

# Cuts

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Cast of Characters

DAWN: 30's  
GRANT: 30's

Place

A rundown but homely studio flat in Hackney, London, with large windows overlooking a busy street.

Time

Present.

*We are inside a studio flat in Hackney London, it is 4.30am. The stage is bare with a queen sized bed upper stage left and large empty windows that overlook streets. DAWN, 30s, and GRANT, 30s, are sitting center staged on two chairs opposite each other. The lights are low but a spotlight is on them both. Dawn and Grant hold eye contact throughout this first opening. They then turn their bodies in the direction of the audience for the rest of the play.*

DAWN: I thought about your alarm clock It would wake you but I would sleep longer You would wait patiently until I'd wake Silent You would be silent You wouldn't make noise but you would wait You would walk the streets to pass the time smoke a cigarette drink some port speak to neighbours while you'd wait I would wake from hearing you entering the apartment again You'd have two coffees from the corner shop in your hands and two croissants You'd get into bed with me and I would turn away but then I would want you to hold me I would wait till your arms wrapped around my waist Your groin pushed against my back Your hands on my stomach We'd eat in bed and clean the crumbs You'd put on a foreign film You'd pause the film I'd shower I'd come back in bed with my towel on and let my hair dry on your chest I'd put on a record for us Pour us a glass of something substantial I'd put on another record walk to the window listen to the streets And take off my towel We'd make love then put each other's clothes back on Leave the apartment Walk we'd walk for hours I'd hold your hand and kiss your hand I'd like kissing your hand I'd skip and you'd get annoyed and tell me to stop and then you'd skip too and make me laugh and I'd make you smile You'd look around because you'd be embarrassed and no one would care because they're all mad anyway We'd rest in silence on a bench when we were tired My hands would get cold so I'd warm them inside your jumper on the bare skin of your stomach and you wouldn't mind it

*BLACK OUT*

*LIGHTS UP*

GRANT: You cut me

DAWN: You cut me open

GRANT: You held the blade

DAWN: I didn't notice

GRANT: I didn't notice

DAWN: You never did You like to lie

GRANT: I'm sorry

DAWN: Too late

GRANT: When will it stop?

DAWN: Won't be forever

GRANT: It'll take time

DAWN: It could fade

GRANT: Too late

DAWN: I hope not

GRANT: I'll die at some point

DAWN: I could bleed tonight More blood for you You like my blood

GRANT: I never told you I liked your blood

DAWN: Never needed to

GRANT: How did you know?

DAWN: I saw it on your face Inside of you It dripped from your nose  
It found its way into the corners of your eyes It found its way  
between smokes between breaths It doesn't matter

GRANT: I wanted you

DAWN: I felt you

GRANT: I didn't know

DAWN: Don't think of it

GRANT: I can't stand you Vulgar

DAWN: I know

GRANT: You make me want to fuck you

DAWN: I know

GRANT: Come inside of you

DAWN: I know

GRANT: With you

DAWN: I know

GRANT: You can die first

DAWN: No

GRANT: It'll be easier

DAWN: Not now

GRANT: You said you'd die first

DAWN: Not for you

GRANT: I love you

DAWN: No

GRANT: I've only fucked who I've loved

DAWN: I need to swim

GRANT: I need to sleep

DAWN: I feel alive

GRANT: My brain is damaged

DAWN: I want to eat

GRANT: Have a plate

DAWN: I can't

GRANT: My mind hurts

DAWN: I can not eat

GRANT: Sit here

DAWN: No

GRANT: I'll leave

DAWN: You've left before

GRANT: You deserve it

DAWN: No

GRANT: You deserve neglect

DAWN: Death is beautiful

GRANT: How?

DAWN: Flowers sunsets birds The world so close

GRANT: It doesn't care

DAWN: You like to lie

GRANT: I do

DAWN: You lie by withholding truth

GRANT: I do

DAWN: You like to sin

GRANT: It doesn't matter

DAWN: To me it does

GRANT: Your eyes are green not brown

DAWN: No

GRANT: Green not brown

DAWN: No they are brown

GRANT: Green not brown

DAWN: I stopped breathing

GRANT: I couldn't hold you

DAWN: Don't think of it

GRANT: Your hands were small

DAWN: Your hands were large

GRANT: Soft

DAWN: Strong

GRANT: Tender

DAWN: Gentle

GRANT: Broken

DAWN: Don't think of it

GRANT: I lost you when you were dying You died before I could save you You died on the side of a highway Lights flashed The sky turned black You were crushed Ribs guts cuts I couldn't save you You were gone before I could believe you were gone The streets were dry and cracked Their windows didn't have light Their lights were gone There was no light

DAWN: So long

GRANT: I didn't touch you

DAWN: Blood

GRANT: Your blood

DAWN: My blood

GRANT: I didn't smell you

DAWN: Blood

GRANT: Our blood

DAWN: No

GRANT: Yes

DAWN: No

GRANT: Yes

DAWN: Can't be

GRANT: Fall

DAWN: I can't Dead

GRANT: Everyone is

DAWN: Too bad

GRANT: Everyone here *is dead*

DAWN: Or dreaming

GRANT: It's easier now You're closer now

DAWN: You love me now

GRANT: No

DAWN: You loved me once

GRANT: Close

DAWN: Not now?

GRANT: No

DAWN: How beautiful

GRANT: What do you see?

DAWN: Nothing

GRANT: What is the colour?

DAWN: There is no colour There is no taste No scent No space filled with the thoughts of you There is no lipstick on your cheek or strands of hair left on your bed There are no shadows Silences Whispers Dreams There is nothing here There are no windows There are no railings There is no rain There is no snow There is nothing left to remind me of you There are no records no cigarettes no notes no books no ashtrays no thoughts no letters no drawings or magazines they were burnt you were burnt it was burnt There is nothing but the space of you cold unforgiving restless powerless loving warm There is warmth There is space open wide infinite vertical There is movement forward touching fast fast fast fast faster fast faster fast fast reaching and stopping reaching and stopping and then slowing slowing and slowing moving no corners no angles no stops through and through There is everything

GRANT: How beautiful

DAWN: Don't think of it

GRANT: Why not?

DAWN: Don't

GRANT: Why not?

DAWN: Don't

GRANT: Why not?

DAWN: Not for you

GRANT: It never was

DAWN: No

GRANT: Nor for you

DAWN: Always was

GRANT: No

DAWN: Yes

GRANT: No

DAWN: Yes

GRANT: I don't want it to be



DAWN: It always was

GRANT: Touch me

DAWN: I can't

GRANT: Dawn

DAWN: Yes

GRANT: Dawn?

DAWN: Yes

GRANT: Can you hear me?

DAWN: Yes

GRANT: Do you like it when I call your name?

DAWN: Yes

GRANT: I won't call it again

DAWN: I know

GRANT: I can't

DAWN: I know

GRANT: You've always known

DAWN: Not always

GRANT: Only in silence

DAWN: No

GRANT: Only in silence

DAWN: Only for you

GRANT: Why

DAWN: Tell me why

GRANT: Everything It is everything

DAWN: What is everything?

GRANT: Nothing that can touch it

DAWN: Years

GRANT: Universes

DAWN: So long

*DAWN gets up from her chair and exits stage. GRANT turns to her empty chair and speaks the following to her as if she is still there.*

GRANT: I waited but you wouldn't wake up I left the apartment I wanted to get us coffee and I walked It was snowing It was empty I thought of you I thought of how empty it would all seem without you I couldn't talk to neighbours because I was too busy thinking about when you would wake up so I could feel you touch you I wanted my breath on your neck I thought about your neck particularly the back of your neck I thought about your chest I would write on your chest your name I love your name You would ask me to whisper your name in your ear and I would do it I would only do it for you I walked and thought of this It was cold My feet were cold My hands were tired How long I wondered would she sleep for How long till I could wake her How long will it last I wanted to buy you coffee but it was too soon It would get cold before you would wake I didn't want you to have warm coffee I knew you wouldn't like warm coffee so I waited I walked through the parks I watched hands touching I watched people kissing I watched people embracing and I saw your hands in them I wanted to kiss your hands I wanted to get hot coffee walk back to my apartment and kiss your hands

*LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK*

*THE END*