

The Tent

written by

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THE TENT

The stage is dark, a TENT is situated CS. A light within the TENT FADES UP and the audience can see two characters silhouettes on the tent wall.

KEVIN and CHERYL (23) speak from inside the tent.

From the silhouettes movement it looks like KEVIN'S penis is erect towards CHERYL. KEVIN appears to be masturbating.

CHERYL:

Careful where you put that thing. Why is it taking so long?

KEVIN:

I don't know.

CHERYL:

I can do it for you?

KEVIN:

No it's okay, I want to do it for you.

CHERYL:

Okay.

KEVIN:

I can feel it.

CHERYL:

You sure.

KEVIN:

Yeah it's coming.

CHERYL:

Okay, but be careful where you point it.

KEVIN:

I will. Here it comes.

Pause.

KEVIN: (CONT'D)

Here it comes...

SFX Seagul noise.

KEVIN: (CONT'D)

That seagul is really putting me off.

CHERYL:

Is it coming or not?

We see a source of liquid fire at CHERYL's face.

CHERYL: (CONT'D)

My eye!

KEVIN:

Aw fuck I'm sorry.

CHERYL:

I told you to be careful.

KEVIN:

It's fine, I got it didn't I?

CHERYL:

It stings!

KEVIN:

I'm sorry.

CHERYL:

I'm covered.

KEVIN:

Well, you asked for it.

CHERYL:

I didn't think there would be so much.

KEVIN:

Well, I don't think any of us thought that. Just rub it in it's good for your skin.

CHERYL:

I need to get out of here. The smell is too much.

*CHERYL pushes KEVIN aside and leaves the tent.
ENTERING the stage in full view of the audience.*

SFX of Seagul.

CHERYL's face is covered with a white substance. She is trying to get it out her eyes.

KEVIN follows after her holding a bottle of sunscreen.

KEVIN:

You were going to put sun cream on your face anyway so It's not that big of a deal.

CHERYL:

It is a big deal Kevin! For two reasons. One, It is fucking stinging my eyes and two: We need to make this last, we don't want to die of heatstroke out here, or skin cancer.

KEVIN:

We aren't getting skin cancer up here don't worry.

CHERYL:

It's roasting! We are literally being cooked alive in this heat. It's Global warming gone mad!

KEVIN:

It's not that bad, our sun is different from Spain sun so our skin will be fine.

CHERYL:

What the fuck are you on about? Different sun? Are you daft.

KEVIN:

I'm not daft. Look up, it's cloudier than a Vegans vaping cafe.

CHERYL:

But you still get burned through the clouds.

KEVIN:

Don't be stupid.

CHERYL:

You do! The UV rays come through the clouds.

KEVIN:

That's shite, I guess you can get sunburn through water too.

CHERYL:

Yes!

KEVIN:

Nah. I don't think so, I'd know.

CHERYL:

And snow.

KEVIN:

Okay now you are taking the piss.

SFX of Seagul.

KEVIN: (CONT'D)

I wish that seagull would get skin cancer.

CHERYL:

How you have managed to survive this pandemic is beyond me. I hope you feel guilty, because someone with an actual brain could have taken your place.

KEVIN:

Well that's a bit on the harsh side. Thanks for that. Do you know what, I'll just go swim back down to Queen Street, take my rightful place as a dead body and you can find a new man to populate the earth with.

CHERYL:

Excuse me?

KEVIN:

What?

CHERYL:

There will be no populating on this munroe thank you very much.

KEVIN:

You can't be serious?

CHERYL:

Your populating popper can stay away from my population palace.

KEVIN:

Surely we need to think about the greater good here.

CHERYL:

I am. I like having the ability to look at your face and not have a clue what your cum face looks like.

KEVIN:

What about saving the Glaswegian genes?

CHERYL:

I'm from Paisley.

KEVIN:

It's close enough! You can't close your mind off to it completely. It's our natural instinct to populate.

CHERYL:

It's not my instinct.

KEVIN:

That can't be true.

CHERYL:

It's not my instinct to do it with you.

KEVIN:

You're being serious?

CHERYL:

How could you tell?

KEVIN:

Fine. Be that way, I know you'll change your mind.

CHERYL:

No chance.

KEVIN:

Okay.

CHERYL:

I'm serious Kevin.

KEVIN:

Okay.

CHERYL:

Kevin I'm serious.

KEVIN:

Yup.

CHERYL:

Don't do that.

KEVIN:

Do what?

CHERYL:

Fucking acting like you know I'm going to change my mind.

KEVIN:

Okay.

CHERYL:

I'm not shagging you, ever. You and I will never have sex.
God your so immature.

KEVIN:

Okay.

CHERYL:

I hate you.

KEVIN:

Cheryl, I know you never liked me and frankly I have no idea why. But we are stuck here together, shagging or not we have to put up with each other. So don't you think it would be a good idea for us to get on with each other, rather than, you making an enemy with the last man alive because you are just a conceded little bitch.

CHERYL:

I think some of that was very strong but yes I agree. I'm sorry.

KEVIN:

Thank you!

CHERYL:

So whats the plan for today?

KEVIN takes out a map from his pocket.

KEVIN:

Okay, so if we walk about twelve kilometers North, staying as close to the peak as possible, we will walk past Luss and get to the Stream near Inverbeg.

CHERYL:

Why are we going there?

KEVIN:

Because it's away from major cities but close to towns so we might see someone. Also, its a great place to camp because its next to fresh running water.

CHERYL:

Couldn't we just go south and get fish and chips from Helensburgh?

KEVIN:

Now who is the immature one?

CHERYL:

How do we know for certain that the pandemic didn't hit Helenburgh?

KEVIN:

Because its connected to Glasgow by the train so it won't be safe.

CHERYL:

You don't know that.

KEVIN:

I do.

SFX of Seagul.

KEVIN tries to fold up the map but its difficult. Once the map is folded, KEVIN puts it in his pocket and takes out a compass.

KEVIN: (CONT'D)

Okay, pack your shit up we leave in five minutes.

CHERYL:

We're going to Helensburgh?!

KEVIN:
No.

CHERYL:
You misheard me, we are going to Helensburgh.

KEVIN:
Nope. We are going North.

CHERYL:
South!

KEVIN:
Well I'm going North, you can go South but goodluck without my compass.

Pause.

CHERYL:
Give me that fucking compass!

CHERYL tries to steal the compass off of KEVIN. KEVIN holds on to it. The fight over it until the compass eventually drops and breaks.

KEVIN:
No!

CHERYL:
Is it-

KEVIN:
No.

CHERYL:
Is it broken.

KEVIN:
Yes.

CHERYL:
Fuck. Your such a fucking idiot.

Pause.

KEVIN:
Excuse me? I'm the fucking idiot. I'm the one that got us up here safe in the first place. I found you walking about the trossachs wondering how the fuck you got there. You would be dead without me hun, because I am the navigator. But you just broke the fucking Compass!

CHERYL:
We've got the map.

KEVIN:

The map is completely useless without the compass! Sure we could probably wing it and walk in the right direction, but if we get turned around even once! Then we could be walking miles in the wrong direction. To somewhere with no water, or food or shelter! Can you see why that is a problem?

CHERYL:

I guess.

KEVIN:

You guess?!

CHERYL:

Yes okay, I'm sorry!

CHERYL is very upset by the circumstances and sits in a heap on the floor. KEVIN calms his self down and goes over to sit next to CHERYL.

KEVIN:

Hey, I'm sorry okay, I know it was an accident.

CHERYL:

I've just fucked everything haven't I?

KEVIN:

Maybe a little bit. But- it doesn't matter. We will figure it out we always do.

CHERYL:

But how?

KEVIN:

We are smart, we can do anything.

CHERYL:

Your smart, me not so much.

KEVIN:

Shut up! Look at you. You survived! How many people can say that?

CHERYL:

Not a lot.

KEVIN:

Because?

CHERYL:

Because everyone died.

KEVIN:

Because everyone died, exactly. But not you. Everyone died, maybe everyone in the world, men, women, children, cats and dogs probably, everything on earth has died, except me and you, isn't that great.

CHERYL:

Yeah.

KEVIN:

See, so its very much a glass half full situation now isn't it.

CHERYL:

Yeah, I'm not that bad, It's not that bad.

KEVIN:

Yeah, all we need is a new plan. Why don't we try for some fish and chips in Helensburgh?

CHERYL:

Really?

KEVIN:

Yeah, why not?

CHERYL:

Nah it's okay.

KEVIN:

You sure?

CHERYL:

Yeah, we might get lost, or have radiation poisoning or worse and get attacked by the mentalcases that might be living their if it isn't safe.

KEVIN:

It's worth a shot though, no?

CHERYL:

Nah.

Pause.

CHERYL: (CONT'D)

We could stay here?

KEVIN:

But you hate it.

CHERYL:

I mean I don't really.

KEVIN:

Well thats a surprise.

CHERYL:

I don't hate it, we have food and shelter and water, and you aren't that bad.

KEVIN:

Fuck off!

CHERYL:

What!

KEVIN:

You can't stand me.

CHERYL:

I can't stand the snoring, the shite patter and teh sarcasm. But you aren't that bad, and you've kept me alive so I owe you one.

KEVIN:

One?

CHERYL:

I'm trying to be nice!

KEVIN:

That's the sarcasm.

CHERYL:

Yes it is.

KEVIN:

I'll work on it.

Pause.

KEVIN stands up

KEVIN: (CONT'D)

Well as much as you like living here, we still need to go north.

CHERYL:

But what if we get lost, we don't have the compass.

KEVIN:

I'm going to pull some viking shit and make our own compass.

CHERYL:

How can you do that?

KEVIN:

Watch.

KEVIN goes into the tent and brings out a bottle of water and a bowl.

KEVIN: (CONT'D)

If I put this bowl down and fill it with water, then use this bit of cork and a little bit of wire. We have- a compass.

KEVIN stands proudly over his make-shift compass.

CHERYL:

That's amazing! Oh my god!

CHERYL hugs KEVIN.

CHERYL: (CONT'D)

Where did you get the wire?

KEVIN:

From one of your bra's.

CHERYL:

My what!?

KEVIN:

One of your bra's. It had to be real metal so I used the red one.

CHERYL:

My head bra! You could have asked me first.

KEVIN:

Well i didn't think you'd mind, I thought you'd be alright taking one for the team, for a change.

CHERYL:

Why do you have to say it like that? For fuck sake your such a snidey person. You can't say things without mentioning other peoples faults compared to your successess.

SFX of Seagul.

CHERYL: (CONT'D)

I'm going to kill that seagull. No don't look for the seagull look at me. Without all the snideyness and high opinion of yourself people would actually be able to endure your company. But I can only imagine that, as I have almost never seen you act in any other way than a complete dick. Well done on making the compass, seriously good for you. But if we find other people over in Inverbeg then I swear to god I am going wherever they are going, if where they are going is the opposite of you, I hope you understand that.

KEVIN:

I understand.

KEVIN stands up and goes towards the tent.

CHERYL:

Where are you going now?

KEVIN:

To sleep.

CHERYL:

But we are leaving in five minutes.

KEVIN:

It's too hot to walk, and If we walk at night, it means we might be able to see campfires from other groups when we are walking to Inverbeg.

KEVIN goes into the tent and brings out a wooden spoon painted like a princess.

KEVIN: (CONT'D)

I made this for you.

KEVIN puts the wooden spoon down so it faces CHERYL and goes into the tent to sleep.

Pause as CHERYL tries to avoid the stair of the wooden spoon.

CHERYL:

Stop looking at me.

Pause.

CHERYL: (CONT'D)

Stop it.

Pause.

CHERYL: (CONT'D)

Don't say it.

Pause.

CHERYL: (CONT'D)

It wasn't harsh okay, it was honest, and honesty is the best policy. So what if I hurt his feelings, I've said worse before he'll get over it. I know assuming is never good but- no. No what i said is still true. It is. It is! I'm leaving him as soon as I get the chance. I am. I am! Awk you don't know anything your just a fucking spoon.

SFX of Seagul.

CHERYL: (CONT'D)
Those fucking seaguls! Well actually its just one seagul...

SFX of Seagul repeats unnaturally.

CHERYL: (CONT'D)
Wait a minute!?

KEVIN peers out from the tent.

KEVIN:
Do you hear that?

CHERYL:
Yes! It's a phone.

KEVIN and CHERYL scream with delight and try to find the source of the noise. They lift up a peice of earth and find a bluetooth speaker.

CHERYL: (CONT'D)
Fuck it's just a speaker.

KEVIN:
It's blutooth so it means a phone is near by! And it has signal and charge!

CHERYL:
What if someone's using it?

KEVIN:
The speaker has a redial button. We could call someone from it.

CHERYL stops KEVIN from clicking the redial button.

CHERYL:
Wait!

KEVIN:
What? I thought this is what you wanted. You can go with these people when they find us.

CHERYL:
But what if?

KEVIN:
What if what?

CHERYL:
What if they are infected? Or crazy?

KEVIN:

Fuck. I almost didn't think of that. But if they are, and this is bluetooth. Then they're close. It's already to late.

CHERYL:

Fingers crossed they're nice.

KEVIN:

Yup.

BLACK OUT.