

Overview: Mindy and Clint have always had an interesting way of dealing with one another's peculiarities during their marriage. But when Mindy convinces herself that Clint has been cheating on her, she goes through drastic- and surreal- measures to justify her own emotions, warping the truth in her fingers.

Biography: Dannielle Pendzich is a poet and playwright from Pittsburgh, Pa. She's received her bachelor's in English and Creative Writing and her masters in Playwriting from Point Park University. Her interests are the severe and surreal.

We Were Rabbits

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The Players:

Mindy

Clint

Becca- Played by same actress who plays Contestant #3

Unknown Voice- Played by same actress who plays Contestant
#1/#2

Contestant #1

Contestant #2

Contestant #3

Setting: Here

Time: Now

ACT ONE

MINDY (29) and CLINT (35) get ready for bed. The bed is large with several pillows, few of which they will actually use.

Mindy pulls the pillows from the bed as Clint finishes up in the bathroom.

CLINT You're going to the store tomorrow, right?

MINDY
I wasn't planning to.

CLINT
You said we were out of milk.

MINDY
We are.

CLINT
Okay.

MINDY Okay? I'm not going to the store just for one thing.

CLINT
I'm out of mouthwash.

MINDY
Use mine.

CLINT
It's too strong.

MINDY Why don't you go to the store tomorrow, after work?

CLINT
You're off all day.

MINDY
I don't want to leave the house tomorrow. Just mix some water into my mouthwash to weaken it.

CLINT
What about my coffee?

MINDY
I don't know, put butter in it.

CLINT
I'll just drink it black.

*Clint comes into the room,
kicking through the pillows.*

*The two climb into bed, not
lying close to one another.*

MINDY
That reminds me.

CLINT
We do this every night, why don't you just get rid of some
of these?

MINDY I saw
a couple do it in a movie once.

CLINT
It's a waste of time.

MINDY
They were very happily married.

CLINT
Did you lock the door?

MINDY
You interrupted me before, I was trying to tell you
something.

CLINT
Go ahead.

MINDY
I had a dream the other night, I forgot to tell you about
it. You were in it. We were in these woods and it was dark,
not nighttime dark, but misty dark like it had rained. There
were all kinds of people there, well maybe I shouldn't say
people, I wasn't me, exactly- I was a rabbit. And so were
these other people.

CLINT
You had a dream we were rabbits?

MINDY
No, you weren't a rabbit. You were- huh I don't know how to
say it.

CLINT Oh
just say it, I want to go to bed.

MINDY
I don't know how to say it- mud? You were like this pile of
dark slimy mud. And you were slopping towards us- the
rabbits. And we knew you were coming, but we couldn't move.

CLINT I was mud? You're
sure it wasn't just regular mud?

MINDY No, it was you.
I would recognize you anywhere.

CLINT
But how do you know it was me? Did it look like me? Sound
like me?

MINDY
You were mud, Clint. I don't know what else to tell you. Let
me finish-

CLINT
I thought you had finished.

MINDY
No, I didn't say I was done. Us rabbits just had to sit
there and watch as you covered us.

CLINT
I didn't kill you.

MINDY It was
a dream, of course you didn't.

CLINT I wish
you had kept that to yourself.

MINDY
I'll go to the store tomorrow.

*Clint picks up his phone from
the nightstand, tuning out
Mindy.*

MINDY
I'll get up early in the morning and go to the store so
you'll have milk for your coffee.

CLINT Don't bother. I
already said I'd drink it black.

MINDY
I don't mind.

CLINT I don't want
you to have to get up that early.

*Mindy gets out of bed and
starts dressing.*

CLINT
What are you doing?

MINDY
I'll go now.

CLINT
Lay back down, Mindy.

MINDY No, no, I'll go now. Go
back to texting your girlfriend.

CLINT Girlfriend?
Where the hell is this coming from?

MINDY
You didn't smother all of us.

*Clint gets out of bed, going
around to Mindy. He starts to
undress her, but she resists.*

CLINT
Please lay down with me.

MINDY
No, there was one that you went around- flowed around and
she lived.

CLINT
That was just a dream, kid.

MINDY
You're right, if it were real, you would have flowed around
me- you don't ever touch me.

CLINT What do
you think I'm doing right now?

MINDY
This doesn't count, you're just trying to keep me from
leaving.

CLINT

If you want to leave then leave.

MINDY I might

one day, than what would you do?

CLINT

You leave me? That's hilarious.

MINDY You would

die, I think. Of sadness or guilt.

CLINT

Or happiness.

MINDY

Sorry to make you so miserable.

CLINT

You don't. I shouldn't have said that. You just- you're complicated.

MINDY

Most men would like that, would like to be kept interested, guessing.

CLINT

I don't need to guess. I have you calculated down to a science.

MINDY Than you

already know how this plays out.

CLINT

It was a figure of speech, Kid. I just meant that you're predictable these days.

MINDY It's been a

rough year for me, do you know why?

CLINT

I do, but I won't say.

MINDY

Because of you. Because of you hating me. Being disgusted by me. Regretting marrying me.

CLINT

I don't regret marrying you.

MINDY

I saw right through you, no matter how opaque. I know the end, even having not dreamt it.

CLINT

You only wish it was that way. You wish for this- this ending, to self- fulfill. You want a reason to be miserable.

MINDY You

have a way of twisting things.

CLINT

I'm confused. Maybe we should both just go to sleep. Dream more of me being some strange blob.

MINDY

It was mud- stuff, Clint. Almost tar, I can't explain it better.

CLINT

Can you be quiet for a second?

MINDY

What about five minutes ago?

CLINT

What about it?

MINDY

Five minutes ago, when we got in the bed and you didn't lay by me.

CLINT

You didn't lay next to me.

MINDY

Don't do that- you can't turn this on me. Five minutes ago you wanted nothing to do with me. Did you lock the door?

CLINT

Turn what on you? You were laying so close to the edge, you were barely on the bed.

MINDY

You think I can lay down next to you when you're texting your girlfriend?

CLINT

I don't have a girlfriend, here you want to see my phonetake it. There's nothing on it.

MINDY

You deleted it probably.

She grabs his hands, holding them away from her. She kisses

*them then goes to the bed and
lays down close to the middle.*

MINDY I'm
sorry, I guess I'm just tired.

CLINT Do you want
me to get you something- water?

MINDY You're too
sweet, I'm okay. Will you hold me?

*Clint crawls into bed and
grabs her, pulling her into
him.*

CLINT
You can't keep doing this, kid.

MINDY
I don't mean to.

CLINT
It's almost every night now.

MINDY
The dreams won't stop.

CLINT
You're just paranoid because of your parents getting a
divorce.

MINDY
They were the perfect couple.

CLINT No one's
perfect, we all have to work at it.

MINDY
Have you ever wondered how it'd feel to hold a bee in your
mouth?

CLINT
My mom used to keep her drinks out in Summer- I swallowed
one once, dead.

MINDY No
alive. Thrumming like a heart.

CLINT
I'm allergic.

MINDY

They don't sting to hurt.

CLINT

Makes me swell up real bad.

MINDY They sting to save themselves, sting for fear.

CLINT

You're safe here.

MINDY

No, that's just the smoke talking. The room is heavy with it.

CLINT What would you do, Mindy, to protect your hive?

MINDY

Are you going to give up on me?

CLINT

I don't know.

MINDY

What if I push you too far? What if I make you so mad one day that you leave and go to the store to get your own milk. And while you're at the store you run into a beautiful woman and you take her, right there.

Clint let's go of her and turns to face the wall.

MINDY You

were supposed to keep holding me.

CLINT

I can't hold you when you're making up stories about me fucking some woman in the grocery store-

MINDY

I wasn't making up stories.

CLINT You were. You

probably didn't even have that dream.

MINDY

I did have that dream.

CLINT Or you had it and you were the tar and I was the rabbit.

MINDY
You think I'm suffocating you?

CLINT
I'm sleeping.

MINDY
When you fuck her will it be in dairy or the aisle with the mouthwash?

CLINT
I'm not fucking anyone.

MINDY That's been made
clear, when was the last time we-

CLINT
This morning. We played around this morning, do you intentionally forget things or is it all a game?

MINDY
Oh, that's smart. Here get, up.

CLINT
I'm sleeping.

MINDY Get
up, get up- we'll play a game.

She drags him out of bed.

MINDY God, all these
pillows. You should stop buying them.

CLINT
I didn't buy any of these.

MINDY
Yes you did. You bought these two just the other day- after watching that movie.

CLINT
Quit that.

MINDY
Yeah, yeah- it was on after that game show you like to watch. Now listen, while I tell you the rules.

CLINT That was you. You're
the one who watches that show.

MINDY
Quiet. You watch it also. Okay, the game-

CLINT

This is exhausting.

MINDY Well then make some coffee, but this won't take long.

CLINT It's too late for coffee. And I'd have to drink it black.

MINDY

You said you could.

CLINT

I could, but it's hard to get the taste out of your mouth. I wouldn't want it to linger.

MINDY

Okay, the rules. You stand there and don't move, okay? And the pillows- here put these around you- will be the others.

CLINT

The others?

MINDY

The rabbits, Clint. Keep up. And me, I'll be the mud-tar stuff.

CLINT

How is this a game?

MINDY

You're thinking too much of the definition of the word, it's a loose definition of it. I'll slink towards you- remember you can't move- and attack and you have to fight me off.

CLINT

You want me to fight you?

MINDY

Your life is on the line. If you don't fight it the mud will suffocate you- that's me.

CLINT

Did you fight me- in the dream?

MINDY Forget the dream. This isn't about that. Ready?

CLINT

Wait-

MINDY

Go.

Mindy slinks toward Clint, over the pillows and crawls on top of him, pushing him down.

Clint doesn't react at first, but starts to claw at her as he loses air. Choking, he throws her off of him.

CLINT

Fuck, Mindy, have you completely lost your mind? You could have killed me.

MINDY

That hurt.

CLINT

I couldn't breath.

MINDY

You hurt me. I hit my head.

CLINT

I'm going to sleep on the couch.

MINDY

No, wait- that was my fault. I didn't specify the rules enough. You can't use force.

CLINT

You want me to try to stop you from killing me without using force?

MINDY

Exactly. Oh, I have a good feeling about this. Sit back down, Clint. We'll go to bed after.

CLINT

What happens when you kill me, will you wait till the morning to call the police or do it immediately after?

MINDY

Funny. I wouldn't kill you.

CLINT

Sure didn't feel that way.

MINDY

Remember that. Okay, go.

Mindy slinks across the floor to him and covers his body. He

doesn't fight back, she just pushes him to the floor.

MINDY

Come on, you have to try.

CLINT

These rules make no sense.

MINDY Find

the sense, I left the loophole.

Mindy moves on top of him, the moment is almost erotic except he still just lays there.

MINDY

It's no fun if you don't play too. We could try something different.

CLINT

My back hurts.

MINDY

I should change. It doesn't feel right if you don't play too.

CLINT I'm

throwing some of these pillows away.

MINDY

I know you still do it. I hear you sometimes when you think I'm sleeping, playing by yourself.

CLINT Why wait

until morning, I'll start now.

Clint starts ripping into one of the softer pillows, pulling out feathers or stuffing.

MINDY

Oh there it is. I knew you could still do it. Are you thinking of her now?

CLINT Of who,

Mindy? My imaginary girlfriend?

MINDY You said it. Should I

pick up tissues at the store, too?

CLINT You said

you weren't going to the store.

MINDY

And then I said I would. You never listen to me. Not me, though. I have very good hearing. I can hear you whisper to her on the phone while you do it.

CLINT

I don't do anything.

MINDY

Poor baby. Are you getting upset? Do you wish I would just go away?

CLINT Watch

it, Mindy. I don't want to fight.

MINDY

Come on, you love to fight. It's the closest we get to fucking. Don't you feel all warm and giddy? Don't you want to go to the bathroom before you crawl to the couch or will you do it where we all sit?

CLINT

Look at you- wet from some stupid dream. A dream where I killed you, mind you. You're a sadist.

MINDY

You didn't kill me in the dream.

CLINT

Semantics.

MINDY

I just stopped existing.

CLINT

Good night.

MINDY

Well, maybe that's not accurate. I stopped existing in that reality. But I exist very much in this one, let's get naked and talk about psychics or the stars or some hippie bullshit like that.

CLINT

You're a nurse not a scientist.

MINDY Lay down. In

this reality you don't love me-

CLINT

Mindy-

MINDY

I'm speaking, please stop interrupting me. I hate that. In this reality you don't love me, but in others you do. In one reality we love each other. In another you love me but I don't love you back.

CLINT And in one reality you're a rabbit and I'm black sludge.

MINDY Very good! But I like the reality I just brought up best. The one where you pretend to be asleep in bed while I whimper in the bathroom on the phone with a man I met in the grocery store.

CLINT

Okay, now picture this. That same reality except the only reason you're in the bathroom that late and for so long is because you can't bear to go to bed, because you know the minute I feel you sink into the mattress I'll get up and start picking a fight with you.

MINDY

That's not how that reality works.

CLINT

Oh, sure it is. This is all hypothetical of course, why can't it be? Anyways, you stand in the bathroom looking in the mirror at your dark circles-

MINDY

I'll never age.

CLINT And you just look so tired and wait- is that a gray hair? And you hate having to look at yourself, but it beats the alternative. But you can't stand there all night, your knees are aching and your back, too. So you go to bed and there I am telling you about a dream.

MINDY

You forgot the ocean.

CLINT

Excuse me?

MINDY

Of pillows.

CLINT

No, in this reality there is no comfort. I tell you that I had a dream that I was a rabbit and you were some sludge

MINDY

that killed-

Not killed. I told you so many times already.

CLINT Be quiet Mindy. I'm a theoretical physicist, not you.

MINDY

You're a sales man.

CLINT

For the stars. And then-

MINDY

I'm sleeping.

CLINT

Oh no, you don't get to sleep. I'll keep you up with some weird game to help me get off.

MINDY

That's not what I was trying to do.

CLINT Oh?

Then what were you trying to do?

MINDY

You think it's easy for me to have a husband that never touches me?

CLINT I would be more inclined to touch you if you were normal.

MINDY

Normal.

CLINT

Why are you laughing.

MINDY I just thought of something funny, that's all.

CLINT

Share with the class.

MINDY

You wouldn't get it.

CLINT I'll have to give you detention if you don't tell me.

MINDY

MINDY

I'll tell you in a few days.

CLINT

Make that two weeks detention and a six page essay about why you are the way that you are, due on my desk by Monday.

MINDY It's already finished, didn't you get the email I sent you? My essay analyzing the collapse of relationships due to lack of sex; an inherent look at couple identity?

CLINT Oh sure, I'll check it now. D-. Happy now?

MINDY I would have brought you a crisp red apple but I see you have nothing to wash it down with.

CLINT It would have to be rotting to make it that hard to swallow.

MINDY One more thing, the mud will dry up and you'll be so thirsty. You'll want so much for me to come on you or with you, but I'll be too busy cleaning. Look at me, the perfect housewife. Oh, honey, you're home earlier than expected, the meat loaf isn't quite ready yet, please don't hit me.

Clint gets out of bed without a word, grabs a pillow from the floor and leaves to go to the living room.

MINDY The door- ow, that hurt. I need to answer the door, put the belt down dear. I'll make it up to you. Oh, please I'll be a good girl. Does your head head hurt? Here, let me take care of you. I always take care of you.

Mindy leaves the room and comes back with a stethoscope which she uses on herself.

MINDY Lost my candy stripes. That's a strong beat- no, wait it's faltering. Going going gone.

Pause.

MINDY Clint? Hey, Clint?

CLINT
(O.S.)
What, kid?

MINDY I think I
need to go to the emergency room.

CLINT
Did you hurt yourself?

MINDY
Nothing there anymore no thud thud thud. Clint? Clint can
you come here, please? I think I'm dying.

Clint reenters the room.

CLINT
Let me see you.

MINDY Here,
listen. Nothing there- no heart beat.

CLINT
Sounds fine to me.

MINDY You wouldn't know.
You're no medical professional.

CLINT
So what, you want to go to the doctors because you got your
feelings hurt?

MINDY
On our first date you wore a white shirt with dark jeans. I
thought that was risky.

CLINT
Oh, I've done riskier things.

MINDY
What if you spilled? What if I spilled on you? Or smeared
lipstick all over the collar?

CLINT
Because after that date I went on another with you and than
another and another until I got you into bed.

MINDY
I wore black. A practical choice. Slimming, too. Although I
don't think it looks so good on my complexion.

CLINT You bit me that first time,
hard. Should have bit you back.
That's what my mom told me to do when I got my first dog.

MINDY

Black underwear, too. Though that wouldn't have made for a good first impression. Not that I planned on letting you see them that night anyways, but you never know.

CLINT

The dog bit me and I grabbed it's scruff and bit him right back. It yelped. Never bit me again.

MINDY

Show your teeth. Let's see those pearly whites. A dentists wet dream that is.

CLINT Brush after every meal and you too can look JUST LIKE THIS.

MINDY Oh, I hate this commercial. Fast forward, fast forward.

CLINT

Symptoms can include depressionanxiety sweatingparanoiaandthoughtsof suicide. Ask your doctor for more information.

MINDY

Haven't you always thought that was strange, that we advertise drugs like that here? I like that one- with the song.

CLINT

(Singing)

Life is good and life is swell with Fizzy Mr Well- Soda.

MINDY

Hooray! Oh man, don't you wish t.v. was all commercials, ugh, who needs those boring shows?

CLINT

Or the news.

MINDY

Today's weather will a blizzard followed immediately by a heat wave-twister- rain pour. And traffic will be the same as yesterday. And the whole world's going to pot, stay tuned for this uplifting cat video.

CLINT

Mindy.

MINDY

Like how is that supposed to cushion all the bad shit in the world, all the pestilence, darkness, and blood?

CLINT

And that just here in this house.

MINDY

I'm no Pharoah.

CLINT Let me

alone tonight, Kid. I'm tired.

MINDY

Didn't think the keeper was affected by his own smoke. Oh well, I wouldn't want you to miss your girlfriends phone call. If I were holding you against your will I'd be scratching from lice.

CLINT I

haven't had a girlfriend since you.

MINDY

Yet here I stand not scratching.

CLINT

Goodnight.

MINDY You're saving

it for her. Those three words.

CLINT

Here take them- I love you.

He leaves again.

MINDY I

love you. You hate me. I love you.

Mindy twitches as though itchy, but keeps her hands at her side to keep from scratching.

MINDY Clint? One last

thing, what sound do rabbits make?

ACT II

Lights up on a game show setup in a living room. A couch with a china cabinet behind it. A podium for it's host. A curtains hiding other contestants. Think "The Dating Game".

The lights should stay down on the contestants behind the curtain and come up to reveal them all individually when it is their turn to play. Except Contestant 3 who we never see.

Mindy waits behind the podium. Enter Clint, followed by audience applause.

MINDY

Ladies and gentleman- Clint. Welcome, Clint. How are you doing today?

CLINT

What is this?

Audience laughter.

MINDY

Now that all our contestants are on stage it's time for The Love Game. Here's the rules-

CLINT Mindy? What is all this? Where's the table?

MINDY

Clint here will get the chance to find his actual true love by asking them questions. We have three contestants for you here, Clint, who are dying to get to know you.

CLINT

You've lost it. Take this all down.

MINDY

Now, Clint, settle down. You interrupted me, I need to finish telling you the rules. They're a little different here. In order to ask our contestants questions you have to earn points. These points will be delegated by me, your host, for performing certain tasks or answering certain questions. Each point will earn you a question. Are you ready to play?

CLINT I'm leaving. I want this down when I come back.

MINDY

Be a good sport Clint, you can't leave! What about our lovely contestants?

CLINT

I don't want to play.

MINDY I'm afraid you have no choice. You signed a contract.

CLINT
I did not. Stop playing around Mindy. Where did you even get this shit.

MINDY
I'm afraid if you break contract security will be forced to intervene and that's no fun, is it folks?

Audience boos.

MINDY Your word doesn't mean much, but it will.

CLINT This is really what you've done all day?

MINDY
Oh! Too bad. Look's like you don't have any points to ask a question with. Let's change that now. We'll start with a simple one to get you warmed up. Ready? Okay, how was your day at work today? And remember, you can't answer a question with a question.

CLINT
It was fine.

MINDY
Oh, looks like our producers are looking for more in depth answers. Would you like to try again?

CLINT
Work was fine. I made a few sales. My boss still isn't happy with me over losing that one account.

MINDY
That's one point. Now, would you like to ask one of the other contestants a questions or would you like to keep playing?

CLINT
I'd like to ask you a question.

MINDY
Sorry, Clint. Those aren't the rules. I already have somebody I love, that's why I'm the host. I don't need to make a choice. It's already been made for me, right folks?

Audience laughter.

CLINT

What the hell-

MINDY

Language, Clint we're live. One more of those and I'll start taking away points. What do you say- will you ask or will you play?

CLINT

I'll ask a question.

MINDY Would you like to ask contestant one, two, or three?

CLINT

One, I guess.

MINDY

Whenever you're ready.

CLINT Um, okay.
Contestant one, what are you doing here?

Lights up on CONTESTANT 1

CONTESTANT 1

Oh, you're funny. And you sound handsome, too. Ugh, aren't you so tired of those dating apps? I know I am. I'm here to find true love, of course. I'm not big on all these substitutions either, all this oat or almond or coconut.

MINDY

What an answer, give her a round of applause, folks. Okay, Clint you're out of points. Time to earn more points. This question will earn you double the points if you answer completely honestly. How did you lose that account at work?

CLINT I was irritable. I hadn't- haven't been getting much sleep. They wanted to look into buying a house together. And I... I told them they shouldn't move in together until they were sure they knew each other, until they were sure they understood each other. They laughed, but I was serious.

MINDY

And for an additional bonus point, answer this question- did you ever tell your wife that?

CLINT

I'm telling her- you now.

MINDY

Who me? Oh, I'm just the host. That's two points for you, what do you want to do?

CLINT Contestant 2, how did my wife get you to come here?

Lights up on CONTESTANT 2

CONTESTANT 2

I'm afraid I don't know what you mean. I saw a commercial for this, or maybe it was an add, anyways it said it had open auditions and I'm not particularly looking for anything serious, but the last date I went on was a bust and I thought it couldn't hurt, you know? So, I auditioned and found out I was selected- when was that- maybe a week ago? It was a very quick process, I admit.

CLINT

You auditioned for this?

CONTESTANT 2

Well, sure. They have to make sure you know how to act on t.v. Wouldn't want me looking like a fool, showing up covered in mud or something.

CLINT

Mud?

CONTESTANT 2

It said on your profile you were looking for a distraction, I could help with that. I'm very good at reliving tension.

CLINT

Relieving.

CONTESTANT 2

Semantics.

CLINT Mindy, I

don't care to play this anymore.

MINDY

You play until you finish.

CLINT

I'm finished.

MINDY

Without help? Anyways, it looks, like it's time for a commercial break. The game will continue when we return with the lightning round.

Audience applause.

Clint gets up from the couch.

The minute the show goes to break Mindy relaxes.

MINDY

You're home, how was work today? I was thinking we could order in.

CLINT I told you

already, I told everyone already.

MINDY

Well you just got through the door so I don't see how you could have told me already, but that's fine. If you had a bad day we can talk about it.

CLINT Why are

these people in our house, Mindy?

Mindy looks around at the set and contestants, not seeing them.

MINDY

Are you feeling okay?

CLINT I would feel better if

you would stop this stupid game.

MINDY

I really don't know what you're talking about. Do you always have to pick a fight with me?

CLINT I

never pick fights- that's all you.

MINDY You're delusional.

Whatever. I'll ignore it. Dinner?

CLINT

Huh?

MINDY

Dinner- what do you want?

CLINT We've been

together a long time right, kid?

MINDY

We sure have.

CLINT
It's been what, 3 years? For 3 years I've-

MINDY 4.
We've been together for 4 years.

CLINT
What, no I don't think.

MINDY
We've been married three years, but we were together a year before that.

CLINT
No, no. We've only been married two years. Two years in April.

MINDY You're
confused. I can't believe you forgot.

CLINT It doesn't matter. What are
you trying to do with all this?

MINDY
You would say it doesn't matter. You say that a lot. Like last night when I tried getting you to tell me about that dream, it's clearly still bothering you. If you would just talk to me-

CLINT
What dream? I never dream.

MINDY
Well, I don't know what dream. You're the one who brought it up. Something to do with a bunny.

CLINT
It was a rabbit.

MINDY
Same thing.

CLINT
That was your dream.

MINDY You look tired,
here let me feel your forehead.

CLINT
Don't touch me.

Mindy reaches out to touch him, but Clint steps out of reach. She retracts.

MINDY That felt familiar. Did you check my temperature last night?

CLINT
I'm going to bed.

Mindy clicks back into Host mode. Audience applause.

MINDY
God, do you hear that?

CLINT Very funny, host. Have them clap some more.

MINDY
It's been doing that all day- that buzzing noise, where is it coming from.

CLINT
I don't hear a buzzing noise.

MINDY
3-2-1. Welcome back, folks. It's time for the lightning round. In this round, Clint will get even more points with the opportunity to have every contestant answer. But first, our contestants will be able to ask him a question. Contestant 1?

CONTESTANT 1
Why do you want to leave your wife?

CLINT
This isn't happening.

CONTESTANT 1
You really should consider all she does for you. If we were to get married, would you want to leave me, too?

CLINT
I can't answer that question.

CONTESTANT 1
You already have.

CLINT
Cut. Cut. Stop-

CONTESTANT 1

You don't get to say when we stop.

CONTESTANT 2

Why did you cheat on your wife?

CLINT I

haven't. I would never cheat on Mindy.

CONTESTANT 2

Maybe I'm thinking ahead.

MINDY

Contestant 3? Any questions.

*The lights stay off on
contestant 3.*

CONTESTANT 3

This is surreal for you. In memory, in touch. You loved and love but not so much anymore, isn't that right?

CLINT

I'm not playing anymore.

MINDY

Be a good sport, Clint. These ladies answered your questions, now it's their turn. How are they supposed to know what kind of man you are?

CONTESTANT 3

I stood there petrified but I was not scared. I knew I wouldn't drown. You want to touch me still, not to kill, but to caress. The sand pit was tough when you were a kid, those bullies pushed your face into it until you spit up and that spit mixed with that sand and made mud, made mad-madness.

CLINT

I quit.

MINDY

You don't get to say when we quit. You can't decide something like that by yourself. How about a challenge?

Audience cheers.

CLINT

Fuck you.

Audience Booing

MINDY One point taken away for Clint. Would you like to try again?

CLINT

What do you want me to do, Mindy? Beg? Do you want me to plead for you to believe me? I have never cheated on you. You're really dense, you know that? How can I make you understand?

MINDY

Oh, you've thought about it.

CONTESTANT 2

With me.

CONTESTANT 1

With me.

CONTESTANT 3

With every woman you've ever passed on the street; caught in a shop window, passed in the grocery store.

MINDY

There's a hair in your mouth, small, brittle and every time you stick a finger in the find it, it disappears until you stop looking. Until you give up, give in. This challenge will be worth four points, sound like something worth playing for?

CONTESTANT 1

Why do you want to leave you wife?

MINDY

Bring out the wheel.

Stage hands bring out a colorful wheel. Some options include spin again, a money symbol, and one with a rabbit decal.

Audience cheers- the anticipation.

MINDY

This is a real audience favorite. Lot's of different options on the wheel here, some good, some bad. Take your spin, Clint.

CLINT

I had a tough day at work, kid. I didn't eat lunch. I am hungry and tired and I don't care to play your games anymore. You do nothing for me.

MINDY

If you want enough points to make your decision at the end you will spin.

CLINT

You won't like the outcome.

MINDY

I've already seen it. Spin. I won't like any outcome from this. Spin.

*Clint spins the wheel. It
lands on the rabbit.
Silence from the audience.*

MINDY

What a choice. For four points, Clint, you will pick one of our lovely contestants and hump them like a rabbit.

CLINT

You're insane.

MINDY

Oh no, our audience signed a waiver before coming today. We won't air on daytime television. And our contestants have all consented.

CLINT

I have not.

MINDY You

signed for it in the contract.

CLINT What fucking contract? I

haven't signed a single thing.

MINDY

Oh, our marriage contract, of course. You should really start reading the fine print of things before you sign them or you could end up in a situation you wouldn't want to be in. You could end up in a situation and not know how to get out of it.

*Mindy and the three
contestants start purring and
clucking.*

*Mindy sputters, glitching out
of host mode.*

MINDY

I said I would go for you so you wouldn't have to stomach it this morning. I know how bitter it tastes to you without milk. I offered to fix it, to take care of you. I always take care of you.

CLINT

I should have known after that first time. It bruised where you bit me.

*Mindy clicks back into
HostMode.*

MINDY

You seem eager to end the game, the best way to end it is by winning. Make your pick.

*Audience cheers: "Make your
pick!"*

CONTESTANT 1

I prefer thick milk to skim.

CONTESTANT 2 We can hash it out
over and over, what makes your clock lag?

CONTESTANT 3

Here, in the area around me, there is dry grass despite the mist. There is warmth despite the cold. Shelter here for I am good and will take care to comfort you.

CONTESTANT 1

Do I tempt you?

CONTESTANT 2

Do I make your skin burn?

CONTESTANT 3 I can see her through

yesterday, arms twitching to scratch.
I can hear you through tomorrow moaning from pain or
pleasure.

CLINT

I don't want to do this.

CONTESTANT 2

You already have.

CONTESTANT 1

You're thinking ahead.

MINDY

You have to pick who you think will make you happy, even if only for a moment.

CLINT Can

you try making sense for once.

MINDY

I can smell your indecision, but it's fake. Tell us who you've already landed on. Say it.

CLINT

Contestant 3.

Mindy pantomimes:

"Congratulations Contestant 3." But there is silence.

Silence has the other contestants pout or applaud. As Mindy pushes Clint towards Contestant 3's dark spot, which never lights up. He passes the other contestants, staring at them- processing.

Contestant 1 and 2 get up from their spots and leave, shaking Mindy's hand on the way out.

There is the sound of a belt coming undone, of a zipper being pulled down, the giggling of Contestant 3.

MINDY

That's our show folks. Looks like Clint won't need to make a final choice. Be sure to tune in next week next week next week

Mindy suddenly crumbles.

MINDY

On our first date I wore black underwear because I wasn't sure. I had met him at work, he was having chest pains. Just a pulled muscle. But you can never be sure. I asked him out. I had never done that before- asked somebody out. And he

(MORE)

MINDY (cont'd)

said no. But when he was leaving I caught him again. I wanted to apologize. I was out of bounds; it wasn't professional. I don't know what had happened to change his

mind but he told me he would like to go out with me. So I wore the black in case there was some uncontrollable spark that I couldn't resist. And there was, but I didn't think he felt that so I held back. And that first time I bit him, to mark him. But it faded. After everything I've ever done for him, he slithered towards me until there was nothing left of me.

Clint stumbles out from the darkness. He's shirtless as he buckles up his belt. He looks sick.

CLINT

Are you happy now?

MINDY

Turn around, let me see your back.

She finds it, the bite mark. And without a word walks to the china cabinet and opens it.

CLINT

Kid? Please, talk to me.

MINDY

How'd she taste?

CLINT

It wasn't like that.

MINDY

Do you know why I pick fights with you? You always comment on the fights but never the reason behind it.

CLINT She was nothing like you. You forced my hands.

MINDY Passion, of course. I wanted to make you feel it- feel me. You never saw it though.

CLINT You brought those people here, orchestrated this game. You're too fragile.

MINDY

Game? I can't believe you. You come home upset, call me crazy, then take another woman to bed in my own home.

CLINT

There was nothing there but skin.

MINDY

It was cold and foggy this morning when I went to the grocery store. It was quiet there. I had gotten there so early it was practically empty. The cashier's hands shook while she checked me out. There was no ring on her fingers, they were wrinkled. I thought that could never be me. Wrinkled and smiling at strangers hoping that maybe I'd get a smile back.

She picks up a plate and launches it at the wall, shattering it.

MINDY How easily it all

shatters. Even without a crack.

CLINT

You're the one who shattered it. Brought those strangers into our home. Played at some game to force my hand.

MINDY You sound like

you're angry enough to hit me.

CLINT

I am angry.

MINDY

Everything I've ever done was for you and it destroyed me to see you stop caring.

CLINT

What's this? Breaking news: most of the things you've done have never felt like caring. I wanted a partner not a child.

MINDY

I never burnt the dinner. I tried to keep the fridge stocked. Picked up extra shifts so you wouldn't have to worry when money got tight. When your work started slipping.

CLINT

That account fell through because of you- because you would keep me up all night with false realities.

MINDY

Different realities.

CLINT

Same difference.

MINDY

No. Absolutely not. You didn't want me so I brought you another. Gave you the option and you still picked one of them over me.

CLINT

You didn't give me the option.

MINDY I

didn't not. I left the loophole.

CLINT

Maybe we should talk about this tomorrow when you've settled down.

MINDY "The fox, he

said, better flee with my kill."

CLINT Go to sleep,

you'll feel better in the morning.

Mindy grabs another plate and throws it. And another. And another.

MINDY

Feel something.

CLINT

The old lady, what was her name?

MINDY

I don't know.

CLINT Because

that wouldn't fit your narrative.

MINDY

She didn't have a name tag. Some people don't want to be known.

CLINT

Let me help you.

MINDY

I can finish myself. Not an expert like yourself, but I can manage.

She quickly clears out the cabinet, smashing everything that's left.

CLINT What will we use when we next get guests?

MINDY
Oh, they can bring the china they used at their own weddings.

CLINT A lovely idea. We can invite your friends from today.

MINDY I'm afraid I don't know what you mean.

CLINT
Tsk. Tsk. Do you want to make that three weeks instead of two?

MINDY You never told me what you want for dinner.

CLINT
I want you to choke.

MINDY
Let me place the order for that.

Mindy puts her hands around her throat, choking herself.

After a minute she stands back up and composes herself.

MINDY They said that will be ready in 30 minutes.

CLINT
What awful service. Back in my day if they didn't get it to you in under twenty minutes it was free.

MINDY
I told them to take their time. It's not nice to rush service people.

CLINT
Better clean up the mess you made.

MINDY
Place looks clean to me. I think, if anything, we should fist fight, clean up shop.

CLINT
I won't hurt you.

MINDY
Oh, it's too late for that.

CLINT
I'm not going to hit you, kid.

MINDY
Hit me again, you mean.

CLINT
When have I ever hit you?

MINDY
Your brain is really rusty these days. How it spins stories
and forgets what's real.

CLINT Spin ye yarn.
What tales shall ye spell tonight?

*Mindy goes and sits down on
the sofa.*

MINDY
Come, sit on mother's lap.

CLINT
I'm afraid I'm too big.

MINDY
Disgusted by me, are you? No matter. I can tell it without
you. Can pick apart the goose with knife and fork and feed
without your lips. Oh how quick the fox doth move the mud
despite how thick. Frail those feeding rabbits who murmur as
they cluck. He scrapes his antlers about the tree, that
strong and steady buck. Yet both said creatures stand in
stupor for they know not what comes to drown. For the quick
mud moves so steady to smother all around.

CLINT
Boring. Tell me another.

MINDY I should
wash your mouth out with soap.

CLINT
Oh, you almost had me.

MINDY
I beg your pardon.

CLINT

You almost made me forget about the dishes.

MINDY

Cut your tongue on it.

CLINT

Don't mind if I do.

MINDY

Let's play another game.

CLINT

We've played enough. Unless it's the game of divorce, I don't want to play.

MINDY

Say that again.

CLINT

I didn't mean-

MINDY

How long?

CLINT I

don't understand. I'm confused.

MINDY How

long have you thought about it?

CLINT

This was the first time.

MINDY

Don't lie to me. Not about this.

CLINT

A few months.

MINDY

Have you- have you filed?

CLINT The

papers are on my desk at work.

MINDY

So last night, when you said you loved me- did you even mean it?

CLINT I don't speak my lies

out loud. I meant it relatively.

MINDY So
you love me enough to divorce me.

CLINT
No, I love you enough to try to fix things. I haven't signed
anything, they're a back up. But after today...

MINDY
What the hell happened today?

CLINT
Look around. There's a God damn production set in our living
room.

MINDY
There's a production set in our living room but I'm the
crazy one. Get up.

*Mindy gets up and pulls Clint
from the couch.*

MINDY
Hit me.

CLINT
I won't.

She pushes him.

MINDY It won't
hurt as much as you think. Do it.

CLINT
No. I won't. If you're trying to get a rise out of me or
look for some excuse to hit me back you won't get it from
me.

MINDY
I don't need an excuse to hit you, I got all the excuse I
need that night you smothered me.

CLINT
In your dreams.

MINDY
No in yours.

*Clint drops to the floor and
slinks across it. Grabs Mindy
by the legs and pulling them
out from under her.*

I've changed the roles. Now I'm on top.

CLINT
MINDY

Get off me.

CLINT You want this-
want me. Let me be until I finish.

MINDY
Not like this. I said get off of me. Clint, this isn't funny anymore.

CLINT
Do you hear me laughing, hear anyone laughing, where's your audience now? How the silence must claw at y-

Mindy gets her legs close to her and kicks up at him, connecting with his head. Clint falls off of her, knocked out.

MINDY Clint?
That's enough games tonight, get up.

She nudges him. He's out cold.

MINDY
Oh dear, this is just like a story I read once. How did it go?

She gets on her knees and crawls over him, crawls all over the room, across the glass, dragging blood across the floor.

MINDY Oh yes, like this. And why should that poor dear faint?

ACT III

Clint wakes up on the couch. The game show set up is completely gone but the broken dishes remain.

He sits up grabbing his head. Mindy comes in, dressed in nurses scrubs, with a glass of water and some pain killer.

MINDY You scared me there
for a minute. Here take these.

CLINT
Trying to poison me?

MINDY
Get over yourself.

CLINT
My head hurts.

MINDY No surprise
after what you did last night.

CLINT
You kicked me.

MINDY
I kicked you? No, you went crazy and tripped over the mess
you made, knocked your head on the coffee table.

CLINT
You fucking kicked me.

MINDY
I don't have time to play this morning. I have to get to
work.

CLINT
You can't go to work.

MINDY I don't
have time to play sick with you.

CLINT Play sick? You
probably gave me a concussion.

MINDY
You're fine.

You left it like this?

MINDY I don't always have
time to clean up after you, Clint.

CLINT What
the hell are you talking about?

MINDY Maybe it
is a concussion. What's my name?

CLINT
CLINT

This isn't fun anymore.

MINDY

Can't remember? That's not a good sign. Maybe I should get some milk.

CLINT

Mindy.

MINDY

Very good, except right now I prefer Nurse Mindy. I'll get you some milk before I head out.

CLINT You
can't leave the house like this.

MINDY What
did I forget my pants? Silly me.

CLINT The glass- it's
dangerous. Someone could get hurt.

MINDY Clever you- never too
wounded to agitate the bleeding.

CLINT I'm not
playing- I'm trying to be serious.

MINDY

The doctor's prescribed me with blood thinner- was that your influence?

CLINT

You're unhinged.

MINDY

You made the mess, I'm not cleaning it. I can't always be there to take care of you and your messes.

CLINT I

didn't break the china, you did.

MINDY

Oh now looks who's ready to play. Wait let me get in character- oh memory me- that can't be right, can it dear? And that paper boy threw our paper on the roof again, we really must do something about that, right dear? My scrubs kind of throw off the house-wife vibe a bit, don't they?

CLINT

Why are you acting like this?

MINDY

You seriously can't remember?

CLINT

I remember you setting up some game in our living room and forcing me to cheat on you-

MINDY

Excuse me?

CLINT

And then you went crazy over what you did and broke all of our wedding china.

MINDY

Well, I remember you coming home from work upset. Telling me you were thinking about divorce, breaking our china, and then attacking me.

CLINT

That's a lie.

MINDY You mean you

didn't come home from work upset?

CLINT

I did but-

MINDY

You didn't tell me you were thinking about divorce? Didn't attack me and try to force yourself on me?

Beat.

MINDY

Cat got your tongue?

CLINT

I'll take the milk now.

MINDY Oh come on,
Clint. I thought I was a liar.

CLINT
I feel sick.

MINDY
Tell me that I was wrong.

CLINT
I can't.

MINDY
It's funny that you want absolutely nothing to do with
me with touching me- but there you were forcing yourself on
me.

CLINT
You expect me to touch you when you're constantly gas
lighting me?

MINDY Congratulations! You
did it- world's funniest joke!

CLINT
I don't want to joke anymore.

MINDY
I know you don't. I tried telling you last night that I
would sign them.

CLINT
What?

MINDY
Do you know how hard it is for me? How exhausting it is to
try to convince you to love me?

CLINT
I don't t-

MINDY Stop talking. Please. I
love you. But you don't love me.
It's not fair to me to work so hard to fix something that
you want to stay broken. Where are the papers?

CLINT
At work.

MINDY
Well you can't go in today, you'll just have to get them
next time. I didn't pack anything.

CLINT What
do you mean? Why would you pack?

MINDY I'll stay at my
mothers for the next few days.

CLINT
Your mother's dead.

MINDY
That isn't funny to joke about. That's probably one of the
worst things you've ever said to me.

CLINT
She's dead. We went to her funeral. Her ashes are on the
mantle over there...

MINDY
Where? The vase?

*Mindy goes and grabs a vase
coming back with it. She dumps
it upside down. It is empty.*

CLINT
Where did you put her?

MINDY
She's probably at home, I don't know. Maybe she's at brunch
with her friend Lisa.

CLINT
No, no. Unless they're brunching in hell
slaps him.

MINDY
Watch your head.

CLINT
Go fuck yourself Mindy, you're making me mad. My brains
rattling loose and free in my head. Can't you remember the
dirt under your fingernails?

MINDY Every time it hits a
wall, I hope it melts a bit more.

CLINT
Every word out of your mouth melts it. There is no sense in
anything now.

MINDY
After that I'm glad.

CLINT

I'm happy to hear that.

MINDY

Hearing you say that about my mother-

CLINT

She's been rotting in her grave for years now. You're not well.

MINDY I'm glad you

want a divorce. I want it too.

CLINT

No you don't.

MINDY

You've kept me prisoner in this house long enough: cooking and cleaning. You can't control my feelings too.

CLINT

You want me. You're obsessed with us being together. With me being tempted by another woman and choosing you. Or not. I don't know.

MINDY

You're confused.

CLINT

Maybe I should go to sleep.

MINDY

You're not even awake.

*Clint lays down. Mindy leaves.
He pulls the blanket up over
his eyes.*

*Mindy leaves. Some time
passes. He removes the blanket
and stands up, wincing as
glass pierces his foot.*

CLINT

Damn it. I'm bleeding.

*There are sounds coming from
some room we can't see. Some
person moving around the
space.*

CLINT

Hello? I said I was bleeding.

A woman giggles.

CLINT

Mindy? This isn't funny. I- I hurt my foot. Come out and look at it.

UNKNOWN VOICE

Wouldn't that be funny.

CLINT

I don't like this. I'm-

UNKNOWN VOICE

Scared. You should be. How's it taste?

CLINT Mindy whatever game this is now, it's not funny.

UNKNOWN VOICE

Perhaps I'm thinking ahead.

Clint makes his way to the door, but just before he opens it BECCA enters.

BECCA

Oh good, you're awake. Listen, I was going to go to the store after work but I was too tired. Maybe we could order in?

CLINT

I don't know what you're talking about- where's Mindy? Are you a friend of hers?

BECCA

Mindy? Your ex Mindy? Why the hell would I know. She's probably on her honey moon with that guy- Brad, I think.

CLINT

Brad? My coworker Brad?

BECCA

I mean he was. You two haven't worked together in years. Are you feeling okay? Here, let me feel your-

CLINT

Don't touch me.

BECCA

What the hell has gotten into you?

CLINT

I don't know you.

BECCA
What are you getting at? Maybe I should call someone- your mom.

CLINT You don't know my mother. You're a stranger.

BECCA
I'm calling Claire.

CLINT
Where'd you learn that name? Who are you? Why are you in my house, where's my wife?

BECCA
Oh I get it. Is this one of those games you used to talk about?

CLINT
Yes. Yes. Exactly. Where is she- the host? I won't fall for it again, Mindy. How much is she paying you? I could double it.

BECCA I don't like that you keep talking about your ex like that. It's weird. How would you feel if I did that?

CLINT
I wouldn't care.

BECCA
Funny, so you wouldn't be jealous if I kept talking about my ex?

CLINT
I don't know you.

BECCA
Okay, my turn, wait- let me fix my face. Know me? Why you knew me enough to marry me.

CLINT My wife's name is Mindy. Not- what's your name?

BECCA My god, are you bleeding? All over my floors?

CLINT
I stepped on glass.

BECCA
I see.

It hurts.

BECCA

You're going to clean this up right?

CLINT

Can you look at my foot?

BECCA Ew. No. I

don't do blood- it's a bio hazard.

CLINT Mindy will

look at it when she comes home.

BECCA

I hope it gets infected. Piss off, talking about your ex wife in front of me like that. What did I do to you now for you to act like this?

CLINT

Nothing, you don't have to do anything to me. You can turn around and leave.

BECCA

I live here. I won't leave. You can leave if you're being serious. You know, I can get whoever I like, but here I am with you.

CLINT

The walls are yellow.

BECCA My

mom would laugh, you know that?

CLINT

They were blue- my walls are blue. It's dry- that's not possible. I really am bleeding a lot.

BECCA

I said I don't do blood.

CLINT

Mindy would look at it for me.

BECCA

Well Mindy was a nurse. I am not a nurse. Or your mom. I'm going to call her by the way. Maybe she can talk you out of ruining another marriage, yeah?

CLINT

You don't have her number.

CLINT
BECCA

Oh, yeah.

She pulls her phone out and starts dialing. It rings, goes to voice mail: "Hello, you reached Claire Malark. I can't come to the phone right now. Please leave your name and number and I will call you as soon as possible."

BECCA
Hi Claire, sorry to bother you it's just that your son-

Clint slams into her, jostling the phone from her hands.

UNKNOWN VOICE
The air is thin following the smother. The rabbit and fox now pronounced lovers.

Becca pushes Clint off her. She stares at him hard before bringing her hand down on his head- the ringing echoes through the theater.

Clint doubles over in pain, phone forgotten.

BECCA
You're mad. You're not well.

UNKNOWN VOICE
The tree bark bends how it twists and turns. From one dream another years.

BECCA You could have hurt me, is that what you want?

CLINT
I might throw up.

BECCA Choke on it.
I don't understand you, Clint.

CLINT
I need to talk to Mindy.

BECCA
She's dead.

What? No- I just saw her this morning.

BECCA She's been dead for years,
maybe you've lost too much blood.

CLINT
You're no one. You don't even exist.

BECCA
Her ashes are on the mantle.

CLINT She's alive. I
would know, I feel her everywhere.

BECCA Oh yeah? Well if she's
so alive, who's on our mantle.

CLINT
Her mother?

BECCA Her
mother lives over on the coast.

CLINT
She hates the ocean.

BECCA
I can prove it to you. You want to see her so damn bad? I'll
show her to you.

*Becca goes over to the mantle
and grabs the same vase Mindy
held earlier and dumps it,
ashes pouring out.*

BECCA Whoops. Sorry, Mindy.
See what a mess you left behind?

CLINT You said she got
married to Brad. This can't be her.

BECCA I never said
that. Maybe I hit you too hard.

CLINT
I'm dead.

BECCA Let me jog your memory,
okay? You and Mindy got a divorce. She killed herself.

CLINT

Dead. And now she lives on our mantle, well, lived on our mantle.

CLINT

BECCA

And how are you here?

I had to be.

CLINT

Fate you mean.

BECCA Fate.

Destiny. There's no difference.

CLINT

There is.

BECCA

Not for you.

*Clint reaches out to touch
her. He retracts, she's cold.*

CLINT

It doesn't feel right.

BECCA

Explain it to me. Explain feeling. In colors or shapes, we thought you both void.

CLINT I can't have lost that many years. I don't feel any older.

BECCA

You're sure about that.

CLINT

I-.

BECCA

You have wrinkles.

CLINT So soon? I feel like I would still remember.

BECCA

Well when every day is just spending all day on the couch it's probably easy to blur it all together.

CLINT

BECCA

CLINT On the couch? No, I work, a lot. I'm always at work.

BECCA You haven't worked for over a year, Clint.

No- I sell houses.

Sold. Reality check.

CLINT

Realty.

BECCA

When Mindy died it really tore you up. Didn't matter that we had been together for a while at the point, you shattered. Because you knew it was your fault. Said yourself that you had basically killed her. And your work was affected. Crying doesn't sell houses. Weeping doesn't make you want to sign on the dotted line. So you were fired. I thought you couldn't be any more broken, but you certainly proved me wrong. Trauma can really wreck your memory, you know. Can dig in there and exhume it all until your left with an emptiness so deep you drown over and over.

CLINT

Tell me more.

BECCA

You couldn't leave the couch, not even to get into bed. I tried to help you but you couldn't be helped, so I gave up.

CLINT

After how long?

BECCA

After how long what?

CLINT

After how long did you give up?

BECCA I have my own life to live, too. I have my own work.

CLINT

Mindy would have waited.

CLINT

BECCA
BECCA

I'm not Mindy.

CLINT

Do you ever have bad dreams?

BECCA

I dream of oceans. Of hot sand.

Blisters, I suppose.

You're hair is turning gray. Every moment you get further from the past and there is no running in reverse to catch it, to catch her. Suppose I looked enough like her, sounded like she did when she moaned or cried, what would you say to me then? Would the indent in the couch be less pronounced? But you said she was too much. That she drained you to your bones, how they withered and warped from the caring. "Love me, love me one second" until she was sure you hated her. And you did.

CLINT

I didn't.

BECCA

Don't lie.

CLINT

You can do both.

BECCA

Which do you think killed her?

CLINT

I'm not answering.

BECCA

I'll answer. I know it. Oh, oh over here, pick me! She could hear us.

CLINT

I don't understand.

BECCA The bathroom door was thin; she could hear every giggle. Every moan. You hand moving against yourself, the coming and going.

CLINT

BECCA

CLINT

She was sure I was doing it. She was so sure I was out there every day with a different woman.

BECCA

What a wish master you were.

CLINT

I couldn't take it, the accusations. I was tired of wearing them like a suit.

CLINT

Badly tailored.

BECCA

CLINT

She couldn't have heard.

BECCA Every
giggle. Every moan. Every gasp.

CLINT

Wish fulfillment.

BECCA

You're pale.

CLINT

I don't feel well.

BECCA

You've lost a lot of blood.

CLINT

I'm weak.

BECCA

I've made room for you on the mantle. Or I can scoop her
ashes back up and mix you both together.

CLINT You
wouldn't let me die would you?

BECCA Why
should I care if you live or die?

CLINT

You said we were married.

BECCA Me? Married, no. I
don't believe in the institution.

CLINT

I need to lie down.

BECCA

When you see roadkill left to the side of some street, do
you stop to clear it away?

UNKNOWN VOICE

It's coming.

BECCA

When you see a homeless person begging for change do you give it? I've no reason to give to a stranger.

You never loved me then.

BECCA

Has anyone?

CLINT

Yes.

BECCA Lie down, I'll tuck you in. One last kiss from mother.

CLINT

Don't pretend to care.

BECCA

When it covers you, you won't be able to move. You'll choke from the wanting. From the desire to escape. But it's worse out there. Out there were the trees reach with claws to scratch. Where a woman hides from heart stealing monsters. And it's so cold. The frostbit comes before you even realize.

CLINT

Let me up.

BECCA

I think you should cross them. If you believe in such things.

CLINT

Mindy?

UNKNOWN VOICE

Mud made mad. Made madness.

Blackout.

MINDY You should get up and move it around. Clint, wake up.

CLINT

You're not here.

MINDY Sorry. I told you I had to come back to gather some things. I won't take long. Didn't realize it would be that awful for you. Go back to sleep.

CLINT
CLINT

I can't.

MINDY

Whatever. Listen, I'm not trying to nag you, but you really should move your foot around to get the blood flowing back through it.

CLINT

My foot?

MINDY I noticed the blood when

I came in. You didn't wrap it?

CLINT

I didn't know how.

MINDY

It's not hard.

CLINT

How was your honeymoon?

MINDY

Our honeymoon? Why are you bringing this up? What are you looking for feedback so you can do better for your next wife?

CLINT

I'm disoriented.

MINDY

Here, let me wrap it for you. One last treatment from Nurse Mindy before I leave you forever.

CLINT

You're not really leaving.

MINDY

Car's all packed, just wanted to tell you before I left that I left. That I was serious. We should both be happy. I guess that's two gifts from me.

CLINT

You can't leave.

MINDY You may need stitches.

This is deeper than I had thought.

CLINT No, no

stitches. Nothing that dissolves.

MINDY I could use super glue,
but it will leave a nasty scar.

Use it.

MINDY
I can't stay.

CLINT
Yes you can.

MINDY
No. I can't. What's the point. Stay just for you to divorce
me later? I can't stay here knowing you were with her.

CLINT
I was out of my mind. I don't know what happened, something
made me do it.

MINDY
You don't love me.

CLINT
I do. I love you. I can't live if you're gone. Stay. I'll do
better. I'll repaint the walls.

MINDY
I like them as they are.

CLINT
You hate the color blue.

MINDY You'll let me
paint them whatever color I want?

CLINT
Any.

MINDY If I do this. If I
stay, it's not going to be easy.

CLINT
I know.

MINDY
Being with you won't be easy for me. I may need time to- to
do things.

CLINT
I'm in no rush.

MINDY
I'm trusting you.

CLINT
CLINT

Me too.

MINDY
Here, let me kiss it all better.

UNKNOWN VOICE
(Laughs faintly)

CLINT
Did you hear that?

MINDY
What would you think of yellow?

CLINT
There it is again.

MINDY
Yellow with white stripes.

CLINT
You feel cold.

MINDY
I had lost them before, you remember. My stripes. I think
I'd like to have them back. Here lay back down. I'll clean
up the glass.

THE END.