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Don't take it personally

de
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(fragmento en inglés)

A one act play for two actors, a woman and a man.
(one of the “episodes” of the play Happily Ever After
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(The scene is completely dark; we hear moans and typical noises of sex for a while coming from a man and a woman. The sounds end. We hear the sound of a lighter and see the smoke of two cigarettes in the dark.)

Lights up.

There is a queen size bed with a woman and a man under the sheets. Two bedside tables with two lamps. She has switched her lamp on when the lights go up. On the wall we see a clock. Now it's 5 a.m. He and she are late thirties or forties. They seem to be naked under the sheets. They smoke, they look tired.)

SHE

So... mmm mmm, I'm so sorry, what was your name?

HE

Oh, William, but Bill is OK.

SHE

All right, Bill, it was very nice to meet you *(shaking hands in a formal way)* but I guess you have to go.

HE

Me? No, I'm not in a rush actually...

SHE *(looking at the clock)*

Well, it's time to go, have you seen the clock? It's late.

HE

It's not late... I'm fine, don't worry, I can stay...

SHE

Mmm, you don't have to stay, believe me, if you have things to do, I completely understand, if you have to go, go...

HE

No, I don't have to...

SHE

Ok, Bill, maybe it's me who is in a hurry, so please, go.

HE

Hey, listen, you... Amanda... no, sorry, Samantha...

SHE

Jennifer

HE

That was it, Jenny...

SHE

No, not Jenny, Jennifer...

HE

OK, Jennifer, whatever you prefer, why don't you relax? It's only five in the morning, we can sleep a little bit more, and then I'll leave.

SHE (*nervous*)

No, seriously, I think that you should go, right now.

HE (*scared*)

Are you married? Is your husband coming?

SHE

No, I'm not married, it's only that I'd rather you go, it's safer.

HE

Safer? What do you mean? We used condoms, (*looking around*) they must be over there, somewhere

SHE

I'm not talking about condoms.

HE

You don't feel safe with me? I am not a terrorist, don't worry.

(He smiles and tries to caress her cheek, she avoids the caress, she looks very uncomfortable)

SHE

It's not necessary, believe me, it's better if we don't pretend to be nice the morning after, you don't have to, really, so maybe you should go now. (*looking at the clock*) Right now.

HE (*upset*)

Why do you have to be so rude? I think that I've been kind with you. I don't know where this is coming from.

(Uncomfortable silence. She looks at the clock on the wall, impatient, but talks with a nicer voice.)

SHE

OK, don't take it personally; it's not you...

HE (*resigned, finishing the sentence*)

... It's me.

SHE (*apologizing, as if trying to explain*)

No, I said that it's not you that...

HE

Yes, yes, I know... that it's not you, it's me.

SHE

No, not you! Me! I'm saying it's me!

HE

ok, me, you... whatever...I mean... I already know that stupid phrase, I've heard it fifty times, and maybe I've said it eighty... You want me to disappear. I get it.

SHE

I told you, don't take it personally.

HE (*becoming angry*)

I do. I'm taking it personally, actually I am a person... but (*worried*) is it because you didn't like it? I mean... I think we had a good time, maybe I was a little drunk but...

SHE

It was good, even quite good, I'd say.

HE (*relieved, even flattered*)

So... why don't we do it again. (*He looks under the sheets*) I think it could be possible... in a little while

SHE

I don't think it's a good idea.

HE

Why?

SHE

Because we might like it.

HE

And...?

SHE

And if we like it too much, the troubles start.

HE

What do you mean?

SHE

That if you stay, maybe after, you'll ask for my number and you'll say that you're going to call me.

HE

And what's the problem?

SHE

That you won't, and then it will be a drag.

HE

But if I do call?

SHE

That would be even worse... so... you call me, we go on some dates for a while, and then we have a relationship, and then we get married, we have children... and then divorce, of course... so that will be a drag too...