

The Final Act

Scene One

An airport coffee bar, Vanessa, red hair, flighty, loud, and Tim, short hair, quiet. There is a carry-on bag on the floor near Tim; on top of it is a tennis racket.

VANESSA

I told him, “don't you snarl at me like that, I just about saved your life!” and do you know what? He turned right around and walked away from me. Not a word! Just walked right off.

TIM

Ah.

VANESSA

It's no use being nice. You won't get thanked for it.

TIM

Did you?

VANESSA

Did I what, hon?

TIM

Save his life.

VANESSA

I said almost.

TIM

Did you almost save his life?

VANESSA

If he hadn't been yelling at me a few minutes earlier, he might've walked right in front of the bus. I mean, I talk back, and it's a good thing, because if I'd let him roll over me with his stupid opinions, he'd've turned around, right?

TIM

Yeah?

VANESSA

And walked right into that bus!

TIM

So you didn't.

Didn't what, hon? VANESSA

Actually save his life. TIM

Well, *he* didn't seem to think so. VANESSA

You just yelled at him. TIM

I never "just" yell. At anyone. I *yell!* VANESSA

Yeah. (*pause*) Gotta go. TIM

What'd I say? VANESSA

Nothing. TIM

Your flight's not for another hour. VANESSA

I'm more comfortable at the gate. TIM

Always on time? VANESSA

You know. TIM

Want me to walk you down? VANESSA

Security and all. Say goodbye. TIM

Well, hon, am I ever going to see you again? VANESSA

Not here. TIM

Don't say that! VANESSA

You can come visit. TIM

Why not? VANESSA

Sure, why not? Visit any time. TIM

I mean, why not here? VANESSA

I'm done with here, Vanessa. TIM

It's nice here. I'm here. I like it here. VANESSA

Visit. TIM

He gives her a light hug and brushes a kiss onto her cheek. Tim begins to gather his things.

Here I go!

I'll miss you. VANESSA

If you do, come see me. It's not far. TIM

Will they let you on with that racket? What if...? VANESSA

Bye. TIM

Lights down as he walks off. Vanessa twists her fingers into her hair.

Scene Two

On the plane; two chairs represent seats. Tim is reading. Colleen groggily weaves down the aisle looking for her seat. She has no carry on, but is wearing a thick jacket.

Excuse me? 14A? COLLEEN

Yep. TIM

Mine. COLLEEN

Oh? TIM

Sorry, I'm in B and this is... A, is it? *He pulls out his ticket and checks.*

It is. COLLEEN

Sorry. TIM

He moves one seat over. Colleen climbs over him into the window seat.

Friggin' stewardesses are like prison matrons. COLLEEN

Oh? TIM

Add a few random scars, a club, and a growl, you'd have it. COLLEEN

How do you know that? TIM

Just do. COLLEEN

Sits. Looks at him. Looks away.

Oh. TIM

Glad to be getting out. COLLEEN

Out? TIM

Of everything. Of here. COLLEEN

This town? TIM

Sure. COLLEEN

Yep. TIM

You, too? COLLEEN

Yep. TIM

I feel like I'm gonna explode. Hah! Can't believe I... COLLEEN

(brief pause) Oh? TIM

Yeah. COLLEEN

You won't, will you? TIM

Hah! COLLEEN

(pause) I mean, you won't? TIM

I never want to come back. COLLEEN

Oh. *(pause)* Why? TIM

Why what? COLLEEN

Why are you so... why do you feel like you could explode? TIM

Not could, *gonna*. COLLEEN

Why? TIM

Trapped. By my decisions. COLLEEN

Yeah? TIM

Made them, then they made me. COLLEEN

Yeah. TIM

Then they make me do stuff. COLLEEN

Like what? TIM

Like what, what? COLLEEN

Stuff. TIM

Like what stuff? I dunno. Like being here. Going nowhere just to go somewhere. Doing nothing just to do something. COLLEEN

Huh. TIM

Why are *you* here? COLLEEN

On the plane? TIM

Okay. COLLEEN

I'm going to be a tennis champion. A tennis star. TIM

COLLEEN
No shit! How about that?

TIM
I can't stay here and do that. Here doesn't make me better. It makes me lazy. And undisciplined.

COLLEEN
You?

TIM
You don't know me at all.

COLLEEN
So?

TIM
Why are you surprised?

COLLEEN
You look like... like you'd... be... I dunno. Like you... Like you don't get stuck.

TIM
That'd be nice.

COLLEEN
Like you don't agree to stupid...

TIM
(*brief pause*) Then I'm going to open a school for kids who've had it rough, teach them tennis.

COLLEEN
Why?

TIM
They learn to focus and remain alert. And that's what they need. To break free.

COLLEEN
You're right. (*pause, then panicked*) Ohmygod. Excuse me.

TIM
Bathroom?

COLLEEN
Gotta get outa here.

TIM
Claustrophobic?

No!

COLLEEN

She piles over him, not waiting for him to move. In doing so he gets stuck half way up. It gets messy.

Just wait a...

TIM

Have a good life, okay?

COLLEEN

Aren't you coming back?

TIM

Open that school, okay?

COLLEEN

Okay. Bye?

TIM

She rushes back up the aisle. Tim waits a moment, then switches back to the window seats and returns to his reading. He can't concentrate, so closes his book and gazes out the window. He sees someone on the tarmac and becomes alert. There is the sound of an explosion not too far away. Lights down.