

"Distended"

A One Act Play

by

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CHARACTERS

Adam: 29 years old, young businessman, trying to find what makes him happy

Rebecca: 27 years old, Adam's girlfriend

Lindale: 33 years old, a partner in Adam's company

Vivian: 26 years old, Lindale's date for the evening

Samantha: 29 years old, a mysterious woman with a mysterious past

Diane: 35 years old, works with Adam and Lindale

Diane's Friends (2 Guys, 2 Girls): Mid-Thirties

Maître d': 32 years old, Italian

Detective: 53 years old, confident in himself

Customer Service Representative: 32 years old, female

Waiters (3)

Police Officers (5)

Dining Couples (3)

SETTING

Sorrento Ristorante. A fancy, yet quaint restaurant in New York City. A lot of character in the place. Looks like the kind of restaurant you'd call the town's best kept secret.

There are only ten tables in the dining space, all of various sizes. Three couples are at various stages of their meals.

Waiters appear and disappear from two swinging doors leading to the kitchen. A Maître d' stands at his podium near the entrance.

A hallway extends from the dining room, leading to both the men's and women's room.

Present Day. It's a winter evening, freezing outside. Light snowfall.

Distended: To swell out or expand from, or as if from internal pressure.

The lights come up, we're in the Sorrento Ristorante. The MAÎTRE D' stands at his podium, reading a book. A few couples dine. ADAM enters, stage left.

MAÎTRE D'

Buona Sera, Signore.

ADAM

Buona Sera, I have a reservation. Adam. For two.

MAÎTRE D'

Ah, si. Adam. For Two. The lady is not here yet?

ADAM

No, we're meeting after work. We're coming from different parts of town. She'll be here in a minute.

MAÎTRE D'

No problemo. Right this way.

The Maître d' grabs some menus and waltzes out onto the dining room floor. Stops at a table in the center of the room.

MAÎTRE D' (cont'd)

Here we are.

Adam sits down, the Maître d' hands him a menu.

ADAM

Thank you. Do you have a wine list?

MAÎTRE D'

Si, right here.

The Maître d' whips a smaller menu out from behind his back and hands it to Adam.

The restaurant door opens, REBECCA enters. Adam and the Maître d' take in her beauty.

MAÎTRE D' (cont'd)

For your sake, Signor Adam, I hope this is the lady you are waiting for.

ADAM

Indeed it is. Rebecca!

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CONTINUED:

Rebecca spots Adam sitting at the table. She hesitates for a moment, steels herself, and then walks over. He rises to greet her, they exchange a familiar, light kiss on the cheek. The Maître d' pulls Rebecca's chair out for her as she sits.

MAÎTRE D'

Signorina.

REBECCA

Molte Grazie.

ADAM

We'll have a bottle of the Chianti to start.

MAÎTRE D'

Si, Signor.

The Maître d' snaps his fingers at a waiter, whispers in his ear. The Waiter disappears into the kitchen and the Maître d' returns to his post by the door.

Adam and Rebecca look at their menus, but Rebecca closes hers right away.

ADAM

Getting the same as usual?

REBECCA

Yup. We haven't been here in at least a couple weeks, I've been craving that pasta dish so very much.

ADAM

I think I'll try the salmon.

REBECCA

Oh.

ADAM

What?

REBECCA

It's not really good to eat salmon anymore. Everyone's been eating them. I read that they aren't as abundant as they once were years ago. Wouldn't it be awful if you ate the last salmon ever? Imagine that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ADAM

I honestly doubt that if I order a salmon tonight, that it will be the last salmon ever.

REBECCA

I know, I'm just saying. You should get something else.

The Waiter arrives with the wine, pours a small amount for Adam to taste.

REBECCA (cont'd)

Can I taste it?

She grabs Adam's glass before he can reply, swirls it, sips it, smacks her lips.

REBECCA (cont'd)

Delicious.

The Waiter pours them each a glass.

THE WAITER

Are we ready with our dinner orders?

ADAM

Yes, thank you.

REBECCA

I'll have the Pasta Pesto, with Chicken. And Bowties.

THE WAITER

And for you, Signor?

ADAM

The-

Adam halts his order. Rebecca is giving him those eyes. You know the ones.

REBECCA

Please?

ADAM

I'll have the same as her. But with Gemelli.

THE WAITER

Excellent choice.

The Waiter returns to the kitchen. Adam and Rebecca clink their wine glasses to toast the meal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

REBECCA

It's so nice having you back from your business trip.

ADAM

It's nice to be back. I honestly hate going on those trips and to all those conferences.

REBECCA

I hate it when you go, too. With the horrible things taking place in the world.

ADAM

What horrible things?

REBECCA

There's all sorts of reasons to be concerned. That serial killer, for example. The one from San Diego.

ADAM

Oh, don't be silly, Rebecca.

REBECCA

It's not silly. The police think she's mobile, making her way across the country. She could be anywhere by now. But, I don't want to think about it anymore.

Rebecca picks up her wine glass and sips.

REBECCA (cont'd)

Tell me, what's your news? Isn't this supposed to be a celebration of sorts? Did something happen during the trip?

ADAM

Yeah, but you said you had something to tell me, too. You go first.

REBECCA

Nah, mine wasn't import-... I mean, let's just make this your night. You've returned home, you say that something good happened that you wanted to tell me.

ADAM

Absolutely not, I want to hear what you wanted to tell me.

REBECCA

Well, mine isn't necessarily good news. I mean, it's not bad news. It's weird news. I don't want to ruin the evening. Not that I think it will ruin the evening, it might not. Let's just drop it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ADAM

Now there's no way in hell you're not telling me what you're getting at. What is it?

REBECCA

Ugh, fine.

(Beat)

A restaurant isn't exactly the place I wanted to bring this up. But, here we are. Over the weekend, I went to my friends party, the one I told you about.

ADAM

Yeah, the friend from work?

REBECCA

Right. That one. So, while I was there, I met this really cool girl. I think it was a cousin's friend or a friend's cousin. I don't know. But, she was so much fun to talk to, we totally clicked. And,

(laughs)

It was so strange, she lead me into a bedroom, and the whole time I'm thinking, what the hell is going on, I was like on cruise control, just following some flow. Next thing I know, she kisses me. And I kissed her back. And it...escalated. Next thing, it's morning and we're in bed together. Isn't that crazy? I didn't even know her name, I couldn't believe it! It was so not like me.

Um... Adam's jaw hangs open. What to say?

ADAM

I'm sorry, what are you telling me? You slept with another woman? Is this a joke? What... Did you just kiss?

REBECCA

No, it was... I mean, I'm not telling a joke. And it wasn't just kissing. We... You know, it was full on. We had, what you would definitely call sex. Intense sex.

ADAM

Intense? You had sex with another woman? You cheated on me?!

The other dinner guests turn from their conversations and glance over.

REBECCA

(quietly, through a fake smile)

Adam, don't yell about it. Why do you have to react like this?

ADAM

What kind of reaction did you expect from me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

REBECCA

I don't know, I just hoped you would respond differently. You know, most guys would find it pretty sexy that their girlfriend would have sex with another woman. We could introduce it into our own sex life.

ADAM

Rebecca!

REBECCA

It doesn't turn you on?

ADAM

No! I'm sorry that I don't get turned on by your infidelity. It'd be one thing to suggest the idea of some... of a threesome, and have a conversation about it. But, you went out and slept with someone else. It doesn't matter to me if it's a woman or a man.

REBECCA

Really? It's not a little better that it was a woman?

Hm, perhaps it would be worse if it were a man.

ADAM

It's a little better, yeah. But, a little better than horrific isn't very good. I'm just a little confused.

Rebecca reaches across the table and holds Adam's hand.

REBECCA

Adam, sweetie. I love you. I would never sleep with another man. I would never cheat on you, up until just now when you called it that, "cheating", I didn't even define it that way myself. We're a perfect couple, Adam. Nothings changed for me, I want to be your wife and have your children. I want to live in that cute little town up north that we love so much.

ADAM

Rebecca, everything is still so variable. Who knows where our future is taking us.

REBECCA

Wherever it goes, we'll go there together.

ADAM

But, it may not be what we once said. That's part of what I was going to tell you.

REBECCA

Then tell me, please.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Adam opens his mouth to speak, but the Restaurant door swings open, and LINDALE walks in. A large, boisterous and over-bearing man. He's got a big smile, and he's using it now that he sees Adam.

LINDALE

Adam? Adam!

Adam and Rebecca turn to see Lindale walk up to their table. Adam curses under his breath.

ADAM

Evening, Lindale. I didn't realize you came to this restaurant.

LINDALE

Just heard about it last month, I've been here five times already. Can I join you?

ADAM

Um, we're in the-

LINDALE

Waiter! I'm going to pull my table over to this one, he and I are partners.

(laughs)

Business partners, not life partners. Little Freudian slip there.

Before Adam can protest, Lindale has already dragged a table over and is sitting down next to him. He extends a hand to Rebecca.

LINDALE (cont'd)

The name is Lindale. And you are?

REBECCA

Rebecca. Very nice to meet you.

LINDALE

Oh, you're the one that Adam keeps talking about. Wouldn't shut up about you during our business trip.

This comment makes Adam and Rebecca a little uncomfortable, given what she was up to during the business trip.

REBECCA

Well, thank you. Are you dining alone tonight?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

LINDALE

Alone? God, no. I'd never do that. I have a date joining me. She'll be here any minute.

As these words are spoken, a ravishing woman enters the restaurant. This is VIVIAN, Lindale's date. She speaks to the Maître d', who responds with a negative head shake. The Maître d' then proceeds to chat her up. Lindale is oblivious to all of this, as his back is to the entrance.

ADAM

You're on a date? Wouldn't you want to sit alone then?

LINDALE

No, nonsense. It's always best to see how a girl can get along with your friends, before you make any decisions.

ADAM

Friends?

LINDALE

So, Rebecca, what do you do?

REBECCA

Nothing special, I've been working as an assistant for-

LINDALE

Yeah, I don't know if many things can compare to the wild business venture that Adam and I have managed to land ourselves into. Thanks to the business trips, we're securing a peachy future. Lots of business trips coming up, lots.

REBECCA

Oh, Adam, honey, you were just going to tell me something about your job, what was the big news?

Shit. Not now. Lindale's ears perk up at this, confusion washes across his face.

ADAM

Um, nothing. I didn't have... It was nothing.

LINDALE

Did something happen that I didn't hear about yet? Did I miss a call?

Lindale glances at his phone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

LINDALE (cont'd)

No.

ADAM

No, nothing, it was something about my brother, actually.

LINDALE

Oh, well that's not as interesting.

Meanwhile, Vivian finally recognizes Lindale's back. She points him out to the Maître d', who then escorts her to the table.

MAÎTRE D'

This exquisite Signorina says that she is here for you, Signor Lindale.

Lindale rises, his big smile on his face. He's certainly proud to have her as a date. But, he expects nothing less.

LINDALE

Vivian, a little later than I imagined.

Vivian seats herself next to Rebecca. Adam notes how Rebecca stares at Vivian, like she's attracted to her, one might say.

VIVIAN

I was waiting for awhile by the door. I didn't know we were at a table for four.

MAÎTRE D'

Mi dispiace. She said party of two, I thought it was someone other than yourself, Signore.

LINDALE

Not a problem, Cameriere. Completely understandable.

Rebecca extends her hand to Vivian.

REBECCA

Hi, I'm Rebecca. Very nice to meet you.

VIVIAN

Vivian, pleasure.

Adam has had enough of this girl on girl interaction between the two ladies.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

ADAM

My name is Adam. Rebecca is my girlfriend.

VIVIAN

Pleasure, Adam. Now I know your names, but why are we sharing a table with you? Are you acquaintances of Lindale's?

LINDALE

Adam and I are business partners. He and Rebecca happened to be dining here tonight as well, and I thought it'd be silly not to take advantage of the opportunity that coincidence presented us with. Two plus two equals four. If you catch my drift.

Rebecca won't stop smiling. Adam isn't enjoying this.

REBECCA

I think it's a great idea, we can make new friends.

ADAM

But, if you're not comfortable with it, Vivian, we can just separate the tables. I know you weren't expecting multiple partners.

Oops.

LINDALE

(eyeing both Vivian and
Rebecca)

Multiple partners? Now you're talking.

REBECCA

(shocked)

Adam!

VIVIAN

(intrigued)

Are you suggesting an orgy of sorts?

ADAM

No! You know what I mean.

The Waiter approaches the table. A
welcome change of topic for Adam.

THE WAITER

Signor.

ADAM

Hi! Yes?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

The Waiter looks at the two tables that have been pushed together, examining them curiously.

THE WAITER

Oh, there are more of you.

LINDALE

Yes, I pushed the tables together.

ADAM

If that's a problem...

THE WAITER

No, I just need to take their orders as well. And it will cause half of you to have your meals before the other half.

LINDALE

That's OK, just hold off on the first half, keep 'em warm till the second half is ready, and bring it all out together.

ADAM

Um...

REBECCA

Yes, that should be fine.

ADAM

Ok...

LINDALE

Arithmetic.

REBECCA

Where is the ladies room?

THE WAITER

Down the hall, Signora. First door on the left.

REBECCA

Thank you.

Rebecca rises, and Vivian begins to stand as well.

VIVIAN

I'll join you.

No way. Adam bolts out of his seat and dashes around the table to Rebecca's side.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

ADAM

No, let me go.

Everyone stares at Adam, his behavior is beginning to appear quite unusual.

LINDALE

What the hell's gotten into you, Adam?

ADAM

It's just, I realize that women usually go to the bathroom together. Not together, but, anyway, you still have to order your food, Vivian. This is a perfect opportunity for you to get that out of the way. Gives some alone time to the respective parties. There really is not a single, decent argument against the idea of me going to the bathroom with my girlfriend.

Vivian sits back down. Best to let him win this one.

VIVIAN

I can hold it.

ADAM

Thanks.

LINDALE

You're acting strange, Adam.

Adam and Rebecca walk down the hall, stopping outside the rest room doors.

REBECCA

Sweetie, you're being a little odd. Is everything OK? Are you a little stressed?

ADAM

You're attracted to her, aren't you?

REBECCA

Who? Vivian?

ADAM

Yes, Vivian. Who else could I be referring to?

REBECCA

Well, yes, she's quite pretty. If I had a type, when it came to women, she'd definitely be my type.

ADAM

That's not what I want to hear, Rebecca!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

REBECCA

Cutey pie, I'm not a lesbian. I'm not going to go around sleeping with every woman that I find attractive.

ADAM

I know. It's just this weird new thing to think about now.

REBECCA

If I did that, I'd be having sex with women left and right.

ADAM

What?

REBECCA

Why do you seem so on edge?

ADAM

This isn't how the evening was supposed to go. It was supposed to be just the two of us. I wanted it to be...

REBECCA

What?

ADAM

I just saw something different, for how...

REBECCA

Tell me what you mean? It's still going to be wonderful.

ADAM

It doesn't matter.

Rebecca puts her hands on either side of Adam's head, holding his face gently.

REBECCA

Adam, baby. Just put your mind to rest. I'm sorry that I got your head in tailspin mode. Let's put it all behind us. We have so much to look forward to. I can't wait to hear more of what Lindale was telling me, sounds like you guys are going to be doing so well, we can finally make the move on our plans, getting married, buying that house up north. We loved that neighborhood so much. My mom is going to be thrilled. Probably in less than a year she can finally be a grandmother.

Gulp.

ADAM

I need to go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (13)

REBECCA

What's that?

ADAM

The bathroom.

REBECCA

Oh! Of course, me too. I'll see you back at the table, OK?
I'm so glad we had this talk.

Rebecca tries to kiss Adam, but he turns his head, causing her lips to land on his cheek. He doesn't react. She laughs.

REBECCA (cont'd)

Silly.

She prances into the ladies room. Leaving Adam, standing still, a horrific sick look on his face. He swallows big, and walks into the men's room.

Back at the table, Lindale and Vivian have just finished ordering their dinner from The Waiter.

LINDALE

Oh, and another bottle of wine. I just slurped this one down. Let's have a different one, though. The bottle here is a little too weak for my taste. The Barolo, per favore.

THE WAITER

Prego.

The Waiter strides back into the kitchen.

LINDALE

Salad, huh?

VIVIAN

Yes.

LINDALE

You know, if a gentleman takes you out, it's polite to order a full meal. Just getting a salad makes me feel like you aren't enjoying yourself. Even when you do ask them to add chicken.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (14)

VIVIAN

I can assure you, it isn't meant to suggest that I'm not enjoying myself. I would have gotten the salmon, but they say we shouldn't eat salmon anymore.

LINDALE

That is true. I'd have had a fit if you ordered salmon. Those poor little guys. As if Bears weren't enough of a predator.

The Restaurant door swings open, a group of people enter. They are DIANE, and her guests. It's Diane's birthday. Diane has a really loud voice. Lindale spots her, and his big smile makes a third appearance across his lips.

LINDALE (cont'd)

Diane? Diane!

DIANE

Lindale! What are you doing here?

LINDALE

Wining and dining, what are you doing here?

DIANE

It's my birthday.

LINDALE

Happy Birthday! Please join us, Adam is here tonight, too.

DIANE

Wonderful!

Vivian, Diane and Diane's Guests introduce one another.

VIVIAN

Pleasure.

DIANE

Hello.

VIVIAN

Pleasure. Pleasure.

DIANE GUEST 1

Howdy.

DIANE GUEST 2

Honor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (15)

Rebecca returns from the bathroom in time to see a massive reorganization of tables and chairs. Lindale plays conductor, as Vivian, Diane, and Diane's Guests push three more tables together, forming one long table. It all kind of looks like that painting of the last supper.

REBECCA

What's going on?

LINDALE

Rebecca, this is Diane, Diane, this is Rebecca.

DIANE

Hello.

REBECCA

Very nice to meet you.

LINDALE

You don't mind that we're adding tables, do you? It's Diane's birthday, she works with Adam and I.

REBECCA

Not at all, I love birthdays.

LINDALE

Is it Adam and I, or Me and Adam?

DIANE

I can never figure out which way is proper.

The tables are set, and everyone is seated.

DIANE GUEST 1

(reading the menu)

My, they have quite the selection. Better than that other place. You know the one.

DIANE

Absolutely. I'd rather have my throat slit than eat there again.

Rebecca gasps. Vivian glares at Diane.

VIVIAN

Are you trying to horrify me? That is so far from funny.

DIANE

Come again?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (16)

VIVIAN

How can you throw statements like that across our faces, when there is a serial killer out there disemboweling people left and right?

DIANE

Disemboweling?

LINDALE

Yeah, honey. What are you talking about?

VIVIAN

There's a woman out there that's been leaving a trail of bodies across the country.

DIANE

Oh, that. I heard that was just a unified front by a horde of lonely housewives, some pathetic cause to get their husbands' attention.

VIVIAN

Are you serious? Are you telling me you really believe that?

LINDALE

I heard the same thing. The Association for the Liberation of Housewives, or something along those lines.

VIVIAN

Jesus Christ. It's a serial killer. A woman. And she's been moving across the country. Towards us. So I ask for a little more refinement the next time you choose your exaggerations.

REBECCA

I second that notion.

Rebecca puts her arm around Vivian's shoulder.

DIANE

Well okay then. So, where is Adam?

REBECCA

He's in the bathroom.

VIVIAN

He's taking quite a long time.

REBECCA

Yeah, he always does. Longer than a woman, that's for certain.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (17)

LINDALE

Isn't it odd that this restaurant has reservations for so many people that all happened to know each other?

DIANE GUEST 1

They do call this America's biggest small town.

LINDALE

No, I always thought it was The Biggest Little City In The World.

VIVIAN

It's neither nor.

LINDALE

What is it then?

Beat.

VIVIAN

It's a coincidence.

Adam returns from the bathroom, stops dead in his tracks when he sees the group of people that have taken over his hoped for quiet, romantic dinner with Rebecca.

There's got to be at least ten different conversations going on over there. Rebecca and Vivian are talking about something very intimately. So close that they're getting physical, hands on each others shoulders and backs. Rebecca just laid her fingers gently on Vivian's thigh! Adam's jaw drops open, again.

Lindale spots Adam standing near the hallway.

LINDALE

Adam! The prodigal son returns! Diane's here, we were just talking about the new direction that the company is going. Our futures are getting bright, get over here!

Rebecca pulls her hands off of Vivian when she sees Adam. She gets up and hugs him, but he hardly responds.

REBECCA

Sweetie! This is so exciting! I feel like we're starting to finally have our own circle of friends. Come on, sit down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (18)

She prances back to her seat. Just as the cacophony of commotion and conversation seems like it will crescendo in an explosion of ulcerated proportions, the restaurant door opens. And everything goes quiet.

In walks a raven haired, pale skinned mysteriously beautiful woman with blood red lipstick. This is SAMANTHA. She catches everyone's attention.

MAÎTRE D'

Buona Sera, Signora.

SAMANTHA

Buona Sera, Signore.

Her voice is deep, seductive, sultry. Makes you want her to whisper in your ear.

SAMANTHA (cont'd)

I have a reservation.

MAÎTRE D'

For how many?

SAMANTHA

One. Just myself. I'm alone.

MAÎTRE D'

Si, I understand. It will be just a moment. We've had some table changes this evening, please bare with us.

SAMANTHA

Of course.

The Maître d' snaps at a couple of Waiters, they rush off to the kitchen and return with the makings of a dinner table. Chairs, table cloth, utensils are all hurriedly set up.

Our main group of diners resume their conversations, but Adam is still standing, now transfixed by Samantha.

Lindale decides to chat the lady up, of course.

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CONTINUED: (19)

LINDALE

Hello, Miss. No reason to stand there like a lone dandelion in the wind. Why don't you join us?

SAMANTHA

I couldn't.

LINDALE

Negative responses are unacceptable.

VIVIAN

She said she'd didn't want to.

LINDALE

This is not a democracy, Viv.

SAMANTHA

Alright then, I may as well pass the time.

Lindale grabs yet another chair, and places it between himself and Vivian. Samantha seats herself.

LINDALE

My name is Lindale, this charming young woman on the other side of you is Vivian. I'd introduce you to everyone else, but I feel there are far too many of them.

SAMANTHA

I understand, and my name is Samantha. How's the wine here?

VIVIAN

Not bad. I prefer white.

SAMANTHA

Oh... I see.

Samantha's attention is caught by Diane, who has resumed a conversation with Lindale, using that loud voice of hers.

DIANE

I just don't know if it's ever going to happen. It feels that if I were to stick my neck out there, I'd just fall and lose everything.

SAMANTHA

You have to believe, if you want to achieve.

DIANE

Excuse me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (20)

SAMANTHA

I'm not sure exactly what you are speaking of, but I imagine it's the same as any endeavor. See yourself doing it, believe you can. It may not guarantee a positive outlook, but at least you'll be going for something.

REBECCA

You sound like a Life Coach.

The Maître d' approaches Samantha.

MAÎTRE D'

Your table is ready, Signora.

SAMANTHA

(to the group)

Sorry to disturb your meal.

Samantha walks to her table, places her coat and purse on the chair. The Maître d' turns to leave, but Samantha calls out to him.

SAMANTHA (cont'd)

Bring me a bottle of dry Vin Santo.

VIVIAN

She has a certain stuck-up air about her, wouldn't you agree?

LINDALE

Maybe it's that time of the month.

DIANE

Yes. It does look like she's in period clothing.

Samantha walks towards the ladies room, passing Adam. In a sudden impulsive moment, he turns and follows her. He doesn't understand it, but something is pulling him to her, and he's going with the flow.

ADAM

Excuse me, Miss?

She stops and turns to Adam. Looking in her eyes makes Adam tremble just a touch.

ADAM (cont'd)

That was really.... profound. What you said out there. I'm finding myself in a similar situation, knowing what I want but feeling incapable of acting on it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (21)

Something about Adam intrigues Samantha, too. Maybe it's his vulnerability.

SAMANTHA

Really? In which part of your life are you feeling incapable?

Samantha saunters to Adam, stopping just in front of him. They're close. He can smell her perfume.

ADAM

Every part. My career, my relationship, where I want to live. At the moment I'm in this set course, a certain path that I could so easily stay in. But...

SAMANTHA

But you wouldn't be happy.

ADAM

No. I don't want to be in any of the places that I currently am.

He sighs. This is it. Adam has been wanting to say this all night, now he can get it out. He just assumed he'd be telling Rebecca, not this mysterious woman.

ADAM (cont'd)

I was at a business conference last week, and I hate these business conferences, but I made an excellent contact. This guy who runs a company in San Diego that would be a perfect fit. He flat out, right on the spot offered me a position, exactly what I want.

SAMANTHA

Great, everything's solved. San Diego is a beautiful city.

ADAM

Is it? You've been there?

SAMANTHA

Used to live there. It's America's Biggest Small Town.

ADAM

For some reason I've always felt a desire to live there. And now this opportunity comes along. I was going to propose to my girlfriend, tell her that I'd have a promotion. I could afford a wedding, and eventually a family.

SAMANTHA

What's there to complain about then?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (22)

ADAM

I don't think she's the one that I want to spend my life with anymore. I think she's just the one I've ended up with.

SAMANTHA

Why are you telling me all of this?

ADAM

I don't really know. I must sound like a fool, a complete stranger comes up to you...

Samantha steps closer.

SAMANTHA

You want so much, but you won't act on any of it, will you?

Adam can't speak. He knows it's true.
He's destined for this unhappy future.

SAMANTHA (cont'd)

You're too weak to break away. Your impotence stagnates.

Just hearing this makes Adam clench up,
immobile.

SAMANTHA (cont'd)

I can help. I can help you get it over with.

Can she? Does this woman hold the force
that Adam needs to purge him of all his
problems?

Meanwhile, back in the restaurant
dining area, a DETECTIVE enters with
several Police Officers in tow. They
spread out amongst the diners, asking
everyone questions. No one seems to
have any answers. The Detective pulls
out a photograph, shows it to Lindale.
He gasps. The others at the table look
at the photo and join Lindale in a
collective gasp.

All at once, they point down the
hallway towards Adam and Samantha.

SAMANTHA (cont'd)

(whispers in Adam's ear)

Come here. Come with me.

Samantha pulls Adam to the men's room
door, pushes him against it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (23)

She reaches down to the hem of her skirt, lifts it to reveal a small knife tucked into her thigh high stockings. In one fell swoop, she pulls the knife out and stabs Adam in the gut. The pain from this unexpected intrusion shocks Adam. He tries to scream, but can't.

SAMANTHA (cont'd)

Sshhhh. It's OK, you'll be fine. You're free now.

Samantha gives one last thrust into Adam's stomach with the knife, pushing him through the men's room door. She falls into the room with him, just as the Detective and the Police run down the hallway. The men's room door slams closed, the Detective and Police Officers burst through it.

A moment later, they reappear from the bathroom with Samantha, her hands cuffed behind her back. A big, tough-guy city POLICE OFFICER guides her down the hall back to the dining area.

The Detective has a smug grin from ear to ear. He's caught his prey.

DETECTIVE

Shouldn't have let that one get away from you in San Diego. Left a trail of clues for us to track you across the country.

POLICE OFFICER

She ain't struggling much.

DETECTIVE

Even a fish can tell you, when you're caught you're caught.

POLICE OFFICER

A fish'll flop around at least.

Samantha smiles, glaring at the Police Officer.

SAMANTHA

Only if it's struggling to survive.

DETECTIVE

That's enough from you. Get her out of here.

Samantha is escorted out of the restaurant. The Detective turns to the dining couples.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (24)

DETECTIVE (cont'd)

I apologize for the disturbance, folks. But have no fear. The bad guy has been nabbed. Or, bad girl, I guess I should say.

REBECCA

Where's Adam?

DETECTIVE

Who?

REBECCA

Adam, he was down the hall with her, they were talking.

DETECTIVE

I didn't see this person you call "Adam." He wasn't in the bathroom.

LINDALE

Are you sure? He was definitely talking to that woman just before you all came in here.

REBECCA

What if she hurt him!

Rebecca bolts from her seat, down the hall and into the men's room.

Lindale, Diane, Vivian and the Detective all follow after her, checking the ladies room as well.

REBECCA (O.S.) (cont'd)

Adam, sweetie!

LINDALE (O.S.)

Hey, buddy, where'd you run off to?!

VIVIAN (O.S.)

Adam!

DIANE (O.S.)

Oh my god, what could have happened to him?

They all emerge from the different bathrooms.

DETECTIVE

There's no one here. Maybe he ran out a back door?

LINDALE

Or into the kitchen?

Rebecca collapses to the floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (25)

REBECCA

I don't understand, where could he have gone? She must have done something to him!

Vivian kneels down beside Rebecca,
comforting her.

DETECTIVE

I'll talk to Samantha.

LINDALE

Cameriere! Check the kitchen! I'll look out back.

Lindale and The Detective run outside.
The Maître d' runs into the kitchen.
Diane returns to the table, where her
Guests console her. Rebecca sobs in
Vivian's arms.

The lights in the restaurant fade out.

A single light comes up over Stage
Left. We see a CUSTOMER SERVICE
REPRESENTATIVE at an airport check-in.
Adam approaches her, with a suitcase in
arm. He's determined.

ADAM

I'd like to purchase a ticket to San Diego, please. One way.

THE LIGHTS FADE OUT.