

PLAY #26 A WAY WITH FLOWERS

by

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## CHARACTERS

LIEUTENANT BRYANT	A recent war veteran.
JASMINE	The woman he loved.
TRAY	A neighbor.

## A WAY WITH FLOWERS

(At Rise: It's the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Light firecrackers can be heard in the distance. The alleyway between TRAY's and BRYANT's house. There is a small bed of flowers at the edge of BRYANT's property. TRAY has his back to BRYANT and is tending his own bed of flowers. BRYANT is filling a wheelbarrow with bricks from a pile, as he speaks. JASMINE stands nearby him.)

BRYANT

That's what I mean, Jasmine. It won't be long before I get it together and I'm able to fix things up for the both of us.

JASMINE

We can sleep in the same bed?

BRYANT

Yes... We most certainly will. It will be our bed.

JASMINE

We'll make our bed together.

(They look at each other longingly. But realize they cannot touch. Silence.)

BRYANT

I just have to get some things in order. That's all. Some important things. Some nuts and bolts.

JASMINE

We can go out for dinner. And have romantic nights at home.

BRYANT

Yes.

JASMINE

It was hard for us. Over there. But we managed.

BRYANT

Yes. Now we won't have to slip into the supply shed... Or I won't have to meet you in dangerous places in your village. I could have been court marshaled.

JASMINE

I'm sorry I caused so much trouble for you.

BRYANT

Nonsense.

JASMINE

No, I did. Even now. I'm trouble for you.

BRYANT

What do you mean? Don't be silly. I think it was...  
More the other way around.

JASMINE

No. You were everything to me.

BRYANT

You know I can't live without you.

JASMINE

You really mean that?

BRYANT

You look so beautiful there. I never want to stop  
looking at you. Just how I remember the first time I  
saw you. At first you wouldn't talk to me. Then one  
day I gave you flowers...

JASMINE

You have a way with flowers.

BRYANT

...And you burst into tears.

(A big firework goes off. TRAY  
shutters. But BRYANT and JASMINE fall  
to the ground.)

Get down, Jasmine! Oh God... Are you okay?

JASMINE

It's alright, my dear. We're not there anymore. We're  
here.

BRYANT

We are?

JASMINE

We're safe now.

BRYANT

Safe?

(TRAY has witnessed this and taken interest in BRYANT. He slowly approaches. BRYANT and JASMINE stand up. As TRAY talks, JASMINE slowly moves back and out of the picture.)

TRAY

Lieutenant? Bryant?

(BRYANT looks perplexed and scared.)

I'm Tray.

(He offers his hand. BRYANT just stares at him.)

Ah... We've been neighbors for three years, and...  
Well...

BRYANT

(To JASMINE) Wait...

TRAY

We've never said a word to each other, Lieutenant. I'd like to... Maybe get to know you. Today's a crazy day for everyone. You know, I'm not fond of this day. Not that I don't... Value our independence as a country. I do. And I know that you must. I mean I'm assuming you served over there. Did you? Maybe I'm making assumptions. I'm sorry. I just want you to know that I honor your sacrifice. And... I mean... there's bound to be a lot more explosions as the day goes on and... I'm here if you need anything. Lieutenant...

(BRYANT walks away, embarrassed, angry, hurt and unable to speak. So many emotions piled on emotions.)

BRYANT

Jasmine?

TRAY

I'm sorry.

BRYANT

Jasmine, please!

(JASMINE returns.)

TRAY

I'm really sorry if I... Overstepped my bounds... Or

anything. I'm... sorry.

(TRAY walks away and returns to his  
flowers.)

JASMINE

I'm here, my lovely.

BRYANT

Thank god. Don't ever leave me.

JASMINE

You know... I can't stay.

BRYANT

What do you mean?

JASMINE

You know. You know I can't stay.

BRYANT

Please don't.

JASMINE

He's a nice man. He just wants to help.

BRYANT

Don't leave.

JASMINE

Talk to him.

BRYANT

I'm done with these people helping. They have no idea!  
No idea the hell I went through. You know. You're the  
only one who knows. The only one in this entire world.

JASMINE

But we're not really in this world. We can never  
really share the same bed. The same life. What we had  
is over.

BRYANT

No. No, please!

(JASMINE begins to move back.)

JASMINE

You remember.

BRYANT

I don 't remember anything.

JASMINE

It's better for you to remember.

BRYANT

Please don't make me.

(BRYANT kneels down, as the lights shift to BRYANT. The sound of fireworks changes to bombs dropping, sirens, machine guns firing. Chaos. There is a huge explosion.)

JASMINE!! No...

(Lights return to normal. JASMINE is gone.)

Jasmine...? Jasmine, please. Oh no...

(BRYANT weeps. He notices TRAY watching him. TRAY looks away. The sound of increasing fireworks.)

Jasmine, I don't know how. You have to help me. You have to help me to do this. Please...?

(BRYANT looks scared. He slowly picks some of his flowers and walks over to TRAY. TRAY sees him. BRYANT hands him the flowers. Lights fade, as the fireworks increase.)

BLACKOUT

END OF PLAY