

Absolutely Somewhere

By Nora Sørensen Casey

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Characters:

JEN - 20s-30s, she doesn't like yoga but people assume she does because she just looks like she would

JOHN - 20s-30s, he's fallen on hard times and now he feels like Jesus wandering the desert

CATHY - 20s-30s, people think she's mean but actually she's just not overly friendly

ERIC - 20s-30s, he's trying to be considerate but he's really bad at it.

Setting

This play was originally written for the Garden of Hope in Brooklyn, which was a long narrow garden, making the parallels with the Subway relatively organic.

However, it can be performed in any garden.

ABSOLUTELY SOMEWHERE

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EYE'S PEELED

*JEN in the garden, two weeks ago
SHE has flyers of her missing dog*

JEN

Hello, hello

My dog is missing, can you help me?

Sorry, you look busy

Or expectant, but real fast if you could

Here, take a flyer

You, have a flyer

Have you seen this dog?

Even if you're not sure, it maybe was another dog, it may have been this one, just let me know

Went missing, um, Monday, so yesterday, so, probably gonna turn up any minute

Probably, but

Eyes peeled?

And call me – my number's on the flyer, right there – Jen, that's me, yup, thanks

Thanks guys!

Fingers crossed.

LOOK AT ME

ERIC and JOHN on the subway, 7 days ago

JOHN

Ladies and gentlemen, just a moment of your time, please just a moment of your time

I know you're busy, you have places to go this morning but

I've recently lost my job

I'm trying to stay on my feet, on my own two legs but without a job to stand on I'm drowning and so I'm thrown upon the mercy of my fellow human beings

Ladies and gentlemen and so I'm asking you if you could

to Eric

Look at me

pause

Look at me

Look at me

Look at me

Look at me
Look at me

ERIC
Sir

JOHN
Do you see me?
ERIC looks away
Look at me

ERIC
Sir, you gotta leave me—

JOHN
Don't leave me alone
I'm submerged

ERIC
I'm sorry about your job

JOHN
Are you?

ERIC
Sure

JOHN
My fellow beings
I know you are heading to your jobs and your families and your plans and obligations and I am not but

ERIC goes to get off the train

ERIC
Excuse me

JOHN
Ladies and gentlemen
We're in this together

HOME OFFICE

CATHY at ERIC's home office, two weeks ago

ERIC

Is it cold in here? I think I'm cold

CATHY

I'm fine

I sent you the campaign report and summary, which I think overall was very successful, although people didn't seem to latch onto the hashtag "brooklandia"

ERIC

I thought it was cute

CATHY

Sure

But irrelevant

Here's the report

ERIC

Great, thanks

CATHY

And so I also sent you a test message of the next campaign
I thought we could test the hashtag "BedBike"

ERIC

That's not funny

CATHY

No, it's not

ERIC

Okay, great, thanks

God you sure? It's so hot outside but I think it might be too cold in here

I get a crink in my neck, sometimes, when it's too cold

Or too hot

I'm gonna change the AC

He does

CATHY

It's your office

ERIC

Great

CATHY

What should I get started on?

ERIC
Well I've been thinking
 re. the AC
Is that better?

CATHY
I'm fine—

ERIC
I HATE it, you know, what a waste of energy
I like the windows open, I would run fans but my wife thinks that it's ineffectual—

CATHY
The AC is nice

ERIC
Yeah? Okay.
Right, I was gonna say that we should stop sleeping together
 ...
Just a thought I had

CATHY
Are you firing me?

ERIC
What? No.
I don't pay you to have sex with me

CATHY
Right
But
I am your employee

ERIC
No, that's different, entirely
I just think we should stop having sex

CATHY
Well it's pretty unprofessional to bring that up here, don't you think?

ERIC
What?

CATHY

We're in your OFFICE, you can't just bring up that fact that we're sleeping together while we're at work
We're tracking tweets for god's sake this is SERIOUS business

ERIC
What which is? The sleeping or

CATHY
The tweeting. It's money. Practically.
My point is we're at work

ERIC
The company's just me
And you, and you're just consulting

CATHY
But while we're here

ERIC
And it is a home office
So really I brought it up when we're at home

CATHY
GOD I've been trying so hard to keep this professional
Even when it was totally unprofessional and now you just

ERIC
Well where else—

CATHY
I'm clocking out – okay – this is
We're not working anymore
If you want to talk about fucking let's go to the bedroom, or at least the kitchen

She goes towards the bedroom

ERIC
Jesus Christ
Okay we'll go to the bedroom

CATHY
Jesus Christ YOU and your home office
Unless you wanna pay me for time I spend being broken up with?

ERIC
No

Oh wait should we?
Do you want to talk about the press release that Meg sent, real quick?

CATHY
Did we not talk about that?
Umm, I guess, no
No, I sort of want to figure out that other thing you just brought up, but let me see

ERIC
Sorry

CATHY
Just a sec
She checks her phone calendar
So we weren't planning to have a final draft of the release until the end of this week, so why don't we just come back to that on Wednesday, and right now just deal with the other thing, the sex us thing?

ERIC
Yeah okay
Just wanted to check

CATHY
No, absolutely

He follows her
They are in the bedroom

CATHY
So what the fuck?

ERIC
I just don't think that we should be sleeping together anymore.
re. the room
Is this better?

CATHY
Yes this is better
I can be myself here
Why not?

ERIC
Well I have to say that when we first started working together I wasn't really thinking, you know
I wasn't totally planning to do this

In fact, when I hired you I said to myself: “look Eric, you can hire the gorgeous female media consultant who lives down the block, but only if you don’t bang her” you know?

And then

Pssh

Where did that go?

CATHY

Well it wasn’t a part of my business model either

ERIC

No, no, of course not

CATHY

I just feel like we have some – chemistry?

ERIC

It’s been fun

CATHY

Fun. Okay.

ERIC

Even so

CATHY

Did your wife find out?

...

Or, sorry

Because “Bikes of Bedford” Eric has a wife, but once we’re sleeping together I never hear about her, all of a sudden her photo isn’t on the nightstand and

ERIC

You noticed?

CATHY

Of course I noticed, you pretending—

ERIC

You know, this is the bedroom I share with her, so I don’t think I’ve exactly been pretending—

CATHY

You share it with me too

ERIC
I'm not sharing

CATHY
What?

ERIC
It's my house
You're a visitor here it's not
This is not your bedroom
This is my bedroom with my wife that you're just IN sometimes

CATHY
That's sharing
Pretty much by definition

ERIC
You're not entitled

CATHY
I never thought *entitled*
But it's a pattern
When you start having sex with me all the time
And texting me trivial details about your day
And sending me videos of panda bears
I don't think I'm being *entitled* if I think maybe you actually care about me

ERIC
I don't —

CATHY
You don't care about me?

ERIC
It makes me happy to see you happy, and that makes it hard to resist doing all those things that make you happy
but
ah
We need to stop sleeping together
That's all
I think you're smart and funny and beautiful and all that... anyway
I think you're a great media consultant
although I don't like the hashtag "BedBike" it's boring and sounds like BedBugs which has always been a marketing concern of mine
Um, so, sorry, to say that
But I think that's everything for today so maybe you should go now?

I'll see you Wednesday, okay Cathy?
Thanks
Thanks for everything

NEIGHBORS

JEN at CATHY's house, 10 days ago

JEN
Runaway dog! Dog missing! Very loved dog! Love that dog! Now it's gone!

CATHY
ummm

JEN
Have a flyer! Sorry, I know it's weird to knock, but
I was gonna post on facebook,
I mean I did post on facebook but I realized that no one I went to high school with in
Minnesota is going to see my dog
My NEIGHBORS, however, might have seen the dog

...
Have you?

CATHY
No

JEN
Have a flyer!

CATHY
What kind of dog is it?

JEN
It's on the flyer!

CATHY
I asked you a direct question

JEN
Okay. It's a cocker spaniel-poodle
They're called cockadoodles
This one is called Spots

CATHY
I'm Cathy

JEN

Jen

The dog isn't spotted. I just let my nephew name it.

He knew Spots was a dog name, but he didn't fully understand why.

CATHY

SPOTS!

JEN

I tried that already

CATHY

So then what should I do?

JEN

Just, if you see it

Try not to let it get hit by a car

CATHY

I would've done that anyway

JEN

Thanks

And you can call me

It's on the flyer

CATHY

What happened? Did he run away?

JEN

Yes.

CATHY

Oh.

JEN

You been in the neighborhood long?

CATHY

Yes.

JEN

Me too.

Nice to meet you.