

Wonderland

by

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Cast of Characters

LEXI:

30's

RONDA:

19

Place

Central Park bench

Time

Day

Setting: The play takes place in Central Park on a bench. It is fall and the leaves are starting to come off their branches, leaving a colorful mix of autumn on the ground. A tree hangs directly over a bench.

At Rise: The play opens with Ronda sitting on the bench staring into her empty cup. Ronda wears a thin jacket that isn't enough to keep her warm. Ripped blue faded jeans and sneakers. Lexi enters dressed in colorful eye catching clothing such as black leather pants, red high heels, and a fake leopard jacket.

Lexi enters.

Lexi places money directly in Ronda's hand.

LEXI: That's twenty-five dollars, four beers and a pack of smokes you now owe me.

RONDA: You keepin' score?

LEXI: Always keepin' score.

RONDA: Thought we had somethin' goin' on.

LEXI: What does that mean?

RONDA: You and me.

LEXI: Don't mean nothin' to me when it comes to tappin' into my assets.

RONDA: Assets? You call a couple a beers and a few smokes assets?

LEXI: Anything I part ways with.

RONDA: I'd give you the shirt off my back and wouldn't expect anything in return.

LEXI: Should give me the sweater on your back, that's mine too.

RONDA: You're mean Lexi.

LEXI: I'm honest.

RONDA: But you're still mean.

LEXI: Sometimes a person's gotta be mean in order to be honest.

RONDA: You could say things nicely and still make your point.

LEXI: Not with you.

RONDA: Why?

LEXI: Cause I know you.

RONDA: Yeah?

LEXI: Yep. Been what...three months?

RONDA: Feels longer.

LEXI: Mm-hmm.

RONDA: Three months...

LEXI: And you been nothin' but a sponge.

RONDA: Cause I ain't got nothin'!

LEXI: Nobody got anythin'. We all die with nothin' anyway, so what's the point. Not like we can take it with us.

RONDA: If that's the case, then why you gettin' all worked up?

LEXI: Because these things matter to a person while they're alive and I'm still alive, ain't I?

RONDA: Vinny wants me back at the club.

LEXI: I said don't do it.

RONDA: (*Shrugs her shoulders.*) Gotta do somethin'.

LEXI: Thought you said you were takin' the bus back home.

RONDA: Not now that the money's in my hands.

LEXI: Then give it back.

RONDA: I'm undecided.

LEXI: If you ain't goin' then give me back my money.

RONDA: I don't know what to do.

LEXI: You're takin' that damn bus!

RONDA: I don't wanna go back home and I don't wanna go back to the club, neither. I can't stay on the street and you won't let me stay at yours, so I'm all over. I got nowhere else to go tonight!

LEXI: Damn it girl...(*Sitting.*) Just damn it...

RONDA: I ain't good at beggin'...I tried.

LEXI: What you mean?

RONDA: On the street..for money.

LEXI: Is that what you were doin' with that cup?

RONDA: Uh-huh.

LEXI: Any scratch?

RONDA: (*Shakes her head no.*)

LEXI: This is why I don't ever like to get involved...knew I shouldn't have with you. Didn't wanna get involved but you just, what can you do, you can't help it sometimes...ahh man.

RONDA: Vinny said he'd never hit me again.

LEXI: Did he?

RONDA: Said he was sorry and that he'd increase my wages if I come back.

LEXI: Bastard.

RONDA: I belived him.

LEXI: Course you did.

RONDA: I mean, I could go back just for a little while, stack up some coin and bounce.

LEXI: Ronda, ya hear yourself? You go back there, you ain't ever gettin' out.

RONDA: Vinny said he loves me.

LEXI: He *what*?

RONDA: Yeah. He told me he loves me.

LEXI: You have no clue. You listen to me real good Ronda. That fella don't love nobody but himself, understand?

RONDA: He cried.

LEXI: *He cried?*

RONDA: Yeah, he cried.

LEXI: He must be smokin' the fine stuff cause I don't believe what I'm hearing. He must need you real bad.

RONDA: He does.

LEXI: Not in the love sense, but in the money sense. Don't you see? He's using you for money. You're young, beautiful and there's a price tag in that.

RONDA: It's just dancin'.

LEXI: Topless.

RONDA: But you do it.

LEXI: You're nothin' like me Ronda. There's a lot you don't know and this scene that you've begun to take your steps in...you need to slow down and get out while you still can.

RONDA: I'm scared.

LEXI: So am I.

RONDA: You are?

LEXI: Uh-huh.

RONDA: What for?

LEXI: It don't matter what for.

RONDA: Tell me.

LEXI: Honey, you got your own problems to tend to. No sense discussin' mine.

RONDA: Maybe I can help you, though.

LEXI: You can't.

RONDA: I could try.

LEXI: You're naïve.

RONDA: Naïve?

LEXI: Green.

RONDA: Green?

LEXI: Young, innocent, inexperienced.

RONDA: Oh.

LEXI: What do you want out of life?

RONDA: All I ever wanted was to run away from home and I did that, so...now, I don't know what.

LEXI: Don't you have some goal, some idea. Give me an idea for goodness sake!

RONDA: An idea?

LEXI: Yes, give me one good lousy idea.

RONDA: Don't have anythin'.

LEXI: Yes, you do.

RONDA: An idea about what?

LEXI: Somethin' to believe in.

RONDA: Haven't thought about it.

LEXI: Now's the time Ronda. If not NOW, WHEN?

RONDA: I think I love Vinny.

LEXI: NO! Oh God, no. See that is the wrong idea!

RONDA: It is?

LEXI: You don't love Vinny. He's charmin', I'll give the lousy creep that, but he ain't good. He's wrong. He's bad. He does bad things.

RONDA: I know he does, but...

LEXI: But, what? Why is there a but?

RONDA: Maybe, I don't know, you said to give you an idea and so I gave you one, alright? I get that you hate Vinny.

LEXI: We all hate Vinny. There ain't a person that likes Vinny.

RONDA: I like him.

LEXI: Stop sayin' that! You don't know shit! I'm tellin' you somethin' and you better listen. He's no good. He will use you, abuse you and remove you. You take one step further, he'll skin you alive. I've seen it happen, seen it happen way too many times. You think you're special? You ain't special. See? That's what he makes you out to believe. He'll kill you with kindness, he'll make you feel good inside, he'll tell you sweet nothin's, so long as he gets what he wants outta you. He's nothin' but lies and cons and much worse. He's done things you should never know about...the worst kind of things. You have to kill him off. Forget he ever existed. Figure out a new plan. You hear me? This is the only way for you. (Beat.) I'll tell you what I'll do...I'll let you stay at mine...but you gotta get a job, anythin' that pays, not so you can contribute, I don't need that but so you can become independent. Anythin' is better than workin' for Vinny, ya hear? You stay with me..we'll figure things out..maybe you could go to school or, or find some passion or, a career, a real career and you can build a whole new world for yourself. I'll give you my time, but you have to promise me Ronda...you have to swear to the high heavens that you will never and I mean never have anything to do with Vinny again...understood?

RONDA: Why you..why -

LEXI: Because you're gonna end up like me. Look at me..take a good damn look at me! ..Is this what you wanna become?

RONDA: (*Shakes her head no.*)

LEXI: You can have a better future. Wanna know what I'm afraid of?

RONDA: What?

LEXI: I'm afraid that too many women such as yourself are gonna get caught up in the web of all this and miss out on their true potential..just like me. (*Beat.*) I don't have much. I don't know much, either, but I know enough to maybe guide you right..enough to push you along some, nudge you were you need nudging, if you're willin' to listen, or else it's pointless for both of us.

RONDA: How do I know you ain't lyin' to me?

LEXI: What makes you think I'm lyin' to you?

RONDA: Everybody does.

LEXI: You'll find in life that there are some people with good intention.

RONDA: So, no Vinny?

LEXI: Not if you want a good shot at life.

RONDA: ...I can stay with you?

LEXI: Yeah, come on...let's get out of here.

END OF PLAY