

JASMINE  
A Scene  
by Ian Finley

CHARACTERS

ANDY - 28, M.           A city boy.  
EDDIE - 24, M.         A country boy.

SETTING

Time:                   Present

Place:                  ANDY'S apartment in the city. A  
                          door to the kitchen and one to the  
                          outside world. A table, chairs.  
                          On the table is an elegant  
                          oriental tea service, the only  
                          color in the room.

ANDY at the table. EDDIE has suitcase.

**SFX: The City**

ANDY

One last cup of tea. I made it for you. Please.

EDDIE

I should get going, the plane's gonna-

ANDY

One cup. Jasmine. Remember? When you moved here, and said you'd never had anything so, what did you call it? Sophisticated?

EDDIE

Fancy. Look--

ANDY

And I made you tea, remember, and then we, well, remember?

**SFX: China clinks, pouring the tea**

EDDIE

I miss the plane I'll miss the funeral, I can't miss my dad's-

ANDY

Please. You walk out that door and I lose you forever. Along with two years of what I'd thought were some pretty fucking beautiful moments and a lot of, I don't know, what had appeared to be tenderness and trust and love, so will you please, please sit down and have a fucking cup of tea with me. Jasmine.

EDDIE

I'll come visit sometime, maybe I can, um, visit.

ANDY

Visit. You'll visit. How kind of you.

EDDIE

It's just my mom, she's gonna need help, I mean, the farm isn't...

ANDY

So you'll visit me. You fucking moron, we've been together this long and you're going to visit? How dare you?

EDDIE

I have to, she can't just manage, I mean, on her own-

ANDY

Then go, stay for a while, a few months, ok. I understand that. Just say you'll come back. Say you're coming back babe.

**SFX: Chair pulled out, Eddie takes a seat**

EDDIE

I need some breathing room. I told you, to sort shit out, I told you. Idaho's good for that kinda thing. My dad always said--

ANDY

Just say you'll come back.

EDDIE

I gotta sort shit out. I mean, how do I know I'm, I mean--

ANDY

Just because your dad died that doesn't make him right. That's not why he died. You can't think that's why--

EDDIE

I gotta sort shit... out. I don't want you to be mad, I want, I... It's a really nice tea set. I always thought it was real nice.

ANDY

Do you want it? You can take it. A memento, or... Earthenware, unglazed, in the style of the third dynasty of... you don't care about the fucking teapot. Why am I talking about--

EDDIE

We gotta farm out there, I ever tell you 'bout our farm?

ANDY

Yes. You told me. Breathing room. All that great *breathing room*. You'll milk cows and plant potatoes and you'll meet a "nice girl," maybe in overalls, wouldn't overalls be nice? And you'll get married, and she'll knit *socks* while you plant your cows and milk your potatoes and you'll fuck her once a month and I'm sure I won't ever cross your mind while you're doing *that*--

EDDIE

I'm going now.

**SFX: Eddie stands up (maybe bumps the tea set?)**

ANDY

No, please! I'm sorry, sorry, I didn't mean... Look, let's just sit here, ok? And drink our tea. Just... It's... it's getting cold.

EDDIE

I don't want it.

ANDY

I'm sorry. Look, I understand your family is important to you—

EDDIE

Don't talk down to me, don't. You always do that, like I'm a kid, I'm not, just sometimes I can't say, I mean, can't get out...

ANDY

What? What do you need to say?

EDDIE

You *know*. The shit I've always needed to say. How I feel, about you, how much you mean, and you've shown me and I—

ANDY

No, no this sounds like good-bye, like I love you, so good-bye.

EDDIE

I need to say this, before I go, you need to know—

ANDY

Well you can't. You just can't. If you can't go until you've told me then I just won't let you. How about that? How about I keep talking and I don't let you say a fucking thing, I won't let you, how about that? Five minutes. Stay five more minutes, a cup of tea, and you'll miss your plane and that'll be the end. You'll get some nasty calls from your mom, sure, so what? I'll answer them for you, babe. And then we can go on just like before. Let me keep you five more minutes and it'll be out of your hands and you can even say you tried to make the plane but you were just too late. Come on. I'll brew a fresh pot of tea. Jasmine. Please, baby. *Please*.

EDDIE

Yeah. Five minutes.

ANDY

Thank you, oh God, **thank you.**

**(SFX: ANDY takes the teapot and cups and goes to the kitchen. When he is gone, EDDIE picks up his suitcase and leaves. Door slam.)**