

PLAY #15 NEEDLE UPHEAVAL

by

Buffy Aakaash

Buffy Aakaash
3935 South Americus St.
Seattle, WA 98118

206-619-9021
Buffsters@me.com

CHARACTERS

SASKI HANUMAN

Early 40s. Works for a non-profit
"sustainable development group.

BARTHOLOMEW GRANGER

Boyfriend to Saski. Recently laid off
from his writing job at nonprofit
newspaper.

SCENE 1

(At Rise: BART's and SASKI's apartment. BART is scrounging the apartment for money and other things, looking in jars, under sofa pillows. He finds a quarter. Puts it in his pocket. He disappears into another room. He returns with a baggie full of syringes, holds them up to the light to count them, then puts them in a backpack by the door. He returns to the other room. Sounds of upheaval. SASKI enters. She's wearing a smart outfit and carries a briefcase. She slams the door, and storms into the kitchen. She comes back out.)

SASKI

Bart?!

(BART enters.)

What are you doing?

BART

Looking for something I lost.

SASKI

The place is a mess. I thought we'd been burglarized.

BART

I'll clean it up.

SASKI

I left money on the counter to pay the mechanic so we can pick up our car.

BART

You did?

SASKI

You didn't see it?

BART

It's right here.

(He pats his pocket.)

I'll go and pick it up. (Pause.) You're home early.

SASKI

Oh god! What a day! The whole sustainable high rise project? Killed!

BART

What do you mean?

SASKI

Angela killed it! Just like that... Something about the Mayor's task force not being able to approve it because of environmental concerns. We've been talking about it for months, she and I! And can you imagine? Environmental concerns? Give me a break! There would be no other building like it on the entire planet. It was designed to be completely green.

BART

I know. You told me about that.

SASKI

Bart. What's wrong? Have you heard from your daughter?

BART

No.

SASKI

What about your wife?

BART

Nothing.

SASKI

Sorry.

BART

I'll be alright. Kathleen's not a bad mother, you know. She'll take care of Renee.

SASKI

I'm sure. (Pause.) The mechanic closes at six by the way.

BART

I better get going, then.

SASKI

Wait! How about a kiss?

(He kisses her.)

What have you done all day? Any leads?

BART

No.

SASKI

We're just getting by here, Bart. Maybe we should move into a cheaper place.

BART

Things are looking up.

SASKI

Have you gone back to the paper? To see about some freelance?

BART

I can't do that.

SASKI

I thought they said they were open to that when they laid you off. (Pause.) Didn't they?

BART

I don't think they're open to it.

SASKI

They didn't offer you freelance work?

BART

I wasn't laid off.

SASKI

You quit?

BART

I was fired.

SASKI

Bart... What's going on here? You've been acting so strange. For weeks now. Why did they fire you? (Pause.) Bart?

BART

It's a long story.

SASKI

Okay... Wait a minute! Wait a minute! First you lie to

me. And now you won't tell me what the hell is going on? Long story or not. Give it to me. Now.

BART

You wouldn't understand.

SASKI

What's in the backpack?

BART

Nothing.

SASKI

Bart! There was change this morning all over the house and now it's gone.

BART

I didn't show up for work. I stopped showing up for work. So... They fired me.

SASKI

Two. Three weeks ago.

BART

Everything was getting really bad. I was afraid I'd never see Renee again.

SASKI

You can tell me anything!

BART

I met this guy through my work.

SASKI

But you never said anything.

BART

He offered to...

SASKI

To what? (Pause.) What's in the bag, Bart?

BART

I can't.

(He picks up the bag and gets ready to leave. SASKI wrestles the bag from him. She rifles through it and pulls out the needles.)

SASKI

He offered to get you jammed? And you said yes?!
(She drops the bag and turns away. BART
picks it up.)

BART

I'm sorry, Saski. I just can't do this anymore. Saski?
Please.

SASKI

Please, what? You said you can't do it anymore. What
do you want from me?

BART

You never understood me.

SASKI

Bullshit!

BART

You're always talking about your work. All your
successes.

SASKI

And failures! I've held your hand through all of this,
Bart. You cried on my shoulder for days.

BART

I'm sorry I put you through it.

SASKI

I thought when the crying stopped you were getting
better.

BART

Nothing could have helped.

SASKI

And you think that will?

BART

Saski...

SASKI

Get out. Just get out.

BART

This is why I didn't tell you.

SASKI

I can't... Look at you right now. Please just leave.

(BART starts to leave.)

I don't suppose I could have the three hundred dollars
back to pick up the car?

(BART looks at her. Then exits.)

I didn't think so.

LIGHTS FADE

END OF PLAY