

LADY T

one act drama play

by Naadir Joseph

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Lady T

By Naadir Joseph

Characters

T

Rodger

Shadow

Skylar

Valentino

Nicole

Other non speaking characters including nameless character

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Act I

Scene I

(Open the curtains. T and Skylar are sitting at a round table, talking over drinks. Shadow is in the background, hiding in the darkness where the light does not hit. Other characters sitting around similar tables, talking lightly over a meal or drinks.)

- Skylar: Do you think they're ready? I mean it has been quite a while since they've practised.
- T: I know, but it is the most important scene of the entire play and those two don't even know their lines yet!
- Skylar: I know, it's terrible, but we have to hope. Valentino has a powerful voice and that's a good thing for us. It will help when Nicole's weaknesses are shown. People will focus more on him than her.
- T: I'm glad we chose Valentino. He was the best choice for this and is always there when it comes to the plays. He truly loves it. **(Sips on drink.)**
- Skylar: Not more than you.
- T: I love theatre, what can I say! **(Does a grand gesture.)** Ever since I was in the eleventh grade, I knew this was for me, but never acting though. I could never act, I was always terrible at it, but directing is my passion. My mother on the other hand, I thought she believed in it until she said there's no money in it.
- Skylar: She's right, you know. In this field, it's very rare we earn large amounts of money. It's the sad life of a student of the arts.
- T: Thanks for the positive thoughts Skylar, thank you oh so much!
- Skylar: Sorry, but it's true. By the way, how is your mother?
- T: She's doing fine. We're just struggling with university fees. It's extremely expensive and it's difficult to afford this. I have to work on weekends and do piano lessons for extra cash. Never a dull moment in my life.
- Skylar: Your life is anything, but dull. Well, with *Rodger* in your life there's always something fun to do with barely any problems.
- T: Ha Ha! Not Funny! *Rodger* is just fine and besides, the money is a problem, but I don't believe it's like that for all students of the Arts.
- Skylar: Don't be naive T, it's like that for anyone who wants to be creative. If you love the arts, you're doomed. **(Stands up and walks around T as she speaks.)**

(Everyone stares at Skylar as she starts talking.)

Skylar: The Arts, oh, the Arts. Why have you forsaken us so? We were always told to follow our dreams and yet, those who chose the field of the Arts never actually knew society places no value on it unless you're dead or you become some legend.

T: You are such a Drama Queen!

Skylar: And you'd better believe it! **(Sits down.)** But I am telling you the truth, society prefers these geniuses of math and science, not us. It's why we always struggle to get good jobs or find finances to study.

T: **(Fidgets with her bangles uneasily.)** Maybe you have a point. Maybe there is no future in this.

Rodger: **(From off stage.)** Skylar! Skylar! Where are you? I need your help!

Skylar: Your man is calling me, I better see what he wants.

(Skylar leaves, taking a final sip of her drink. T lays her head on the table. Shadow walks up to T and bangs the table, startling T.)

T: Bloody hell, do you want everyone to notice you?

Shadow: **(Sits down.)** You do remember that you the only one that can see me, right? Some might call you crazy for talking to yourself.

T: I know you're lying these people can see you. **(Touches the couple's hand close on the table next to hers.)** Excuse me, but you can see this young man, can't you?

Nameless character: Where?

(Shadow starts waving his hands frantically in the couple's face and puts his butt in their faces and dances.)

T: **(Turns and points to Shadow.)** Here! Right here! He is sitting right here, dressed in all black.

(Couple stands up slowly and starts walking away.)

T: Don't you – **(Turns to the couple's table to find they have disappeared.)**

Shadow: **(Giggles.)** Was it something I did?

T: Where did they go?

Shadow: You scared them off, isn't that obvious? I told you that you the only one who can see me, but no, you just won't listen.

T: **(Grunts in frustration.)** What do you want, Shadow?

Shadow: That would be the wrong question. Remember, I'm a figment of your imagination. Therefore the right question you should ask is what do you want?

T: I don't know.

Shadow: Come on! Okay, then ask yourself this. Why did you want me here?

T: I needed someone to talk to?

Shadow: **(Speaks in an irritating child-like manner.)** Why?

T: I'm just confused by what Skylar said about what we do. I just think it's wrong. I mean, why would the Arts mean so little? Is what I do that meaningless?

Shadow: It depends.

T: On what?

Shadow: T, haven't I always been there for you? I've been around for quite a while and I always try to be there for you, but this time I think you need to find this out on your own.

T: Why now? You're letting me do this on my own, now? After all this time, you choose now, why, Shadow, why?

Shadow: Because! **(Folds his arms.)**

T: Stop being childish and answer me.

Shadow: **(Holds T's hand.)** If I don't let you learn on your own, then you'd never be rid of me.

T: So, you think, I think you're that horrible? Do you think I don't want you? Do you want to leave? Is that it?

Shadow: How can I leave if I'm a part of you? Besides, I think that it's time people really see what you're capable of on your own without me.

T: I don't like giving up, but I'm not feeling well and I have to cope with all of this work. I don't see how I can handle it.

Shadow: I do.

T: You always do. **(Drinks from her drink.)** I don't know why though, you're just perfect in some ways. Sometimes, I wish you were real.

Shadow: And sometimes I think you are on a different cloud because one moment you think I'm real and the next, you think I'm non-existent.

T: Can you be serious for once?

Shadow: I'm always serious! This is the only time that I'm not serious.

(A moment of awkward silence between the two and T looks at him without blinking.)

Shadow: **(Sighs.)** Fine, I'll be serious.

(Skylar walks in with Rodger, while Shadow remains silent and watches them.)

Rodger: **(Gives T a peck on the lips.)** Morning babe.

T: Morning, is everything ready?

Skylar: Aye yay, Captain! **(Salutes T.)**

T: You, you know, you.

Skylar: What? You know you love me, just not as much as Rodger here. **(Bumps Rodger with her bum.)**

T: Where's those oth –

Valentino: **(Walks in quickly and seriously.)** Can we start, please?

Skylar: No, we can't. Nicole isn't here yet.

Valentino: I don't like waiting. Where is she?

Skylar: We don't know.

Valentino: Oh, well. **(Shrugs shoulders.)** Morning T, Morning Skylar. **(Hugs both of them and kisses each of them on the cheek.)** Morning, Rodger.

(Valentino and Rodger nod at each other while Valentino walks to one end, sits on his own and sulks.)

Shadow: **(Leans in towards T.)** Must I come back later?

(T shakes her head and Skylar sits on T.)

Skylar: So, Rodger, how long have you and T been together now?

Rodger: Five years.

Skylar: Wow, so when are you going to?

Rodger: To what?

Skylar: **(Does a forward movement with her body.)**

Rodger: After marriage, Skylar!
Skylar: No, you dirty little dog. I meant pop the question? Tie the knot? The old ball and chain? Take an arrow to the knee?
Rodger: I'm not quite sure. We've talked about it, but not actually when we'd do it or get engaged for that matter.
Skylar: Why wouldn't you marry T? She's beautiful, she's cultured, she's classy, she's intelligent and most of all, loving. Anyone would want her.

(Shadow nods in agreement.)

Rodger: I just haven't gotten around to it, so please drop it now. **(Walks to the other end of the room and sits quietly by himself.)**
Shadow: **(Leans in towards T.)** Seriously, when is he going to pop the question?
Nicole: **(Screams from off stage and runs in limping.)** Why! What did I do to deserve such a thing! **(Drops in the centre of the stage.)**
Everyone: What happened?
Nicole: I **(Hiccups with tears.)** I **(Hiccups again with tears.)** I broke a heel!
Skylar: Nicole, it's just a shoe! We've been waiting only for you! T's future is on the line here. It's her last play for the university and she needs to ace it, so get a grip!

(Skylar picks Nicole up and drags her off while Nicole cries.)

Skylar: Come on, all of you, let's go.

(Everyone follows Skylar. T and Shadow stand and watch the rest leave.)

Shadow: Aren't you going with them? **(Shadow starts walking towards stage right.)**
T: I am, but before I go, I wanted to know if you're going to leave.
Shadow: I would never you until you don't need me anymore.
T: That's not going to happen.

(T hugs Shadow, all non-speaking characters watch her hug air and moves away from her as she walks off stage.)

Shadow: I hope things work out for her, I truly do. So, what is it that all of you are doing here? Why are you here sir? **(Pauses and points to the audience.)** Why are you here miss? **(Pauses and points to the audience.)** It doesn't matter. You can watch if you like, but don't expect a grand happy ending. I know right now you expect me to say life isn't about happy endings, and I would say you're wrong. It depends on what makes you happy and whether you see that everything that should make you happy has been right in front of you all your life. Don't believe me, do you? Take a look for yourself.

(Curtains close.)

