

Constellation: An Audio Drama

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CITY PARK - NIGHT

A quiet night in a city park, we hear the laughter of Ravi (M, 30s, nonwhite) and Margot (F, 30s, nonwhite), Margot is an enigma, warm and gregarious, endlessly charming, but she holds everything tightly, just under the surface, she is a piñata made real. Ravi is steadfast, a kind soul, with a wit that belies his temperament and a guilelessness he attempts to train with little success. They are old friends, seeing each other after some time, this could be a turning point for them, somewhere buried in their nucleus of their hearts they very much want it to be. They make each other better, they don't want to know that. They are leaving the wedding of a good friend, it was the climax of a weekend of activities that saw them slipping easily into old habits but never venturing beyond them. It was a great time. Their glee is aided by the offerings of an open bar at the wedding they've attended, they've been walking for a while and have stopped for a rest, and to enjoy the clear night sky.

SFX: Ambient urban night park sounds throughout, especially filling the silences. We begin hearing the indiscriminate chatter of Margot and Ravi getting nearer to us, and their footsteps on the path. They are rounding out a lively conversation after a bit of a walk, they come to a bench and sit down, their laughter dies down and for a brief moment there is silence.

MARGOT

Ravi, have you ever been in love?

RAVI

What?

MARGOT

Have. You. Ever. Been. In. Love?

RAVI

What kind of question is that?

MARGOT

A pretty direct one, if you ask me.

RAVI

Well, I did.

MARGOT

Did what?

RAVI

Ask you.

MARGOT
And I said: a pretty direct one.

RAVI
Fine. Sure. Ok.

MARGOT
Well?

RAVI
Well what?

MARGOT
OH MY GOD!

RAVI
I just...what kind of question is that, Margot? Like, what does that even mean?

MARGOT
It means: have you ever felt affection for another thing?

RAVI
I feel affection every day! I mean, I love omelets in the morning, I love my cat, I love my mom, I love Al Roker when he tells me it's going to be sunny out.

MARGOT
You know what I mean.

RAVI
Do I? I don't read minds, I'm not Miss Cleo, who, for the record, I also love.

Margot rolls her eyes with a hefty sigh. What is with him?

MARGOT
What is with you?

A beat of silence. SFX: night park ambience

MARGOT (CONT'D)
Ravi...are you thinking about me naked?

RAVI
WHAT?

MARGOT

Is that what the silence is about?
I mean it'd be OK...if you wanted
to do that, totally natural
response.

RAVI

Response to WHAT? Also, and I can't
stress this enough...WHAT?

MARGOT

Response to the mood of the night.
You know, one of our best friends
got married, the booze was flowin'
the grooves were...groovin'.

RAVI

Grooves?

MARGOT

There were definite grooves!

RAVI

I...would call them vibes.

MARGOT

THERE WERE DISTINCT GROOVES. "I
Would Die 4 U" is an A plus, number
one groove.

RAVI

I mean...

MARGOT

YOU ARE AVOIDING THE QUESTION!

RAVI

Do I want to sleep with you? I'm
sure plenty of people do, hell, we
could just retrace our steps and...

MARGOT

Plenty of people want to sleep with
me. I know, I'm a woman.

RAVI

(sarcastically)
But...none of them think about you
naked?

MARGOT

It's a different thing, OK?
Thinking about me naked takes time,
it's not some spur of the moment
activity. Takes commitment.

RAVI

Sure, Margot. There's definitely
some scientific method to
undressing you with my mind.

MARGOT

AHA!

RAVI

Aha, what?!

MARGOT

So you admit it, you DO think about
me naked! Cracked the case!

RAVI

And I would have gotten away with
it too, if it wasn't for those
meddling kids!

MARGOT

Don't say kids it makes it weird.

Throughout this exchange they get mutually tickled. As the
laughter begins to die, Ravi speaks.

RAVI

God, I have missed you.

MARGOT

Come on, Ravi! For the theme of the
night...love: ever been in it?

RAVI

You know I'm single.

MARGOT

That's not what I asked.

A beat of silence. SFX: night park ambience

MARGOT (CONT'D)

Seriously?! No, love makin', heart
breakin', soul shakin' love???

RAVI

Margot, that is just En Vogue.

MARGOT

They are the muses of our time.

RAVI

What about T.L.--

MARGOT

Stop changing the subject! I want to know, have you ever been so in love your insides bubble up like you stole a swig of Fizzy Lifting Drink and could be up there forever? Have you ever loved somebody so much it made you cry, have you ever needed something so bad you can't sleep at night...

RAVI

That's just Brandy--

MARGOT

I'm not done! Have you ever, like, had a dream where you were at the edge of the world and it was just you and one other person and you woke up feeling so...at peace? Or, like, when you see them up close you have to look through a piece of pin pricked cardboard because the emotion is just too much for the naked eye. Or...or...when you're with them you laugh so easy...SO, easy, the joy just slides out of you, just radiates through your skin and you could just live off of that, just photosynthesize that feeling until your time on earth was done. Because...I mean...I just want to say that...you know...thank you, for coming to my Ted Talk?

Margot tries to cover her confession up with laughter. Ravi obliges. As this round of mirth begins to fade we feel her direct her energy back to Ravi, it is heavier than before, and more unsure.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

(a bit more emotional than before)

So...have you ever been in love?

A 45 week pregnant pause. SFX: night park ambience (*NOTE: feel free to layer in different sounds in each break to mix it up).

Ravi now directs his energy to Margot as well, it is as dense and heavy as her own, somehow we feel the meeting of this like waves crashing to a shore in a storm, the forces coming together like a star being born, or dying. It is an electric silence.

RAVI

Yes.

END.