

You're not self...you are so self-centered! You're really nice and everything, but you are the number one self-centered person in Omaha.

TOMMY

How? How am I the number one self-centered person in Omaha?

CINDI

I don't know. You just are. When you spend all your time trying to be moral, and do what's right, it means...

TOMMY

It means what?

CINDI

It means all you do is think about yourself and whether you're being moral and doing what's right!

TOMMY

I know who I am. I've got my shit together.

CINDI

I know who I am. I've got my shit together. I just don't worry about my shit all the time.

TOMMY

And not worrying about it means you can cheat on your boyfriend? Your *fiancé*? Do you really have it together? I'm not trying to be judgemental, I just wonder.

CINDI

I didn't cheat.

TOMMY

What do you call it?

CINDI

What I was meant to do.

TOMMY

According to who?

CINDI

According to the present moment. The only thing you have is the present moment. And what you do in the present moment is what you were meant to do. Because you can't be anything else or do anything else except what you do in the present moment.

TOMMY

Whose present moment?

CINDI

Mine. I have to follow my present moment. Wherever it goes.

TOMMY

But what if...

CINDI

And you can't always control where it goes.

(Pause.)

Really. You can't.

(Black. Lights up on JANE.)

JANE

I remember our first kiss. In grad school. We'd been out, getting ice cream, and we're back at my apartment. This was the fifth time we'd gone out together and I was like--

(Pause.)

Are you listening Muddy Mo? Gurgle or something if you are. There you go. Thank you. So, I was like, is this guy gonna do anything? So we're talking and he sorta makes his way to the floor and lies down. And he keeps talking his sweet, innocent, Omaha boy talk. About how great the bubble-gum ice cream was. Bubble gum ice cream? I mean, can you get any more chipper! So he's lying down there and I'm sitting in a chair, you know, looking at him. And after a while I can't freakin' take it anymore and I get down on the floor, and then I crawl over next to him, and finally we kiss. We made out. And then he got up and left. He was so scared he did something wrong. It took me days to convince him it was okay. That he did the right thing. It's very important for him to feel like he hasn't offended another person. It seems like whenever we kissed the next few times, he'd be on the floor and I'd have to make the move. First don't harm anybody. That's Tommy.

(Black. Lights up on TOMMY and CINDI.)

TOMMY

Were you always the kind of person who messed around with guys you're not engaged to?

CINDI

No, I became that way.

TOMMY

How?

CINDI

I drank a potion. What a dumb question. I'm just me. Just Cindi. I'm the type of person who's themself.

TOMMY

Do you regret it?

CINDI

No.

TOMMY

What if Craig found out?

CINDI

He won't, so it doesn't matter. What if a volcano erupted downtown? Well, as a matter of fact, there aren't any volcanoes downtown.

TOMMY

Do you still think you're a good person?

CINDI

Who cares! Good people are some of the worst people to be around.

TOMMY

Do you think there's like, something inside of us that can't be taken away, even if you get...off track? You're always the same person, no matter what bad stuff you do?

CINDI

I think I do stuff and then I go to sleep at night.

TOMMY

You don't worry about your actions? Consequences?

CINDI

If I was running around slashing people with a Ginsu knife I'd worry. But mostly, no. I think you shouldn't sweat the small stuff.

TOMMY

Sometimes at night, I lie in bed, and I feel like I've never done any worthwhile thing in my life. Spend your life sitting around listening to other people. You should be out making yourself happy. And then you'll be able to make other people happy. You have to be fulfilled in order to help other people be fulfilled.

CINDI

That's my belief system.

(Black. Lights up on JANE)

JANE

Sleep with someone else? How embarrassing. He knows I didn't mean it. But what must he think of me? I'm scared. Okay? I'm scared of losing him. I tell him I love him. But do I say it like I mean it? I don't want to be weak in front of him. If you love someone you don't mind being vulnerable around them. Right? You want to be. I don't know what I want. I want to play field hockey. I was so good at that game. I was a brute! A brute! I love talking to a river. It's like death, and peace, at the same time. It's so tranquil--and it could sweep you under in a second. I could curl up here forever. Maybe I don't need Tommy Shay. Maybe I'll marry a river. I Jane, take you River, to be my lawful wedded waterway. I feel so liberated here in the wide lands. I am powerful! *We men say more, swear more; but indeed our shows are more than will.* Twelfth Night. A play by William Shakespeare. I played Viola in high school. Nothing's changed. I am still desperate for a duke.

(Pause.)

I'm not telling you anything you don't know lovely river. If only you could see him. He's so cute. You have seen Tommy. But that was a different part of you that saw him, and then it flowed away. This part hasn't seen him. Or has it? Are you all one river or just a lot of parts of a river? Answer me!! What are you!

(Pause.)

You're a brute! And perfect. It will work out with Tommy. I am attractive. I am worth it! I have never said that out loud. But it's true. And I am good at my job and people there respect me. And some of them are afraid of me! I love that! But I don't love anything as much as I loved that play. *Twelfth Night* was the best time of my life. I was crazy for that Duke. I was a little yippy yappy fluffy puppy for him! And the audience loved how much I was in love with him. I didn't have to pretend, didn't have to be afraid. But then it ended, and we had our cast party and I got a weird high from pot and Mr. Pibb and bawled my eyes out on the back steps of the auditorium because it was like something was over I'd never get back. I'd never be that free again.

(Lights down, and back up on CINDI and TOMMY.)

TOMMY

At night, when I'm lonely, regretting things, I feel close to changing my habits.

CINDI

Your habits? It's all just habits, being all moral? You can't get any credit for it if it's just a habit.

TOMMY

I meant how I try to live. I feel close to changing that.

CINDI

Then do. Break out of it.

TOMMY

I wouldn't want to break out of it. Because when I wake up I realize all that about making yourself happy is just from being sad and alone in the dark. I get up out of bed and walk around and everything's okay again.

CINDI

That's depressing. God. All of a sudden I want you to be wild. I told Jane you were the guy who keeps everything in balance. But maybe if you did something wrong you'd--

TOMMY

I'd what?

CINDI

Be more human? Jane wouldn't worry so much if you were more like the rest of us. No better and no worse. Living in reality. If you messed up big time it would probably be the best thing that ever happened to you. It would make you more human.

TOMMY

More human. What a bunch of crap. Imagine if someone called you not human.

CINDI

Oh, I didn't mean it like that. I'm sorry.

TOMMY

I try to do what I think is right. Why should I be attacked for that?

CINDI

You shouldn't. Really. I didn't mean that.

TOMMY

I mean, Craig's mom, you know. Hand in a blender. That's what I'd call not human.

CINDI

I do think you're a person. For real.

TOMMY

I know so many people in Omaha like that. They'll do anything, for anyone. So afraid if they think of themselves for a minute the bank will foreclose on their homes. Giving themselves away so much they don't even exist. I'm not like that.

CINDI

Of course you're not.

TOMMY

I don't have to go down a channel someone else carved out.

CINDI

Hell no.

TOMMY

I can do whatever I want.

CINDI

That's my belief system.

(HE sits down on floor against the couch.)

TOMMY

I like Omaha. I really do. It's just...

CINDI

Yeah.

(Pause.)

TOMMY

So, I guess you'll be wearing a wedding dress and everything.

(SHE sits down next to HIM.)

CINDI

I wish I could just wear this.

TOMMY

It's nice.

CINDI

I like it.

(Pause.)

TOMMY

Do I have to say anything in the ceremony?

CINDI

No.

TOMMY

I will, if I have to.

CINDI

Just be there.

TOMMY

I can do that.

(SHE leans over and kisses HIM. HE draws back. Dark. Lights up on JANE.)

JANE

Life is short. It's short and it's always going to be scary and not perfect so you wanna be around as much goodness as you can find. It's on the state sign. The Good Life! Connecticut is nothing and nowhere. I don't know who I am when I'm in Connecticut. I can't feel my teeth or my bones when I'm in Connecticut. But here! Being with Tommy is like being with the dirt or the river or the sky. You don't need to second guess a river. It is what it seems like. He won't drag me under. These are the rocks I'll wash my clothes on. This is the dust I'll clean from my face. This is the river I'll get married by, and the wedding will be like a baptism. A baptism into something I can believe in. At last.

(Lights back up on TOMMY and CINDI. He looks at her, and then leans in and kisses HER. THEY keep kissing. Black.)

Scene 4--Later in the day. JANE asleep on the river bank. TOMMY enters, leans over JANE and kisses HER. SHE wakes up.

JANE

Hey Tommy.

(HE sits down next to HER.)

How are you? It's so good to see you.

TOMMY

It's only been a few hours.

JANE

Yeah but I feel like I've gone on a trip a million miles away. I am so glad you're here.

TOMMY

Thanks.

(SHE leans against him, wraps him in her arms)

JANE

God, I'm just so grateful for you. I haven't treated you well. I feel like I've been a little crazy. Look at that river. It's so cute.

TOMMY

I never thought of a river as cute.

JANE

Are you hungry? Let's go to Surfside. Let's get some catfish and watch the sunset. I would love that.

(Hugs HIM tightly)

I just want to hold on to you.

TOMMY

Yeah. Thanks.

JANE

Thanks? That sounds weird. Like I just gave you a dollar.

TOMMY

Okay. I can see that.

JANE

Are you all right?

TOMMY

Yeah.

JANE

Is something wrong? Am I being too much? I'm just feeling close to you. I'm not trying to--

TOMMY

No. It's fine. You're fine.

JANE

Tommy. What's wrong?

TOMMY

Nothing.

JANE

You can tell me.

TOMMY

Really. I'm good.

JANE

Okay. Well, I know I got a little weird for a second today. It's because I've been afraid! And I know I've been afraid to move out here. But I think I've...

(Pause.)

Tommy? Anyone in there? Are you with me?

TOMMY

Yeah. Yeah.

JANE

What's going on Tommy?

TOMMY

You wanted me to.

JANE

I wanted you to what?

(Pause.)

Tommy. What did you do?

TOMMY

You told me to...you know. Do something I wouldn't do. Cut loose.

JANE

I talked about the general idea. But I didn't insist that you do something.

TOMMY

Yes you did.

JANE

What exactly did you do? You've only been gone a few hours.

TOMMY

I don't wanna talk about it. It won't help either of us.

JANE

You are not going to not talk about it. You can't keep pretending things don't happen.

TOMMY

I kissed someone. We made out. Because you asked me to.

JANE

I don't understand.

TOMMY

We made out.

(Pause.)

Well. We didn't just...Things got...We didn't have sex! Depending on your definition. No. I don't consider what we did to be...but whatever...

JANE

Let me get this straight...

TOMMY

We didn't have sex sex.

(Pause.)

You told me to do it!

JANE

I was rambling. I was talking about the concept and then I said I was hungry.

TOMMY

You put it right out there. Plain as day.

JANE

I was confused and thinking out loud and then--are you telling me that immediately you went off and--

TOMMY

People don't just talk. You knew what you wanted me to do. You just couldn't say it directly. But I heard you. And you know what? It makes sense. Because I probably was going to have some big blow-up when I got older.

JANE

Tommy, this isn't really funny. Stop screwing around with me. Let's just go eat.

TOMMY

Jane. I'm not kidding.

(Pause.)

I didn't intended for it to happen. I was just sort of sitting on the floor. And so was she.

JANE

You were sitting on the floor?

TOMMY

Yeah. And things happened. But it is what I needed. Like you said.

JANE

What girl in her right mind would ever ask her boyfriend to do that? So you actually -- I can't even picture it. Not in a thousand years.

TOMMY

You made me.

JANE

I can't make you do anything. No one can make anyone do anything.

TOMMY

You forced my hand.

JANE

You're blaming me? For almost but not quite but you know pretty much having sex with some--

TOMMY

It doesn't matter what led to it. What matters is that it happened.

JANE

It happened? Like, weather? Like how weather just happens and we can't control it?

TOMMY

You're missing the point. I feel like a new man. I do. Yes, I know that's a cliché. But I think maybe it was helpful.

JANE

You get so freaked out when we make love. Do you know how embarrassing that is for me? Do you know how I feel when you get out of bed looking like you just killed someone? And then you start chucking me on the shoulder. Hey bro! Let's go to the batting cages pally! And then, just like that, when I turn my back....

TOMMY

Well I think we should talk about where we're at. Now that this happened. Because I did my part.

JANE

You're goddam right you did your part. Of course you were sitting on the floor. Who was it? What does it matter? You took my words and you ran with them. You ran to daylight. Isn't that what they say?

TOMMY

Jane.

JANE

You shouldn't have told me. That is so selfish. You had to have a clean conscience. Feel better don't you? I fessed up! Wasn't that brave of me!! I did wrong but now I did right.

TOMMY

Sweetie.

JANE

He's back on track! Got it off his soul! Back to the ballgame! Things are good again! Get out of here.

TOMMY

Maybe I shouldn't have let it get that far.

JANE

Did you hear me?

TOMMY

Jane. I'm not leaving.

(SHE gives him a murderous look.)

How are you going to get back?

JANE

I'll figure it out.

TOMMY

Jane....Okay. I'll go.

(HE exits)

(Pause.)

Hi! Did you hear that? Interesting isn't it? Wow! He is really a bundle of surprises! Hah! You never know. But hey, he didn't have sex sex. So, you know. He's still the same person, right? He's still Tommy Shay! He's like you, when you drown some little leaguer. Everyone hates you. But you're not just something that floods. You're a river! You're not just what you do.

(Pause.)

He must have been sick of me for months and never told me. He must hate me. Why else would he have...Why does he hate me? I'm a good girl, aren't I? Aren't I a good girl?

Scene 5--Two weeks later. CINDI and TOMMY by the river.

CINDI

Craig's kind of devastated.

TOMMY

I can't believe you told him. You didn't tell him about that other guy.

CINDI

But this time it was more personal. He knows you.

TOMMY

But that's why you shouldn't have--

(Pause.)

I'll never play on that team again. I was scared to even come meet you down here.

CINDI

This river is so wide! I love it!

TOMMY

It's too close to the fields. What if Craig saw me?

CINDI

Craig needs to see life more as an experience than as a series of goals. He wouldn't take things so hard that way. When he started losing it, I had to put my foot down and cancel the wedding.

TOMMY

You were the one who cancelled the wedding?

CINDI

Someone had to take action. I'm not going to put up with his whining about this all the time. But I'm still going to the German-American Hall on the 25th.

TOMMY

Why?

CINDI

To be there. Feel the energy. I don't know how important the marriage was to the wedding. I just wanted people to have a good time. Those are the kind of things that make you happy. When other people have a nice time. I'm kind of an outer-focused person, I'm realizing. Like Craig's mom. I'm too outer-focused to commit to one guy.

TOMMY

It'll probably be locked up.

CINDI

What will?

TOMMY

The German-American hall.

CINDI

Then I'll stand in the parking lot. Or maybe I'll just go to Peony Park and ride the Hurricane.

TOMMY

They closed Peony Park. They tore down the Hurricane.

CINDI

I know. Jane must be happy. She got what she wanted. Got you to bust out.

TOMMY

I thought she'd be over it by now. I couldn't get hold of her for days.

CINDI

Maybe she's busy.

TOMMY

Finally I called her mom to make sure she was okay. Jane was there. She got on the phone. She was like, "How are you Tom?" She said, "How's Omaha, Tom?" Tom. Her voice was so formal. It was awful. It was the worst thing I ever heard. I finally told her I had to go.

(Silence.)

CINDI

The present moment. It was there and you didn't run from it. Keep going.

TOMMY

The first time we slept together I came out of the shower in my towel and lay down on the floor. She was on the couch. Things happened. I tried not to do it again. But then it happened again a few months later. And again and again. Five times.

CINDI

Five times. Tommy. You gigolo. Why are you so uptight about that stuff? Is it religious?

TOMMY

I grew up going to church, and the rules and whatever. But I think it stopped being about that. It was more...just...

CINDI

You don't like sex?

TOMMY

I don't like being that close to someone I actually love. That's dumb isn't it? I don't know what I'm saying. Jane was starting to really like it here. She wanted to raise a kid and build a raft. Go down the river and stop in all the towns. Sell beef jerky and Shasta pop. Talk to people about dirt and wheat and coyotes. She was kind of unreasonable. I love her.

CINDI

She'll be back.

TOMMY

I don't think so.

(Pause.)

CINDI

I have to go. I'm meeting some girls from work. They're taking me out to console me.

TOMMY

Do they know what happened?

CINDI

Everyone knows. It's kinda wild. I've never gotten this much attention. Maybe I don't need to go to the reception hall on the 25th. Everyone is being so sweet already. All my girlfriends are being

so nice. Maybe nicer than they would've been on my wedding day. In fact, all those bitches would have hated me on my wedding day. We'll just go out and relax and no one will worry about anything.

TOMMY

You don't tell people it's me you did this with, do you?

CINDI

Course I do! This is your time to shine Tommy! Hey, remember Sammy Fehr? She was telling me about this guy at work. They talk. She's been wanting to "talk" with him more. But she loves Patrick, wants to be faithful, the kids, blah blah etc. And when I told her what you did--

TOMMY

We.

CINDI

--she was like, Tommy Shay? Really? He did that? There was this thing in her eyes. Like, something shifted. Just like that. I don't know what that was about. But it was interesting.

TOMMY

What do you mean, something shifted? Like, what?

CINDI

I don't know.

TOMMY

Like she's going to go do something with this guy now? Because of me?

CINDI

I'm not saying that. I don't know what she's going to do. I'm not saying that at all.

TOMMY

Sammy Fehr. Whatever.

(Silence.)

CINDI

My mom's taking me out too. When she invited me out it was very casual. Very...friends. I'll see you around. Maybe at one of the games if you ever come back.

TOMMY

You still go to watch him play?

CINDI

Oh yeah. You guys won last week.

TOMMY

We did?

CINDI

One to nothing. Craig made the goal.

TOMMY

He scored?

CINDI

He ran up from the defense. He was insane out there. No one could get the ball from him.

TOMMY

I can't believe he still wants you around.

CINDI

We talk all the time. He needs me to help him get over the breakup.

TOMMY

So maybe he's still open to--

CINDI

No. He's done. He's just scared right now. He's alone and scared. Then again, I don't know if he even wants me around lately. He doesn't always seem excited when I show up.

TOMMY

Jane's never coming back. How does what we did end so many things? I'm the same person I always was.

CINDI

Who was that?

TOMMY

What do you mean?

CINDI

I mean, who were you always?

TOMMY

Tommy Shay.

CINDI

I mean, what did you actually ever do? For anyone? No just what you don't do.

TOMMY

I'm in the Rotary--

CINDI

My dog could be in the Rotary Club. Did you ever, I don't know, speak up for someone getting screwed at work and it scares you but you do it anyway?

TOMMY

I don't know.

CINDI

All this time you've just avoided doing crappy things. You're just quiet, so everyone thinks you're this really incredible guy. That's why they all listen when you start speaking. Because they're astounded. It's like if milk started talking. It's not because you're someone amazing and righteous like Mother Teresa, or the Indigo Girls. This isn't fair. I'm sure you would be all brave if you ever had the chance. I'm not being very kind.

TOMMY

What I did didn't turn me into an asshole. Some guy who cheats on his girlfriend.

CINDI

But you are a guy who cheats on his girlfriend!

TOMMY

The ground shifted and I went along with it. The present moment.

CINDI

Then stop talking about it.

TOMMY

It's not like she and I were even married.

CINDI

Not like you were even married.

TOMMY

Or had kids.

CINDI

Or had kids.

(Silence.)

TOMMY

I saw Kaster a couple days ago, down at the Old Market. He was walking down the street towards where I was. I don't know why, but I stepped into Drastic Plastic till he went by.

CINDI

If he knew what you did he'd probably feel relieved. He wouldn't have to feel as bad about his own crap.

TOMMY

Whatever, he's not my son.

CINDI

I mean, yeah, part of me wishes you hadn't of kissed me back. I would've been impressed. Maybe things would still be on with Craig.

TOMMY

That is not all my fault. You did your part.

CINDI

I know I did. I just thought you would be better than me. But it's okay. You can't expect too much from people. I guess you're like everyone else now.

(Black.)

End of Play









