

# **WHAT WE DESERVE**

**By  
David Rigano**

## WHAT WE DESERVE

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## WHAT WE DESERVE

### **CHARACTERS**

Will – male, mid-20s – shy, awkward, trying to be what he thinks he needs to be for other people, despite the effect that has on who he is.

Marcy – female, mid-30s – dominant, but often putting up a front to keep others from getting to the part of her that they could hurt.

James – male, early 30s – stuck between what he wants and what he has; trying—and failing—to keep both with little concern for others involved.

Sally – female, late 20s – used to a carefree lifestyle but now trying to get used to caring, as inconvenient as that is proving.

Sam – male, mid-30s – involuntarily stuck in something he’s been trying to get out of, though prone to falling into the same patterns.

Anne – female, early 30s – trying to assert herself but scared of the result; in need of something that can match her speed.

### **NOTE**

The pacing is very important. For the most part it should move at a clip so that the beats and pauses written in allow breaks and shifts in the action. In order for the final scene, which should shift to a much more tentative pace, to land properly, the rest of the scenes need to be played almost as if the characters aren’t listening to each other.

Any time a line of dialogue ends with an ellipsis (...) the character trails off without being cut off.

Any time a line of dialogue ends with a dash (—) the character is cut off.

Any time there is a slash (/) in the dialogue, that is where the next piece of dialogue overlaps.

Any time a piece of dialogue is in [brackets] that is thought, but not said aloud.

A note on the “Minnie Driver” of it all: feel free to replace references to Minnie Driver with another celebrity, particularly as it applies to the race of the actor playing Marcy and especially if the actor playing Marcy does actually resemble a celebrity. However, don’t feel the need to find a famous actor that your Marcy resembles. Marcy has a tenuous attachment to the truth, and will compare herself to whatever celebrity suits her need in a given moment.

## WHAT WE DESERVE

*What We Deserve* was workshopped in a staged reading at The Write-Offs in 2019 produced by Russell Jordan Poole and Tim Love, casting by David O'Hara. The reading was directed by Alison Morooney. The cast was as follows.

Will ..... Brandon Dion Gregory  
Marcy ..... Rori Nogue  
James ..... Neil Vincent Smith  
Sally ..... Kelsea Baker  
Sam ..... Francisco Arcila  
Anne ..... Nazli Sapkaya

I have to acknowledge the help that I got in bringing this play from its origin as a one-act called *Chance Meetings*, to the full-length in your hands.

Starting with Sara Lukasiewicz, Tony Daussat, Lauren Steffany, Adrien Saunders, and Alicia Becker who brought the characters to life in its original form and showed me the possibility of what else I could do with them.

Then to Catie Carlisle, Hayley St. James, Emily Elyse Everett, Russell Jordan Poole, and Colby J. Herschel who read new and rewritten scenes over and over and over as it transformed into the play it is now.

Everyone involved the Write-Offs workshop who put the play on its feet for the first time in over ten years.

To Kim Wilpon, Christina Cervenka, Jorge Baranco, Gabriella Greco, John Campione, Allison Bahmer, and Matthew McLachlan for giving me feedback as I prepared this for publication.

Finally, my family who has always supported me and pushed me, particularly my mother Rita Rigano, who has loved this play from its first draft.

You have all been instrumental and invaluable in making this play (and this publication) what it is. I thank you.

~David

WHAT WE DESERVE

# WHAT WE DESERVE

**PART I:  
What We Want**

*A park.*

**SCENE 1  
Will and Marcy**

*MARCY and WILL sit at opposite sides of the stage from each other. Will is looking intently at Marcy. Marcy is not looking at Will. Whenever Marcy turns in Will's direction, he quickly turns away or tries to appear as though he was looking past her. She pretends not to notice. Finally, when Marcy decides that he is suitable prey she speaks to Will.*

**MARCY.** Minnie Driver.

**WILL.** *(startled)* What?

**MARCY.** That's who I look like.

**WILL.** Oh.

**MARCY.** You were wondering who it is I look like.

**WILL.** Oh.

**MARCY.** Trying to figure out who it was.

**WILL.** Oh. Yes.

**MARCY.** I'm not Minnie Driver.

**WILL.** Oh.

**MARCY.** I just look like her.

**WILL.** Oh.

**MARCY.** That's what everyone tells me.

**WILL.** Ah.

**MARCY.** At least, that's what everyone tells me.

**WILL.** Well, I...

**MARCY.** Yes?

## WHAT WE DESERVE

**WILL.** I don't...

**MARCY.** Do people tell you anything?

**WILL.** I... things.

**MARCY.** What kind of things?

**WILL.** (*very uneasy*) ... things...

**MARCY.** Things.

**WILL.** Things.

**MARCY.** People say things.

**WILL.** People... people tell me, like—

**MARCY.** Do people tell you “yes” when they mean “no”? Do people tell you “soon” when they mean “never”? Do people tell you “of course” when they mean “what gave you the idea that this was still happening when I tell you to leave me alone I want you to respect that”?

**WILL.** Not...

**MARCY.** People say things... what's your name?

**WILL.** (*extending his hand*) I'm Will.

**MARCY.** (*not acknowledging his hand*) People will say things, Will, because they think it's what you want to hear. Would you ever tell me what I want to hear?

**WILL.** N... y... what do you [want to hear?]

**MARCY.** There was a man in LA. There are lots of men in LA, actually. Have you ever been there? There are lots of men in LA. But there was a man in LA who ate the exact same meals every day. But not always in the same order. Eggs and waffles, chicken salad sandwich, and a steak with fries. It was so difficult, sometimes, to get a steak and fries at 7 in the morning. As a result, he learned to make a mean steak and fries. Do you see where I'm going with this? (*pause*) It takes work sometimes but you don't have to do things in the same order all the time. If you try hard enough you can do things however you want.

**WILL.** Right.

**MARCY.** (*slowly, deliberately*) However you want.

**WILL.** Right? (*Beat.*)

**MARCY.** Terrible actress.

**WILL.** What?

**MARCY.** Minnie Driver.

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**WILL.** Oh.

**MARCY.** I'm not.

**WILL.** Oh?

**MARCY.** A terrible actress. I'm not.

**WILL.** Oh.

**MARCY.** At least... *(She waits for him to finish her sentence. He can't.)*

**WILL.** At... at least?

**MARCY.** *(only slightly disappointed in him)* At least, that's what everyone tells me. *(Pause.)* You waiting for someone?

**WILL.** Huh?

**MARCY.** I asked if you were waiting for someone.

**WILL.** Oh... no, I'm just sitting. My friend was—

**MARCY.** I was waiting, but I've given up.

**WILL.** Oh?

**MARCY.** Because he's not going to show up.

**WILL.** Well... how do you know?

**MARCY.** People tell you things...

**WILL.** Oh.

**MARCY.** I still wait, but I don't expect him to come, so I suppose I'm not really waiting.

**WILL.** Just sitting.

**MARCY.** I beg your pardon?

**WILL.** Just sitting. Like me. Just sitting.

**MARCY.** I suppose so. *(Pause.)* Awful thing, you know?

**WILL.** Waiting?

**MARCY.** What?

**WILL.** Waiting. Well, not waiting. Is... an awful thing?

**MARCY.** No.

**WILL.** No?

**MARCY.** To be an actress and look like a terrible actress.

**WILL.** Oh. *(pause)* I mean, I can imagine. *(pause)* So, you're an actress?

**MARCY.** Not that it makes a difference.

**WILL.** No?

**MARCY.** Not when you're ten times as talented as him and why should you want him anyway, but what's it worth without him?

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**WILL.** Do you... are you... [okay]?

**MARCY.** I'm sorry. Rambling. I talk too soon. Get very personal. *(beat)*  
Very. Personal.

**WILL.** That... I can [tell]... *(pause)* Do you want to sit over here?  
*(Pause.)*

**MARCY.** Sure. *(She crosses to Will and sits next to him. Pause.)* So?

**WILL.** What? Oh... so...

**MARCY.** What did you want to talk about?

**WILL.** What? I mean, I—I didn't.

**MARCY.** Didn't what?

**WILL.** Want to talk.

**MARCY.** Oh?

**WILL.** Well, I don't mean to say I didn't want to, I just—

**MARCY.** Why did you ask me over here?

**WILL.** I wanted to talk, but I didn't want to talk about something.

**MARCY.** You wanted to talk about nothing?

**WILL.** Well, I should have said, "Something in particular."

**MARCY.** But you wanted to talk?

**WILL.** I—yes, well, I—it seemed like you wanted to talk, and it just  
seemed like it would be easier. If we were closer.

**MARCY.** Ah. *(pause)* So, what did I want to talk about?

**WILL.** Uh... Minnie Driver?

**MARCY.** Terrible actress.

**WILL.** Yes. But you're not.

**MARCY.** Not Minnie Driver or not a terrible actress?

**WILL.** Both. Well, neither.

**MARCY.** *(almost to herself)* Everyone says... *(Will watches her and begins  
to gain a little confidence.)*

**WILL.** Everyone wants to be right, but few people usually are, don't you  
find that? Not that everyone is wrong. Sometimes some people are right.  
Just that everyone wants to be right.

**MARCY.** You're too kind. I think.

**WILL.** *(still philosophizing)* Everyone wants—

**MARCY.** *(ramping up her flirtation)* Everyone wants to have fun.

**WILL.** Ummm...

## WHAT WE DESERVE

**MARCY.** And everyone deserves to have fun, right?

**WILL.** Ummm...?

**MARCY.** Every. Good. Boy. Deserves. Fun.

**WILL.** Is that [true]...?

**MARCY.** Piano lessons when I was a kid. That's all that stuck. Because... don't good girls deserve fun, too?

**WILL.** I guess...

**MARCY.** But we don't always get to. *(Marcy has completely baffled Will, who searches back through the conversation for something to grasp onto.)*

**WILL.** What have you been in?

**MARCY.** What?

**WILL.** You said you're an actress. So... movies? Plays? *(Marcy thinks about it for a moment.)*

**MARCY.** Life. *(At this what little remaining confidence Will had mustered slips.)*

**WILL.** Oh.

**MARCY.** What about you?

**WILL.** Oh, I'm not... I don't [act]—

**MARCY.** *(this is a test)* I meant your life. What goes on in your life?

**WILL.** ... things... *(Marcy is disappointed that, once again, she needs to steer the conversation.)*

**MARCY.** Things. *(beat)* What do you want?

**WILL.** What everyone [wants]...

**MARCY.** Things?

**WILL.** I guess.

**MARCY.** Any things in particular? *(Will is unable to respond, so Marcy takes over completely)* A really good actress—a really not terrible actress—is always... *(she searches for the word)* ... on.

**WILL.** On?

**MARCY.** *(very on)* On. I'm on right now. Very on.

**WILL.** Wow.

**MARCY.** Do you think Minnie Driver is on right now?

**WILL.** I... couldn't...

**MARCY.** She's not. Terrible actress.

**WILL.** Who's a good actress?

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**MARCY.** (*thinking*) Well... me.

**WILL.** Well, right, I know, I just—

**MARCY.** How do you know?

**WILL.** What?

**MARCY.** How do you know I'm any good?

**WILL.** Well, because you [told me]... you're so... on.

**MARCY.** I am. Very. But it takes more than that, of course.

**WILL.** Yes...

**MARCY.** It takes... determination. Do I seem determined to you?

**WILL.** I... think...

**MARCY.** You don't just get to call yourself an actress because you're "on" and then expect to make it.

**WILL.** No.

**MARCY.** You don't deserve to get things just because you want them. You have to work for them.

Will. Right.

**MARCY.** You can be the most talented person in the world and not get the things you want. (*Will starts to say something.*) You can be the most terrible and still get the things other people want.

**WILL.** I'm sure you're not terrible.

**MARCY.** I could be. I could be terrible at everything, except acting like Minnie Driver.

**WILL.** Of course—

**MARCY.** And you'll never know unless—

**WILL.** Unless you act like Minnie Driver for me.

**MARCY.** No.

**WILL.** No?

**MARCY.** (*really ramping it up*) Do you believe you deserve fun?

**WILL.** I believe that I... I... I don't believe I've...

**MARCY.** Because I could act like Minnie Driver.

**WILL.** You could.

**MARCY.** If that would be fun.

**WILL.** It... could.

**MARCY.** But that would only prove I'm good at acting like Minnie Driver.

**WILL.** Yes.

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**MARCY.** And that might be enough.

**WILL.** Enough?

**MARCY.** If we were having fun.

**WILL.** We?

**MARCY.** It just wouldn't prove much.

**WILL.** No.

**MARCY.** It might mean I'm just good at everything.

**WILL.** Yes, it might.

**MARCY.** But you'd have to see me do something else to know what I'm really good at.

**WILL.** Yes, I'd have to see you do something else. *(She's been making her way closer to him throughout, and now she's almost nose-to-nose with him. He knows this is what he wants, but he finds himself unable to fully embrace the moment.)*

**MARCY.** Anything else you'd like to see me do?

**WILL.** I—

**MARCY.** Acting, of course.

**WILL.** Of course.

**MARCY.** Or anything.

**WILL.** Of course? *(Long pause.)*

**MARCY.** You ever think about having sex with Minnie Driver?  
*(Blackout.)*

### **SCENE 2: James and Sally**

*JAMES enters and runs over to SALLY, who has her back to him, reading.*

**JAMES.** Hey there! *(Sally turns, startled.)* Oh, sorry.

**SALLY.** What?

**JAMES.** You're not... sorry, I'm supposed to meet someone.

**SALLY.** You thought I was someone else?

**JAMES.** Well, yes.

**SALLY.** I'm not.

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**JAMES.** Yes, I know.

**SALLY.** You could look at a face first, you know.

**JAMES.** I already said—

**SALLY.** What's wrong with me?

**JAMES.** There's nothing—what?

**SALLY.** You thought I was someone else. What's wrong with the way I am?

**JAMES.** Nothing.

**SALLY.** Nothing, I just need to be someone else.

**JAMES.** You don't need to be—

**SALLY.** I deserve an explanation.

**JAMES.** For...?

**SALLY.** I'm only one person.

**JAMES.** I can see that.

**SALLY.** I can't be more than one person.

**JAMES.** I can imagine.

**SALLY.** So, I'm just one.

**JAMES.** Yes.

**SALLY.** And not the person you thought I was.

**JAMES.** No. *(She turns back to her book. Pause. She turns back from her book.)*

**SALLY.** Who did you think I was?

**JAMES.** Ummmm... what?

**SALLY.** I got a little... mad before.

**JAMES.** Before?

**SALLY.** A minute ago. But I just... Well, I just thought... what if I am that person?

**JAMES.** But you're not.

**SALLY.** But how can I know?

**JAMES.** You just said you're not.

**SALLY.** Well, no. Well, yes. I said I wasn't that person, but more specifically, I said I was only one person, which is still true, but I realize I assumed that the one person I am is not the person you're looking for.

**JAMES.** You assumed correctly.

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**SALLY.** Because I could be the person you're looking for, except I don't know it.

**JAMES.** You'd know it.

**SALLY.** But how?

**JAMES.** You would have been there when we made the plans. I don't just go looking for random women.

**SALLY.** You sure?

**JAMES.** Yeah.

**SALLY.** Because you look like the type. But if you agreed to meet someone, then I didn't make that agreement.

**JAMES.** I know.

**SALLY.** *(with only a hint of disappointment)* So, I'm probably not the person.

**JAMES.** No. *(Beat.)*

**SALLY.** So, now that you've seen my face...

**JAMES.** Your face?

**SALLY.** I also said you could look at a face first, you know.

**JAMES.** Right.

**SALLY.** But now you have.

**JAMES.** And that's how I knew—

**SALLY.** How is it?

**JAMES.** How is what?

**SALLY.** My face.

**JAMES.** It's a face.

**SALLY.** Aren't you a charmer.

**JAMES.** I'm really not trying to charm [anyone]—

**SALLY.** What's her name?

**JAMES.** What?

**SALLY.** *(slower, more deliberately)* What's her name?

**JAMES.** Anne.

**SALLY.** Ah. I'm Sally.

**JAMES.** James.

**SALLY.** Nice to meet you. Is she your girlfriend?

**JAMES.** What? No.

**SALLY.** Do you want her to be your girlfriend?

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**JAMES.** I... no. I don't know.

**SALLY.** That means yes.

**JAMES.** No, it doesn't!

**SALLY.** It means, "yes, but I don't want to tell you."

**JAMES.** Where do you come up with this?

**SALLY.** I can just tell.

**JAMES.** Sometimes when people say "I don't know" it means "I don't know."

**SALLY.** Not this time.

**JAMES.** Oh?

**SALLY.** Nope. People say lots of things when they mean other things.

*(Pause.)* So, where's your girlfriend?

**JAMES.** She'll be here. She's not my girlfriend!

**SALLY.** But she will be.

**JAMES.** What?

**SALLY.** If things work out.

**JAMES.** What are you talking about?

**SALLY.** If everything works out today, she'll be your girlfriend. Isn't that what you want?

**JAMES.** No, I told you that.

**SALLY.** You deserve better than her.

**JAMES.** What?

**SALLY.** You deserve someone who won't string you along. Who actually wants to be your girlfriend.

**JAMES.** I'm just waiting for a friend. I thought you were her, because you looked a little bit like her. But you're not her. Her name is Anne, your name is Sally. She'll be here soon, and then we'll go somewhere else.

**SALLY.** Because of me?

**JAMES.** No, because that was the plan. We're just meeting here. Then we'll go somewhere else.

**SALLY.** Why don't you just meet there?

**JAMES.** Where?

**SALLY.** The other place.

**JAMES.** What other place?

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**SALLY.** The other place you're going to go with her. Wouldn't it make more sense to just meet there in the first place?

**JAMES.** We don't know where we're going. We're just going to start walking.

**SALLY.** How romantic. *(Pause. James turns away.)* Would you want me to be your girlfriend?

**JAMES.** What?

**SALLY.** I mean, if she says no, of course.

**JAMES.** What?

**SALLY.** Because, you said I look like her, so if she said no, would you want me to be your girlfriend?

**JAMES.** Are you—?

**SALLY.** I'm not asking you out; I don't know you. I was just curious.

**JAMES.** *(he's clearly frustrated... but he's not leaving)* She's not my girlfriend. She's not going to be my girlfriend. You're not going to be my girlfriend. I'm just waiting for a friend to come here. And when she gets here we will walk around somewhere else. And we will not come back here. We will go somewhere and have a conversation as we go. And that's it.

**SALLY.** OK. Just because my friend met someone here, like this.

**JAMES.** So?

**SALLY.** They wound up sleeping together. That's what I get for leaving him alone.

**JAMES.** What is he, like...?

**SALLY.** He has... self-esteem issues. Who knows what this woman said to him, but whatever, they—

**JAMES.** And you think—?

**SALLY.** No, I don't. I'm just saying that we're meeting here like this and Will met this woman here like this, and I thought it's funny. Especially since you're waiting for your not-yet-girlfriend.

**JAMES.** So you came here just in case you might meet someone to fuck like your friend Will did. And what was the name of the lady—of, I have no doubt, unimpeachable character—who he slept with?

**SALLY.** I don't want to tell you.

**JAMES.** You don't want to...?

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**SALLY.** It's just that... no, I don't want to tell you. I don't deserve to be treated like this.

**JAMES.** You don't—?

**SALLY.** I'll remind you that you accosted me, and now you're insulting me.

**JAMES.** I'm trying to mind my own business. You're telling me about your friend's fuckbuddies.

**SALLY.** Fuckbuddy. Singular. One woman who he only refers to as—you know what? No. You don't deserve to know how he refers to her.

**JAMES.** I don't care! I couldn't care less what sick pet name your friend Will has for the rando he—

**SALLY.** It wasn't—It's not a weird pet name, he just doesn't know her real name. *(Beat.)*

**JAMES.** No, that's not weird at all.

**SALLY.** OK, OK! I just think it's funny, that's all.

**JAMES.** It's even funnier when the itching starts—

**SALLY.** *(correcting him)* That we're here and we're talking and Anne isn't here.

**JAMES.** She'll be here!

**SALLY.** Soon?

**JAMES.** I hope so.

**SALLY.** Oh, that's sweet.

**JAMES.** Will you—?

**SALLY.** I'm just saying that's sweet!

**JAMES.** Implying that she's my girlfriend. *(Sally begins to speak)* Or that I want her to be my girlfriend. Or that she will be my girlfriend. Or that *you* will be my girlfriend.

**SALLY.** How—?

**JAMES.** I don't know! You did that before, you twisted everything up.

**SALLY.** I say it's funny, you think I'm saying something. I say it's sweet, you think I'm saying something.

**JAMES.** I said, "I don't know," and you started that whole thing about my wanting you to be my girlfriend.

**SALLY.** Why, do you?

**JAMES.** No!

**SALLY.** OK! *(pause)* So... where's your girlfriend? *(Fade to black.)*

## WHAT WE DESERVE

### **SCENE 3: Sam and Anne**

*SAM enters taking in the atmosphere. After a moment, ANNE enters, anxious. She goes toward Sam, as if to speak to him, thinks better of it, and turns away.*

**SAM.** Did you—?

**ANNE.** What?

**SAM.** It looked like—

**ANNE.** *(anxious and a little shy)* I know, I just... I can't...

**SAM.** You lost?

**ANNE.** No. No, I'm not lost, someone else is. I lost someone.

**SAM.** Oh, no. A kid? Did you lose your—like a little kid or older? You don't look old enough to have an [older kid]—

**ANNE.** No, it's not a kid. It's my boyfriend.

**SAM.** He's lost?

**ANNE.** Well, I'm sure he's perfectly safe and sound, but I don't know where he is.

**SAM.** Did he ditch you?

**ANNE.** He said to meet him somewhere, and he wasn't there. I'm kind of wandering around now hoping I'll bump into him.

**SAM.** How long did you wait for him?

**ANNE.** I...

**SAM.** Maybe you were just early.

**ANNE.** I don't—

**SAM.** Maybe he was just late.

**ANNE.** I waited! *(beat)* I waited a while. Texted.

**SAM.** Okay. Sorry. I really am. Sometimes guys are late.

**ANNE.** I know. Sometimes.

**SAM.** Sorry for making it seem personal. I wanted to...

**ANNE.** Thanks.

**SAM.** *(sincerely)* You don't deserve that.

**ANNE.** Thank you.

**SAM.** No one deserves that.

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**ANNE.** *(not sure how to respond)* Thank you. *(Pause.)*

**SAM.** So, what if he's running late? If he's stuck in the subway?

**ANNE.** I'll go back to the spot where he said to meet me. Text again.

**SAM.** My ex-girlfriend used to like to meet here in this park. But she always changed the meeting place last minute, and it was always my fault if I couldn't find her.

**ANNE.** That sucks.

**SAM.** Yeah. When I broke it off, she said, "I'll keep waiting for you. In the usual spot."

**ANNE.** The usual spot?

**SAM.** That's just the thing: there was no usual spot.

**ANNE.** You don't deserve that, either.

**SAM.** Thanks. *(pause)* What's your name?

**ANNE.** I'm Anne, nice to meet you.

**SAM.** Nice to meet you. I'm Sam.

**ANNE.** Hi, Sam.

**SAM.** Is it weird to say "nice to meet you" when we've hardly met?

**ANNE.** *(trying to figure out if he's hitting on her; he is)* I don't know. I guess not. As long as it stays nice to have met you. So far it is.

**SAM.** So far it is.

**ANNE.** *(a little more jaded than we've seen her so far)* Less than ideal circumstances, but...

**SAM.** And what's your boyfriend's name?

**ANNE.** James.

**SAM.** James. Sounds like a reliable name.

**ANNE.** He seemed like a reliable guy. I don't know.

**SAM.** Maybe he met some woman.

**ANNE.** Don't joke.

**SAM.** Maybe he met up with my ex waiting in the usual spot.

**ANNE.** I said don't. *(pause)* What's your ex's name?

**SAM.** Marcy.

**ANNE.** Marcy. I don't know if that sounds like a reliable name.

**SAM.** It's not. It's not even reliably her name.

**ANNE.** *(confused)* Oh?

**SAM.** She likes to... no need to go into it. It's weird.

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ANNE. I see.

SAM. Some women... well, you don't seem like that.

ANNE. Seem like what?

SAM. Like someone to... demand things.

ANNE. I can demand things!

SAM. No, I'm sure, I just—

ANNE. I have... dealbreakers. And... needs that have to be met.

SAM. (*suggestively*) Well...

ANNE. Not like that. I mean... well, yes like that, but also just... being there, you know?

SAM. I think so. Like being... (*jokingly steps to one side*) ... here? Or more like... (*takes another step*) ... here?

ANNE. (*laughing*) Stop! (*Sam steps closer to Anne.*)

SAM. More like... here?

ANNE. That... could be more like it. (*He turns away.*)

SAM. What would you do if you caught James and Marcy together?

ANNE. Oh... Cross "James" off the list of reliable names? (*Sam laughs a bit*) And then shoot him. Or myself.

SAM. Oh.

ANNE. Or both.

SAM. Don't joke. (*beat*) You wouldn't shoot Marcy?

ANNE. I thought we agreed not to joke.

SAM. We never agreed.

ANNE. (*warming to him*) In that case, I'd let you take care of that; I've never met Marcy. (*Pause.*)

SAM. So, is he usually there?

ANNE. Where?

SAM. Just because... well, he's not here.

ANNE. Oh. No, he's not.

SAM. Are you gonna keep looking?

ANNE. I guess.

SAM. You said you were gonna see [if you'd bump into him.]

ANNE. Yeah.

SAM. Not like I wanna get rid of you, I'm just saying—

ANNE. Yeah.

## WHAT WE DESERVE

**SAM.** What if you can't find him?

**ANNE.** Call him again, text him again, go home, call him again. Leave a message. Maybe.

**SAM.** Maybe?

**ANNE.** Maybe.

**SAM.** OK.

**ANNE.** Maybe...

**SAM.** Maybe?

**ANNE.** Maybe I do deserve all this.

**SAM.** Come on.

**ANNE.** No, maybe I do. I mean, I've got all this, right? Maybe I deserve it.

**SAM.** Nobody [deserves]—

**ANNE.** It's fine.

**SAM.** (*sincere, but still hitting on her*) You deserve better. (*Pause. Anne sits.*)

**ANNE.** You know what's funny?

**SAM.** What?

**ANNE.** Spilling all this to a stranger.

**SAM.** Then I guess we're not strangers anymore. Besides, you should stop spilling and go find James.

**ANNE.** I know I should.

**SAM.** But you're not going to?

**ANNE.** (*she thinks for a second, then:*) I'm not sure he deserves it.

**SAM.** (*moving a little closer to her*) What if James comes here and sees us together?

**ANNE.** (*joking*) Here?

**SAM.** Or there.

**ANNE.** (*with a laugh*) I wonder.

**SAM.** Of course, we're not doing anything bad.

**ANNE.** He wouldn't know that.

**SAM.** And if you found him with Marcy, you wouldn't know that they weren't doing anything bad.

**ANNE.** This is true, as well. (*Pause.*)

**SAM.** (*moving even closer*) You're not going to go, are you?

**ANNE.** I don't think so.

WHAT WE DESERVE

**SAM.** *(taking her hand)* Why not?

**ANNE.** *(leaning into him reflexively, almost without realizing it)* I'm not sure. I'm asking myself that same thing, and I just don't know.

**SAM.** Is it because you're afraid you will find him with another woman?

**ANNE.** I don't think so.

**SAM.** Has he ever cheated?

**ANNE.** No! I mean, I don't think so. I don't know. No.

**SAM.** Have you?

**ANNE.** What? *(Slow fade to black.)*

***THE PLAY IS NOT OVER!! TO FIND OUT HOW IT ENDS--  
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