

Cast of Characters

- : Aldous "Absinthe" Bentley
(The Husband) A man in his
mid thirties.
- : Wanda "Shiraz" Bentley (The
Wife) A woman in her mid
thirties
- : Lisa "Pinot Noir" Shante (The
Friend) A woman in her late
thirties
- : Vance "Malbec" Shante (The
other friend) A man is late
thirties

Scene

Act: 1 Scenes 1-6/Evening at the Shante's home, Modern Day

Time

Approx. 40 minutes

ACT I

Scene 1

LIGHTS UP on a living room, sparse in appearance, a minimalist dwelling both comfortable and warm. On a nice, but weathered couch sits LISA, Vance's wife, and Aldous and his wife of one year, WANDA.

VANCE is frantically scribbling a drawing on a board; Lisa, Wanda, and Aldous watch with excitement.

LISA

(EXCITED)

A frog, no, wait, a...!

WANDA

(INTERRUPTS)

...some sort of snake-like creature, a swamp thing, something slimy!

Lisa raises her hand excitedly...

LISA

Oh, oh, I got it!

VANCE

Okay, honey, whaddya think it is?

Lisa pauses, places her hand on her chin. Aldous and Wanda watch in suspense.

LISA

(matter of fact)

It's a man!

Both men look at each other, roll their eyes. Lisa and Wanda smirk.

VANCE

No, honey, it's not a man (beat) It's a cactus.

LISA

A cactus, really?

WANDA

A what?

ALDOUS

Cactus?

(CONTINUED)

LISA

If that's the case you need to work on your art skills, sweetie. I love with all my heart but, really, I mean, that looks like a uh...

ALDOUS

(interrupts)

Didn't you go to an art school in York, or was it New York, or maybe Newark?

LISA

(to Aldous)

Oh, you mean that one online? Yes, it was Newark. Newark, Delaware, right sweetie?

WANDA

I thought it was New Hampshire?

ALDOUS

No, actually it was New Mexico, right, Vinny?

WANDA

Honey, New Mexico? Really? I'm sure it was...

ALDOUS

...I know it was somewhere new...or maybe not, ah, I can't recall...

WANDA

...I think someone had too many glasses of wine already.

ALDOUS

I'm perfectly fine. Wine does nothing to me. In fact, I'm sure it was...New Zealand?

WANDA

Are you kidding me right now?

LISA

Oh this is so much better than pictionary...

VANCE

(annoyed)

...It was the Newark school of art (BEAT) Online, in New Jersey, and yes, this is a cactus, and I'm now going to the kitchen to get more wine so I can get completely drunk and make more bad drawings and then realize I wasted money on an art school that can't teach me to draw a sketch of a gecko...or a gherkin (BEAT) or a cactus!

Vance walks SL toward kitchen, annoyed.

LISA

Sweetie we're just teasing you.

ALDOUS

Oh, I remember! It was New Jersey!

WANDA

That's it! No more wine for my husband.

As Vance disappears into the kitchen, glances follow from Wanda and Lisa as they conceal playful snickers. Aldous walks SL, follows Vance. Wanda and Lisa remain in the living room; Lisa steps toward her and sits beside her on the couch.

LISA

Vance has been really excited about playing this game the last few days. He loves when you guys come over. Sometimes if we all don't see each other for a while he seems to get edgy, almost like he's going through withdrawal.

WANDA

Tell me about it; honestly I'd rather have Aldous a little on edge than how he's been lately. You know, he's been doing this sleep walking thing that really scares me. It's weird. I wake up, roll over expecting to see my husband, and I instead find myself establishing a meaningful relationship with a mound of fleece.

LISA

Strange, Vinny does that sometimes too. But it's funny though (beat) I'm a light sleeper. Do you know he wakes me just by the sound of him peeing in the bathroom?

Wanda makes a face, grins.

WANDA

Hmm...so you can hear when he pees? Isn't your bathroom pretty far from your bedroom?

LISA

(joking)

Why do you think I married Vinny, for his brains?

WANDA

Love your honesty sometimes, wish I could be that way.

LISA

You know me...I tell it like it is. Speak on what I see and never hold back...makes things easier. And more fun, really.

WANDA

I need to start being a little more honest with myself.

LISA

Why do you feel that way?

WANDA

Don't know...guess I need to be less inhibited, say what I feel. Like now, even with all the wine we've been drinking I still feel like I'm not being open, taking in the moment and saying things I should.

LISA

You mean expressing aloud how you wish you could hear Aldous' urine stream from your bedroom?

WANDA

(Laughs)

No, not that. For instance, I feel like I haven't told him certain things about our marriage...things I expect.

LISA

Well, what do you expect? He's a man. You can only expect so much. Expect that he won't talk, share his feelings, watch football for hours, scratch areas of his body that shouldn't be touched without surgical gloves, look at other women, be late for important functions, leave the toilet seat up-

WANDA

(interrupts)

-Wow, sounds like you've mastered the art of cataloging flaws.

LISA

What I've mastered is the refined art of true, undying love for a man I know *has* flaws...nothing will change how I feel. There's a difference.

WANDA

There is? Then what am I doing wrong? Am I not as patient?

LISA

Not as patient about what?

Wanda places her wine glass on a table, turns STAGE LEFT, begins pacing the room.

WANDA

It's nothing. I'm okay; just thinking too much.

(CONTINUED)

LISA

Maybe you need more wine.

WANDA

Maybe I made a mistake coming here tonight.

LISA

(concern)

That isn't something I like to hear.

WANDA

Sorry, came out the wrong way. I mean you and Vinny...you both seem happy and comfortable like-

LISA

(interrupts)

-Oh, yeah, you *do* need more wine. That list of flaws I gave you is not imaginary. It's not always easy...and it shouldn't be. That's boring...and makes couples weak and complacent.

Wanda paces toward STAGE LEFT, appears to be in deep thought...

WANDA

Can I ask you something?

LISA

(holds bottle in front of face, stares at label)

No, I'm not quite tipsy yet...but surely I'm working on it.

WANDA

No, seriously...

LISA

Nope, never had an affair; and please don't tell me...

Wanda walks STAGE RIGHT, takes her glass from the table, and begins to drink the remainder of her wine.

LISA

(contd)

...my God, already?

WANDA

Already what?

LISA

You're having an affair?

(CONTINUED)

WANDA

No, no, not at all! Look, I can hear Aldous' urine stream too, you know? He's fine in that area.

LISA

Not psychic by no means but getting a feeling here...and the affair could be one that's emotional. Anyway, I can tell, something is...

WANDA

Okay, there's something...but not what you think. Not that at all. I love my husband. He just...

Lisa turns, looks toward kitchen, then turns back to Wanda.

LISA

(interrupts)

How long has this *thing* been going on?

WANDA

Nothing's going on! No *thing*. It's just (beat) well, Aldous, he...he just...

LISA

He's cheating on you?

WANDA

No.

LISA

Bad in bed?

WANDA

No. He's...

LISA

Has body odor? It could be his diet...

WANDA

Oh, Lisa!

LISA

...Has an extra toe? Herpes? What, tell me. Here, have more wine!

WANDA

(whispers)

No, okay, it's his. His...memory! And he's been sleep walking almost every night. I told you about the blankets.

Lisa now looks confused, almost let down.

(CONTINUED)

LISA

You're kidding me. That's it? No, that can't be-

WANDA

It's been nearly three months. The last time...I caught him before he walked in the neighbors garden.

LISA

That's a good thing. Your neighbors are old, right? You know how those old people are about their gardens.
(beat) So he's not cheating?

WANDA

...yeah, it was more than a good thing. It was a great thing (beat) because he was naked and wearing nothing but a pair of wool slippers. I was so embarrassed! I couldn't believe it!

Wanda stands up, removes herself from the couch, crosses toward STAGE RIGHT and stands next to the board where Vance's feeble artistic effort remains. Wanda stands and follows slowly, staring at the drawing as well.

LISA

Guys still wear slippers? So not sexy. My dad wore slippers. Men are strange, Wanda. But it is why we love them, I suppose.

WANDA

(carefully studies drawing)

Yeah, I guess so. You know, close up it does look like a cactus.

LISA

You're either drunk or into abstractions more than I thought.

Lisa approaches the drawing, both women study it closely, tilting their heads in unison.

LISA

Nope, not even a closer look changes my mind. How could he possibly think that's a cactus, let alone think we would agree...

Lisa turns away, walks STAGE LEFT toward a small table and begins carefully placing game pieces back in a box.

LISA

...As far as your marriage the first year's always tough for newlyweds. You find out about each other, the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LISA (cont'd)
real stuff, you know? You get comfortable, start doing things you normally wouldn't have done before you really knew one another; you say things, stupid things, and expect each other to understand and relate because that's what you're supposed to do. Remember that's why you took Al home, let him meet your family, your friends, and pet your kitten...

Lisa pauses, gives Wanda a strange glance...

LISA
Oh. My. God.

WANDA
Is there something on my shirt? I always spill wine...

LISA
(interrupts)
...I was wondering why you looked so good tonight. Your skin, it does have a certain glow...

Wanda looks confused.

LISA
(contd)
...and I've been filling you up with that Shiraz Vance and I bought on the wine tour.

WANDA
(interrupts)
Oh, no, no, not that. You think I'm pregnant? You thought I was...

LISA
You're not? Oh, well, you...

Wanda saunters toward STAGE LEFT.

WANDA
I just thought being married would be more exciting; now it just seems so...I dunno...like something...

LISA
(interrupts, turns toward kitchen)
...Horribly, utterly, and fantastically...routine?
(BEAT) Oh, I know...it's called being married. It's as simple as that.

WANDA
Yeah, routine. *Fantastically* routine.

LISA

You two...stay away from the rut. Vance and I make it a point to do something new each week. (beat) I can't believe you're not pregnant...

WANDA

...can't even think about having a child right now, and I would love to make plans for Al and I to...but making dates with Aldous is next to impossible with his weak memory. You know, last night I asked him to turn off all the lights in the house before bed and he forgot that! The next day he had the nerve to tell me how he used to love going to sleep with the lights on, saying something like, 'it reminds me of how my dad you used to stay up and play cards and smoke cigars with his friends and he always thought it was so cool to see grown men doing fun things and being drunk' I woke up in the middle of the night and our house was bright like the Vegas strip and he was standing in the kitchen dressed like he was going to work!

LISA

Don't get too caught up in the downside of marriage. What you need to do is find the good stuff about Al and put it somewhere safe in your mind. Because when you two get into knock-down drag-out fights you're gonna want to remember what it is you love about him in the first place.

WANDA

Love, yeah, well...I don't know if I can fight with a man that'll forget anything I say in the first place. If I scream and yell, make a good point, I damn sure want him to remember what I said.

LISA

...Vinny and I remember you gushing about him the night you two met on the wine tour in Ithaca.

WANDA

(smiles)

Well, yeah, that Ithaca wine tour...sure was a good time. I'd like to blame everything we did that night all on Red-Cat we drank.

LISA

(giggles)

No, blame it on the Bully Hill. The sweet stuff always does it to ya.

WANDA

(as if unsure)

Yeah, the sweet stuff. Sure does...that pinot noir reminds me of when Aldous and I first met. You know I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WANDA (cont'd)

asked him about it the other day because I wanted to buy a bottle of it to bring here and he just looked at me like I had something crawling on my face. He's been so weird lately. Does Vance act like that when you ask him a question?

Wanda finishes the remainder of her wine as Lisa watches.

LISA

I'm used to oddities with Vance...and frankly I find his flaws quite endearing. Perfection is...(peers at Vance's drawing once more)look, wanting a perfect man is fodder for trouble. (beat) I'm sure everything's fine. You have the first year jitters. I admit I was consumed by doubt during me Vance's new chapter. I started focusing on the wrong things: he's such a sports nut and dropped out of college...

WANDA

So you *had* deal breakers too?

LISA

Honey those are not deal breakers. Deal breakers are the following: children you don't know he has to another woman, insurmountable debt, undisclosed, incurable diseases, frequent sexting with younger women, affairs, multiple ones, a long rap sheet...

WANDA

(interrupts)

So you think I'm overreacting? I guess you might be right; I don't think he's unfaithful...though it has crossed my mind on occasion there may be something or someone more exciting occupying his thoughts.

LISA

When you're no longer reacting...then you should worry. (beat) Okay, gotta ask... How's your sex life? You're not pregnant so...More wine?

WANDA

Oh, should I be? Am I ruining the order of things? Oh, goodness, can I just have the whole bottle?

The women both stare at each other...and break out in laughter.

LISA

Take this one slow, it's a sixty nine Malbec from Cahors, France. Wine like this needs to breathe, take in the air. Drink it too fast and you may miss the essence, know what I mean?

(CONTINUED)

WANDA

I guess. Yeah, breathe...essence.

LIGHTS FADE on Wanda and Lisa STAGE RIGHT.

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP, a kitchen is revealed. It is modest and clean; saturated by soft ambient light. In the center is a small table. Nothing major. Nearby there is counter that runs toward a sink and small stove.

Standing STAGE LEFT, Aldous and Vance as Vance pours two glasses of red wine. After handing Aldous his drink, Vance begins the conversation. Aldous, appearing distracted, stares vacantly DOWN CENTER STAGE while holding his glass.

VANCE

(slight chuckle)

...Perhaps art school wasn't the best idea. A cactus, really? (BEAT) You know when we first met Lisa loved that I was a dreamer. I was fresh out of art school, had that I want to live in the big city kinda drive, nothing could stop me, nothing! I was an animal! Life was good. We had tiger-like energy man, were always into something...

...listening intently, Aldous begins to chug his wine. Vance watches, concerned. Approaches...

VANCE

(contd)

...whoa, easy there Fitzgerald, that there's a sippin drink...an eighty nine Cab Sauvignon.

ALDOUS

Sorry, sometimes I don't realize I'm drinking so fast. Have I always been like this? Can't remember. Last time I drank was...

VANCE

Sure hope you haven't been drinking like you've been drinking tonight. Seriously, a man that drinks like that is a (beat)Hold on...is there something we-

ALDOUS

(interrupts)

-No, no, nothing, well, I don't know. I've been rather...It's hard to explain. You ever feel like you're living a dream...like lately I've been walking around and doing things I wouldn't normally do. Just last week I was driving to work and realized I didn't

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALDOUS (cont'd)

absorb anything from the previous day. It's like I'm thirsty for something and everything in my life is...

VANCE

(jokingly)

Try water...ginkgo root...eat lots of fish. Good for the brain.

Aldous grins, looks at his glass. Vance gives way to a warm smile. Aldous places his glass on the counter, crosses STAGE LEFT. Vance paces DOWN CENTER, and has a look on his face as though reflecting on a memory.

ALDOUS

Do you remember your wedding day?

VANCE

Yeah, who doesn't? Mine was quite some time ago (beat) but yes, I recall certain things. Why do you want to know?

ALDOUS

What parts do you remember? I seem to have forgotten mine. Is that strange? Seems so long ago and it's only been one year. Is it supposed to feel this way?

VANCE

Not really, like you said, one year. That cloud marked with that number nine should still be a little puffy at this juncture.

ALDOUS

So what *do* you remember?

VANCE

My wedding day memories are attached to weird things, some you may want to hear about, others, well, let's just say you won't be hearing about those things on the family channel anytime soon. I mean, once Lisa get's a few sips...(looks as if he's reflecting on a fond memory, smiles)...But, I will tell you...

Vance begins to walk STAGE LEFT, a gingerly pace as he sips his wine.

VANCE

(contd)

...whenever I hear certain songs or hear the electric slide, or see yellow cake, or smell certain perfumes. And each time Lisa gets dressed up-which is all the time it seems-when we go out. She always looks the same

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VANCE (cont'd)

way she did on our wedding day. And believe it or not that excitement comes back as corny as it may-

ALDOUS

(interrupts)

-People still do the electric slide?

VANCE

Yes, that unfortunate staple of impending matrimony still occurs at weddings.

ALDOUS

Is it bad that I don't remember things? Am I crazy? Or maybe I'm sick; early stage Alzheimer's, yeah, well, maybe I have something going on in my brain. I get lost in my head, wonder if I'm still alive and that maybe I'm actually dead and watching my life as it unfolds in front of me. Maybe I'm...

VANCE

(interrupts)

You're just not being yourself. Not sleeping well, not eating right, not exercising, drinking way too much red wine. Try white wines like Semillon, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc. It may be the tannin in the red. (beat) (comes across a thought) And I'm sure I just described my own life...

ALDOUS

(interrupts)

-Or maybe I'm, well, could it be, no, never mind...

Vance turns toward Aldous, stares long and hard at him.

VANCE

Maybe what? Bored already? Look, Al, enjoy the ride now because soon the oil on the machinery loses its viscosity if you get what I'm sayin. You're in love, right? Stay there as long as you can. Trust me. Not being there is one of life's great tragedies.

ALDOUS

But could it be I'm not in love with my wife? I always forget things we do together, stuff she says, things she wears. Moments...

Vance, surprised at hearing this, places his drink on the counter.

VANCE

Whoa, no wonder you swallowed your drink so fast!

ALDOUS

Can I have another glass?

VANCE

Absolutely...Not! In fact, you may want to stop drinking. You sound like you need to. Are you serious? Really, asking me if you love Wanda is like...it's like...well, it's just silly! It's as silly as...a bottle of Merlot! (beat) I remember how you guys were the first time you set eyes on each other. Remember the Finger Lakes? Ithaca? I remember thinking...now that's how I wish I would've met Lisa. I wish I would've seen her across a crowded room, holding a glass of dark, rich, well-aged Malbec. A good year too, like sixty five. Smooth and subtle, straight from a winery in France. (beat) I have to be honest when I say you two are our vicarious dream. The way things should be, traditional.

Vance walks toward STAGE RIGHT, heads directly to the counter and grabs the wine bottle and pours himself a glass. He looks nervous, uncomfortable with this new revelation. He drinks the glass of wine in one swallow. Aldous watches, makes a face.

ALDOUS

Sippin drink, huh? Anyway, thanks for listening. I mean I'm pretty sure when you invited us over you didn't think a game of pictionary would turn into-

VANCE

-confession? No, not at all. (beat) So, you're really not in love with Wanda or are you just having the one year itch?

Vance grabs the wine bottle from counter, walks toward Aldous STAGE LEFT, wine in hand, bottle in the other. He pours himself another full glass.

ALDOUS

One year? I thought it was five, no eight, hold on, three? Oh, yes, it's seven. How do I know that?

VANCE

(raises glass)

Not sure if this is appropriate to say after hearing such a thing or while drinking such perfection as this...but here it goes: bottoms up.

Vance swallows his drink with a furious gulp.

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ALDOUS

You seem to be taking this very well, Vin. So in your case how's about 'down the hatch.' That sounds better, right? A clear reference to binge drinking, or is it...? Can't remember. I think my father in-law says that. Or is it my uncle, no, maybe my dad said it a few times. Or was it my sister? She was a heavy drinker. No, or was it... ah, forget it, can't remember...

LIGHTS FADE STAGE LEFT on Vance and Aldous.

Scene 3

LIGHTS UP on Wanda and Lisa STAGE

RIGHT.

Lisa is clearing a small table while Wanda watches with her wine glass clutched within her hand. Lisa appears nervous, Wanda as though she is trying to distract herself.

LISA

(studying room)

So, does it feel like the worse part has come a little sooner than you wanted?

WANDA

I love Aldous but I'm not sure if he's (beat) I wonder if he's in the moment with sometimes. It just seems like he's never there, and I feel alone.

LISA

Yeah, men are usually to themselves unless they want sex or food. I hope he remembers your anniversary.

Wanda smiles, moves from the couch, walks DOWN CENTER and looks out over the room as though reflecting on a moment. Lisa stays busy tidying, albeit with an intent ear.

WANDA

So what was your wedding day like?

Lisa stops what she's doing, stares at Wanda, as though she is uneasy with hearing such a question.

LISA

Like all wedding days, I guess. (beat) Beautiful. Everything, I mean there just seemed to be nothing out of place. It was as close to perfection as anything I had ever seen before (beat) Well, that is until I saw Vance's attempt to dance.

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WANDA

I remember every detail. How Aldous looked. He was so handsome and I had never seen him dressed up before. (BEAT) Everything was...perfect. Now I only see him at night when he comes home after work, and he always has this look on his face...like someone stole something from him. Like, something from his life.

LISA

Men, fickle about their freedom but they seem to never really want it until someone's in their life. Weird thing. I see Vance less now than before we got married.

Lisa places her collected items aside, walks STAGE RIGHT toward Wanda.

LISA

Are you having-?

WANDA

-Second thoughts? No, I'm actually, believe it or not, in the midst of my third, fourth, well, fifth thoughts, really. I'm thinking...

Lisa makes a face as if concerned.

LISA

(saddened)

You're thinking of...What? Don't tell me you want out already. You two always look so happy together.

WANDA

It's how we're supposed to look, right? It's what everyone else does. People hide how they feel most times. That's what I meant about being honest with myself. I need to come to some type of reality here, you know?

LISA

Not everyone hides it. And it's a shame too. People that say they love each other and want to spend their lives together...you should see our neighbors. It's clear they hate each other, and they've lasted over a decade. You know I even invited them tonight but they never showed. Now that's what I call unhappiness, when two people can't even fake it anymore and don't want to be around other people. You just have to sit down and have a long talk with Aldous. It'll all be ok. You know what they say...

WANDA

I can't talk to him when I'm not sure if he'll remember anything I have to say. Really, I don't know when he's

(MORE)

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WANDA (cont'd)

awake or sleep. I think I married a zombie, it's just not how I imagined things between us.

Lisa moves in closer to Wanda, places a hand on Wanda's shoulder.

LISA

I think you married the man you love, and you made a promise. So stop worrying and help me take these dishes in the kitchen. It'll be fine. I'm sure of one thing...That Aldous loves you very much. He's just a little absent-minded.

WANDA

I know he loves me. (beat) But I'm wondering how I feel.

Lisa appears worried.

BLACK OUT

Scene 4

LIGHTS UP. CENTER STAGE, Aldous, still holding his glass in his hand, continues trying to remember his thought. Vance approaches from STAGE LEFT, walks toward CENTER STAGE and stands directly in front of Aldous.

VANCE

...so let me get this straight, you're absolutely sure you think you're not in love with Wanda? How could you not be in love with her? She's an amazing woman! And besides it may be too late in the game to realize something that major.

ALDOUS

I keep asking myself the same question. Each night, before bed, I tell myself the next day I'll feel the same, but then I wake up and can't remember anything! Do you think I drank too much cheap beer when we were in college and it has saturated and dampened my ability to remember things clearly?

Like he has come across and idea, Vance makes a face.

VANCE

That's brilliant!

ALDOUS

Brilliant?

VANCE

You get a clean slate each day! That's not falling out of love, that's what I would coin as pure genius! Besides I'm thinking it may have been our blind, misguided sexual appetites that clouded our minds a little. Remember what we did at that Arrested Development concert? That bordered something illegal!

ALDOUS

We went to a concert? Hold on, no, it was a Tribe Called Quest, no, RUN D.M.C No, wait, Frankie Beverly and Maze... Forget it! Anyway, memories, good one's, that's what seals cracks in a marriage foundation, right?

VANCE

No, Al. That's what sex is for. Remember that?

A hesitant grin from Aldous as he crosses toward STAGE RIGHT.

ALDOUS

A clean slate, huh? Well it seems to be my slate that get's cleaned...Wanda on the other hand doesn't get a new slate at all. I feel like I'm mistreating her. How can I possibly be in love with her when I always forget our special moments? Do you think it's fair for me to keep doing this to her?

VANCE

You know there are remedies out there to help you with remembering things.

ALDOUS

Drugs can't solve this problem. This requires soul searching. Something deeper...

VANCE

...But that's something you do before you pop the question, something you do alone, on a mountain somewhere in the Appalachians, something you do when you're stuck in a tent due to dangerous thunder storm and you discover a poisonous snake is two feet away from your face and it is dark and raining and your life flashes before you-

ALDOUS

(interrupts)

Wait, where have I heard that same story?

(beat)

VANCE

(as if found out)

Uh, umm, never mind that, what I'm getting at is-

ALDOUS

-Yeah, I know. I should have thought about my decision before I made the commitment. I get it. But at the time I had done the digging deep part that all guys do. At least I thought I did. Maybe I didn't. Hey, wait, I think I did. No, that was some guy on Oprah, or Maury Povich. *(an aside)* He found out he wasn't the father of some girls child...wanted to stick around anyway because he loved her...Ah, forget it! Can't remember...

Black out.

Scene 5

Lights up Vance walks into the living room and begins to study his cactus drawing. He smiles, shakes his head. From STAGE LEFT Lisa enters and watches Vance for a few seconds, her eyes filled with admiration before she approaches him from behind.

LISA

It's not going to change its shape.

Vance, startled, turns...

VANCE

Hey, where's...?

LISA

Oh, Wanda, she snuck outside to smoke a cigarette.

VANCE

She smokes?

LISA

Since high school.

VANCE

Does Aldous know this?

LISA

A better question is...would he remember?

(beat)

Vance and Lisa laugh, move in closer to one another, embrace.

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