

"The Unicorn"

A short play

by
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THE UNICORN

Two tables. SL sits RAY and TED, eating lunch. SR sits GAIL and PAM, drinking coffee.

RAY

Hey Ted. You're from accounting. What do you think of Jeneen?

TED

Jeneen from accounting?

RAY

No, Jeneen from the planet Neptune. Yeah, Jeneen from accounting.

TED

She's cool.

RAY

I know she's cool, but what do you think of her looks?

TED

She's hot.

RAY

Yeah, that's what I think.

GAIL

It's too ridiculous.

PAM

Tell me anyway.

GAIL

You won't believe it.

PAM

Try me.

TED

I thought you're already seeing...?

RAY

Gail?

TED

Yeah.

GAIL

All right:

RAY

Listen:

RAY
Here's what
happened between
me and Gail.

GAIL
Here's what
happened between
me and Ray.

GAIL
He comes swaggering into my apartment--

RAY
I go over to her place, just like usual--

GAIL
And he's got that dumb animal look on his face, all innocence
and light--

RAY
And she is pissed.

GAIL
And I am pissed.

RAY
And I don't know why.

GAIL
And he knows why. You can tell he knows why.

RAY
I know it was something, I just don't know specifically what.

PAM
Was this about that time--?

GAIL
He did it again!

PAM
He did it again?

RAY
So I'm trying to figure out where all this pissiness is
coming from.

GAIL
Then comes the innocent man act--

RAY
And she won't tell me, and I'm all like--

RAY
"What'd I do?
What'd I do?"

GAIL
"What'd I do?
What'd I do?"

PAM
Why do you put up with him?

GAIL
And pretty soon I'm yelling--

RAY
Then she's yelling--

GAIL
Then he's yelling--

RAY
So I'm yelling--

TED
That's a lot of yelling.

RAY
And I still don't know what I done. So then I say All Right,
Stop. Tell you what. Let me make it up to you.

GAIL
So you admit it.

RAY
Admit what?! We're always fighting. Why're we always
fighting? What's it gonna take for you to stop being mad at
me?

GAIL
What do you gotta do, you mean?

RAY
Yeah, let's start there.

GAIL
To make it up to me?

RAY
Sure.

GAIL
You gotta do something so big, so *extraordinary* before I'd
even begin to consider to take you back.

RAY
Tell me what.

GAIL
The usual bunch of flowers won't cut it this time, Ray. The
gesture won't compare. If you want me to take you back, you
gotta do something pretty miraculous.

RAY
So what already?

GAIL

All right, buster.

(Turns back to Pam)

I said, You wanna come back, you need to get me--

RAY

(Turns back to Ted)

She says, You need to get me--

RAY

GAIL

A unicorn.

A unicorn.

PAM

TED

A unicorn?

A unicorn?

TED

Those are expensive.

RAY

Ted, they don't exist. They're imaginary.

TED

Oh. Unicorn. Yeah.

GAIL

I said, show me how much you're sorry, bring me back a unicorn.

RAY

So I said, Okay.

GAIL

And I'm like, bup-bup-bup-BUP! And Ray, I want a real unicorn. I don't wanna unicorn toy, I don't want a unicorn poster, I don't want a pony with a paper towel tube taped to its head. I don't want a unicorn figurine or coloring book or paperweight. I don't want a J-PEG or a Wikipedia article on a unicorn, I don't want a poem about a unicorn, I don't want a mix tape inspired by unicorns. For you to make this up to me, you need to find me a real, live, flesh and blood, horn-spouting, grass-eating, big-eyed beautiful unicorn!

RAY

So I said, okay. And I leave and I go to the flower shop, 'cause I'm thinkin, even if she says she doesn't want flowers, she probably does. And I'm looking at all the flowers--she likes the red ones, roses and stuff--and I'm trying to think where I'm gonna get a unicorn. You know: tall order. And I look at the red flowers, and it's like waving a flag in front of a bull, I start to get mad. And I think, why am I doin' this? So I get out of that flower shop and I start heading downtown.

I'm still bull-like mad and soon I'm walking down that block with all of the skeevy shops I don't usually pay attention to. And I stop in front of one just to take a breath and chill, and I'm thinkin' how ridiculous it all is. And how much money I've spent this year on red flowers. And this time I have no idea why she's so angry. Her reason--the point of all this--is as elusive and as hard to grab as this freakin' unicorn!

And I'm thinkin' about all this and I look up at the window, and almost as if by magic, I see it.

GAIL

So I hear nothin' from Ray, but two days later this box arrives in the mail.

Gail takes out an open box and shows it to Pam.

TED

What'd you see?

RAY

The Unicorn.

PAM

(Reading it)

"The Unicorn."

PAM

"Ultimate sex toy. Replaces any man." Omigod.

RAY

With a little card saying, "Go fuck yourself."

GAIL

I'm keeping it. As a substitute for Ray, it's actually a step up. And it vibrates.

Gail pushes a button; HUMMING from the box.

RAY

And that is why I'm asking about Jeneen. You think she's seeing anyone?

TED

Who? Jeneen from accounting?

RAY

Jesus Ted, sometimes I think there's something wrong with you.

Lights fade. End scene.