

CHARACTERS

ROY

Male; 30's.

TESS

Female; 30's.

SETTING

A living room.

Required Properties:

Records
Beer Cans

ROY enters the apartment through the window. It's dark. He stumbles as he tries to navigate. He goes to the fridge and pulls out a beer. He pops the top and drinks deeply. Beat. A window shatters and he ducks. TESS enters—she flips on the lights. Surprised, they have a standoff.

TESS

Holy crap, the lights still work?

ROY

I was surprised as you are.

TESS

It automatically comes out of your check, so...thanks.

ROY

Not much has changed, huh?

TESS

Nope. Things remain just the same. Just a coat of dust to show for two weeks of neglect.

ROY

I thought you were keeping the place.

TESS

Your name's on the lease.

ROY

Yeah, but I told you that didn't matter. You said "get out and never come back." So I did.

TESS

Then you'd come groveling back. And then you'd hold the lease thing over my head and I'd be homeless.

ROY

Told you I wouldn't.

TESS

Sure. I believe you.

ROY

I didn't come groveling back.

TESS

No, you didn't. You did manage to break in though.

ROY

Had to. I threw that damn key in the bushes after we fought last time.

TESS

Smart.

ROY

So, if you didn't stay here, where'd you go?

TESS

My sister's. It's hell.

ROY

Worse than here?

TESS

No. What about you?

ROY

Upstairs over Kelly's bar.

TESS

Not bad.

ROY

Loud.

TESS

Why'd you come back tonight?

ROY

Been scoping the place out. Once I figured you were gone, I wanted to come back for my records.

TESS

You mean the ones that we didn't break?

ROY

Some fight.

TESS

Some fight.

ROY

Yeah. There's a few goodies still by the stereo. Suppose I should grab 'em and be on my way.

TESS

Why? This is your place.

ROY

Why are you here?

TESS

Also been checking this place out. Figured you might have hooked up with a new girl or gone on a road trip. Would have been nice to crash in the big old bed for a night.

ROY

Knock yourself out.

TESS

With you in the house?

ROY

We've been having a civil discourse for a few minutes here. That's an improvement.

TESS

Right, and the second I'm on my back—

ROY

Fine. I'll go.

TESS

Shit—then I'll have to go too.

ROY

Why?

TESS

I don't need you to support me.

ROY

Lease is up next week. Might as well enjoy it while you can.

TESS

You gonna renew?

ROY

I don't know.

TESS

Whatever works best for you. Don't worry about me.