

TAR AND FEATHER
by Kristin Idaszak

About the play (from the playwright):

When Erin takes a #gaschamberselfie, it goes viral--and so does she. Her job offer gets rescinded, she's not allowed to go to class, and her family and friends abandon her. Everyone that is, except for Claudia, her best friend. Together they hatch a plan to confront Erin's anonymous online trolls. TAR AND FEATHER examines public shaming in the digital age. How close are any of us to a fall from grace? And how does a well-intended person transform into a troll?

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CLAUDIA—Female, 20s

About the scene:

CLAUDIA, an art major who has been creating work based on the idea of chivalry, reflects on her relationship with her best friend, ERIN.

CLAUDIA

Erin lived down the hall from me freshman year.
She had lofted her bed, so she could put her desk underneath.
But she was afraid she was going to fall out.
One night I climbed up there with her.
For the rest of the year, we shared the bed.
I slept on the outside, protecting her.
Nothing else ever happened.
That would be in violation of the chivalric code.

As her best friend it's my job to give her boy advice
and to bring her ice cream and wine
when they invariably let her down.

The guys she dates are never good enough for her.
Their intentions aren't honorable.
At least they never last long.

Every time she has a new boyfriend, she says,
We've got to find you a cute girl.
I want to tell her,
I've already found one.

I've made a vow.
I'll tell her before graduation.
Before she leaves.
Before it's too late.

(Beat)

Too late for what?

When I made that vow,
I was sure I could make her fall in love with me.

But

...

I know this is going to sound
I know how this is going to sound
but I kind of like how this feels
at least
I like knowing where I stand.
Which is nowhere, kind of,
but also somewhere.
And if I tell her—
when I tell her—
it's just like,
what's that going to do?
It's not going to change anything.
It's just going to make me feel more

...

Sometime I wonder if she really doesn't know how I feel.
Or if she's just pretending not to.

Either way, I'm almost out of time.
And I either have to break my vow
or lose my best friend.