

# *The Signing*

*by*

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Cast of Characters

ELIZA: 20's

CARLA: 20's

JOHN: 30's

Place

Eliza's Living room

Time

Evening

**CARLA:** What is all the fuss about? You have me so worried, I almost got into a car accident rushing over to see you.

**ELIZA:** I know, I'm sorry I couldn't speak over the phone, I'm panicking.

**CARLA:** What is it?!

**ELIZA:** I need to calm down.

**CARLA:** Drink some water.

**ELIZA:** I already have...

**CARLA:** Did someone die?

**ELIZA:** Not that but it feels like that. (beat) Carla, it's John.

**CARLA:** Oh no! What's wrong with John?

**ELIZA:** He's fine. It's about him and me.

**CARLA:** That bastard! Did he cheat on you?

**ELIZA:** No, stop guessing and let me explain.

**CARLA:** I'll kick his ass.

**ELIZA:** He didn't cheat on me.

**CARLA:** Did you cheat on him?

**ELIZA:** No, I didn't cheat on him, Carla.

**CARLA:** Sorry, sorry, I'll shut up now.

**ELIZA:** (sighs) ...He asked me to sign a prenuptial agreement.

**CARLA:** He did what?

**ELIZA:** I'm not signing it. He must be out of his mind. He flipped his lid! If he wanted to have a prenuptial agreement then he should have told me early on in our relationship. Not now! Now he tells me. I can't believe him. It makes me feel cheated. I'm not signing that damn paper or whatever the heck it is, I'm not doing it.

If he loves me he needs to love me for me. I don't want his money. It's not like I am marrying him for his money. If he was poor I would marry him cause I love him passionately. He is a great man. He is everything I ever wanted in a man.

(beat)

Damn! I can't believe a piece of paper is coming between us. Everything we are to one another, everything...I love him so much, Carla. I don't want to lose him like this.

(beat)

Maybe I should sign on the dotted line. It just angers me because it makes me feel like he doesn't trust me. It makes me feel like something WILL go wrong between us. Oh, I don't know...what should I do? What do you think I should do?

**CARLA:** I'd tell him to go take a shit for himself.

**ELIZA:** Carla!

**CARLA:** No, I'm sorry baby girl but I would. I know you love him, hell, even I love him. He's a good dude but THIS? What kind of shit is this? I never expected this coming from John, never, never in a million years.

**ELIZA:** I know.

**CARLA:** What did you say when he asked you? And how did he ask you in the first place?

**ELIZA:** You know how friendly he is...it was almost like he didn't want to ask me but something was forcing him.

(simultaneously)

**ELIZA/CARLA:** His mother.

**CARLA:** I knew it! I knew it! That bitch needs to get her ass kicked!

**ELIZA:** Carla, please, you aren't making this easy for me, alright?

**CARLA:** I am furious!

**ELIZA:** So am I but we can't go knocking on her door like back in the old days. We are different kinds of people, right?

**CARLA:** I'm cool.

**ELIZA:** I pressed him about it, about why he was asking me this and that's when he stood up from the couch and start screaming...I never saw this side of him ever, I mean we've had arguments, some pretty good arguments at that but never like this...there was so much rage, so much anger in him, there was a hatred and for the first time in my life I can honestly say I was frightened of him...not that he was going to hurt me cause I don't believe he would ever do such a thing but what I'm saying is his level of anger, it was so intense, so forceful that I became scared of him in general and the only other person in all my life that has ever made me feel like that was my father and it was disgusting, the worst feeling cause it brought back so much...I was shocked and he got in my face and demanded that I sign the papers and so I threw them back at him, right in his face and he flipped over the table and stormed out of here crying mad.

**CARLA:** Wow...

**ELIZA:** ...Before he got all crazy, I brought up his mother and he confessed that she put him up to it, well, he didn't actually confess but he sort of nodded his head in agreement to what I was saying...his mother hates me...we've never gotten along and I've tried so hard to get her to like me...nothing I do is ever good enough for her precious son...it's like a sick jealousy thing, I can't explain it. She doesn't trust me and she knows we are getting married and that we love each other but it's like she is determined to make life a living hell for me.

She wants no part of me in the family and the only way she can get even is by taking John's inheritance away from him. Can you believe that she threatened to do that? She told John that if he marries me, that I either sign the prenuptial agreement or she will withdraw his inheritance entirely.

**CARLA:** I knew John had money but how much could it---

**ELIZA:** Millions and millions of dollars...

**CARLA:** Really?

**ELIZA:** All the truth came out and some. He makes a good living as is but his inheritance, his family's wealth goes back generations.

**CARLA:** What are you going to do?

**ELIZA:** I don't know.

**CARLA:** How does she really spite you though? Let's say you sign the papers, how does that actually hurt you?

**ELIZA:** Well, if we get divorced I'm entitled to nothing, even with children.

**CARLA:** But John would never see to that. You know he would take care of you and your children if you ever have them.

**ELIZA:** We want to have children.

**CARLA:** So there you go.

**ELIZA:** But the damage is done, this feeling I have now...it's changed something in me...I feel different.

**CARLA:** Towards John?

**ELIZA:** ...Yeah...

**CARLA:** Don't get ahead of yourself, Eliza. You know he's in love with you.

**ELIZA:** Yeah, but to have the balls to go there, to actually ask me that shit, I can't even believe it, after everything we've been through together, after everything I thought we were to one another.

**CARLA:** It's because you come from a different class. He's upper class and us girls come from the working class.

**ELIZA:** John works, his whole family works.

**CARLA:** You know what I mean.

**ELIZA:** I know.

**CARLA:** When his mother looks at you, she doesn't see fancy gowns and yachts, she sees the urban streets.

**ELIZA:** Wish she would just see me for me the way John does.

**CARLA:** Look, on one hand I'm disappointed with John but on the other I understand his situation. I don't think he ever cared about the signing, he's probably ashamed by it but his mother has her hooks in him and it's a serious thing to lose your inheritance because it's like losing your family right. Am I making sense?

**ELIZA:** You are. I just thought we were above all that.

**CARLA:** Let things blow over. He will come to his senses.

**ELIZA:** I'm not signing the papers.

**CARLA:** What?

**ELIZA:** There's no way. I will not sign those papers. If it means losing the man of my dreams then so be it. I've gotten this far in my life, without anyone's help and if he can't decide between me and money, well he can keep all the money in the world cause---

**JOHN:** Eliza...hey Carla...Eliza, I don't want you to sign those papers...listen, I spoke to my mother and I had it out with her...she's gonna take it all away from us but I told her I didn't care, I told her that she will never threaten me ever again, that our relationship is done because you come first, because I want you to be my wife.

**CARLA:** I think maybe I should be going.

**JOHN:** Stay Carla, you're family.

**ELIZA:** John, why didn't you tell your mother that to begin with, why---

**JOHN:** Cause I'm stupid. When I left this house before angry, the moment I stepped foot outside I wanted to die, that's when I knew I couldn't live without you, that feeling, like my soul was being ripped out of my body.

**ELIZA:** I don't want to be the reason that takes you away from your family.

**JOHN:** We will build our own family. My mother can do what she wants, it has nothing to do with you and me, nothing.

**ELIZA:** You will hate me in later years.

**JOHN:** I will thank you in later years.



**ELIZA:** No regrets?

**JOHN:** No regrets.

**CARLA:** No regrets...

**END OF PLAY**