

PLAY #3 THE PRICE ON WHALES

by

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CHARACTERS

GERALDINE

Early 40s

IVY

Early 40s. Nature activist.

THE PRICE ON WHALES

(At Rise: IVY and GERALDINE. IVY furiously writes at a table.)

GERALDINE

Ivy?

(Clears her throat)

IVY!

IVY

Sorry. I'm really busy, G.

GERALDINE

Do you really need to do this?

IVY

You know what this kind of stuff means to me.

GERALDINE

What about the rent?

IVY

I'll be back! Before the end of the month.

GERALDINE

But you quit your job.

IVY

They'll take me back.

GERALDINE

Did they tell you that?

IVY

They always take me back. G... I go away all the time.

GERALDINE

I don't know if I can handle it this time. This one seems dangerous. You said so yourself.

IVY

Don't worry. We'll be safe.

GERALDINE

I don't know what I'd do...

IVY

Everything'll be okay.

GERALDINE

Tomorrow?

IVY

Early.

GERALDINE

Don't go.

IVY

What? I'm all set.

GERALDINE

I'm a mess over this.

IVY

We've talked about this.

GERALDINE

That tropical storm. It's moving up the Japanese coast.

IVY

We're keeping an eye on it. Hey! What's wrong? You're acting like I'm going off to war.

GERALDINE

You sort of are. I mean whalers are serious people, Ivy. You're not chaining yourself to a sequoia tree this time. Do you have guns?

IVY

G!

GERALDINE

They will.

IVY

Come on!

GERALDINE

They will! Do you know how much one whale is worth to one of those boats?

IVY

G...

GERALDINE

A hundred grand or more. For one whale!

IVY

You were researching this?

GERALDINE

Uh-huh.

IVY

Why are you suddenly doing research about my trips? How many times have I left the café to go off on one of these? All the years we've been together, have I ever caused us to miss rent? These trips help me nurture myself. You know that.

GERALDINE

What about us?

IVY

Geraldine. I don't have time for this right now. I've got to fill out these forms before I get on the plane tomorrow.

GERALDINE

Fine.

(IVY continues writing. Silence.)

IVY

I'll come to bed as soon as I'm done.

GERALDINE

When can we have a moment to talk?

IVY

Do we need to talk? Right now?

GERALDINE

I think we do.

IVY

This sounds serious.

GERALDINE

It's just one of those things... It's not as easy to

plan for as a trip. Like on this day, I will go to this place... And on this other day, I will return... But... It's a journey none-the-less. And it's begun. For both of us.

(Pause. IVY takes it all in.)

IVY

Oh my god. You're kidding me.

(She laughs.)

No. You're not serious...

GERALDINE

Why are you laughing?

IVY

It's good news isn't it?!

GERALDINE

You're going away for three and a half weeks.

IVY

When was the last time? That you... And Oscar... You know... The turkey baster thing.

GERALDINE

Last week?

IVY

The week before... It must have been that time! I remember that time.

GERALDINE

Ivy...

IVY

Remember? I went down on you. You screamed. And the baster thingy was right there on the table. Perfect timing.

GERALDINE

I'm not so sure about how perfect the timing is.

IVY

I should have known! The long trips to the bathroom these last few mornings. Poor baby. Have you told Oscar?

GERALDINE

No! I've been waiting to tell you.

IVY

How long have you known?

GERALDINE

For sure? The day before yesterday. I did the test.

IVY

Why didn't you tell me?

GERALDINE

You've been running around.

IVY

What's wrong?

GERALDINE

Wrong?

IVY

We're supposed to be happy! This is what we've wanted.
But... Wait... You need me...

GERALDINE

No.

IVY

I'll stay.

GERALDINE

You can't stay.

IVY

I'll stay. That's all there is to it.

GERALDINE

You have your plane tickets.

IVY

I'll call the airline. I'm calling Jared right now.
(She picks up her phone. GERALDINE
takes it from her.)

GERALDINE

No... Ivy... Let's talk about this.

IVY

Geraldine! There's nothing to talk about. I've decided. Give me the phone.

GERALDINE

This is how you always do things!

IVY

What do you mean?

GERALDINE

You make decisions that effect me without me.

IVY

I'm doing this for you.

GERALDINE

I didn't ask you to stay home.

IVY

Yes, you did!

GERALDINE

I didn't.

IVY

You probably thought I wasn't listening. But see? I was. You said, "Don't go".

GERALDINE

That's not what I said.

IVY

You did so.

GERALDINE

Well... It's not what I meant.

IVY

What other meaning is there? It's a command. A contraction, to be precise, of "Do Not Go."

GERALDINE

Can we please talk about this?

IVY

When our child is born I'm not gonna be the one who left you when you needed me.

GERALDINE

So I'll be the one who forced you to abandon your save the world crusade?

IVY

No! The baby! The baby is number one.... Wait... Can I touch it?

GERALDINE

There's nothing to touch, yet!

IVY

Wait a minute...

GERALDINE

What?

IVY

You could come with me.

GERALDINE

Ivy... No...

IVY

We could put you in a protected cabin.

GERALDINE

Me on a boat? No way.

IVY

It's secure. With locks on the doors and everything.

GERALDINE

Absolutely not.

IVY

You've seen the boat. It's not a barge. It's a nice boat.

GERALDINE

It's still a boat. And I don't do boats.

IVY

Come on, G...

GERALDINE

I'm already retching every morning. And that up and down kind of movement. It makes me nauseous just

thinking about it.

IVY

We can bring medicine for that... Come on! Please...

GERALDINE

Ivy... Goddam...!

IVY

We can make this happen.

GERALDINE

Ivy...

(GERALDINE is on the verge of tears.)

IVY

This way I can take care of you. We could be together.
Maybe more than we have been... For years. What?

GERALDINE

What about the rent?

IVY

Forget the rent. We'll call Oscar.

GERALDINE

Oscar's gonna flip.

IVY

He'll get over it. Then he'll handle it for us. I'll
call Jared right away. He'll get you a ticket for
tomorrow.

(Silence.)

Tell me you want this.

GERALDINE

I don't want to be without you. Not right now.

IVY

Done.

BLACKOUT

END OF PLAY