

**The One**

A ten-minute play

by

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SCENE: The living room of a suburban home.

AT RISE: LAURA, 24, is sitting on the couch, reading a book. The doorbell rings. Laura goes and opens it. CODY, 25, stands there, grinning at her.

LAURA

Cody!

CODY

Hi Laura.

LAURA

My God, Cody Bricker.

CODY

Yep.

LAURA

What are you doing here?

CODY

I heard you were home for the summer. You're in grad school now, right?

LAURA

Yes, my last year.

CODY

Doesn't surprise me. You were always so smart.

(beat)

Aren't you going to ask me in?

LAURA

Uh, yes, sure!

CODY

(sauntering in)

Your parents around?

LAURA

No, they're out for the evening.

CODY

All the better.

LAURA

The better?

CODY

I mean it would be great seeing them again and all, but I really did want to catch you alone.

LAURA  
(bemused)  
Okay. Would you like something to drink?

CODY  
Got any vodka?

LAURA  
Yes, I think my parents have some here.

(She goes to liquor cabinet, pours him a shot, thinks a moment, then pours herself one too, that she quickly swallows, then brings him his drink.)

CODY  
(beat)  
So... you happy to see me?

LAURA  
Sure. I mean, surprised. We haven't seen each other since high school.

CODY  
There was Rhonda's birthday party...

LAURA  
Oh right, yes. But you didn't go to the five year reunion.

CODY  
No. I was kinda screwed up by then.

LAURA  
But I heard you inherited...

CODY  
A shit load of money, yeah. It's all gone now.

LAURA  
Gone?

CODY  
You know, I was doing things like buying all my friends Porsches.

LAURA  
That seems a little over the top.  
(beat, remembering)  
But, of course, you were always a bit over the top.

CODY  
You think?

LAURA

Are you kidding? I remember when we were on our way to the prom and you kept drinking from that little flask you kept in your jacket pocket, and you thought you'd impress me by driving up on island divider going seventy miles an hour.

CODY

Huh! I forgot about that. So, were you impressed?

LAURA

I was scared out of my mind.

CODY

Yeah.

(nostalgically)

Good times. Good times.

LAURA

So... what are you doing here, Cody?

CODY

Yeah, well here's the thing. Like I said, I was kinda screwed up for a while - all the money going to my head - you know, leading the big life. Got myself a yacht, traveled all over, did a lot of drinking, gambling, lots and lots of women. Funny how many women you can get when you're not only good looking, but filthy rich.

LAURA

Yeah, well. Doesn't sound like such a bad life.

CODY

It was fun, no denying. But then, after a while, it just started feeling, I don't know...

LAURA

Meaningless?

CODY

Yeah, yeah, I knew you'd understand. Meaningless. So at one point, especially after the money was all gone...

LAURA

Not before.

CODY

No, after.

LAURA

Uh, huh.

CODY

I kinda hit the ground hard. Had no idea what to do with myself.

LAURA

Get a job maybe?

CODY

Yeah well, I hadn't bothered to go to college. So what the hell was I going to do? I mean I wasn't about to work at some Burger King.

LAURA

It would be a start.

CODY

After the way I'd been living? No chance. So things were looking pretty scary for a while, all my stuff was getting repossessed. I was just about to lose my condo when one of the few friends I still had left slipped me into his real estate business, selling villas to rich SOB's like I had been. He said I could speak their language.

LAURA

But did you have a license?

CODY

Nah. Technicality. My friend owed me, see, cause I'd bailed him out of a couple of drug charges.

LAURA

Ah.

CODY

Anyway, thing is, job was good and all, but my life was still feeling pretty empty, you know, like something was missing.

LAURA

Uh huh.

CODY

And what was weird, the thing that kept coming back to my mind with this amazing clarification...

LAURA

Clarity?

CODY

Right, clarity. Was... you.

LAURA

Me.