

Scene 2

The first rehearsal.

HE

Hello.

SHE

Hello.

HE

I didn't think you were working these days.

SHE

I wasn't. I had a child.

HE

I'd heard. How old?

SHE

Sixteen.

STAGE KISS

HE

That's great.

SHE

Great?

HE

Great.

SHE

Great is such a—word. You didn't have them—

HE

Words—

SHE

Children.

HE

No.

SHE

Of course I know that. We did at least have two friends in common. Not many but enough to know whether you procreated. Not that I was keeping track. But you run into people. Occasionally.

HE

Right.

SHE

But of our two friends, one of them is now dead and the other's in Berlin.

HE

Right.
Sad about—

SHE

Wasn't it? I didn't see you at the funeral.

HE

I sent flowers.

SHE

That was thoughtful. I mean given that you couldn't come, or didn't make the effort to come, it was nice you sent flowers. They were—pungent. As I remember.

HE

Mm.

You didn't know I was—going to be in the play?

SHE

No. I didn't ask. I haven't worked—for a while. When they called, I said: yes. I didn't ask: can I have approval over who's playing my lover in New Haven? If you are an actress in this country you are either Juliet or Lady Macbeth and there's nothing in between . . . So I think in the last ten years I've had two auditions, one for a maid on Broadway and one for an anti-depressant commercial. I got the antidepressant commercial.

HE

Yeah, I saw it.
You were good.

SHE

Sure.

HE

I mean—you seemed depressed—and then you seemed happy.

SHE

Right.
So you didn't know that I—

HE

No.
Are they playing some kind of fucking joke on us?

SHE

No one cares who I fucked during puberty. No one even wonders.

STAGE KISS

HE

It wasn't exactly puberty.

SHE

Emotional puberty, maybe.

END

Enter the director, holding flowers, hearing the last two lines.

DIRECTOR

Right. You two know each other?

They nod.

SHE

Mmm.

DIRECTOR

Great. That'll make things easier.

They all look at each other.

SHE

Flowers?

DIRECTOR

From your husband.

SHE

Oh! He remembered!

HE

Roses.

SHE

I like the small ones. I don't like the big ones.

HE

I know.