

INT. JACK&LOUISE'S PROVINCETOWN HOME - DAY

LOUISE enters, EUGENE is already there, searching the cupboards for bottles.

LOUISE

Hello.

EUGENE

Where's the whiskey?

LOUISE takes a bottle of whiskey from a cupboard, hands it to EUGENE.

LOUISE

Would you like a glass? Don't try and decide. I'll get you one. (searching for a glass) I like your play. I only hope I can do the part justice. I think your dialogue is beautiful, I really do, I love it.

She hands him the glass.

EUGENE

Then why the hell don't you just stand still and say it instead of wandering all over the stage? You're supposed to be looking for your soul, not an ashtray.

LOUISE

Would you rather I didn't smoke during rehearsals?

EUGENE

I'd rather you went up in flames than put out your cigarette in the middle of a monologue about birth.

LOUISE

I'm sorry. You're absolutely right.

She pours him a glass of whiskey.

EUGENE

It makes me wanna cancel the whole production.

LOUISE

I won't do it again. Excuse me, I'm sorry.

EUGENE

You keep the glass, I'll take the bottle.

LOUISE

Are you leaving? Give me your glass.

He steps closer so she can pour him another glass, she notices his hand.

LOUISE (CTD)

Are you nervous? Or is that a tremor?

EUGENE

Why aren't you in Chicago with Jack?

LOUISE

Why should I be? He has his things, I have mine.

EUGENE

What are they?

LOUISE

What?

EUGENE

The things that you have that are yours. What are they?

LOUISE

My work, for one.

EUGENE

He's a real mean son of a bitch, isn't he?

LOUISE

What do you mean?

EUGENE

Leaving you alone with your work.

LOUISE

You think I mind?

EUGENE

You should. It's the one thing we mustn't be left alone with.

He leans over with his glass, she pours him more whiskey.

LOUISE

You may feel that way, I don't.

EUGENE

Good. Don't let those Village radicals keep you from being what you should be.

LOUISE

What do you think I should be?

EUGENE

The center of attention.

LOUISE

Well, you must have been with some very competitive women.

EUGENE

Let's just say possessive.

LOUISE

Possessive? That's something else. It's a waste of time. I'm not. Neither is Jack for that matter.

EUGENE

Oh yes, I know, you and Jack have your own things.

LOUISE

He has the freedom to do the things he wants to and so do I. And I think everyone who is afraid of this kind of freedom is really only afraid of his own emptiness.

EUGENE

Are you making this up as you go along? Huh?

LOUISE

I'd like you to go.

She hands him the bottle.

EUGENE

Why?

LOUISE

Because I don't want to be patronized. I'm sorry if you don't believe in mutual independence and free love and respect.

EUGENE

Don't give me a lot of parlor socialism that you learned in  
(MORE)

EUGENE (CONT'D)  
the Village. If you were mine I  
wouldn't share you with anybody  
or anything. It'd be just you  
and me. You'd be at the center  
of it all. You know it would  
feel a lot more like love than  
being left alone with your work.

She gets up, walks over to her desk.

EUGENE (CONT'D)  
I hope I haven't upset you.

LOUISE  
Not at all. I'm grateful. But  
you seem to be looking for  
something much more serious than  
what I had in mind.

EUGENE  
Than what you had in mind?

LOUISE  
Yes. You see, Jack and I are  
perfectly capable of living with  
our beliefs. But I think someone  
as romantic as you would be  
destroyed by them. And I don't  
want that to happen. It would  
upset Jack too much.

He starts leaving, then hesitates. They look at each  
other. She goes over to him and kisses him.