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Serious Play

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### SYNOPSIS:

A Serious Man and a Serious Woman learn that there is more to life than business analytics and W2s.

### CHARACTERS

Serious Woman- 30s.

Serious Man- 30s.

### SETTING

A very serious apartment. Everything is painted in slate gray. Slate grey furniture. A stone coaster on every flat surface. There is an American Gothic esc family photo hanging on the wall of the serious man and the serious woman in a setting that looks like a dentist office.

### TIME

5:30pm

## SCENE 1

*(SERIOUS MAN is sitting at the kitchen table. He taps on his laptop and writes in account books. SERIOUS WOMAN enters from the front door.)*

SERIOUS WOMAN

*(Loud enough for him to hear in the kitchen. No emotion in her voice.)*

Dear, I'm home.

SERIOUS MAN

Oh. Good.

*(He continues his work. SERIOUS WOMAN hangs her grey raincoat on the hook and neatly tucks away her grey rain boots. It is always raining. She enters the kitchen. She walks over to SERIOUS MAN, and the two exchange the most gray greeting kiss. SERIOUS MAN returns to his laptop.)*

SERIOUS WOMAN

I thought you finished working at 5:00?

SERIOUS MAN

Not today. I have additional projects to work on.

SERIOUS WOMAN

Oh. Good.

*(beat)*

What is the nature of this project?

SERIOUS MAN

I am strategizing how to make this business model the most efficient for the marketing and PR firm.

SERIOUS WOMAN

Oh. Good.

*(Time passes)*

I worked on some projects today too.

SERIOUS MAN

Very good dear. What was the nature of your projects?

SERIOUS WOMAN

I created a presentation about a new trend in business analytics.

SERIOUS MAN

Oh. Good.

*(More time passes.)*

SERIOUS WOMAN

You know, dear, I saw something very interesting today.

SERIOUS MAN

Can it wait? I'm really quite busy.

SERIOUS WOMAN

Yes, of course it can wait. Sorry.

SERIOUS MAN

Thank you.

*(SERIOUS MAN types a few figures. SERIOUS WOMAN sits at the table, oddly anxious. She stares at SERIOUS MAN. Aggravated (as aggravated as he can be), he moved his computer to the side.)*

SERIOUS MAN

What was it that you wanted to tell me about?

SERIOUS WOMAN

Oh, it was an image I saw that I found very interesting.

SERIOUS MAN

A stock image?

SERIOUS WOMAN

Not like any stock image I've ever seen. Much more artistic.

SERIOUS MAN

Artistic? Like Piet Mondrian?

SERIOUS WOMAN

No, not at all like Piet Mondrian

SERIOUS MAN

Franz Kline?

SERIOUS WOMAN

Not at all like Franz Kline.

SERIOUS MAN

How unique that is. Tell me more.

SERIOUS WOMAN

It was the cover of a book I saw a woman reading on the public bus.

SERIOUS MAN

What kind of book? Pale Fire? Atlas Shrugged?

SERIOUS WOMAN

It was called "Queen of Desire."

SERIOUS MAN

Was the title in an interesting font? Like Verdana?

SERIOUS WOMAN

No. It was more of a serif. But very wide and curly.

SERIOUS MAN

Wow. Bold.

SERIOUS WOMAN

It was. Very bold. And the image below the title was a man and a woman.

SERIOUS MAN

What's so interesting about that?

SERIOUS WOMAN

It looked like they were fornicating.

SERIOUS MAN

Dear, why did this interest you? Fornication is a normal part of any marriage. It's medically necessary.

SERIOUS WOMAN

It didn't look like normal fornication.

SERIOUS MAN

What other kind of fornication is there?

SERIOUS WOMAN

They weren't wearing very many clothes.

SERIOUS MAN

Why on earth would one take off their clothes during fornication?

SERIOUS WOMAN

No. The woman was wearing a dress that was falling off her shoulders, nearly exposing her breasts.

SERIOUS MAN

Showing your breasts during fornication isn't medically necessary.

SERIOUS WOMAN

That's what she was wearing. And her legs were sticking out of her long skirt and were wrapped around the man. He was touching them.

SERIOUS MAN

Her breasts?

SERIOUS WOMAN

No, her legs. Grabbing her thighs.

SERIOUS MAN

Sounds dangerous. Was the man wearing his clothes?

SERIOUS WOMAN

No. He wore nothing over his chest.

SERIOUS MAN

That's just frivolous.

SERIOUS WOMAN

I'm a little disturbed, dear.

SERIOUS MAN

Don't be disturbed on behalf of artists, they do that for themselves.

SERIOUS WOMAN

That's not why I am disturbed.

SERIOUS MAN

Well, you best get over it then.

SERIOUS WOMAN

But this image made me feel a new emotion.

SERIOUS MAN

That's not possible. There are only 3 emotions: Good neutral, bad neutral, and neutral.

SERIOUS WOMAN

I know that. But this image made me feel.... not neutral.

SERIOUS MAN

I don't understand,

SERIOUS WOMAN

I don't either.

SERIOUS MAN

Why don't you try to describe it to me?

SERIOUS WOMAN

Well...I feel a....warmth in my lower abdomen.

SERIOUS MAN

Are you sure it's not gas?

SERIOUS WOMAN

That would be the logical answer, of course....but I don't receive any relief from passing gas.

SERIOUS MAN

Maybe we should take you to the doctor.

SERIOUS WOMAN

I don't think so....if I'm being honest, it's pleasurable.

SERIOUS MAN

Pleasurable?

SERIOUS WOMAN

Yes.

SERIOUS MAN

Like the feeling of pouring a fresh glass of aged Merlot?

SERIOUS WOMAN

Yes.

SERIOUS MAN

Or the feeling of getting your yearly W2s in the mail?

SERIOUS WOMAN

Yes...different from that....but equally pleasurable.

SERIOUS MAN

A pleasurable feeling in your body....like getting into a freshly made bed with clean, white sheets?

SERIOUS WOMAN

In a way.

SERIOUS MAN

Well....than I guess you can live with this feeling. Will you still be able to do your job?

SERIOUS WOMAN

I believe so. I hope it won't distract me. I have quotas to make.

SERIOUS MAN

We can't have you missing your quotas.

SERIOUS WOMAN

No. I will be fine.



SERIOUS MAN

Good.

*(SERIOUS MAN goes back to his calculator.)*

SERIOUS WOMAN

I want to try something.

SERIOUS MAN

Try what?

SERIOUS WOMAN

Something to make this feeling go away.

*(SERIOUS WOMAN reaches up to her hair and carefully removes the bobby pins that hold her hair in a tight bun. Her hair slowly falls to her shoulders as she neatly places the pins on the table. She is stiff, uncomfortable)*

How do I look?

SERIOUS MAN

Like you're getting ready for bed.

*(He looks back down at his calculator. SERIOUS WOMAN looks mildly disappointed)*

SERIOUS WOMAN

How about now?

*(Awkwardly, she flips her hair over her shoulder. A clunky gesture.)*

SERIOUS MAN

Is there something wrong with your hair? Was there a lice outbreak in your office?

SERIOUS WOMAN

This doesn't make you feel anything?

SERIOUS MAN

I'm worried about you losing your hair pins.

SERIOUS WOMAN

Wait.

*(She removes her gray blazer, draping it nearly on her chair, She is left in a white blouse.)*

*He looks her up and down, confused. She slowly unbuttons your top button.)*

SERIOUS MAN

Dear, why are you taking your clothes off in the kitchen? That's not what the kitchen is for.

SERIOUS WOMAN

*(Frustrated.)*

Stand up, please.

*(He does. Not understanding. SERIOUS WOMAN approaches him, face to face. She slowly steps closer to him until they are nose to nose. She presses her lips to his, attempting to be seductive, but failing. He does not react)*

SERIOUS MAN

*(Unaffected.)*

Alright then.

SERIOUS WOMAN

That didn't make you feel anything?

SERIOUS MAN

It certainly was not as good as getting my W2s.

SERIOUS WOMAN

*(Dejected, but good at hiding it.)*

Okay.

*(beat.)*

Good.

SERIOUS MAN

Can I go back to work now?

*(SERIOUS WOMAN gathers her hair pins and straightens her clothes, but does not return to her former stiffness.)*

SERIOUS WOMAN

Yes.

*(SERIOUS WOMAN faces away from him, reflecting. SERIOUS MAN goes back to clicking and writing. Silence. SERIOUS MAN finds himself sneaking glances at SERIOUS WOMAN. He shrugs off his thoughts.)*

SERIOUS WOMAN

I opened a Roth IRA today.

*(Beat.)*

SERIOUS MAN

Say that again.

SERIOUS WOMAN

Um...

*(SERIOUS MAN stands up and slowly walks to her.)*

SERIOUS MAN

Say...that.....again.

SERIOUS WOMAN

I opened a Roth IRA.

SERIOUS MAN

Did you meet the deductible?

SERIOUS WOMAN

It's a high yield account, so I should meet it by the end of the calendar year.

*(Their body language and voices slowly become erotically charged)*

SERIOUS MAN

That is very fiscally responsible of you.

SERIOUS WOMAN

That's not all.

SERIOUS MAN

Keep going.

SERIOUS WOMAN

I refinanced our stock holdings.

SERIOUS MAN

Did you?

SERIOUS WOMAN

AND I cross referenced our budget from 2012.

SERIOUS MAN

Yeah?

SERIOUS WOMAN

I thought I was going to overdraw but we actually have some money leftover to-.

*(SERIOUS MAN cuts her off by grabbing her and kissing her passionately. She fumbles with the buttons on his shirt, tearing it open. They are the couple on the book cover. They break away for a second.)*

SERIOUS MAN

*(Joyously.)*

I understand!

**END OF PLAY**