

SUNSEEKER

Written By

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Network Short Play Festival  
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A TEN MINUTE PLAY

*Ocean all around. Seagulls squawking . Sun on a modest yacht: it's modest because of two brightly patterned beach chairs haphazardly taped to the deck.*

*TED, an older man, is sitting. He wears tall socks, shorts, a shirt with sleeves ripped off.*

*MARY, also an older woman, stands at the bow in a slightly tattered dress.*

MARY

I know what I'll do.

I'll eat you. I'll consume you whole.

You are delicious, you are precious, you are mine.

I'll rip your throat out-

you're welcome.

Yes, thank you. I am beautiful... while I laugh and pop your little boy eyeballs with my fingers-

TED

You are my favorite.

MARY

My sweet.

**TED**

Picture a radio show,

where you and I really break down this violence.

I would ask you:

why are you so beautifully loving with violence?

MARY

Oh and I would say:

thank you, sir.

It's easy when you've been married this long

to a stupid boy.

TED

And then I would whisper into the microphone:  
that's me.

MARY

You're so stupid.  
You think you're funny?

TED

All the time. Most of the time. Statistics show that  
I'm funny most of all the time.

MARY

Shuuuuut upppppp.  
Honestly, what is wrong with you?  
I'll throw you overboard...  
sharks, jellyfish, big-ass whales-

TED

You're tellin' me I can get Geppetto'd?

MARY

Why are you interrupting me?  
It's a stupid thing to do.  
Geppete-what?

TED

You know, Geppetto!  
Pinocchio!  
Getting swallowed by a whale and living inside it!  
Geppetto'd!

MARY

Don't yell.  
Oh no.  
You're the one I'm in love with.  
All this time.  
And you're talking about Pinocchio?!

(MORE)

MARY (cont'd)  
You should've kissed me already.

*Ted carefully stands and makes his way to her.*

*He holds her and looks into her eyes.*

TED  
Hey, beautiful.

MARY  
No.

TED  
Hey, beautiful.

MARY  
No, no, no.

TED  
Hey, beautiful.

MARY  
Yes.

*They kiss and hold each other tight.*

*She shoves her nose into his shoulder and smells his shirt. She does it again.*

TED  
I wish we had champagne.

MARY  
Yeah. That would be nice a champagne send off-

TED  
To our different kind of Titanic.

MARY  
We drank it all years ago.

TED  
Well, I have a surprise.

*He kneels and removes a piece of the deck, inside he pulls out a bottle of champagne.*

MARY  
Champagne...

TED  
It's aged quite nicely...

I hope.

MARY  
I love it, thank you.

I can't believe you did this.

TED  
I have a card for you too.

MARY  
You do?

TED  
Yes, sit down and I'll get us some glasses.

*He gets two glass coke bottles and a plastic funnel. He pops the bottle, pouring the champagne into the bottles with the funnel.*

MARY  
How did you make me a card?

*He taps his head and sits down with her.*

TED  
Close your eyes.

A yellow envelope; on the front is your name in blue block letters, and little swirls surrounding it.

On the back it's sealed with an Orca whale sticker.

MARY  
It's you...

I found the whale my love.

TED  
Open it.

MARY  
I open it.

TED  
On the front of the card are two white seagulls, surrounded by a night sky full of illuminated stars.

MARY

That's beautiful, baby.

I'm opening the card now.

TED

You see?

MARY

Yes, I see.

TED

I wrote:

To my Mary, you are my star.

I have always wondered since I was young,  
who would be the person I love so deeply,  
so intensely,  
so happily.

Will there be seagulls?

That's what you asked me before we got on this boat all  
those years ago. I told you, yes.

There will be seagulls,  
there is love, there is you and me.

My life with you is more than I ever imagined.

This is the place I need to be.

At sea, with you, finally.

We will laugh before.

As promised I won't be first.

We will be laughing together.

At something extremely stupid I said,  
but something you love.

*Mary is softly crying.*

MARY

Can we stop?

TED

Are you okay?

MARY

Yes, I-

TED

We can stop. There's only a little part left.

MARY

I want to save it for a little later.

Toast?

TED

Yes, a toast.

*They raise their champagne cokes.*

MARY

You're with me.

TED

You're with me.

*They clink and drink.*

MARY

Oh?

It's good. It's actually good!

TED

It's so good.

Thank goodness.

MARY

Even if it was flat, sour, and gross-

it would be just as meaningful...

buuuut it wouldn't be as fun.

*She winks at him.*

*He does a double-take. Looking around himself.*

TED

Oh, me?

Me?

Me.

Hello.

*He extends his hand out to shake.*

MARY

Oh, god. Why did I marry you?

Shake my arm please.

*He takes her hand and shakes it vigorously moving her whole arm.*

*She laughs.*

*He examines her arm.*

TED

Well.

That still works just fine.

It's remarkable!

*He does it again and she laughs.*

MARY

One more time, please.

*He does.*

*She lets out a long loud sigh.*

TED

Better?

MARY

I'm gonna kill you.

TED

How so?

MARY

Candlestick to the eye. I'll break your knees with a wrench. I'll tie you up with rope and a dumbbell to sink you to the ocean floor. I'll cut your little fingers off with a knife. I'll hit your stupid head with a lead pipe. I'll shoot you with a revolver,

six times.

TED  
Jeez, baby.

MARY  
Sorry.

I had to.

TED  
I know.

MARY  
You're such a stupid boy,  
with boy parts, and you do boy things.  
I have to.

TED  
How about you send  
the Monks of the Quivering Palm to kill me.

MARY  
Who?

TED  
Some say they killed Bruce Lee.

MARY  
Of course they said.  
We all said it.  
Well-  
whose to say I haven't already?

TED  
Nobody but the fishes.  
I had THE dream last night.

MARY  
It's been so long.  
Why didn't you say anything?

TED  
I've been thinking about it.

MARY

You're under the water?

TED

I was chewing on briny wet water,  
my teeth grinding.

I'm sweating in the deep sea.

I kept looking for one fish,

to talk to me,

and then

to eat me whole.

MARY

It sounds like one of your dumb jokes,

but I know how this dream impacts you.

Are you okay?

TED

I think it was because of today.

My dreams knew.

I love you.

MARY

I love you. I don't ever want to be without you.

TED

You won't ever have to.

I promised you.

Hm.

Have I ever told you-

have I ever told you what I did the night before we got  
on the boat?

MARY

Uh-

TED

I haven't.

(MORE)

TED (cont'd)

I was really scared and nervous about leaving everything behind.

The risk.

The possibility.

I was wearing swim trunks because I had packed the clothes I wanted and threw out the rest.

I wore a very handsome combo of sandals and socks.

I went to the Rite Aid.

I got a pint of Ben & Jerry's Peanut Butter Cup and a bag of Cool Ranch Doritos.

I was at self-checkout and very self-conscious.

The security guard saw me and very loudly asked:

You have someone pregnant at home?!

Nope, I said.

It's just me.

*Mary just looks at him and chuckles.*

MARY

Did this turn into a confessional all of a sudden?

TED

It was embarrassing.

And it's the one thing I never told you.

MARY

That's the one thing you never told me?

And you wanted to tell me.

Before I killed you

with a walking stick

or fire-poker kind of thing.

TED  
Yeah, I realize now that sounded kind of stupid.

MARY  
An axe.  
I'll use an axe.  
It will be VERY dramatic...  
I want to finish reading your card now.  
Okay?

TED  
You're with me.

MARY  
You're with me.  
*She closes her eyes.*

TED  
Our laughter is so precious to me.  
Thank you for sharing a life with me.  
You are my home,  
the place I always knew I needed to be,  
I am so proud of our life and who you are.  
You are always my Star.  
Love, your Sweet.  
There is a little blue heart drawn next to my name.  
The kind of bright-bold-blue you know as me.  
*She is softly crying again.*

MARY  
You're so stupid.  
I love you so much.  
You can't die before me.  
You can't die first.

TED

I know.

MARY

But I still get to kill you.

Because you're stupid.

And you think you're funny.

It's only fair.

*She laughs a little.*

*He holds her face and brings her forehead to his.*

TED

Toosh.

MARY

What?

TED

Toosh.

MARY

What in the world are you saying?

TED

Toosh- you got me.

MARY

Toosh... touché?!

TED

Yeah, toosh.

*Mary snorts.*

MARY

You silly, man.

You're such a dork.

I'm ready, my love.

*He pulls out an orange prescription bottle and opens it. He pours out pills onto her hand.*

TED

I love you.

*She kisses his cheek.*

*With a swig of champagne coke, she swallows the pills in one gulp.*

MARY

I love you.

You can't die first.

*He takes pills into his own palm. She takes his hand and moves it to his face. She gives him a swig of her champagne coke. He swallows.*

TED

There, you've killed me.

MARY

Don't you dare die first.

I'll be SO mad.

TED

I promise, my Star.

MARY

Don't you dare.

I'll kill you again if you die first.

*They laugh together. **Black.***