SAPPHIRE

written by

David Short

dayshort@pm.me

VERSION 5 26.02.26

1 INT. THEATRE - NIGHT 1

HERMAN, a young man in his late teens/early 20s, is stood on a stage, looking in a FULL-LENGTH MIRROR - fixing his greasy hair.

He is dressed in an ill-fitting, white, DRESS SHIRT, black SUIT PANTS, and TRAINERS. He looks ready for a date.

The stage comprises the full-length mirror, a stained, bare, MATTRESS, and a two-seater beaten COUCH - with a SIDE TABLE sat against it, two empty WINE GLASSES and a BOTTLE OF RED WINE sit atop it.

A SCREENPLAY is scattered on the floor.

Herman unbuttons the top button on his shirt. He stares at it in the mirror - contemplating. He unbuttons the next button down. He frowns and buttons it back up.

Ping.

Herman smirks to himself and retrieves his PHONE from his pocket.

KEYS rattle and fall out of his pocket, crashing to the floor. Herman quickly picks them up, and places them on the side table.

A new message from 'Sapphire' -

ON PHONE SCREEN: Be there in a sec! xxx.

We briefly see FLIRTY back and fourth messages between Herman and Sapphire.

One of them from Herman -

ON PHONE SCREEN: I can't wait to meet you. We're going to make a masterpiece! xxx.

Herman swipes back on his messages and we see bits of other messages from his friends -

ON PHONE SCREEN: Have fun tonight, lover boy ;).

dont forget the rohypnol.

can't wait to see the casting couch.

Herman's phone battery is on 10%.

We hear the creaking of a door open. Herman quickly pops his phone in his pocket and looks up.

At the other end of the theatre, in the DIMMLY lit stalls - by the main doors, stands someone.

Herman's eyes light up.

HERMAN
(shouts)
Sapphire?

The BRIGHT STAGE LIGHTS blind Herman's vision. He SQUINTS. There's no response from the figure. It's face expressionless. Like a porcelain doll. Pale faced, with pink blotches.

Herman's excitement fades.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Sorry, this is a private hire!

The being, now noticeably a WOMAN, slowly approaches Herman.

She sports a cheap, baby pink, velvet, TWO-PIECE, and matching pink, claw-like, FAKE NAILS - that intrude the ends of her fingers.

Hair damaged from bleach, kept short in a bob.

Her features seem disproportionate. Eyes deep and black.

Lips plump, thick, and pink.

Her face is covered in foundation, hiding acne scars.

All together, she almost resembles a CLOWN. An exaggeration of gender.

HERMAN
(Hesitant)
Sapphire?

It is SAPPHIRE, now standing in front of him below the stage.

A woman in her 30s. Her expressionless face breaks into a big warm smile.

SAPPHIRE
Hi, Hermy! It's so nice to finally meet you!

Sapphire holds out her hand.

Herman walks over to the edge of the stage, holds out his hand, and cautiously shakes hers.

Sapphire holds his grip tight and PULLS, almost pulling Herman off the stage - losing his balance for a moment.

SAPPHIRE
Well, help me up, silly!

HERMAN
Oh! Sorry.

Herman awkwardly pulls Sapphire upon onto the stage.

He doesn't have the upper body strength for this, and it just about winds him.

They stand uncomfortably close to each other.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
So, you just let yourself in?

SAPPHIRE
Well the door was open, so why not!

Sapphire plonks her overstuffed handbag on the stage.

Herman glances at the keys on the side table.

HERMAN
Oh?

Herman's energy is low.

Sapphire stands, anxiously. She walks to the mirror and begins fixing her hair.

HERMAN
Sorry, I was shouting to you, and you didn't say anything?

SAPPHIRE
What was that?

Sapphire doesn't look at him, entirely focused on the face in the mirror.

HERMAN
When you came in, I shouted your name and you didn't respond? It doesn't matter, sorry.

SAPPHIRE
Oh my, that must have looked weird! I'm a tad deaf. Sorry, dear...

HERMAN
Oh right... Sorry, again, I- erm-
(MORE)

HERMAN (CONT'D)
your headshot?

SAPPHIRE
Oh yeah, they're a bit overdue, aren't they? Still me, though!

Beat.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
Oh no, you're not disappointed, are you?

Herman tries to look friendly.

HERMAN
Oh no, god no! Not at all!

SAPPHIRE
I was really excited-

HERMAN
No, no. Sorry - I'm just an awkward person.

Herman lets out a nervous laugh.

Sapphire sits down on the couch.

SAPPHIRE
Love what you've done with the place!

Herman continues to stand. Unsure where to look. Unsure what to do with his hands.

HERMAN
It was just left here from last night's sho-

SAPPHIRE
Are you going to pour me a glass, then?

HERMAN
What?

Herman darts his eyes to meet Sapphire's. He winces at the sight of her, and follows her eyeline to a bottle of wine and two glasses on a side table beside the couch.

SAPPHIRE
I didn't know it was going to be that kind of night, but why not, aye? Maybe it'll help you loosen
(MORE)

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
up.

Herman slowly walks over to the wine glasses and pours them both drinks. He picks them up and passes one to Sapphire.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
So when's everyone else getting here?

HERMAN
Oh, they, uh, cancelled.
Sapphire shrugs.

SAPPHIRE
More for us, then! Come, sit down!

Herman sits next to Sapphire, on her left.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
This set-up reminds me so much of my dad's house. He even has a mattress on the floor! Are you sure you didn't bring that yourself for us?

Herman laughs.

Sapphire's expression doesn't change.

Herman stops laughing and clears his throat.

HERMAN
Oh, no, of course not.

SAPPHIRE
Herman, I'm joking!

HERMAN
Oh!

Herman laughs nervously.

SAPPHIRE
Look how nervous you are, you can't even look at me!

HERMAN
Haha.

Herman looks down at his hands. He cautiously begins to look at Sapphire. Her smile still warm and welcoming, if not a little grating.

SAPPHIRE
It's not a date, is it? We're just here to work, right? So, shall we get these scripts out and get to work?

Sapphire looks on the floor and picks up the screenplays.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
And you've already made us copies, what a star!

HERMAN
Yeah, I was going through it before you got here.

SAPPHIRE
Well, I know I'll be repeating myself here, but I already absolutely <u>love it</u>. It'd just be nice for us to workshop the character's a bit, don't you think? I think Maeve is a <u>really</u> interesting character - I think I can definitely nail her.

HERMAN
No, yeah. For sure, an interesting approach.

SAPPHIRE
Hmm well, you don't sound too convinced yet. But I promise, by the end of today you'll love what I can do.

Herman pulls a disingenuous smile.

HERMAN
Shall we get started then?

SAPPHIRE
(clears throat)
So, why lips?

Herman mouths 'why lips' to himself, unsure what she means.

HERMAN
Oh, ha. For the script. Well, the motivation is that this woman-

SAPPHIRE
Maeve.

HERMAN
Yeah, Maeve - has been disfigured by her abusive parents, and she's moved out to the mountains, to hide from society. Anyone who comes upon her is immediately frightened by her appearance, and it's her way of making them see her perspective-

SAPPHIRE
Right! So she's making people walk a mile in her shoes?

Herman's excitement begins to grow.

HERMAN
Yes, exactly! it's a symbol of her trauma that she inflicts onto others. The cyclical tragedy of trauma, you know?

SAPPHIRE
Hermy! That's so clever! How did you even come up with that?

HERMAN
Well, ha, it's been a developing idea for a while.

SAPPHIRE
Oooh, do tell!

Sapphire begins to sip her wine, eyes wide - engaged in Herman's story.

HERMAN
So, I was reading about John Wayne Gacy.

SAPPHIRE
Oh no!

HERMAN
Yeah, right? I don't know why, but I'm really intrigued by dark stuff like that. I'm weird like that, ha.

Sapphire giggles along.

HEMRAN (CONT'D)
Anyway, I was reading about the first person he killed-

SAPPHIRE
Who was that?

HERMAN
Erm, I can't remember his name actually. But I think it was some hitch-hiker. Like 15 years old or something. John Wayne Gacy had picked him up and taken him home. And in the morning, the hitch-hiker entered John's bedroom holding a knife, and John leapt up and tackled him to the floor-

SAPPHIRE
Oh my god!

HERMAN
And he pinned the hitch-hiker to the floor with his weight, grabbed the knife, and repeatedly stabbed the hitch-hiker in the chest. Over and over again.

Herman acts out the stabbing.

Sapphire flinches to the stabbing, and giggles to herself. She's enthralled.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
And when he finally stopped, he caught his breath, and that's when John realised he had ejaculated into his own pyjama bottoms.

SAPPHIRE
Jesus!

HERMAN
And it awakened this monster that's been lying dormant inside of him.

SAPPHIRE
So how the hell did you get this poor woman's story from that monster?

HERMAN
Poor woman?

SAPPHIRE
Yeah, don't you feel bad for her?

HERMAN
Why would I? She's psychotic if she thinks cutting people's lips off will get them to see her perspective. That's the point.

SAPPHIRE
Oh... Well I feel quite sorry for her.

Herman is a little irritated.

HERMAN
How?

SAPPHIRE
I just know how it feels.

Sapphire clears her throat. Eyes welling up at the thought that's about to be verbalised. She points her body more towards Herman, and takes a deep sharp breath.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
I was eight years old the first time my mother called me a whore. I was eleven when grown men started whistling at me. At the time, I thought they were being nice. Telling me how pretty I am. That they want to take me home.

Sapphire takes a beat.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
(To herself)
The way my mother looked at me when I told her.
(To Herman)
When I was eleven, she'd hit me. She slapped me once. Once. Rupturing my ear drum. She got better at hiding the damage after that.
(Beat)
She told me that I'm nothing but a slut. <u>Eleven</u>.

Sapphire shifts in her seat. Moving her body towards the non-existent audience. Looking down at her hands.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
I gained a lot of weight when I was thirteen. My mum, unconvinced that I had an eating disorder, no matter how much I pleaded. Now i was a fat slut.
(Shrill voice)
"Fat". "Ugly". "Slut"... "Men find you repulsive".
(Regular voice)
I bet you wouldn't have hired me if
(MORE)

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
you knew I looked like this. I saw the way you looked at me before. Do you think it feels nice? Every time someone looks at me.
(To Herself)
Fat. Ugly. Slut.

Beat.

Herman lets out a sympathetic sigh.

HERMAN
Saph... I don't even know what to say. I'm so sorry. Your mum sounds like a- she sounds horrible. She's wrong. You're stunning.
(Beat)
I'm just nervous around girls.
(Beat)
I hired you because of your talent. Because of your passion for this project. Workshopping the script, this was your idea - I kicked myself for not thinking of it first! Your attitude here speaks volumes to how kind - and talented - you are.

Sapphire doesn't respond.

HERMAN
Saph?

Sapphire watches Herman from the corner of her eye. Expressionless.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Hey, are you ok?

Herman leans over to touch her shoulder.

SAPPHIRE
(shouting)
Don't fucking touch me!

Herman immediately pulls back in shock.

Sapphire shoots up and stands over him.

Herman is intimidated and drops his wine on the floor, the red wine spills across the stage.

Sapphire is towering over Herman.

Sapphire keeps repeating herself, as Herman keeps apologising.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
Don't look at me! Don't you dare look at me now!

Herman looks away.

HERMAN
I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I'm sorry, Saph!

Sapphire laughs wickedly, it slowly becomes a hearty chuckle.

SAPPHIRE
(still laughing)
Hermy... Hermy!
Herman looks up, confused.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
How was that?

Herman is too stunned to find the words for a beat.

HERMAN
What?

SAPPHIRE
You should've seen your face!

Sapphire looks very proud of herself.

SAPPHIRE
I think I'm going to like playing this character.

HERMAN
What?

Sapphire sits back down next to Herman. She puts her hand on his knee.

SAPPHIRE
Gosh, you're so cute when you're frightened.

Sapphire takes a deep breath and giggles to herself. She looks back at Herman with her signature warm smile.

Herman composes himself and sits up and nervously laughs before clearing his throat.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
Did you like my performance?

Sapphire bows to her "audience".

HERMAN
I mean... I fucking shit myself.

Herman thinks for a moment.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Something like that would honestly be perfect.

Sapphire giggles.

SAPPHIRE
Oh no, your wine! You'll have to pour yourself another one. I'll have a top up too! Let me clean up this mess.

Sapphire begins taking off her pink hooded zip-up.

HERMAN
Oh no, I'm sure there's some tissues arou-

SAPPHIRE
Don't be silly, I don't mind.
(Shrugs)
Shein.

Sapphire removes her top, wearing quite a revealing TANK TOP underneath, a PUSH-UP BRA exaggerates her breasts.

Sapphire WINKS at Herman. Herman glances at her chest, and back to her eyes and smiles back.

Sapphire gets down on all fours, SLOWLY wiping up the wine.

Herman is staring at her bum, WIGGLING in the air.

Herman breaks out of his trance, a SMIRK drawn across his face, and picks up the wine glasses and refills them.

Sapphire BOUNCES up to her feet.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
Shall we take a breather? I'm going to have a snack.

Herman plonks himself on the couch.

HERMAN
Yeah, wow. Sorry, I'm still stunned. That was amazing how you just slipped into character like that. That monologue completely broke my heart.

Sapphire walks over to the other side of the stage and takes out a JAR OF HOTDOGS from her handbag.

SAPPHIRE
Do you see now why I wanted to do it like this?

Sapphire makes her way back over to Herman.

Herman glances at the jar of hotdogs, and then her chest, continuing without a beat.

HERMAN
Yeah, absolutely.

Sapphire cracks open the hotdog jar.

SAPPHIRE
It really helps me find the character and put myself in her shoes.

She pulls out a cold slimy HOTDOG and chews on it.

A drop of BRINE drips onto her top, between her breasts.

Herman STARES at the stain, and tries to discreetly COVER his nose and mouth.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
(Mouth full of hotdog)
I think it helps elevate the script a lot.

HERMAN
Yeah...

Sapphire takes a big gulp of her wine to wash down the hotdog.

Herman SUBTLY gags behind his hand. Hides it with a clear of his throat.

SAPPHIRE
Would you like one?

HERMAN
No, thank you.

SAPPHIRE
Go on, they're really yummy.

HERMAN
No, really, it's ok, I already ate, thank you. Is it hard tapping into those emotions?

SAPPHIRE
What do you mean?

Sapphire takes out another hotdog and begins to eat it.

Herman takes a quick sharp breath.

HERMAN
Is it difficult for you to be that vulnerable and express your insecurities?

SAPPHIRE
Oh no, I made all that up. I'm a fucking catch.

Big swallow.

HERMAN
(Doubtful)
Really?

Sapphire snaps back.

SAPPHIRE
Yes. I get loads of attention from men, always have done. From women too. I've probably slept with more girls than you.

Sapphire screws the lid back on the jar and puts it down on the side table.

Herman is confused and doesn't know what to say.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
I bet the only reason you brought me here was to try and have sex with me-

HERMAN
No I-

SAPPHIRE
I saw the way you've been blushing, staring at me.

Herman scoffs to himself.

HERMAN
Saph, really-

SAPPHIRE
Really? Is that why you brought the wine? Everyone else "cancelled" did they?

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
(egregiously sarcastic)
"Oh Hermy, please sweep me off my feet, I can't bear your genius no longer! Why, how handsome and talented you are!"

Sapphire reverts back to her voice.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
You're nothing but a half-pissed shit shag.

Herman scrunches up his face, he's offended.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
See, not even denying it! Do you think I'd forget your texts? You want me.

Herman stands up and walks to the end of the stage. His back to Sapphire.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
You're nothing but a little <u>dick</u>, little man, with nothing better to do than to try and blag a shit film to fuck actresses.

Sapphire gesture to the couch they're sitting on, laughing loudly at him.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
Is this the casting couch?

Herman spins around, furious. He can barely compose himself. When he's angry, he cries.

HERMAN
Fuck off! You're the one desperate enough to come out here and meet a strange man you met online. You've done nothing but be fucking creepy and flirty since you got here. Just fuck off and leave if you're going
(MORE)

HERMAN (CONT'D)
to be like this!

Sapphire continues laughing, though it sounds more sincere now.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
What's so fucking funny?

Sapphire continues to laugh.

SAPPHIRE
How was that, Hermy?

HERMAN
How was fucking what?

SAPPHIRE
Erm, my acting! Duh! I even got you out of your shell a bit. I must have been good. Some actors can't cry on command like that!

Herman takes a beat.

HERMAN
Are you fucking serious right now?

Sapphire is taken aback.

SAPPHIRE
Yeah.

HERMAN
Nah, that wasn't on.

Sapphire stands up.

SAPPHIRE
Oh come on, I'm sorry! Come here.
Sapphire opens her arms up.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
Come get a hug.

HERMAN
No.

Sapphire takes a step closer.

SAPPHIRE
Hermy, come on. Don't be like that.
Come here.

Herman stares at Sapphire. Sapphire stares back. She slowly

lowers her arms. Herman is visibly uncomfortable.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
Oh my god, get over yourself. You're not even that good looking. I've had much better looking men after me.

HERMAN
(quietly)
I never said I was good looking.

SAPPHIRE
Well you act like you are. You act like you're better than me.

HERMAN
Is this acting again? I don't know what to say.

Sapphire starts laughing again.

SAPPHIRE
Ok, how was that?

Herman stares at his hands, nervously playing with his fingers.

Sapphire takes another step closer.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
Oh god, I'm so sorry, Hermy. I'm just so passionate about your film. I want to do the best I can for it, I want to put my all into it. But I've ruined it, and I'm so sorry. I honestly didn't mean anything I said. You're genuinely gorgeous. I was just playing the character, I really didn't mean it.

Sapphire takes a step back, and sits on the mattress. She puts her head in her hands and sobs.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
I've really fucked it up now, haven't I?

Herman looks up from his hands and watches Sapphire sobbing.

Herman moves over to the mattress and sits next to a crying Sapphire.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
I went way too far. I've done that
(MORE)

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
before. I forget where the boundaries are, and I just keep running past them.

Herman tenses and pouts his mouth, taking a beat.

HERMAN
No, I'm sorry. It's my fault. I honestly wasn't expecting you to be this good. I knew you'd be good, but I wasn't expecting this at all. It's just a lot to take in - in a good way.

Sapphire leans into Herman. Herman accepts the invitation and puts his arm around her shoulder.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
If it makes you feel any better, you were terrifying - in a good way. That's what this character needs, and you're nailing it.

Sapphire sniffles.

SAPPHIRE
I know I don't deserve it, but I could really do with that hug now.
Sapphire and Herman embrace.

HERMAN
If you'd like, we could lie down for a moment? Calm down?

SAPPHIRE
That'd be really nice, actually.

Sapphire pulls Herman down with him, and lies on his chest.

They lie in silence for a moment.

Herman is peaking down Sapphire's CLEAVAGE.

HERMAN
You're very comfortable.

Silence.

Herman shifts for a better angle.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
You're really talented-

SAPPHIRE
-Yeah, I was just thinking - why does she use scissors?

HERMAN
I think it was in one of the files I sent you. One second.

Sapphire swivels her legs over the side and stands up.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
No, you don't need to go. Stay.

Sapphire doesn't respond. She walks over to the couch, crouches down and rummages through her bag.

Herman, DISGRUNTLED, sits up and pulls his phone out of his pocket and starts tapping away. 5%.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Right yeah, here. Basically, she uses scissors because it represents her split personality.

Herman exits the file, it brings him back to his conversation with Sapphire.

He looks at Sapphire's PROFILE PICTURE. It doesn't look anything like the woman he's with.

He looks up from his phone to see Sapphire's porcelain doll-like face staring at him. Expressionless.

Herman looks in Sapphire's right hand. She's holding a pair of rusted SCISSORS.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

Sapphire swiftly moves towards Herman and jumps on him. Herman starts to panic.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
What the fuck are you doing?

Herman nervously laughs as Sapphire's dead face looks down at him. Her weight pushed against his arms. She pulls up the scissors to her face.

Herman smiles.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Oh, I see!

Sapphire brings the twin blades up to her eyes and inspects

them.

She then grabs Herman's face. Squeezing his cheeks together, forcing his lips to pucker.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
This is good, maybe more of a struggle, but that's on me I guess.

Sapphire brings the blades right to Herman's mouth.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Ok, that's a bit close.

Herman starts to struggle and panic again.

Sapphire manages to get Herman's bottom lip between the blades.

She stares intensely down at him - eyes as wide as they can be.

She begins to close the blade.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Stop! Stop! STOP!

She isn't stopping.

Herman struggles under her weight on his wrists.

He KNOCKS the side table in his struggle.

Smash.

Splat.

The hotdog jar has fallen off the table, shattering on the ground. The brine splashes on Herman's face.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
FUCKING STOP! STOP!

Sapphire leaves her trance. She immediately pulls the blade away and gets off of Herman.

Herman stands up.

SAPPHIRE
How was that?

HERMAN
(angry)
Yeah. Fucking great, Saph.

He checks his lip.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Are you fucking serious?

SAPPHIRE
(confused)
What?

HERMAN
You nearly cut my fucking lip off!

SAPPHIRE
I didn't though.

HERMAN
Why weren't you stopping?!

SAPPHIRE
I did.

HERMAN
Yeah, just about! Fucking hell. That was way too close. What would have happened if I didn't say stop? What the actual fuck, Saph?

SAPPHIRE
(sincere)
I'm sorry.

HERMAN
Yeah, you should be. That was way too much.

SAPPHIRE
(insincere)
Calm down. It's called acting.

HERMAN
Fuck sake.

Sapphire opens her arms.

SAPPHIRE
(sincere)
Come here.

Herman takes a beat.

They embrace.

HERMAN
I'm sorry. That was too much. It was perfect. But it was too much
(MORE)

HERMAN (CONT'D)
for me.

SAPPHIRE
I know, I'm sorry. But it was good?

HERMAN
Yeah. Really I'd want it to be more of a fight. Really messy struggle.

SAPPHIRE
Ok, I'll keep that in mind. I'm really sorry. Shall we stop?

Herman lets out a big sigh.

HERMAN
No, this is good stuff, honestly. I just need to calm down. Maybe more warning next time you slip into character?

Beat.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Saph?

Herman tries to pull away from the hug. Sapphire isn't letting him.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Saph, you can let go now. I've calmed down. It's ok.

Herman keeps trying to pull away.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Seriously, it's ok.

Sapphire gropes Herman's crotch.

HERMAN
What the fuck?

Herman desperately tries to pull away. They fall over on the couch. Sapphire starts trying to take Herman's pants off.

HERMAN
Stop!

Sapphire doesn't stop.

SAPPHIRE
Just trying to have some fun.

Herman SLAPS Sapphire across the face. Sapphire dramatically falls to the floor.

HERMAN
Fuck, Saph, I'm sorry. But what the fuck?!

Herman stands up and buttons his pants back up.

Sapphire is on the floor, laughing.

SAPPHIRE
(laughing)
How was that?

HERMAN
It's not fucking funny, Saph! I asked for a warning!

Sapphire continues to giggle.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
(shouting)
Don't fucking laugh at me!
Sapphire picks herself up off the floor.

SAPPHIRE
Oh, get over yourself. Didn't feel like much to play with anyway.

Herman searches for his phone. He picks it up and gets the picture of Sapphire up. He shows it to her.

HERMAN
Who the fuck is that?

Sapphire grins at him.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Because that's not fucking you, is it? There's no chance in hell that's actually you. Who the fuck are you?

SAPPHIRE
I told you-

HERMAN
That's not an old headshot, that's not you.

Herman turns the phone to look at it. He starts laughing manically.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
That's not you. That's not you!

SAPPHIRE
What did you expect? Some 10 to turn up and fuck you?

HERMAN
(shouts)
Yes!

Herman takes a beat.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
(panicked)
No, it's not-

Sapphire walks right up to Herman and forces a kiss on him.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Saph, stop! Not like this.

Herman pushes Sapphire off him. He's crying, face covered in snot and tears.

SAPPHIRE
"not like this"? Not like this?!

Herman is panicking. Shaking his head.

SAPPHIRE (CONT'D)
You're a fucking joke. Some man you are. And you hit women.

HERMAN
Slag!

Sapphire slaps Herman. She grabs her bag, and storms off back stage.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Where're you going, Saph?

Sapphire disappears behind the curtain.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Fuck sake...

Herman whispers to himself for a moment. He takes a deep breath.

We hear a heavy door backstage open.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
(under breath)
Fucking waste of time.

Herman pulls his phone out. It's DEAD.

He walks over to the keys on the side-table and picks them up.

He jumps off the stage and makes his way towards the front entrance.

2 INT. THEATRE FOYER - NIGHT 2

Herman enters the foyer, and, with keys in hand, makes his way to the front door.

Herman checks if it's open. He opens it slightly, and closes it again. He locks the door with the keys.

HEMRAN (CONT'D)
(Under Breath)
Fuck her.

3 INT. THEATRE BACKSTAGE - NIGHT 3

Backstage is dark, with light spilling from the stage.

Herman approaches a vacant TABLE, he crouches down and pulls out his PHONE CHARGER from underneath it.

He puts his phone on charge and places it on the table.

He takes the keys out of his pocket and leaves them next to his phone.

Herman makes his way towards the dressing room.

Slam.

Herman is frozen.

HERMAN
Hello?

His voices disappears into the void.

He investigates the noise.

4 INT. THEATRE BACKSTAGE - NIGHT 4

The bright red light from the fire exit sign partially

illuminates the long hallway, leading towards the fire exit.

HERMAN
Oh fuck!

Sapphire is stood in front of the exit. Staring. Smiling.

The red light above exaggerating her clown-like make-up.

HEMRAN (CONT'D)
Jesus, you scared the shit out of me.

Beat.

HEMRAN (CONT'D)
...Saph?

Herman turns on the room light.

Bang

The LIGHTBULB BURSTS. But, in it's moment of illumination, we see that Sapphire is holding SCISSORS.

Sapphire quickly moves towards Herman.

Herman SCREAMS, SPINS around, and BOLTS.

5 INT. THEATRE - NIGHT **5**

He runs back onto the stage and LEAPS off.

HERMAN
Help! Help!

He continues running down the aisle, towards the entrance.

6 INT. THEATRE FOYER - NIGHT **6**

Herman bursts through the doors into the foyer.

He sprints to the entrance doors and attempts to pull them open.

They don't budge.

HERMAN
Shit.

Herman checks his pockets quickly, pulls them inside out.

Empty.

HEMRAN (CONT'D)
Shiiiitt.

7 INT. THEATRE - NIGHT 7

Herman BURSTS back through the doors into the auditorium.

He looks around frantically before focusing on the stalls, and DIVES into them to hide. Shuffling along on his hands and knees.

He stops in the middle of a row, pulls a seat down to cover himself, it immediately springs back up.

Beat.

It's silent, other than Herman's heavy breathing. Trying to catch his breath. Snot pouring from his nose. Tears from his eyes.

Thud.

She's coming down the steps.

Herman gasps. He's shaking. He tries to hold his breath.

We hear Sapphire slowly walking down the aisle.

SAPPHIRE (V.O.)
Do you think they'll remember your name?

Herman covers his mouth with his hand.

SAPPHIRE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Or just mine?

Herman let's out a yelp, quickly bringing his other hand to his mouth - pressing hard.

Herman squeezes his eyes shut.

Sapphire stops at Herman's row.

Herman opens his eyes to see her feet.

He starts to let out an uncontrollable scream. He looks up at her.

Sapphire stands before him, scissors at the ready, eyes dead, and mouth completely agape. Ready to eat him up.

She lunges on Herman and pins his wrists down with her knees.

Herman pleads and screams.

Sapphire squeezes his cheeks - nails digging into the flesh - forcing his lips to pucker.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
(crying)
This is good, Saph! You can stop please! Please stop!

Sapphire begins cutting through Herman's LIPS. Herman lets out a blood curdling scream.

Blood splatters onto Sapphire's tank-top. In her eyes. She doesn't flinch. She's expressionless.

She VOMITS undigested HOTDOGS onto Herman's FACE.

Herman flails his helpless legs, and screams. Viciously attempting to shift his body.

Herman breathes heavily through the blood that's pooling in his throat. Gurgling. Hardly conscious.

Sapphire rips off the remainder of his lips.

Herman gives out one last yelp.

She's clutching his lips in her claws.

SAPPHIRE
How was that?

Herman stares up at Sapphire. Past her, even.

Sapphire stares back blankly.

She throws the lips at his bloodied face.

Roaring APPLAUSE from a large audience is heard. But there is no audience. *

A smile slowly encroaches on Sapphire's face. *

END.