

Burning Flowers

by

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Cast of Characters

RIONA :

40's

SEAN :

40's

LOLA :

Baby/20's

Place
House

Time
Day

2.

Setting: The play takes place inside a small suburban home. It's stuffy. Toys are all over the place. Everything is in disarray. Looks like an explosion of furniture, toys, liquor bottles and drugs.

At Rise: The play opens up during a hot summer day in August. Riona enters the living room carrying Lola and screams the name "SEAN!!!" before going into the backrooms. Sean enters.

SEAN: What? Ri...RIONA, what---

RIONA enters carrying baby LOLA.

RIONA: Can't get her to stop crying, Sean.

RIONA places LOLA in SEAN'S arms.

SEAN begins gently bouncing the baby.

SEAN (to baby): Shhh, shhh, it's okay, it's okay, Daddy's here, Daddy's here...shhhh...

LOLA quiets down and stops crying.

It's okay...shhh, it's okay sweetheart...shhh....

SEAN (whispering to RIONA): She's passing out.

RIONA lights a cigarette.

RIONA: Get her out to bed. I can't look at her anymore.

SEAN leaves the living room.

RIONA inhales her cigarette and lets out a big breath. She folds her arms and paces the living room. She pours herself a glass of vodka and guzzles.

SEAN enters the room.

SEAN: What was all the fuss?

RIONA: There's always a fuss.

SEAN: Don't get excited.

RIONA: You're a better mother than me.

SEAN: That's not true.

RIONA: It is true!

SEAN: You're a great mother.

RIONA: I'm a lousy hack.

SEAN: I was outside in the garden---

RIONA: Go! Go back in your garden!

SEAN: I'm preparing a salad for us, remember?

RIONA: How can I forget?

SEAN lights a blunt and smokes.
He offers it to RIONA, she inhales
and passes it back to SEAN.

SEAN: I got some red peppers, lettuce---

RIONA: I don't want to be a mother anymore.

SEAN: Shit.

RIONA: You fucking hear me?

SEAN: YEAH, I hear you.

RIONA: I'm tapping out.

SEAN: You're just having a bad day.

RIONA: No, Sean, no. This, this isn't a bad day. It's a bad life. Ever since Lola, my life has been turned upside down and I'm completely miserable. I can't get any work done and none of it is what you promised me. You leave her all to me! How am I gonna write songs if all I'm doing is changing diapers? I can't operate this way. This was never what I wanted, feel like you've conned me into it. We should have never of accepted things the way they happened. You go off into your garden or your books or your drives and I'm left home alone taking care of her, ALONE. I should have known! I said it, I knew. I knew this was bullshit and I was right. I tried. I tried for you, but this is, I'm not, I'm not the motherly type, never was, never fucking will be and now I am one. A mother. Me! And for what? (long pause) I don't feel it. I can't bring myself to it. That, that bond, connection or whatever it is, it's, it's not in me, it's, it's missing, I reach for it, but it isn't there, nothing to grab hold of. God, I'm empty. That child knows it. It's why she's crying all the damn time, she knows it. She deserves a better mother Sean. I'm not the one. I want to, I need to find a way out, we need to look into other options, you know? Other alternatives, to, to give her a better life?

SEAN: Are you fucking crazy?

RIONA: No, I'm not!

SEAN: It's our daughter!

RIONA: And she was your idea! You forced this!

SEAN: I can't believe we're having this conversation.

RIONA: What am I to do? I'm supposed to hide what I feel, what, what's been gnawing at me

SEAN: Don't you think you're being extreme?

RIONA: No. I'm not. I'm being honest. Honest enough to have an adult conversation with you about it.

SEAN: Giving up our daughter for adoption sounds sane to you?

RIONA: Yes.

SEAN: I would never do such a thing.

RIONA: If you were me---

SEAN: Don't ever bring that shit up to me---

RIONA: I don't want her!

(pause.)

RIONA grabs more vodka and drinks.

SEAN hits his blunt.

SEAN: Why don't you take it easy with that?

RIONA: Fuck off!

SEAN: Drinking like a fish.

RIONA: It's all I have.

SEAN: You have me and Lola, your family. We are a family unit.

RIONA: I'm breaking the unit. It's stupid.

SEAN: That's how you sound right now, stupid.

RIONA grabs vodka bottle and SEAN takes it from her and smashes it against the wall.

The baby is heard crying in the other room.

RIONA: YOU FUCKING DEAL WITH HER!!!

SEAN leaves the room.

RIONA searches for her purse. She gathers a light jacket and searches for her shoes.

She finds one shoe but can't seem to find its match. She searches under the couch, along the floor...she growls in frustration...

SEAN enters the room holding LOLA.

SEAN: What are you doing?

RIONA: I'm looking for my shoe!

SEAN: Why? Where are you going?

RIONA: I'm leaving!

SEAN: No you're not.

RIONA: Don't fuck with me!

SEAN: You're not driving.

RIONA: I'll walk!

SEAN: Look at what you're doin' Riona! You're making Lola nervous. Stop stressing her.

RIONA: I'll walk barefoot.

RIONA throws her single shoe across the room. She leaves front door, slamming it.

SEAN sits on the couch, cradling Lola.

SEAN: Mommy will be back...she's just having a bad day sweetheart. Shhh...shhh.

LOLA begins to stop crying.

Mommy didn't mean to wake you...it's okay...shhhh...that's right...shhh.

LOLA has fallen asleep.

We hear a loud crash outside.

SEAN jumps up, yet calmly as not to startle LOLA.

SEAN walks into the bedroom and comes back out without the baby.

SEAN exits the house.

FROM OFFSTAGE WE HEAR:

SEAN: What the hell happened?

RIONA: Car got away from me!

SEAN: You alright?

RIONA: Piece of shit car!

SEAN: Give me the keys!

RIONA enters the house. She appears disheveled but physically unharmed.

RIONA goes into the other room.

SEAN enters the house.

SEAN: Ri? RIONA??

SEAN goes into the other room.

It's quiet. Dead quiet.

20 seconds go by.

LOLA has grown up into her 20's. SEAN has his arms wrapped around her as they enter the living room.

THEY sit on the couch.

SEAN: Shhh...shhhhh....it's okay Lola....it's okay sweetheart...everything's gonna be alright...shhh...shhhh.

END OF PLAY