

NATIONAL

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PLAYS

THREE
SHORT

PLAYS ABOUT
THE SAME

TWO
PEOPLE

by Van Badham

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FEST

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1.

The bathroom of the flat shared by Eve and Tom. Eve is in the shower.

Tom *walks in.*

TOM Babe –

Eve *showers.*

TOM Babe –

EVE *(She can't hear him.)* Tom?!

Tom *decides to knock on the glass of the shower.*

TOM Eve – Eve, babe –

Eve *turns off the shower.*

EVE What do you want?

TOM She's here.

No movement.

TOM She's here. She's upstairs. If you want to meet her –

Pause.

EVE I'll see you up there.

She turns the shower back on.

2.

The sitting-room of Tom and Eve's flat. Manpreet is here. While she and Tom talk, Eve dries herself – unseen, with some kind of sadness – in the shower. She will dress. She will walk out to meet them.

- MANPREET** She doesn't want to meet me, mate.
- TOM** Of course she does.
- MANPREET** She hates me already.
- TOM** No –
- MANPREET** She should be out / here –
- TOM** / No –
- MANPREET** – out here with a floral bouquet and a packet of biscuits. This is shocking. This shocks me. Your new flatmate hates me and she hasn't even met me, man. In the fucking shower. Who fucking showers? I don't fucking shower.
- TOM** That's because you're a very dirty girl.
- MANPREET** You'd better believe it. *(Rummaging through a noisy plastic bag)* I brought biscuits. I know how to make a good impression. Argy cow.
- TOM** She's just in the shower.
- MANPREET** Want a Jaffa cake?
- TOM** What'd you buy?
- MANPREET** Jaffa cakes! Are you deaf or blind? DO YOU WANT ONE?
- TOM** Calm down.
- MANPREET** I'm calm.
- TOM** You don't need to –
- MANPREET** – don't tell me what to do.
- TOM** She's just in the shower.

MANPREET I'm not nervous. I don't get nervous. She can fucking hate me and it doesn't mean shit. I know what I am.

TOM Give me a Jaffa cake.

She does.

TOM What else did you buy?

MANPREET Skins and Ting. And a *Playboy*.

TOM What for?

MANPREET To skin up, to drink and to read. After we eat the Jaffa cakes. Or during. You're thick sometimes.

TOM *Playboy*?

MANPREET I've read it since I was fifteen, mate. It's a good mag! Better than *Marie Claire* or something. You might see real tits in a *Playboy*.

TOM Unlikely.

MANPREET Do you read it?

TOM No.

MANPREET Then how would you know?

Pause. He kisses her.

TOM Fuck, you're hot.

MANPREET I am.

TOM I can't wait –

MANPREET We could go in there now and fuck. She's not gonna walk into your bedroom. "Ello Evie, I'm Manpreet, I'm fucking Tom. What a nice cock he's got."

TOM Keep your voice down.

MANPREET You'd be the only man in the world who'd say that –

TOM She's just –

MANPREET – in the fucking shower. I want the awkwardness over and done with, *done with*.

He kisses her again.

MANPREET You have got a nice cock.

TOM – Tight jeans –

MANPREET Nice, fat, hard cock – this causing you pain?

TOM It will.

MANPREET Me not even touching it and it's causing you pain?

TOM They're tight jeans!

MANPREET Just me telling you you've got a nice cock and you'll get an erection.

TOM That and you sticking your tongue in my mouth.

MANPREET What were you like when you were 14, mate?!!

TOM Messier.

MANPREET You can shove it into me later. Nice – fat – hard – cock – you can shove it into me now. I ain't got no pants on, Tommy. My tits in your mouth and your *fat cock* –

TOM She's coming up the stairs!

MANPREET The second she leaves this room and I'm gonna fuck you so hard.

TOM I know!

MANPREET We are gonna fuck all afternoon!

Eve appears in the doorway.

MANPREET Hi there! I'm Manpreet and you're lady Eve.

EVE Of course. I'm sorry I was in the / shower –

MANPREET / – don't worry about it.

EVE I was expecting you a little later / so I –

MANPREET / I was supposed to have a meeting but I / cancelled.

EVE / No excuse, I should have –

MANPREET Yeah, you should have but you fucking didn't.

Awkward silence.

EVE Jetlag has destroyed my sense of humour –

MANPREET – but you do have one –

EVE Somewhere. I hope I didn't leave it in Tianming. I've got a suitcase with too many pockets. It's probably in the same place as my plastic compass and emergency kagools.

Be patient with me.

MANPREET Maybe.

Slight pause.

TOM *(To Eve)* Do you want a –

Pause.

TOM – Jaffa cake?

EVE What are your plans for the afternoon?

MANPREET We're gonna skin up and fuck.

EVE *(To Tom)* I'll leave you to it.

(To Manpreet) It was nice to meet you. Have a nice *(beat)* fuck.

MANPREET If you insist!

Slight pause.

EVE I'm sure we're going to be great friends.

She walks out of the room.

MANPREET That wasn't scary.

Tom *kisses her.*