

The Art of Love and Scandal

A full-length play

By

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CHARACTER NAME	AGE	GENDER
Mia	27	Female
Vincent	27	Male
Empusa	33	Female
Cherry	23	Female
Chad	22	Male
Ima plum	64	Female
Professor Rochester Plum	69	Male
Banner Kate	35	Female
Boone	37	Male
Kid (Billy Don)	7	Male

ACT ONE

Late afternoon tours at the Minneapolis Institute of Art are stirring in the lobby. Mia and Vincent both 27 are dressed in their button down approved shirts and khakis casual docent uniforms. They are held up in meeting their guest.

MIA

Trust me you're making bad choices. Get down from there right now! That statue is a work of art not a personal jungle gym.

(quietly)

Why did you let him get in here? That door is supposed to be locked?

VINCENT

Yeah kid come on down!

(quietly)

I was just walking by and saw the door open? He's pretty talented, that's gotta be up about--

MIA

(quietly)

A little boy should not be climbing THAT.

VINCENT

(quietly)

It's to abstract he has no clue.

MIA

You have to come down now, this is a new piece by Jeff Koons it can't be damaged. Careful with your belt buckle.

VINCENT

I don't think he cares.

Are you still maybe moving to Paris if you don't win?

MIA

I would be so delighted to tell you but hey I think we're in the middle of something.

VINCENT

I was just--

MIA

Make him care. Do something! He's what? Seven? Be brave.

Vincent fumbles through his pockets quick.

VINCENT

I got a shark fin guitar pick for ya... Ever play guitar?

KID

My Dad won't let me touch his guitar says I get it sticky, sticky like a beehive bear... is it made of real shark?

MIA

Like a beehive bear... You do have a 3 O'clock jelly shadow even from here.

VINCENT

Well I have mine in the breakroom, you come down I'll let you play it. Genuine sharkfin look! Swimmin' through the water biting at the chum.

Vincent pokes Mia with the pick.

VINCENT

Arrr... arrr!

MIA

Enough... Where did you leave your Dad?

KID

On his way.

VINCENT

On his way?

MIA

(quietly)

We need to get going and I have to win. We don't wanna be left with the duck duck odd ducks. "do they use Glidden or Sherwin-Williams?" every one who's late is a duck duck odd duck.

VINCENT

Come on kid please, you're as high as you can go, we have to get to work. This is a closed room for a new exhibit, your Dad can't find you here.

KID

That's good 'cause as it stands now I'm in deep shit trouble!

VINCENT

Hey! We don't need tha--

MIA

Nice Vocabulary Hemmingway, you get down here right now!

KID

I can't.

MIA

What do you mean you can't?

KID

It's not like I'm afraid or nothin' I just need to study on it a bit on how to get down.

MIA

Don't leave the knife in the jelly jar.

VINCENT

Just jump I'll catch you.

KID

No offence Sir but I don't think you can catch what you don't look like you cant lift.

MIA

He's got you there.

VINCENT

Now dammit you get down here right now you little shit!

KID

It's like my Dad's here already.

VINCENT

Can the apple fall not far from the tree now.

MIA

Hear it?

Doppler echo sound of someone sternly walking, clicking shoes in syncopated fear.

VINCENT

I hear it.

KID

Hear what?

MIA

Ka thump ka thump!

KID

No?

MIA

Listen.

KID

Yeah so?

VINCENT

You don't wanna know.

MIA

Should we tell him?

VINCENT

No he doesn't wanna know.

MIA

He might?

Ka Thump Ka Thump...

KID
I wanna know! I wanna know!

MIA
That's Empusa!

KID
What's an Empusa?

Callous footsteps menace closer.

VINCENT
Can't describe it.

MIA
We could describe it.

VINCENT
No way he's too young.

KID
I'm seven I can know.

MIA
You need to get down, we 're leaving.

KID
Don't leave without me! Catch me, or just break my fall.

Footsteps echoing louder and slowing down to a temper
gate.

Everything suddenly goes silent and everyone goes
glacial.

The only sound is the kid breathing to camouflage.

Empusa a woman with long bright red hair and a tight
fitting blue dress that makes her renaissance fair bosom
ready, burst into the room.

EMPUSA

A young child will be born of poor people, he who by his tongue will seduce a great troop.

That saying is by a man named Nostradamus that lived over five hundred years ago. With that saying he predicted this very moment.

What he didn't predict was that I need a little boy to boil for a potion I'm making tonight to shut up my neighbors little yapping dog Finnigan... Faustian Finnigan!

MIA

Mam I can explain--

EMPUSA

It's too late the water is already on the stove!

KID

Oh no no...

The kid starts to cry frantically.

EMPUSA

Oh! Looks like we got our selves a cryena, such miserable things, but tasty in a potion boiled down to a froth.

Empusa bends down and starts to hike up her hem.

VINCENT

What are you doing?

EMPUSA

I'll just stuff him tight in my fanny pack so I can rascal him home to the boil.

Watch him close while I open it... I won't be able to collar him and we can't let him get away.

VINCENT

Your fanny pack is on the inside?

EMPUSA

Keeps some things safe and some things warm.

Empusa hikes her big frilly skirt up high over her left hip.

VINCENT

You could fit a kid and his jelly sandwich in there.

MIA

Now kid run!

The kid slides bumpily down the very angular parts of the modern sculpture and jumps from three feet high already running in mid-air.

EMPUSA

Stop him! I need him in the boil!!

(Empusa laughing manically twirling her bright red hair like she's rockin' out at a Metallica concert)

MIA

Run kid run!

The kid fly's out of the room pinballing off of the door frame.

(Empusa still laughing)

MIA

That was a little over the top don't you think?

EMPUSA

How long were you two dullcents in here trying to get him down with lottery winning success?

VINCENT

Well he was just a little kid.

(Empusa twirls he hair one more time)

MIA

Well we should go--

EMPUSA

You are late, you have voters waiting.

VINCENT

We'll hurry.

EMPUSA

Your score cards? I'm sure you both are going to tie for first. No one stands a chance against you two geniuses. Art cliff notes by Mia and Vincent. I'll be watching. Now get going before you wind up in my boil.

Mia snatches the cards and they both beeline it out of the room. Vincent bumps off of the door frame

EMPUSA

It's ok hipsters don't froth very well.

Empusa laughs manically.

SCENE TWO

Mia and Vincent huffing for oxygen, are staring at the two couples left statued in the lobby. One couple very practiced at holding hands, are dressed very proper and uptight. The woman grey hair up in a bun wearing a dark purple skirt suite and the man in a tweed suit and purple bow tie. The other couple a young woman in a red cocktail dress and heels, and a young man in a white track suit with orange stripes are both texting, maybe to each other...

MIA

Well there they are. I knew it, the duck duck odd ducks.

VINCENT

They look ok.

MIA

Are you seeing what I'm seeing?

VINCENT

(staring at the younger girl)

Looks alright to me.

MIA

You would think so love of my life.

VINCENT

Uh huh, Shall we?

MIA

Wait, there's only four people and that couple looks like they belong at a club of some sort, so we are really gonna have to pour on the sugar to turn the vinegar into a Chateau Margaux. And I need to drink it here.

VINCENT

I'm always your honey.

MIA

Like a toothache... OK you are new to this so there are some rules.

VINCENT

I know, Empusa has said it a thousand times. Don't smile!, You shouldn't smile 'till Christmas! You have a job to do.

MIA

Wrong!, smile a lot we need them to like us.

VINCENT

Got another one, never answer any personal questions, especially for you, like are you seeing someone?

MIA

Nice try.

VINCENT

We should catch up?

MIA

If they ask to many questions just move on...

Never let them interrupt...

And never admit you don't know. Just make something up. They will believe anything.

VINCENT

Not anything.

MIA

And catch up how?, for what reason? We've changed. It's been ten years. Can you still count till ten? You know two short of a twelve pack. A lot has happened, a lot.

VINCENT

We both still love Raphael and Michelangelo.

MIA

Oh please I stopped crying for the virgin Mary three days after our last date.

VINCENT

It was Charlie! I knew it. I knew I couldn't trust him.

MIA

They will believe ANYTHING.

(Vincent points a finger at Mia and shakes
his head)

VINCENT

Well he wanted to!

MIA

Oh I know... Deep breath... Lets go.

Mia and Vincent saunter up to the couples Mia with her
arms out wide.

MIA

Hello, are you all here for the tour on this wonderful valentines day?

PROFESSOR PLUM

We are young lady.

MIA

I'm so glad you get to spend it here with us. This is one of my favorite tours to give, the--

VINCENT

Love and scandal tour.

MIA

(looking annoyed)

I have chosen some wonderful paintings to represent the love and scandal side of--

Another couple wildly taking their coats off, comes charging up to the group. The woman mid-thirties obviously nine months pregnant is dressed in flowered farm dress and a crocheted shawl with a large carpetbag purse. The man late-thirties, is dressed in dad jeans and flannel, his Redwing work boots clobbering into floor.

BANNER KATE

Wait! Wait for us! Helloooo!!

BOONE

Hold the wagons!

MIA

(to herself but louder than she thought)

Sweet as sugar.

BANNER KATE

(shaking off her coat)

That snow is really coming down out there.

BOONE

An inch an hour I think. We got ourselves a blizzard!

BANNER KATE

I hope we didn't keep you all?

MIA

Not at all we were just waiting for any late wagons.

Boone throws his coat onto Banner Kate who is already corralling hers in her arms.

MIA

(hauling in the coats and heaving them to
Vincent)

Your happy place the coat check and catch up.

BANNER KATE

Oh thanks dear, sweet.

MIA

That's a big purse. You want that to go to?

BOONE

It is a wallop!

BANNER KATE

No thanks, Scarlet O'Hara never leaves my side.

MIA

It has a name. Well welcome everyone to the Love and scandal tour. My name is Mia and that was Vincent. We will be your--

BANNER KATE

I'm Banner Kate, what is your alls name? This is my husband Boone. My name means flag bearer, was supposed to be Tanner but I was the fifth girl. They kept trying. Better than my baby sisters, Cannon Grace.

PROFESSOR PLUM

That is very interesting. I'm Rochester Plum, Professor of sexual anthropology.

MIA

Oh we don't need to know each others anthropologies.

BANNER KATE

Don't be silly dear, we're all friends here.

MIA

Sweeter than sugar.

BANNER KATE

Thanks dear.

BOONE

So let me get this straight, you're Professor Plum like in the ga--

PROFESSOR PLUM

I've never heard that before, I guess I am.

BANNER KATE

It's a fun name!

IMA PLUM

You think that's fun, Ima Plum

BOONE

So you're married?

IMA PLUM

Well yes, but that's my name , Ima Plum.

BANNER KATE

Oh for fun, that is a hoot! Isn't that a hoot Boone?

BOONE

It's a hoot!

MIA

(staring blankly ahead)

Quite the hoot!!... Only two more left to go, why not.

(motioning to the club couple)

MIA CONTINUED

What are your names?

The young couple are still looking down at there phones and don't acknowledge.

PROFESSOR PLUM

I'll bet I can guess.

BANNER KATE

Oh fun, I love games.

MIA

Fun, fun games. But we need to ge--

PROFESSOR PLUM

(studying them over intently)

Lets see... You're name is Tad

(no response while swiping left)

Hmm... and your name is... Cherry!

CHERRY

Oh Hi, just texting my Mom sorry. Are we ready?

(Cherry looks confused)

BANNER KATE

You got it!

MIA

Only one.

BOONE

(to the track suit guy)

Hey dude what's your name?

CHAD

(putting his arm around Cherry)

Chad, you ready to go babe?

BANNER KATE

That's pretty close !

BOONE

Wow I'm impressed. How did you--

PROFESSOR PLUM

I'm just that good. I'm just that good.

IMA PLUM

(squeezing in close to her husband)

He is just that good.

MIA

So impressive, now--

Vincent comes romping up.

VINCENT

I thought I'd be running to catch up.

MIA

We decided to exchange names and wait for you.

VINCENT

(winking at Mia awkwardly)

The sweetest.

BANNER KATE

She sure is.

MIA

Ok this way everyone. Walk and talk. We will be going upstairs. Banner with your condition would you like to take the elevator?

BANNER KATE

Oh no sweetie it's not a disease, but no, she or he's been in too long the stairs might help bounce and rock things along and out.

MIA

Oh lets hope not.

VINCENT

So we are your docents, and we are having a contest this evening.

BANNER KATE

What contest? You know I love games.

MIA

All the docents on this tour are competing to see who host the museums new podcast on art.

VINCENT

We 'll have comment cards at the end for you to fill out.

IMA PLUM

I'm sure you'll both do fine.

MIA

But one of us has to win.

PROFESSOR PLUM

Hmm... A little friendly competition, shall we place a small wager

BOONE

I'll put a hundred on my man Vince here, hard worker I don't have to carry my coat.

MIA

No no--

IMA PLUM

I'm going with sister hood of the knowledge here, seems like she has to win.

CHAD

(barely looking up from his phone while
swiping right)

Put me down for five hundred on the mousy chick.

VINCENT

She's not mousy.

CHAD

I didn't mean nothin'

MIA

While... I'm soo flattered... and I would love to put bookie down on my resume, gambling isn't allowed in museums.

VINCENT

I just had to read the manual and I didn't see any rule against gamb--

MIA

I'm sure there is in the fine print, you just missed it.

VINCENT

You know me so well.

MIA

Ok, up we go.

Mia grabs Banner Kate by the arm

Here let me help you.

BANNER KATE

Thank you dear.

BOONE

Yeah thanks.

BANNER KATE

(to Cherry)

How do you walk in those heels dear, especially up stairs? They have to be five inches high. I like the see through.

IMA PLUM

(winking at Cherry)

Lots of Thursday night practice. I was a team clear heels member myself.

CHERRY

Enough to pay for school.

IMA PLUM

Yes, nice.

BANNER KATE

Were you a model?

IMA PLUM

Something like that.

MIA

Something like that?!

VINCENT

(motioning to the steps as they go up)

If you'll notice these stairs, the German limestone has fossils in it. The architect demanded it.

(everyone slows down , annoying Mia)

BANNER KATE

(pushing Boone in the arm)

No sliding down the banister.

CHAD

I see a fossil, looks like snail.

MIA

Moving along.

BOONE

I have a question?

BANNER KATE

I see you've been thinkin'. What's a podcast?

BOONE

No, what's a docent.

PROFESSOR PLUM

A fancy word for guide. Docents started out being housewives because they were bored when there children were in school. Then docents became mostly retirees finally getting to use there liberal arts degree. And now its millennials just bored in there parents basement.

BANNER KATE

You know a lot.

BOONE

You should be a docent.

PROFESSOR PLUM

I volunteer enough of my time.

CHAD

(looking at Mia and Vincent)

You mean you two don't get paid?, that's bogus.

VINCENT

Bogus indeed.

Boone all of a sudden looks up and shouts

BOONE

No smoking at the Metrodome!

Everyone looks at him like he's crazy.

BOONE

Sorry always wanted to do that. What an echo.

MIA

OK... the podcast opportunity is a paying gig and a chance to advance in the museum.

VINCENT

Mia really wants it. I just think it would be fun.

MIA

Everything always has to be a day off for you.

BOONE

Gotta have fun even if its a fart.

VINCENT

You know your own.

ALL THE WOMEN

No farting!

BANNER KATE

Don't encourage the boy.

MIA

Here... is our first painting of the evening.

CHAD

(putting his hand on Cherry's butt)

How long does this tour last?

MIA

Long enough to get a sunburn.

BANNER KATE

That snow was really coming down when we came in. I'm getting nervous about getting home.

CHERRY

I hope an uber is available to pick us up.

CHAD

You me in an Uber. Backseat leather sweat--

IMA PLUM

We have a G-wagon . Plows through the snow. Do you live close?

CHERRY

Thanks, craving one of those.

PROFESSOR PLUM

It's just all in the tires. The traction is everything.

IMA PLUM

(squeezing in and kissing her husband)

Everything dear.

BOONE

We got the Jimmy truck , that thing blast through anything...

BANNER KATE

Through anything. It loves the muddin'. We went muddin' the first night we met.

VINCENT

Mia has a cute teal scooter. I have got a chance to ride on it yet.

MIA

And you have a beat up van... for your band...

VINCENT

Still better in the snow!

MIA

Since it is snowing lets move on with the tour so you can get home safely.

VINCENT

Up first here we have a painting called Pleasures of the Seasons.

MIA

Partially but you left out one thing in the name. Lets see if we can guess

BANNER KATE

Oh good another game.

VINCENT

I know, it was painted by Johann Georg Platzer in 1730, it is oil on copper!

BOONE

Copper? Better be careful no one snatches it and melts it down. On construction sites you have to have guards.

MIA

I think it's safe. What does everyone see in the painting for clues?

CHAD

I see that one lady is about to fall out.

MIA

OK?

VINCENT

They are!

BOONE

That one guy is Van Halening it up on that guitar thing.

CHERRY

They're dirty dancing for there time?

CHAD

That guys trying to close the deal. Flowers get them every time.

IMA PLUM

The grandparents are looking after the kid. Ghost of the closed deals.

PROFESSOR PLUM

All under a statue of Venus crowned by cupid.

MIA

Very good professor! You know your mythical characters.

PROFESSOR PLUM

I call it a career.

BANNER KATE

It's like a painting rum springer. We have an Amish neighbor

VINCENT

It's like its their spring break?

MIA

Yes Vincent it is. Thanks for joining the tour. This Pleasure of the Seasons painting is the spring version.

VINCENT

I got it.

BANNER KATE

Good job. I was close though.

CHAD

Go Vince!

MIA

(looking annoyed)

They are enjoying a spring evening. With a little love and a little scandal.

PROFESSOR PLUM

We have to remember that this was just after medieval Europe, where sexuality was considered satanic. At the time this painting was very scandalous.

MIA

True professor, morality has defiantly changed over the years.

CHERRY

(quietly)

Bull--

IMA PLUM

(quietly getting a look from Mia)

Double bull!

BOONE

I'd leave that part about the copper out though next time.

MIA

Thanks, I think I will. This next painting over here--

CHAD

Hot ta ta's!

VINCENT

Sweet.

MIA

Shhh... We prefer the term breast.

CHAD

Well they're out there, nice to.

MIA

This painting is Venus and Adonis by Nicolas Mignard from 1650, even earlier than the last one.

VINCENT

Oil on canvas!

(Mia rolls her eyes)

BANNER KATE

Oh I get it, so this is that times matrass magazine?

BOONE

Shh they don't have those anymore.

BANNER KATE

You--

MIA

Not exactly because it relies on a classical myth theme.

PROFESSOR PLUM

But was used in the political dimensions for power over others.

VINCENT

Yeah that happens., Unfortunate.

(Mia shakes her head)

CHAD

They look just like one of my exes.

Chad holds his phone up and out.

Vincent strains to see.

CHAD

See perfect like hers...

(looking at Cherry)

And you too babe.

Cherry looks down at herself and moves away a bit
adjusting the top of her dress a bit lower.

MIA

(looking annoyed)

In this, Venus is trying to warn Adonis to not go hunting. But he goes anyway and is
killed.

BANNER KATE

Typical man.

CHERRY

Yes but we love it.

BANNER KATE

We do.

MIA

If you look behind her, those red flowers she transformed from his blood.

VINCENT

So like a mini communion.

MIA

Well...

PROFESSOR PLUM

Exactly now you're getting it. The beauty of pathos.

CHAD

Well you know what I still see.

MIA

The Ta Ta's... so sweet.

Vincent laughs once loudly.

BOONE

Why isn't this one painted copper?

Chad while swiping right, flings his phone out of his hand and it slides fingernails on a chalkboard across the floor right at the feet of a living statue of Empusa.

Mia freezes seventy millimeter wide eyed.

Chad with his head still down hustles over without noticing her, bends down and grabs his phone.

CHAD

Dammit a scratch.

Launching up Chad notices and is startled by the frozen Empusa.

EMPUSA

Hi Chad, how have you been?

CHAD

Hi?

EMPUSA

I see you almost lost your phone again.

CHAD

Wha--

EMPUSA

Well I'm assuming you lost your phone, you never called me back?

Ooo...

IMA PLUM

Everyone is surprised and a little delighted

EMPUSA

I tried several times.

CHAD

I don't--

Empusa gives herself a shake.

EMPUSA

Remember these and all this.

CHAD

Oh Hi, I mean... a...

EMPUSA

I wonder if I started your hobby of misogamy?

CHAD

What is that?

EMPUSA

Exactly!

PROFESSOR PLUM

Exactly?

IMA PLUM

Yeah I don't think...

BOONE

Well what is--

BANNER KATE

I don't need to worry hon.

MIA

Ok Chad is a guest

EMPUSA

Well Chad, you have a great rest of the tour. And do let me know if you'd like your wallet back. I've only had it for five years.

CHAD

I uh...

EMPUSA

And Mia...

MIA

Yes?

EMPUSA

Ta Ta's is not expectable docent language.

MIA

Yes mam.

EMPUSA

(Empusa gives Mia two fingers eye to eye)

I'm watching.

Empusa ka thumps away out of the room.

BANNER KATE

It's ok Chad sometimes love is like a stray coonhound.

BOONE

Just feed it once...

CHERRY

Five years? You told me you were twenty two?!

CHAD

I am.

Cherry smiles.

VINCENT

Remind me not to go to happy hour with her.

CHERRY

Who was that?

MIA

Our boss!

IMA PLUM

Oh Wow...

MIA

OH Wow and then some... So... this next painting over here is really interesting. It is called The Poorly Defended Rose by Michel Garnier. Painted in 1789--

BOONE

On?--

MIA

On oil and canvas. I'll let you know if we get another copper one.

Boone nods ok.

MIA

(motioning to the painting)

What does everyone see? Remember it's called the poorly defended rose.

BANNER KATE

She is trying to get away?

CHERRY

But that look in her eye.

BOONE

He's trying to stop her from picking the flower!

MIA

All good and yes the rose symbolized her loss of virtue. Anything else?

CHAD

He's going to deflower her!

VINCENT

(shaking his head)

Welcome aboard.

PROFESSOR PLUM

The book on the floor is a song he was singing to her?

MIA

Possibly.

VINCENT

There's a broken vase on the other side.

PROFESSOR PLUM

Foreshadowing her moral compromise!

VINCENT

That's got to be it

IMA PLUM

She knows what's she's doing, just playing coy.

CHERRY

Defiantly.

MIA

Art!

VINCENT

But is it love or scandal?

PROFESSOR PLUM

Romantic love or just sex?

VINCENT

Does sex make it scandal or love?

CHERRY

Sex can just be sex.

BANNER KATE

There should be some love.

BOONE

On birthdays and holidays!

MIA

Almost...

PROFESSOR PLUM

Romantic love is just brain chemistry that developed through evolution. Women realized that they needed the man to help raise their children.

IMA PLUM

I'll remind you of that every Tuesday and Saturday.

VINCENT

Love doesn't have to be logical.

MIA

You're sooo right it doesn't.

PROFESSOR PLUM

No don't you see, Chad it right. It's all about the Ta Ta's

CHAD

I knew it!

Cherry pulls the top of her dress up.

PROFESSOR PLUM

We have to remember we all used to be nude paintings walking around, breast from the front. Our butts if you will, look like breast from behind. Coming and going breast. Resistance is futile.

BOONE

So our friend Chad here?

MIA

No?

IMA PLUM

Is the evolutionary pinacol of mankind.

CHERRY

Lets hope so.

Chad takes a selfie with the painting.

MIA

That is very sweet...isn't that sweet Vincent?

Vincent just walks over to the next painting.

VINCENT

The next painting is a doozy.

MIA

I've got this one!

VINCENT

(pleading)

This is the one I studied.

MIA

OK lets see how you do?

BOONE

You go Vince!

CHAD

(without glancing up from his phone with a
fist half in the air)

Vince...

Vincent bows awkwardly

VINCENT

Well this one... is a painting..

(looking at Boone)

Oil on canvas!

MIA

Are you sure?...

Chad looks up from his phone.

CHAD

Very nice... very nice Ta--

VINCENT

Called... Portrait of Mlle. Lange as Danae from 1799.

BOONE

Looks Kinda like you honey?

BANNER KATE

(punching her husband lightly in the arm)

Boone stop.

VINCENT

In her day she was known as a great beauty with many wealthy lovers.

CHAD

I'll bet.

CHERRY

Been there, been there.

VINCENT

Girodet, yeah he painted it... Painted an earlier picture but Miss Lange hated it and refused to pay for it. Girodet got revenge by putting in a lot of scathingly symbolic images.

BOONE

He didn't hurt her by painting her nude!

CHAD

Nope.

CHERRY

Maybe he did?

CHAD

Nope.

VINCENT

The gold coins in the cloth show that she's Greedy. Oh and the cracked mirror shows she couldn't see herself as she was.

PROFESSOR PLUM

So in real life she was ugly?

MIA

Yes... In many other ways.

CHERRY

Girls gotta get what she wants.

VINCENT

And the turkey down here wearing a wedding ring is a symbol of the older men she married for there fortunes! The end...

MIA

A very adulterous and vain woman.

CHAD

The best ki--

IMA PLUM

So she was a dancer?

MIA

No she was a singer.

BOONE

She sang naked?

MIA

(laughing)

No... Girodet painted her in a mythical way.

BOONE

No myth about that.

BANNER KATE

(she punches Boon in the arm again)

Like in the Venus painting.

MIA

Yes, very much like that.

PROFESSOR PLUM

Girodet inverted the convention to defame her.

BOONE

I see that.

BANNER KATE

(She punches Boone one more time in the
arm)

You see somethin' alright.

CHAD

Well she could have been a stripper, or wanted to?

CHERRY

A dancer.

BOONE

She could have.

PROFESSOR PLUM

Yes I do believe she could have... Maybe that was Girodet's point? The headdress is quite burlesque for its time.

VINCENT

Maybe she secretly wanted to be a stripper?

CHERRY

A dancer!

MIA

(air quotes on dancer)

Nobody WANTS to be a Dancer... But that's sweet if you do.

VINCENT

Yeah that's sweet if you do.

CHERRY

Oh really?

BANNER KATE

I could never neon skinny dip.

BOONE

I'd turn the Bud light on for you.

Banner Kate smiles and hugs Boone.

IMA PLUM

(air quotes on dancer)

Well I was a dancer.

Everyone is shocked and wide eyed.

VINCENT

You were not.!

IMA PLUM

I was in the seventies. And I wanted to be a dancer! It was fun.

MIA

I didn't mean... But didn't you feel exploited, and the ERA?

IMA PLUM

If by exploited you mean having men give me money, sure . I was also the seamstress for the band, a lot of bands. And I knew so many guys with pinky rings I had an Italian passport! I was around the world.

VINCENT

Wow.

CHAD

I dated one who paid my rent!

CHERRY

Paid for you.

BOONE

Lucky.

IMA PLUM

I had a lot of sass. I was Prime.

MIA

No offense I would just think self esteem--

CHERRY

Self esteem?

IMA PLUM

Your version of self esteem is still using the right fork to get ahead.

MIA

What's wrong with--

IMA PLUM

You kids today are playing beer pong getting blasted and wasting your time. The things I could do with a ping pong ball bought me a Maserati. That is the ERA.

BOONE

What was your name? First pet and childhood street?

IMA PLUM

(laughing)

No, my stage name was Charity Star!

VINCENT

I like that, that's a sweet name.

MIA

It is sweet...

PROFESSOR PLUM

I met her in a club so ultimately I have been the one exploited.

BANNER KATE

Really?

IMA PLUM

He was Doing his dissertation on dan--

PROFESSOR PLUM

Context, ritual, and gender: An ethnography of stripping.

CHERRY

Dancer! And you're a doctor.

PROFESSOR PLUM

It was the seventies.

BANNER KATE

She must have been really good.

PROFESSOR PLUM

(hugging his wife)

The best!

CHERRY

Well I'm a dancer to.

MIA

Well that's good...

CHAD

That is good. Your profile said you were a Med student but this is way better.

CHERRY

How is that good.

IMA PLUM

I think she thought you were a hook--

CHERRY

A hooker?

CHAD

Even better! A hooker paying my rent. We should get outa here.

CHERRY

You're bottle service boy on My patio.

BANNER KATE

I'm sorry I wondered that too, the shoes.

CHERRY

It's ok I could see that.

MIA

I did not think you--

CHERRY

Am I a hooker Rochester?

PROFESSOR PLUM

No!

CHERRY

Vincent?

VINCENT

Nope!

CHERRY

Boonie?

BOONE

No way!

CHERRY

Ima?

IMA PLUM

You'd already have my cash tucked in your dress!

BANNER KATE

Boonie? What is that look on your face?

BOONE

Well... Taking construction clients out. You know... It's like you sharing recipes, I told you.

BANNER KATE

I know but I didn't know you'd be making a flambé.

(looking down at Cherry's feet)

Where did you get your shoes?

CHERRY

Pleaser Kat online.

BANNER KATE

I'll have to figure that internet stuff out tonight, thanks.

BOONE

Tonight?

()

CHAD

I'm missing something?

MIA

No you're not.

IMA PLUM

Yes you are.

MIA

So let me get this straight, by a show of hands who all has seen Cherry "Dance"?

VINCENT

A show of hands.?

CHERRY

Sure a show of hands. You all have been so polite, so I know you're not ashamed.

CHERRY

Come on! Lets see those hands! Let's put Mia's shame for me to bed.

Boone puts his hand up fast and first.

BOONE

You already know.

Professor Plum proudly raises his hand up.

PROFESSOR PLUM

She's classy.

IMA PLUM

Very classy!

Ima hoist her hand up.

Vincent's hand goes up half mast.

VINCENT

She was me first.

MIA

Your first?

CHAD

Damn! Vince, my future eskimo brother in-law

VINCENT

My first lap dance that's all.

MIA

That's all!? You had a lap dance?

VINCENT

Me and the band we--

MIA

You and that band.

CHERRY

Vince here I'll have you know was the best tipper!.

MIA

He must have taken his life to the pawn shop.

Banner Kates hand goes up through molasses.

BOONE

Noooooooo! Honey when? Why.

BANNER KATE

I'm sorry I lied. It was girls night. I just wanted to see what went on. And trust me they are just workin'

CHERRY

I had you sister.

BANNER KATE

I know but I just couldn't keep it from him.

Banner Kate bear hugs Boone.

BOONE

But I don't wanna go together.

BANNER KATE

No I'm good once was enough for me.

PROFESSOR PLUM

I don't know it sure puts the fire in the rocket.

IMA PLUM

To the moon!

CHERRY

See Mia maybe you should come see me dance.

CHAD

We can go together!

CHERRY

You should come down let me show you around with a tight little body like yours you could make a lot of money.

CHAD

A lot! Of money.

VINCENT

I'll take you.

MIA

I'll bet you would.

Chad come up to Cherry and squeezes the back of her thigh.

CHAD

We need to get going lets see some paintings.

CHERRY

Paying my way through med school.

MIA

Good idea!

MIA

What is your stage name?

CHERRY

Ferrari!

MIA

I think I might like to go fast.

CHERRY

You could fill the trunk with hundos and study and move wherever you want. New York, Miami, Paris! Jiggle those perkies on a round the world ticket.

IMA PLUM

First class.

VINCENT

Uh... I don't think dancing is the right choice for you.

MIA

Oh I don't know now, Perkies?... but we should move on.

VINCENT

Yes we should.

CHAD

(looking at Cherry)

Yes WE should.

MIA

OK this next painting is totally different

CHERRY

Those looks!

CHAD

What looks?

BANNER KATE

Oh been there.

BOONE

Defiantly!

MIA

This is a painting called Marriage by Gari Melchers from eighteen ninety three.

VINCENT AND MIA

She is wear--

MIA

Sorry. Go--

VINCENT

No I'm sorry you go!

MIA

(rolling her eyes)

Ok, over her veil she is wearing a crown of orange blossoms that symbolize fruitfulness and purity.

PROFESSOR PLUM

Back then it was all about how many babies you could have for women.

BANNER KATE

We have five and they are fun and perfect and I'd have twenty if I could.

PROFESSOR PLUM

I'm sure they are but back then it was all about having farm worker and factory workers to support the family, a lot of pressure on a young woman.

BANNER KATE

We have them just for fun.

BOONE

We sure do.

VINCENT

Maybe with all of that pressure is why that red thing she's holding is a prayer book?

BOONE

She looks like her life is over.

IMA PLUM

And his look is like she's gonna change her mind any second.

MIA

Are the looks what makes this a good painting?

CHERRY

Yes defiantly.

PROFESSOR PLUM

If you know the symbolism it makes the painting come alive.

CHERRY

Everything means more.

BANNER KATE

Why is the background red?

VINCENT

Passion?

CHAD

Romance!

IMA PLUM

I think will power.

CHERRY

Rage or danger.

BOONE

That color is a big part of the painting, maybe it's the color he had the most of?

MIA

All great possibilities. A lot of art lies in what you as the viewer see in it.

PROFESSOR PLUM

It's also quite probable that they haven't known each other for too long, that this is an arranged marriage.

VINCENT

Never having a chance to fall in love.

PROFESSOR PLUM

In most culture the thought of romantic love is considered dangerous.

CHAD

(squeezing in on Cherry)

Who needs love right baby!

CHERRY

You could grow to love the person I suppose if enough needs were met.

VINCENT

But you don't even know the person.

IMA PLUM

Even if you have know the person things come out.

VINCENT

Things come out?

PROFESSOR PLUM

Or you're both weird together

IMA PLUM

Very true.

BOONE

Me and the misses both eat foods that make us fart. Beans, broccoli, hard boiled eggs.

BANNER KATE

Give me a plate of mustard greens and some Busch beer and I got the whole house to myself every time!

VINCENT

I guess I did have a licking fight with a girl once.

MIA

When you were eleven doesn't count.

CHERRY

I'm asked all the time to wear a nurses outfit.

CHAD

You are the Doctor.

VINCENT

Well how about you Mia. What has wild Mia done?

MIA

We are guides and shouldn't be talking about this anyway.

VINCENT

No come on.

BANNER KATE

We are all friends here dear.

MIA

No!

VINCENT

You haven't done anything in your life that was risque.

MIA

(hurriedly)

I like to hold dates penises while they pee.

BOONE

Their peckers!?

VINCENT

Their cocks?

BANNER KATE

Oh Dear.

PROFESSOR PLUM

Hmmm...

MIA

It is fascinating and powerful. You can really feel it pulsing through.

IMA PLUM

Pulsing through...

MIA

I asked to do it on a lot of dates. They usually let me and one thing would leads to another and I don't have to have sex. I can save myself.

(Vincent and everyone in total shock)

CHERRY

Save yourself?

BANNER KATE

Well isn't that sweet.

VINCENT

Oh totally sweet. Just pulsing with sweetness. Use some honey...

IMA PLUM

With Rochester I play hamster.

CHAD

Ooo I've heard of that.

IMA PLUM

No not that. I wear furry pajamas and I scurry all around the bed, nest in the blankets, nibble and squeak all over him and when I'm really hungry he gives me a carrot stick.

PROFESSOR PLUM

With ranch dressing!

CHAD

I could never be a vegetarian I need the meat!

BANNER KATE

(holding her side rocking back)

Oh oh, that's a big one.

MIA

Are you OK?

VINCENT

Is it the baby?

BANNER KATE

We'll yes and no sweetie, just a Braxton-Hicks contraction.

CHAD

Who is that?

PROFESSOR PLUM

False labor.

BOONE

She's fine, not due for another two weeks. She's never called because of rain and no extra innings.

CHERRY

Do you need to sit down?

BANNER KATE

(grabbing her side again)

I'm ok, we can keep going.

MIA

Why don't we take a short break and meet back here in ten minutes, I'll just take a few paintings out of the tour.

CHAD

I like that!

MIA

I thought you would. Ten minutes!

INTERMISSION

Boone and Vincent walk into the actual theater bathroom together. They are waiting for a urinal to open up.

BOONE

This is a pretty fun tour, you and Mia are the best. I don't know who I'm gonna vote for?

VINCENT

It's certainly one of the wildest.

BOONE

You mean they all aren't like this?

VINCENT

No they tend to be just a BIT more reserved and stuffy.

BOONE

Oh I hate stuffy.

Boone and Vincent belly up to a pair of open urinal together.

VINCENT

Yeah most folks that come on these tours think they are so open minded because they know a few facts.

BOONE

I'll bet they have some great discussions.

VINCENT

Naw they just like to show off what they know.

BOONE

I guess you spend all that time reading the books.

VINCENT

They'd burn 'em if they hadn't read them.

BOONE

I'll bet you're thinking of Mia right now!

VINCENT

What?

BOONE

You are!

VINCENT

Well now--

BOONE

SHAKE!

ACT TWO

Ima and Professor Plum walk coolly up to rejoin the group and they are looking more than a bit disheveled.

MIA

Is everyone ready. We have to walk a bit to the next painting so we should get going. If you will follow me.

BOONE

Ima your hair is down?

BANNER KATE

(leaning into the professor)

And your tie is crooked.

CHAD

Where did you two spend your break?

CHERRY

A little sexual anthropology.

PROFESSOR PLUM

Nothing to publish.

IMA PLUM

I got something behind my contact and we had trouble getting it out.

BANNER KATE

I hope you are ok?

IMA PLUM

I am, how are you?

BANNER KATE

Great! Everything has calmed down. No cigars today.

Everyone falls in line following Mia with Vincent bringing up the rear.

Empusa is strolling by staring at Mia like a vulture.

EMPUSA

Is everyone having a good time? Be sure to vote on who is doing the best job. We need a star--

(to some people off stage)

Don't twerk on the furniture, it's for sitting. And especially on that, an alarm will sound. On valentines day!

MIA

Lets keep going.

Mia shifts 'round the corner ahead of everyone else.

BANNER KATE

I'm hungry, I have snacks would anyone like some?

MIA

(with a bent echo)

Vincent bring everyone along please.

VINCENT

Coming! Hurry quick, I do.

Banner Kate opens up her big carpet bag purse to their eyes. Everyone gathers around like starving guppies.

BANNER KATE

I have brownies.

CHERRY

I'll take one.

CHAD

Mine.

BANNER KATE

Vincent?

BOONE

(eating while talking)

I'm tellin' you Vince you have to eat one of these. Just the right amount of hard crispy on top but soft and chewy down under. You need somthin' chewy Vince. You just don't want it to melt in your mouth. They take a bit of work but they last.

CHERRY

Those are good, wish I could cook like that.

Vincent takes one too.

VINCENT

Edibles?

BANNER KATE

I made them not my sister.

Vince chomps a big bite and gets busy chewing deep.

BOONE

See I told you.

VINCENT

(mouthful still chewing)

Mmm mmmm ...

BANNER KATE

I have some of these!

IMA PLUM

Ooo, Glitter covered strawberries. Rochester gave me some last week.

(Ima takes one and slides it in her mouth)

My mouth feels like it I've just given a blowjob to Peter Pan.

PROFESSOR PLUM

They are something else.

CHERRY

I'll take one of those to.

CHAD

Mmm Hmm.

BOONE

Did you bring my?

BANNER KATE

Yes, but I don't think--

Boone heartily reaches into Scarlett quick and grabs a can of PBR and proudly pops the top.

Beer sprays out everywhere and onto a painting.

BANNER KATE

Oh my, Boonie!

BOONE

Ahh, I little warm but it still taste like freedom.

MIA

(instinctually dashing from around the corner
over to the painting)

What did you do? Vincent!

IMA PLUM

Oh my.

VINCENT

I didn't--

CHERRY

Wow.

BOONE

It's just a little beer foam, it'll dry it's oil paint.

MIA

It is Van Gogh's olive trees! It is the most expensive painting in the museum.

VINCENT

Farthest away from the doors in case anyone tries to steel it.

CHAD

Oh really.

Mia's eyes burn through Vincent's.

VINCENT

It's a fun fact.

BANNER KATE

Here take my shawl and dab it a bit.

MIA

You can't dab a beer soaked Van Gogh a bit.

PROFESSOR PLUM

Yes I don't think--

Boone slurps out another quick chug of beer and hands the can to Vincent who hides a swig smiles and passes it back.

BANNER KATE

Here I'll try.

Banner Kate dabs and daubs the painting, pressing and holding. Then yanks the shawl away.

MIA

No!

BANNER KATE

See all dry!

MIA

(Yelling quietly)

There is green on your white shawl! There is green on your white shawl!

VINCENT

We should move along.

MIA

We have to tell someone. Now!

Empusa ambling by across the room

EMPUSA

Is everything ok over there.

VINCENT

Great, we just stopped at the Van Gogh and were discussing how there was too much green in it.

EMPUSA

I think you might be right Vincent, good luck with the contest. You know your colors.

VINCENT

Thank you!

CHAD

(looking Empusa up and down and around)

Bye?

CHERRY

(giving Empusa a sly wink)

Bye!

Vincent hurries the group pushing around the corner to the next painting.

BOONE

(boone big hand crushes the can)

Do you have recycling? I might as well start now.

MIA

(beside herself)

Vincent I need this how could you let this--

BOONE

I feel real bad Mia, don't bend the nail.

VINCENT

No she's right I should have been watching.

PROFESSOR PLUM

I've seen the painting several times and it looked the same to me. Van Gogh himself more than likely spilled absinthe or wine on it.

IMA PLUM

True, true.

PROFESSOR PLUM

I've champagne corks have hit some on our paintings.

IMA PLUM

Bounced right off and broke a vase!

Banner Kates purse starts playing when Irish Eyes are Smile.

BANNER KATE

Sorry Babysitter... Hello... no I'm sure...

Boones jeans starts playing Rock Island Line

Mia looks exasperated and throws up her arms.

Boone scrambles pulling and pressing at his pockets. If nothing else just to make it stop.

BOONE

(Boone trips back)

(apologetically)

Sorry again... Ello?. Tell her I said spit them out!

BANNER KATE

Well it is hide and seek... He doesn't like tatter tot hot dish.

Banner Kate and Boone both hang up at the same time.

BANNER KATE

Can't find Billy Don.

BOONE

Anne gun put the whole bag of red hots in her mouth making gingerbread men.

BANNER KATE

Again, that girl!

CHERRY

She sounds like a handful.

BANNER KATE

Oh she is.

MIA

Ok, lets continue...

IDA

Your babysitter called you both?

BANNER KATE

No, we have two working at the same time.

BOONE

At least we know now the babysitters are alive...

VINCENT

Why have two?

BOONE

When you and Mia have five going on six kids you'll understand.

MIA

Oh, no no no! We are moving on !

BANNER KATE

You and Vincent don't want kids dear? They are so fun.

VINCENT

No she just doesn't want me.

BANNER KATE

Me and Boonie thought you were dating.

MIA

Oh No!

VINCENT

(defeated)

No.

IMA PLUM

Me and Rochester did too.

CHAD

Even I thought the peter was in the pan.

CHERRY

I was hoping you weren't.

Mia gives Cherry the double take.

MIA

This is none of everyone's business. But we just can't decide on a honeymoon spot.
Maybe Niagara Falls? Can you rent a barrel there?

VINCENT

We have dated several times but it never works out.

MIA

No, several times you didn't work out. Why are we talking about this? This next painting Here is--

BANNER KATE

He seems so sweet.

IMA PLUM

Smart and charming.

PROFESSOR PLUM

In a sexual anthropological way he would be an opening act but--

IMA PLUM

You're not helping.

CHERRY

Steak tartar to me. Two napkins.

VINCENT

Thanks everyone.

BOONE

You the man!

MIA

Thanks everyone? You the man?

VINCENT

You heard it.

MIA

Well I guess you all are right, Vincent is the perfect boyfriend. On our very first date., my first date also, IN high school.

VINCENT

You are--

MIA

He told me he loved me, before!, the entrées had arrived. And then the next day, sent my parents a thank you for creating me Haiku! I should have known something was up at the appetizer. He wouldn't share.

VINCENT

I just don't like people touching my food.

MIA

They were called NACHOS FOR TWO!! And then. And THEN. He did the most romantic thing in the world. At the pop singing assembly that same freshman year Vincent here sang a great long beautiful ballad with his band that he announced was just for me called? I Love How You've Blossomed!

VINCENT

About how you've grown as a woman to love.

IMA PLUM

Oo Vincent...

MIA

He was nice enough to invite my parents and Grandparents... invited them up to sing background oo's and ahh's when he cued them on the last chorus. They had to stand there for three minutes until it was time. They didn't sing they just stood there.

VINCENT

It would have added a lot.

Banner Kate opens up Scarlett and sneaks out liquor store checkout bottles of wine and slips them out to everyone. They take sips and tips when Mia and Vincent aren't looking their way.

MIA

He was so sweet and invited me over for a movie night when his parents were out of town. Just us. You know, you think you know how it's going to go. He wouldn't do anything because he respected me. So we just watched and watched the movie. Would you like to know what the movie was called? Anyone? Well it was called Lesbian Centipede! Now I don't know if you know a lot about centipedes but yes they have a hundred legs... that interlock... over and over... They twist and turn and can convolute their bodies in all kinds of ways. And their tongues...

VINCENT

It was my brothers, he put it back wrong.

MIA

We watched the whole thing! They all laid eggs at the end. Happily ever after.

PROFESSOR PLUM

I'm curious to know, how did they lay eggs?

CHERRY

I think my cousin was in that.

VINCENT

What about that time we went to Afton and watched the Leonid meteor shower? We made a lot of wishes, ate red vines and drank our first wine?

MIA

You ate too many red vines and said your tummy hurt, stood up, and to the crowd of people that were also watching nested around the park; "does anyone have any toilet paper?" No one did, imagine that so you and me spent the next fifteen minutes looking for just the right dried leaves for you to use. Then you perched yourself on a stump and made noises, lots of noises... and then everyone aimed their flash on there phones at you. I had to join in...

VINCENT

That was the night of our first kiss, my first kiss.

MIA

It was my first kiss to but I had to show you how!

VINCENT

But we still did it together. You picked the best leaves and red vines are your favorite. I'll bet a lot of your wishes came true. I just wished for the same thing over and over and it can true... and we did it awkwardly but we did it together... And we were laughing ourselves silly. I thought it was special and romantic.

MIA

It was, but not adult perfect.

VINCENT

You always want to be a million miles ahead of your chances. We were kids. I was at that awkward stage, and prolly always will be.

MIA

But you never seem to grow up.

VINCENT

So I want things to be spontaneous and magical and means I'm not an adult?

MIA

Like you always have a band, such a big star, dreams came true.

VINCENT

It's just fun if something happens it happens. If I don't get the podcast gig I'm moving to Paris. Paris this and Paris that, like if you went there you good finally paint the greatest works of art. Learn to shoot ping pong balls from the top of the Eiffel tower and the art world will be at your feet.

MIA

Funny!, but you know what I mean, you need the feeling.

VINCENT

That's what I'm about the feeling. But sometimes you just need to do. Stop trying to always have things be perfect before they can be. Just go with things and see what happens. Show up at your life.

MIA

We have tried over and over.

VINCENT

And we and you, uh me and you keep trying, you got me this job?

MIA

We are still pretty good friends?

VINCENT

And do you wanna know why we are still pretty good friend?

MIA

I'm sure it's spontaneous.

VINCENT

Because we are smashable!

MIA

Smashab?--

Everyone starts to sneak the empty wine bottles back in
Banner Kates purse dully clinking the bottles.

VINCENT

Smashable! You may not realize it but we are together. Act some lines from a
Shakespearian play. Listen to one motif from a Beethoven symphony. Watch one scene
of a Kubrick film. Read a stanza from a Sylvia Plath poem.

MIA

Stick my head in the oven.

VINCENT

Rip up a Van Gogh painting and admire one piece of it. Crush and smash an empty can of
Pabst Blue Ribbon.

Boone give two thumbs up.

It Doesn't matter what you do to these things, with only one little bit left. They still are
what they are. We still are what we are.

EMPUSA

(clobbering up to them)

And what you about to be is an unemployed docent. Firing free labor. You'll be back later
in life, beat down and docile. You are drinking the right beer so you got that going for you.
It's still snowing hard so we need to get these tours going out the door.

VINCENT

Sorry, I have some PBR in my van if you want some after work?

EMPUSA

Smashing!

Empusa clobbs away.

MIA

See you did it again, you always do it. Making everything perfect in the end.

VINCENT

You don't--

MIA

No.

Everyone is back and forth standing uncomfortably
rocking a little ways away, not wanting to look at them.

Mia and Vincent are still fencing with there eyes.

PROFESSOR PLUM

Well that was sexual anthropology at its finest!

IMA PLUM

Let them bury their feathers a bit.

CHERRY

I'm a little tipsy.

CHAD

We need to bolt.

BANNER KATE

We should get going soon Boonie. The babysitters can only hold them off so lar.

BOONE

OK. Well this painting.. Lets look at the card... called Marriage... Oil on canvas, I don't
think I'm gonna get another copper., was painted by a crazy person.

PROFESSOR PLUM

More maybe paint by prime numbers.

IMA PLUM

With all the leftover brown paint.

Vincent enters up to the painting leaving Mia standing
back.

VINCENT

Actually, this painting is one of the finest painting in the cubist genre.

CHAD

Everything is kinda square shaped.

VINCENT

And in a way you are right about the colors, Brown and blues were hallmarks of the cubist color scheme. In cubism the subjects were fragmented and deconstructed so the could be viewed from many angles.

CHAD

So squares is right.

VINCENT

Squares is right!

CHERRY

That one in a row.

VINCENT

In the painting the man and the woman are depicted in traditional forms of the times. He is seated in a suit reading the paper and smoking. Representing intellect and culture. While the woman Day dreaming nude and waiting for him represents sensuality.

BOONE

There's one ta ta for ya Chad.

CHAD

No I think that one viewed in the cube is a breast.

MIA

(marching up slowly to the painting)

Very good Chad. And I don't think she is waiting for him, I think she is bored. Does anyone else see anything.

CHERRY

I think she's thinking of someone else.

IMA PLUM

She's the one who probably read all of the books in the background. She could represent culture?

BANNER KATE

Pears are a cultured fruit and they are on he side.

VINCENT

The room is very cluttered what does that say about them?

IMA PLUM

It could mirror there married life.

BOONE

Maybe it's not cluttered at all. Maybe it's just the cubism making it look cluttered.
Maybe what you see isn't what you think you see.

CHAD

So cubism makes even the worst and dull painting seem interesting 'cause you're looking all around trying to figure out what the hell it is so that leads to a super meaning when it's really just some business dude and his chick with he ta ta's out trying to get him to notice her cause she's horny.

PROFESSOR PLUM

Chad I think you've hit upon it.

CHAD

You can't tell if you want to hit it or not.

PROFESSOR PLUM

I stand corrected you man, I stand corrected.

MIA

Where is Boone ? He was just here. He just said something profound.

BANNER KATE

Oh he walked down that way, whispered he was gonna check on something.

MIA

What could he check on?

BANNER KATE

Something for me he said.

MIA

Well lets all go find him, Lets not lose anyone else.

VINCENT

Everyone follow along please.

MIA

We can try down this hallway.

VINCENT

We've had luck down here earlier.

Mia swings into a doorway halfway down the hall.

ACT THREE

MIA

Did you get lost?

BOONE

No just wanted to check out what they did with the place.

Everyone else in the groups catches up and bunches through the door into the high ceiling plain but grand room.

BANNER KATE

Oh my! What is that?

PROFESSOR PLUM

Examining it, I think it's a penis?

CHAD

No that's a cock!

IMA PLUM

That is a cock!

CHAD

It looks like a cubist slide.

VINCENT

We did have a child up it right before the tour.

BANNER KATE

What kind of child would want to climb that.

VINCENT

He was a bit of a brat.

MIA

I think Empusa changes his life course.

CHAD

We can form a club.

MIA

Well we should get back, we are almost done with the tour and I know you all have other places to be.

BOONE

I just wanted to show Banner Kate what I have been working on the last few weeks.

MIA

Working on?

BOONE

My painting company got the contract to help with the install.

(Holding his arms out up and wide and
turning three sixty)

See Honey. My painting is in the Minneapolis Museum of Art.

BANNER KATE

Very nice!

MIA

I never Saw you around?

BOONE

I was always here early. Just me and the janitor. Rockin' out to Billy Squire and Steely Dan on my boom box.

MIA

(admiring and contemplating around the
statue)

Lovely, just the right shade.

BOONE

(laughing heartily)

I call it cubist white, white painted in a cube.

BANNER KATE

I'd like it better without the--

PROFESSOR PLUM

Steely Dan! The white brings out the shine though.

BOONE

That's a band.

PROFESSOR PLUM

Yes it is, but first it was a metal dildo.

BOONE

What? So they're named after a metal dildo! The music doesn't sound dildo.

PROFESSOR PLUM

Lot's of bands are named after genitalia.

BANNER KATE

Who would do that?

PROFESSOR PLUM

The Lovin Spoonful. Pearl Jam, The Flaming Lips--

IMA PLUM

The Lovin Spoonful?

PROFESSOR PLUM

A euphemism for semen, same as Pearl Jam

CHERRY

The Scissor Sisters! Talking heads--

BANNER KATE

What is a scissor sister?

Cherry whispers in Banner Kates ear smiling.

BANNER KATE

Too much work...

VINCENT

Third Eye Blind!

MIA

(moving through the chatter)

Oh that's just wrong, I'm so getting baby fever. We need to get going.

PROFESSOR PLUM

I've studied them, Whitesnake, The Muffs, Mother Love Bone.

BANNER KATE

These are worse than the paintings.

CHAD

Throbbing Gristle!

PROFESSOR PLUM

You know Throbbing Gristle?

CHAD

My Dads favorite band, a bit on the odd side.

PROFESSOR PLUM

Odd is in the beholder.

VINCENT

Nin Inch Nails, Meat Puppets, and Meat Beat Manifesto, Cherrie Poppin' Daddies!

(looking at Cherry)

No offense.

CHERRY

Oh none taken.

BOONE

I didn't know there was that much booze in the drink, That's a lot... Does Eric Johnson count?

BANNER KATE

The Sex Pistols, The Sex Pistols!! I get one!

PROFESSOR PLUM

You are correct.

CHERRY

Bang, Bang!

BANNER KATE

I never even thought of it like that. I just heard the name and knew it was a band.

IMA PLUM

And don't even get him started on song titles.

PROFESSOR PLUM

The Neil Diamond song Cracklin' Rosie... it's about a blowup doll--

MIA

I CAN'T GET THE DOOR OPEN, I CAN'T GET THE DOOR OPEN! Who shut the damn door?

VINCENT

I didn't want anyone else coming in.

MIA

What!

VINCENT

People have been wandering in all day.

MIA

I can't believe you! Now help me get it open.! What door doesn't open from the inside?

CHERRY

Freezers.

CHAD

Bank vaults!

IMA PLUM

A car trunk,

BANNER KATE

A clothes trunk.

PROFESSOR PLUM

That's odd, all the places you never want to be locked into.

BOONE

Well that's why.

IMA PLUM

Add museum exhibition room to the list.

MIA

(desperately pulling and pushing on the
door)

It just won't... damnit!

OVER THE INTERCOM

(Empusas voice)

We will be closing in the next half hour because of the inclement weather. Please finish up your viewing experience.

We will be closing in the next half hour because of the inclement weather. Please finish up your viewing experience.

We enjoyed having you with us and please drive safe.

CHAD

I can smell that voice.

PROFESSOR PLUM

Omnis Satanica Potestas?

CHAD

Exactly!

BANNER KATE

Look up at the high window, it's really coming down.

BOONE

Proolly two inches and hour. Let me take a look at the door.

MIA

(giving extra pulls and pushes to the door)
Nothing, it's stuck or something.

BOONE

(giving the doorknob the fullest twist and
heavily pushing and pulling the door.)
Looks to me like someone installed knob backwards with the lock on the other side.

VINCENT

(to Mia)
See I told you I locked it.

MIA
From the outside!, And you still shut it this time.

BOONE
That's a Schlage too, I don't know if I could even break on through to the other side.

VINCENT
We can just call the front desk.

Mia and Vincent hurriedly get out their phones and call

PROFESSOR PLUM
We never carry our cells, it just intrudes too much on life, we prefer the isolation.

CHERRY
Mines dead.

CHAD
Damn, mine to.

BANNER KATE
You have your phone honey.

Boone whips out his phone like he's at the O.K. Corral.

CHAD

What is that?

BOONE

My phone.

IMA PLUM

That's a flip phone.

CHERRY

One of those starter phones from the nineties.

MIA

I don't have any service!

VINCENT

Zero bars here.

MIA

Maybe if we make a lot of noise someone will hear us.

PROFESSOR PLUM

The best thing to do is yell fire.

BANNER KATE

There's no fire we'll be arrested.

IMA PLUM

He's right. Studies have found if you yell help people get afraid and think they might get hurt themselves--

PROFESSOR PLUM

But if you yell fire everyone will want to help--

MIA

FIRE! FIRE!! FIRE!!!

Everyone starts screaming fire in their own freak out timbre.

BOONE

NO SMOKING AT THE METRODOME! NO SMOKING AT THE METRODOME!!

MIA

SHHH! I think I hear something.

Everyone stops and listens.

Silence.

MIA

FIRE! FIRE!! FIRE!!!

Again everyone yells fire. Stronger then gradually weaker.

BOONE

NO SMOKING AT THE METRODOME! NO SMOKING AT THE METRODOME!!

MIA

(dejected)

STOP!!! It's a long hallway and perspective is the first thing you learn to draw.

BOONE

NO SMOKING AT THE METRODOME! NO SMOKING AT THE METRODOME!!

BANNER KATE

(punching Boone in the arm)

Boonie, Stop!!

MIA

We just need to think.

Mia is deep in thought mumbling to herself, maneuvers over to the statue.

BOONE

Will all that I'm hungry again and could use a drink.

PROFESSOR PLUM

I'm a bit parches myself.

IMA PLUM

Do you have any wine left Banner?

BANNER KATE

A few bottles. And one more PBR. Hold on let me dig in Scarlet.

CHAD

That wine was a very good year.

IMA PLUM

More like a very good month, or half day went home sick.

BANNER KATE

Here are some Swedish Fish and some Hot Tamales cinnamon things

(handing Chad a small leather pouch)

Hold this Dear... I know I have the wine somewhere in here. High dive back down in Scarlet.

CHAD

What is this?

BANNER KATE

Don't play with it or I'll have to kill you.

VINCENT

Maybe if we get up high on the penis.

IMA PLUM

That's a cock.

CHERRY

Cock!

VINCENT

Sorry, Cock, we could maybe signal out the window with the lights on our phone and the people leaving would see it?

PROFESSOR PLUM

That seems logical.

IMA PLUM

No they'll all have their back to the glass.

MIA

Someone always loses something and runs back in, keys, gloves, kids, Grandma.

VINCENT

They do, a lot. Grandma stayed all night once. Slept in the Frank Lloyd Wright hallway right on the window seats.

BOONE

My phone has a light brighter than the bat signal.

Boone tosses his flip phone to Mia

MIA

That's the only plan we got.

Mia starts to awkwardly climb the statue

VINCENT

But I'm afraid of heights, so I can't

MIA

(grunting a bit)

Oh I didn't forget, I knew I'd be climbing.

VINCENT

I can hold it though so it doesn't move.

MIA

Ok, Boone could you give him some muscles and help him hold it.

CHAD

AAAAUUUUGGGGHHHHHH!!!!

Chad spins around spraying everyone except Mia with what was in the leather pouch.

Everyone starts screaming in forgotten childhood pain and immediately rubbing out their eyes.

CHAD

Shit what is that?

CHERRY

What the hell stud?

BANNER KATE

You fuckin Goddamn son of a whore bastard shit in the milk may the cat eat you and may the devil eat the cat fuck your ancestors to the eighteenth generation your mother suckles piglets I'm gonna sit you on top of that steely dan and spin you off into fuckin space! It's MACE and I told you not to play with it!!!

IMA PLUM

Id have some choice words for you, but she took them all.

MIA

Oh my God. Chateau Margaux!

BOONE

(still rubbing his eyes)

Yeah she can rattle off quite the blue streak. Especially with mace in the face. I guess

VINCENT

I'm blind, I'm blind

MIA

Yet somehow you're gonna live.

CHAD

Everything I see is Cubist.

PROFESSOR PLUM

Quick the wine and the PBR, we can pour it into our eyes and wash them out.

MIA

We have wine now.

CHERRY

We've had it all day.

CHAD

Why would you have mace for Christ sakes.

BANNER KATE

For when I go into the city. Oh I feel the wine, three bottles I think, we'll have to share.

Banner Kate feel hands the bottles to everyone.

BOONE

Do you have the PBR?

BANNER KATE

Yes Boonie, but there's more in the can so you don't hog it all.

BOONE

Trust me I don't wanna be sucklin piglets.

Everyone twist off the cap of the tiny wine bottles and pours sloppily into there eyes. Boone fizz pops his top.

IMA PLUM

I don't know which is worse the wine or the mace.

PROFESSOR PLUM

Don't pour at all just dab we don't have much.

CHAD

This is gonna stain my suite.

CHERRY

Save me the trouble later.

BOONE

The PBR isn't half bad. The hoppiness sorta soothes the eyes.

VINCENT

(waving his hand out)

Pass the PBR I'm still blind.

VINCENT

Don't drink it!

Boone takes a sip and fumbles the can into Vincent's hand

BOONE

I thought you were blind!

Mia holds her hand up and out with Boons flip phone
ablaze

MIA

I can reach it, I'm almost there can you guys hold the penis I feel it tipping and going
down a bit?

Vincent walks Frankenstein like over to the statue
kicking over the PBR can.

BOONE

Alcohol abuse, save the beer

CHAD

Oh my god it still burns bad.

PROFESSOR PLUM

It just takes time. Crying will help flush it out.

CHAD

I'm not going to cry in front of Cherry.

IMA PLUM

Let it out, let it out.

MIA

That's it Vincent hold the penis right there.

VINCENT

(looking up at Mia, mace tears pouring out of
his beer soaked eyes)

MIA WILL YOU MARRY ME?

The whole room goes silent except for the
reverberations...

Still silent...

BANNER KATE

OH FOR FUCKS SAKE! My water just broke!

BOONE

We got about three minutes! She has a birthin' canal like a super slide.

MIA

Professor do you.?

PROFESSOR PLUM

Not that kind of a Doctor I just study things going in, not coming out.

BANNER KATE

And this is defiantly coming out, NOW!

CHERRY

What do we do?

BOONE

I'm old school in the waiting room with cigars.

PROFESSOR PLUM

I should be more modern but I admire that tradition.

CHAD

That's the way I'd do it.

Banner Kate falls back on the floor with her head pushing into Scarlet as she hikes up her dress.

BANNER KATE

Hello the fuck on.

CHAD

(looking down at Banner Kates super slide)

May the devil eat the cat.

IMA PLUM

Take her panties off!

BOONE

Don't look at me I'm not doin' that, she always does that.

PROFESSOR PLUM

I respect that.

Banner lifts up her dress, grabs the crotch of her panties and in one quick motion rips them right off.

BANNER KATE

Learned that from being impatient for what goes in too.

CHAD

Respect.

CHERRY

I'll hold her hand.

IMA PLUM

I got the other one.

MIA

Boone you'll have to get in there! Vincent you help him.

Vincent lets go of the statue and it starts to tip the top.

Mia desperately looks for the best way to climb down.

MIA

No sorry, don't let go of the penis keep it right there in that spot so I can--

BANNER KATE

Here we go I can't stop pushing!!!

BOONE

Stop my hands are shaking, I can see the head! I'm touching it! My hand is sticky like a beehive bear!

MIA

Boone?

BOONE

Kinda busy.

MIA

You son is here.

BOONE

We're having a girl.

VINCENT

Not the one, the babysitter couldn't find.

MIA

We chased him off of the statue about an hour ago.

BANNER KATE

Billy Don is here bless his kind heart he is a Mamas boy, OOOHHHHHHH!

BOONE

He's still in trouble those poor sitters are prolly still routin' through the crawl space.

BANNER KATE

(panting and out of breath)

Auuhhhh...Boonie lets name the baby after Mia...

BOONE

I love that. OK one big push.

PROFESSOR PLUM

That is perfect.

MIA

Oh please, don't please.

IMA PLUM

I think it's perfect.

BANNER KATE

(panting heavier)

How about after Cherry and Ima. OHHHHH.

BOONE

Cherry Ima? No... Ima Cherry! That's it.

MIA

Well I love that.

IMA PLUM

I don't think--

CHERRY

Yeah I--

BANNER KATE

(blowing hard out of her mouth)

Auuhhhh... Boonie lets go back to Mia, she'll come around.

MIA

I have to come around.

PROFESSOR PLUM

You do Dear.

BOONE

Ok, Mia's head is out, here she blows!!

BANNER KATE

(grunting pushing hard)

I love you Boonie!

BOONE

I love you too.

BANNER KATE

Auuhhhhhhhh!

The she is!

BOONE

The baby starts crying healthily loud right away. Boone kneeling holds the baby up proud to Mia with the umbilical chord still connecting her to Banner Kate tugging a bit at Moms end.

MISS MIA, MEET MIA!!!

Careful.

MIA

Oh Boonie she's perfect.

BANNER KATE

Like her mother.

BOONE

In silence every one just watches for a moment.

MIA

Wow, that is valentines day.

VINCENT

Isn't it.

Empusa burst gracelessly through the door!

EMPUSA

What the living hell is going on it here?

Empusa shoe prints the door hard behind her for effect.

EVERYONE

Don't close the door!

The door slams shut

EMPUSA

You two don't stand any chance of winning now. I knew I should have followed you more closely. Podcast?, you both can't even walk and talk at the same time,, worthless just worthless. Two peas in a rotten pod.

MIA

Would you like our valentines day cards now?

CHERRY

Hey, you can't talk to our friends that way.

PROFESSOR PLUM

They have been very gracious and taught us a lot.

EMPUSA

You've been taken for a drunken ride it looks like.

IMA PLUM

Excuse me, we have a newborn baby here...

CHAD

Yeah.

EMPUSA

You don't say a word. And where else would a baby be but in here. Would it like a podcast show.? It probably know more about art.

BOONE

Mia, Vince my man, I tell you what I'm gonna to do. How would you like to do an art podcast, not just the museums collection but all over the world? Sponsored by my painting company! I like how you guys tag teamed me in the ring.

EMPUSA

That's laughable.

VINCENT

Me and her together? I'm in.

BOONE

You in Mia? You can tell this lady to go screw herself .

VINCENT

Mia?

EMPUSA

She knows her place.

BOONE

You can tell her right now?

BANNER KATE

(baby starts crying out again)

Mia...

MIA

I'm in!

BANNER KATE

I'll tell her for you! Lady you're a fuckin Goddamn daughter of a whore cunt shit in the milk may the cat eat you and may the devil eat the cat.

Billy Don swings the door wide open and everyone But Banner Kate and Vincent look over happily surprised.

BANNER KATE CONT. AND
VINCENT

(Vincent joins in a little behind)

Fuck your ancestors to the eighteenth generation your mother suckles piglets I'm gonna sit you on top of that big steely dan cubist cock! And spin you off into fuckin space!

BILLY DON

OH HELL NO!

Billy Don slams the door shut.

Stage goes black.

MIA

Vincent.

Uh huh?

VINCENT

Yes.

MIA

THE END