

THE ACTRESS

Nina

This looks great. Right here.
Is this great or what?
Wait a minute. This is...no wait.
No wait. Right here. No wait.

Mike

Nina

Nina

Right here, that's what I'm saying, right here.
This is incredible. The ocean?
I mean, it's incredible, right?
Oh, you were so right. This was just what I needed,
just a break from everything.
A meditation. Sun. Water. Birds. It's so relaxing.

Mike

I told you

Nina

That's what I'm saying,
you told me and you were right,
I said you were so so right.
I mean I did not want to do that stupid workshop.
That play just sucked, yet another opportunity
to play some idiot doing things that make
no fucking sense whatsoever,
for no money, that no one is ever going to produce.
Who fucking needs it.

Mike

This is better

Nina

Please! Are you kidding?
Look at this! I so needed this.
After that pilot season, oh my God,
you know they keep saying this is the worst one yet
and then the next one is just worst.
It's like how do they keep getting worse?
But they do! It's so fucking demoralizing.

Mike

Nobody got anything.

Nina

Nobody got anything.
Who are they hiring anymore?

Mike

It sucks.

Nina

It so totally sucks.

Mike

This is better.

Nina

This is so totally better, are you kidding?
Because I am just completely disgusted with it.
I mean, I didn't even get close this year.
Last year, at least I got close,
that cops and public defender in Manhattan show,
I almost had that, but no they had to hire a movie star...
oh shoot. Why am I thinking about that again?
Six callbacks. I thought I was going to have heart failure.

Mike

They do that to everybody.

Nina

No, I know, I just...
you know how when something that
disappointed you just comes up again,
all of a sudden? Oh, shoot.
On such a pretty day? Why does that happen?
I thought I was over that.
I really wanted that.
I would have been good in that.

Mike

It didn't make it on the air anyway.

Nina

Thank God, that script was just
the stupidest thing I ever read in my life.
And that cow they hired, please God help me,
she can't act her way out of a paper bag,
that's why her movie career dried up.
I mean, does it make sense to hire someone
who is a total fucking failure as an actress,
just because she was bad
in a couple of movies in her twenties?

Mike

You want to take a walk?

Nina

No, I'm relaxing,
this is so relaxing just being here.
Don't you think this is relaxing?

Mike

Yeah. No, yeah.

Nina

I am so relaxed. Those fuckheads.
I am a fucking artist, I do not fucking need
this kind of fucking rejection every day.

Mike

Nobody does.

Nina

I know. Fuckers. This is so relaxing.
And I was not going to do that workshop anyway.
That play is idiotic.

Mike

Nina.

Nina

I mean, how many fucking bad plays
can you do before you just get
completely fucking demoralized?

Mike

I know, but you know. I mean. You know?

Nina

Because fuck.

Mike

You want a soda or something?

Nina

I would love a soda.

Mike

Here. God, that tastes great.
You know,
that is a damn good fucking can of soda.
Sodas on the beach.
Sometimes I am really just grateful.
Because this is...I mean, life is...
I mean, look at that stupid bird.
That is so beautiful. Look at him, just...

Nina

Oh yeah.

Mike
Right?

Nina
Fuck yes. This was a fantastic idea,
coming out here. As opposed to what,
hanging around the city and
doing some loser workshop of a bad play,
this is a no fucking brainer.

Mike
This is a good soda.

Nina
I mean, I'm an actress. You know?
I am an interpretive fucking artist.
Give me something to interpret,
why don't you, then you'll see something.
All I ever do is audition for shit,
total shit, that's all anyone is doing anymore.
Television, film, the theater,
all of it, it's completely unwatchable.

Mike
Maybe you should take some time off.
I mean, maybe that would actually be good for you.

Nina
What is that supposed to mean?

Mike
I mean...

Nina
You mean stop?

Mike

No, no that's not what I mean.
I just mean, I don't do it anymore and it's fine.

Nina

What do you mean, you don't do it?

Mike

Come on, Nina, I don't – I mean,
I don't do it.
I haven't been on an audition in five months.

Nina

It was a shitty pilot season, everyone knows that.

Mike

That's not what I mean.

Nina

No one got anything.

Mike

Listen, I don't feel bad about it.
You don't have to make me feel better.

Nina

I'm not.

Mike

It's just, I don't know.
I think I decided that I like being a bartender.
The people come in and talk to you, it's interesting.
They all do so many different things,
and you know, you're a bartender
so they want to talk to you.
And I realized that every time
somebody told me what they did,
I'm a lawyer, I'm a real estate broker,
I work in a shoe store, I'd say, yea,
I'm an actor.

Like I wanted to let them know
that I wasn't really a bartender,
I was really not what it looked like I was.
And everybody was always really nice about it.
But it just hit me one day,
that I was being kind of dumb.
To be spending your life thinking that
what you were doing wasn't real.
Like you're just doing that while you're waiting
to do something else with the rest of your life?
So for a couple days, I did this experiment,
whenever people told me what they did,
I said, I'm a bartender.
That's what I told them.
I'm a bartender. And it felt kind of good, you know.
It actually did. I like being a bartender.
I like not thinking about what I'm not all the time.

Nina

Everybody needs to take time off once in a while.

Mike

I'm not taking time off. I'm a bartender.
I'm a bartender, sitting on a beach.

Nina

Well, I don't know how to respond to that.

Mike

You don't have to respond.

Nina

So, what, you want me to say,
I'm a caterer sitting on a beach?

Mike

That's not what I'm saying.

Nina

I don't know what you're saying.

Mike

It's just, I thought it would be good to get away.

Nina

I said it was, what have I been saying?

Mike

I know you have, I just...

Nina

I should have done that workshop.

Mike

No, come on.

Nina

There were a lot of people coming to see that.
After the shitty pilot season I just had,
I cannot afford to just turn down work.

Mike

Come on, Nina.
That's not what I meant, at all.

Nina

Well, what did you mean?
You meant I should just admit I'm not an actress –

Mike

No –

Nina

I should just give up my entire identity –

Mike

No, come on –

Nina

Well, I'm just not ready to do that all right?
I still have a dream of being an artist.
I'm sorry if you don't understand that.

Mike

I do understand that, Nina –

Nina

I am not giving up everything I have worked,
you know how hard I work –

Mike

Yeah but, that's what I'm saying.
We can –

Nina

Maybe it never meant the same thing to you.

Mike

OK maybe it didn't but you do.
You do, and a baby –

Nina

I just can't be asked –

Mike

Come on, honey. Come on.
I think we should have it –

Nina

Do you know what it does to your figure?
It's hard enough to get work. It's hard enough.

Mike

I can take care of us. I love you.
Come on. I love you.

Nina

That's not the point.

Is this why you asked me to do this?

A couple of days away at the beach so you could,
you could hound me about this?

Mike

I just thought it would be good to get away.

Nina

I should have done that workshop.