

PLAYTIME

by

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INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - 20TH CENTURY - DAY

STRATFORD is reviewing the newspaper. PENELOPE is sewing.

STRATFORD

Aren't we a bit melancholy this evening?

PENELOPE

I don't feel like being casual this evening, darling. It's too daunting.

STRATFORD

Since when is casual daunting?

PENELOPE

I want to be careless.

STRATFORD

Whatever do you mean love?

PENELOPE

I want to break from the monotony of life.

STRATFORD

What---

PENELOPE

We never go anywhere. We don't do anything. We are either home or away to some ballroom, meeting with the Chaperones or the Marques or the Billingtons and it's all so rubbish.

STRATFORD

Darling, these are our friends.

PENELOPE

But are they really, Stratford?

STRATFORD

We've know the Chaperones for fifteen years mind you and---

PENELOPE

Oh, put me to sleep! They are such bores darling. Do you realize we have no friends that are outgoing, fun, alive!

STRATFORD

Getting drunk and dancing the
other night was not alive?

PENELOPE

But it is with the same people, at
the same places, with the same
conversations, the same gardens,
cars, dresses, dances and
onward...

STRATFORD

Actually, you are right I'm
afraid.

They laugh.

It is quite a bore, is it not
darling?

PENELOPE

It is!

STRATFORD

When we were at the Hamilton's, I
thought I was going to suffocate
to death!

PENELOPE

My dear, why haven't you uttered a
word to me?

STRATFORD

I don't want to come off being,
being, oh---

PENELOPE

Honest?

STRATFORD

Well, I thought you so enjoyed
these gatherings and therefore I
would muster up the strength to go
on your behalf.

PENELOPE

I was going all along for your
benefit!

STRATFORD

I didn't want to spoil your fun.

They laugh.

All this time. I truly thought
you were having a grand time.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

To think you were, oh, my poor
darling, come here, please.

They hold hands.

Darling, I only wish for you to be
happy.

PENELOPE

As I do you.

STRATFORD

Darling, from now on, we will stop
attending this traditional
nonsense.

PENELOPE

But what about your business?
Surely, it will have a negative
impact?

STRATFORD

Not at all. I am embedded at the
thighs. Business is business. One
does not always have to make
appearances.

PENELOPE

But what about the Chevaliers? You
got started with them because Mr.
Tandum introduced you both.

STRATFORD

Yes, but I imagine I would have
met with him sooner or later at
that. Our circles are very
similar. We would surely have met
sooner or otherwise. (beat) My
darling, from now on, let's never
keep anything from one another.

PENELOPE

Yes, my love.

They kiss.

There is one thing, however, I
mean, while we're at it, that I
think you should know about and
that I want to come clean about,
this way we can start on this new
honest road together. Yes?

STRATFORD

By all means darling...what?

PENELOPE

Well, the other day Mr. Caldwell came to visit. He stayed here for nearly two hours. He knew you were at work but stayed on for two whole hours regardless. I'm not sure why he came to visit while you were away.

STRATFORD

Really? Well, I think that is a different issue altogether. Nothing for you to worry about. Why didn't you tell me he came to visit?

PENELOPE

Well, he wasn't acting like himself. He came off being, I'm not sure what word to use, perhaps a phrase...rough around the edges.

STRATFORD

In what way?

PENELOPE

He came on to me.

STRATFORD

Did he?

PENELOPE

Yes, yes please don't be angry with me.

STRATFORD

Darling, I'm not upset with you in the slightest. But do tell, why didn't you tell me sooner?

PENELOPE

For the very reason you would think I did something wrong. I was afraid you would accuse me.

STRATFORD

Accuse you?

PENELOPE

Yes. You see, Mr. Caldwell, he kissed me. He, forced himself upon me.

STRATFORD

Did he?

PENELOPE

Indeed.

STRATFORD

What happened next?

PENELOPE

He made love to me.

STRATFORD

He...made love to you?

PENELOPE

At gun point. He said that if I uttered a word, he would shoot us both dead.

STRATFORD

I'm...

PENELOPE

Yes, I know but there's more.

STRATFORD

More?

PENELOPE

I enjoyed it.

STRATFORD

Enjoyed, it?

PENELOPE

I enjoyed his love making, I'm pregnant and I'm going to have his child.

Penelope smiles and begins to laugh.

STRATFORD

Is this a joke?

Penelope laughs even louder.

Stratford chases Penelope around the room playfully.

He catches her and they land on the couch.

You are so cruel. I cannot believe your imagination. My heart is pounding dear. I might, I may...wait a minute...

Stratford falls to the floor.

Penelope...

PENELOPE
Darling! Darling?! Stratford!!

Stratford starts laughing.
That wasn't funny!

She smacks his arm.

STRATFORD
Now we are even my love. So, for
the record, there was no Mr.
Caldwell visitation of the sort?

PENELOPE
Not at all.

STRATFORD
Whew!

PENELOPE
But darling...

STRATFORD
Yes, my dear.

PENELOPE
I want us to go out and enjoy our
youth together while we can. Are
you interested in adventure?

STRATFORD
Wildly so. How does Australia
sound?

PENELOPE
Australia? You will take me?

STRATFORD
Absolutely. Let us go abroad!

They kiss.