

Lemon Tart

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a short play

by

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Characters

MARY
SACHA
RICARDO
NATALIE
BERNIE
SUE
JENNIFER

Setting
A cafe.

Lemon Tart

SASHA IN CAFÉ. MARY ENTERS.

MARY: Hello.

SASHA: Hi.

MARY: How are you ?

SASHA: Good.

RICARDO ENTERS.

RICARDO: Can I get you ladies anything ?

SASHA: Oh hi ... isn't it Ricardo ?

RICARDO: *Ése es mi nombre.* (BEAT) That's my name.

MARY: But your name tag says Bart ?

RICARDO: Oh. I forgot mine, just borrowed this one. What can I get you ?

SASHA: Skinny latte.

MARY: Me too.

RICARDO: *Mi placer.* (EXITS)

SASHA: So what's been happening with you ?

MARY: Oh you know same as always – just working and dancing.

SASHA: You been at home ?

MARY: Yeah, been spending a bit of time at home. I put some new curtains in the kitchen.

SASHA: I'll have to come and see them.

MARY: That'd be nice. I can make you some dinner.

SASHA: Maybe. Or I can come over after work .

MARY: Yeah definitely sometime. Next week ?

SASHA: Well you know, this Saturday, if you're not busy ...

MARY: I'm not busy.

- SASHA: Do you want to come out with me ?
- MARY: Where ?
- SASHA: It's my brother's birthday. My older brother. Pete. It's his 25th – quarter of a century.
- MARY: Who's going to be there ?
- SASHA: Just my family.
- MARY: How many's that ?
- SASHA: Oh you know not many. Eighty.
- MARY: Eighty.
- SASHA: About.
- MARY: I don't know. I'll be really nervous.
- SASHA: No you won't.
- MARY: Yes I will. I'll spoil it for you.
- SASHA: How ?
- MARY: You'll have to babysit me all night. I'm sorry, I don't mean to sound ungrateful.
- SASHA: You'll be okay.
- MARY: What about Tom ?
- SAHA: Tom's busy. Well he's not busy. It's just you know – Tom and my family. They don't ... Just come. You said you want to hang out, we can just hang out. Only with eighty members of my family around. Come on, it'll be fun.
- MARY: Okay.
- SASHA: You won't regret it. What time is it ? Have we got time for cake ? We can burn it off in class tonight. (CALLS) Bart.
- MARY: I think you have to call him Ricardo.

BERNIE ENTERS.

- BERNIE: Hi Sasha, Mary. (SEES RICARDO) Ricardo ?

RICARDO: Si Senorita.

BERNIE: Can I have a peppermint tea ?

RICARDO NODS.

MARY: And can we have –

BUT RICARDO EXITS.

BERNIE: I didn't know Ricardo worked here.

SASHA: Neither did we.

BERNIE: So, how's your week been ?

SASHA: Oh you know. Watching Tom watching telly.

MARY: I've got some news.

SASHA: She's pregnant.

BARNIE: Immaculate conception.

MARY: No, Sasha's invited me to a party.

BERNIE: Has she ?

MARY: My first party in Melbourne.

BERNIE: What's the party in aid of ?

SASHA: My brother's birthday, with my family.

BARNIE: Oh, your brother's party ?

SASHA: It's going to be pretty boring. Mary'll entertain me.

BERNIE: I could entertain you too.

SASHA: There's going to be lots of old people there.

BERNIE: (TO MARY) Hope you enjoy it then.

MARY: I will. I'll just order our cake. What do you want ?

SASHA: You choose.

MARY EXITS.

BERNIE: So, you're taking Mary to your brother's birthday ? That's very nice of you.

SASHA: She doesn't know anybody.

BERNIE: What about your brother ? What's happening with him ?

SASHA: He's having a birthday ?

BERNIE: You told me he was single ?

SASHA: So ?

BERNIE: Well, is he still single ?

SASHA: Maybe.

BERNIE: So you trying to

SASHA: She's single too.

BERNIE: Are you sure she's interested ?

SASHA: She's not a lesbian.

BERNIE: Yep, but she is a virgin.

SASHA: I was too – once.

BERNIE: Why would your 25-year-old brother be interested in her ?

SASHA: She's nice.

BERNIE: She's inexperienced.

SASHA: So ?

BERNIE: I could come along and teach him a few things.

SASHA: Maybe I don't want him taught a few things.

BERNIE: Let him decide that.

SASHA: You're kind of ...

BERNIE: What ?

SASHA: What about those seven guys ?

BERNIE: They weren't important.

SASHA: Couldn't you get one out of seven ?

BERNIE: They were bastards. All men are bastards

SASHA: Well my brother's not a bastard.

BERNIE: That's why I want to meet him.

SASHA: If Mary goes out with him then you'll meet him.

BERNIE: I think I'd rather meet him without Mary. He won't like Mary.

SASHA: She's pretty and she's really shy and Pete's really shy.

BERNIE: I'm not shy.

SASHA: So you keep saying. That's why ...

BERNIE: What ?

SASHA: They would be good together.

BERNIE: Because they're both shy ?

SASHA: Yeah.

BERNIE: That's it.

SASHA: Yes.

BERNIE: Doesn't seem like much of a reason to me.

SASHA: Their doesn't need to be. Like there's no reason you ended up with no men out of seven.

BERNIE: Well they were from RSVP.

SASHA: That's like that computer site. I don't understand ? How do you pick them ?

BERNIE: Not very well.

NATALIE ENTERS.

NATALIE: Hi guys.

BERNIE: Hey Nat. Come and sit down.

NATALIE: Have we got time ? The class starts in –

BERNIE: Sit down. You'll find this interesting.

NATALIE: Really. What are you talking about ?

SASHA: Oh nothing.

BERNIE: Worse, men.

SASHA: She says they're all bastards but it's not true.

NATALIE: I concur.

SASHA: With me or her ?

NATALIE: Her. They are. *Bastardos*.

BERNIE: Well not all men. Sasha's brother isn't but unfortunately she's setting him up with Mary not us.

NATALIE: Mary ? That's a bit of a waste.

SASHA: Why do you say that ?

BERNIE: Come on. She won't have the faintest idea what to do with him.

SASHA: And that's a good thing.

BERNIE: He may be your brother but he's still a man.

MARY RETURNS.

MARY: Ordered the lemon tart. Hi Natalie.

NATALIE: Hi Mary. Oh sorry, did I take your seat ?

MARY: Yes.

NATALIE: (POINTING TO ANOTHER CHAIR) You can have that one.

MARY SITS.

NATALIE: We just heard the big news.

MARY: About the party ?

NATALIE: About Sasha setting you up with her brother.

MARY: What ?

SASHA: I'm not setting her up. We're just going to a party.

NATALIE: Where your brother's going to be.

SASHA: But it's not like that.

BERNIE: But that's what you just told me. You're taking Mary to the party to meet your brother so they can ...

MARY: (TO SASHA) Is that true ?

SASHA: No.

BERNIE: Sasha, don't lie.

SASHA: I'm not Bernie.

NATALIE: (TO MARY) So, what do you say ?

MARY: I'm not interested at the moment.

SASHA: Mary. I'm not setting you up.

BERNIE: Have you ever been interested ?

SUE: (ENTERING) Time for a quickie.

BERNIE: Help us out Sue. You might lighten this conversation up.

SUE: What are we talking about ?

NATALIE: Mary's love life.

BERNIE: Or lack thereof.

MARY: Would you just please ...

BERNIE: No. Come on Mary. Tell us. Have you actually ever gone out with a man ?

MARY: No.

NATALIE: You've never had a date ?

MARY: No.

SASHA: What about that guy you went out with at school ?

MARY: I didn't.

SASHA: Did you just like him ?

MARY: It doesn't matter.

BERNIE: Yes it does.

SASHA: Shut up Bernie. At least she's not like you.

BERNIE: Meaning ?

SASHA: Seven guys.

NATALIE: What seven guys ?

SUE: She had sex with them.

BERNIE: Not all of them.

JENNIFER: (ENTERING) Is this a private conversation or can anybody join ?

SASHA: Grab a seat. It's just getting interesting.

JENNIFER: How so ?

SASHA: We're just finding out if Bernie slept with seven men last week ?

JENNIFER: Am I meant to be impressed ?

SUE: You told me you did ?

BERNIE: Not all of them.

SUE: Five.

BERNIE: Two

SUE: You said five ?

BERNIE: Five I didn't sleep with.

SASHA: Two guys you don't know.

BERNIE: I know them very well - now.

MARY: Why does everything have to be about boys with you Bernie ?

BERNIE: It's not about boys. It's about sex. There's a big difference. Of course you wouldn't know that, would you ?

MARY: I'm saving myself.

JENNIFER: I think that's admirable. Take a leaf out of her book.

BERNIE: I'd be saving myself too if no man ever came near me.

JENNIFER: Oh come on Bernie. Leave off.

BERNIE: Not if she's going to judge me.

SASHA: (TO MARY) Don't worry I'd be a virgin too if I'd never slept with Tom.

BERNIE: Yeah, you would be a virgin if you hadn't had sex.

MARY: I don't want to upset you Bernie. I'm just concerned for your welfare.

BERNIE: Well worry about your own. And as for Jennifer, Miss High and mighty - she hasn't had sex for years - I bet it's all dried up.

MARY: Sasha said she's not going to set me up . She's my friend. She wouldn't do that to me.

BERNIE: That's not what she said before. But what I want to know is what's wrong with me ?

SUE AND NATALIE: Us.

SASHA: Mary's my fiend.

SUE: So we're not your friends ?

SASHA: Yes, but she's my special friend.

NATALIE: That's just because she hasn't got any others.

SASHA: That's not nice.

BERNIE: Then tell us why you won't invite us ?

SASHA: (TO BERNIE) Because I don't want you to meet my brother.

BERNIE: Why not ?

SASHA: Because you're ...

BERNIE: What ?

SASHA: I just don't think it would work. He's not like you.

BERNIE: Not like me how ?

SASHA: He doesn't sleep around.

NATALIE: And how do you know ?

SUE: He would if he could.

MARY: Leave Sasha alone.

NATALIE: Why ? You don't see her setting us up.

SASHA: I'm taking her to have a good time

MARY: (TO SASHA) Why do they keep saying that ?

SASHA: All I said is I want you to go out and meet people. That's all.

MARY: Are you lying to me ?

SASHA: No.)
) - TOGETHER

BERNIE: Yes.)

JENNIFER: Mary, you don't have to do anything you don't want to.

NATALIE: That's right. You can just go along to the party and if you don't like her brother you can just -

BERNIE: Leave him to us.

MARY: (TO BERNIE) Aren't we enough company for you ?

BERNIE: No.

MARY: Why not ?

BERNIE: There's something about male company.

SUE: They have penuses.

JENNIFER: Which doesn't rhyme with geniuses ?

SASHA: Oh der.

SUE: Or is it penii ?

MARY: That's just disgusting. I have to go.

BERNIE: What ? Just because she said penus. Seriously Mary – grow up. Penus, penus, penus.

JENNIFER: Bernie – that's enough.

BERNIE: Sasha's brother'll be waving it in her face soon enough.

SASHA: I wish I'd never mentioned the bloody party.

MARY: I'm just going to go. I don't think I'll come to class tonight. (EXITS)

BERNIE: It's a free country.

SASHA: I'm going to go after her.

JENNIFER: I think you better.

SASHA EXITS.

BERNIE: Well, that was fun.

JENNIFER: Just drop it Bernie.

BEAT.

RICARDO: (ENTERING WITH CAKE) Now, who had the lemon tart ?

BLACKOUT.