

# Sudden Silence Sudden Heat

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## Characters

Danielle	19 yr. old female. Strong willed and independent.
Marcus	21 yr. old male. Soft spoken but capable.
Male Greek Chorus	Plays Joe, Marcus's friend, and the Lighting Designer
Female Greek Chorus close friend, and Actress.	Plays Christine Marcus's love interest, also plays Jessica Danielle's

## Setting

A table with chairs can be seen, a couch is also visible on another part of the stage. The entire set is meant to represent multiple settings, often simply being a backdrop.

## Moment breakdown

Abstract meetings, 11 Months before the Party  
Friends, 9 Months before The Party  
A phone call, 3 Months before The Party  
Second meetings, 2 Months after The Party  
Abstract definitions, 5 Months after The Party  
Flirtation through tango, 2 Months before The Party  
The Party

“Just for this moment  
As long as you're mine  
Come be how you want to  
And see how bright we shine...”

--Wicked

(The Greek Chorus enters from opposite sides of the stage)

GREEK CHORUS

Moment, Abstract Meetings, 11 months before The Party

(Danielle enters)

DANIELLE

I don't need men, never have before, tried it too. He sucked, and not in the good way either. I've never really found any real men, they have all been boys. Boys, nothing more, playing at maturity and feigning experience. The few knowledgeable or experienced guys I've met have either been wimps, gay or both. (girlish smile) I love talking with some of my pretty gay boys, we have the same problems with men. Or even worse than being wimps is being jerks. They cheat on you, or ignore you, monopolize your time... I could never date someone because I wouldn't want to spend that much time with them.

(Marcus enters)

MARCUS

I've never had an easy time with women. been cheated on, abused, taken advantage of and ignored. I've had plenty of girlfriends, and I've had plenty of experience with relationships, inside and outside. Sometimes it's never enough is it? over and over the girls find other guys because of distance, or just stop caring. Worst of all some girls think-

DANIELLE

(Turns to Marcus) -you're gay

MARCUS

(exasperated) that I'm gay

DANIELLE

you're gay, you're gay and that's that

(Female Greek Chorus advances as Christine,

embraces Marcus)

MARCUS

then I started dating her best friend

DANIELLE

fine you're BI! that's the only explanation

GREEK CHORUS

Moment, Damn Good Friends, 9 months before the party

(Marcus and Male Greek Chorus cross to a couch,

Danielle and Female Greek Chorus cross to a table)

MARCUS

and so we friends, damn good friends, she helped me understand Christine... because Christine was a handful and she didn't want to see her hurt. Me and Christine spend a lot of time apart because of the

distance, but it's always great to talk to her after a long day.

DANIELLE

it's good to see a man like him, because for once there's a man, and Christine's had it hard enough, she needs a good guy... if for nothing else than to convince her that there are good guys in the world.

FEMALE GREEK CHORUS

(as Jessica) what about you? don't you believe that there are good guys out there?

DANIELLE

\*laughs\* I tried that remember? Lucas was terrible!

FEMALE GREEK CHORUS

(as Jessica) So Marcus is just a friend?

DANIELLE

Of course! I would never hurt Christine like that.

MALE GREEK CHORUS

(as Joe) Your really just friends? It seems like a girlfriend's friends will always be beyond a boyfriend, some kind of tribal no-go-zone

MARCUS

I hate that kind of thinking, if her friends are my friends, then I don't have to worry about that stupid girl talk behind my back, Dani will tell me straight up if something is wrong with me, instead of poisoning

Christine... I've had the problem before.

GREEK CHORUS

Moment, A Phone Call, 3 months before the party

(Marcus is still on the couch with MGC, Dani

and FGC are off stage)

MARCUS

For the longest time everything was okay you know? I mean Christine was great, a great girl. the kind of girl you love to meet

MARCUS

No, more than that, she's a starsoul... the kind of person you want to protect, the kind of person that gives you faith in humanity

MALE GREEK CHORUS

(As Joe)but you haven't talked to her in a while, have you?

MARCUS

No... but it'll pass, she's been busy, and I can barely stay above the water with school work

(Female Greek Chorus steps forward, Lights

up on her)

FEMALE GREEK CHORUS

(As Christine)Mark... we need to talk, call me

(Marcus steps out, Lights up on him)

MARCUS

You know, I thought it would be different this time. She was perfect. A great girl, great sense of humor, and absolutely wonderful rack. But what struck me about her was her honesty... and it carried over into our relationship, we talked about everything... everything, and that's what she wanted to talk about... that she couldn't go on, that I was just too far away, and she couldn't handle it. What else could I do but say yes? I could hear her almost crying over the phone. I knew that this is the hardest thing she's ever said to me. I knew there was something else, but I couldn't press Christine, she was already falling apart. Hanging up with her was...

(Lights down on Female Greek Chorus)

MARCUS

but I couldn't shake my doubts... I replayed our conversations for the past few weeks and called Dani. I knew she would give me a straight answer.

(Lights up on Danielle)

DANIELLE

hello? Marc?

MARCUS

hi Dani, I assume you know about me and Christine...

DANIELLE

I was standing next to her:

MARCUS

(dry laugh) yeah I thought so, but I have to know.. is there anything I need to know?

DANIELLE

Well, you know how this goes, this has been hard on both of you, and I know this comes as a surprise, I really wish it could have worked out between you two-

MARCUS

no, tell me, what do I need to know?

DANIELLE

there's another guy

MARCUS

\*sigh\* is his name Eric?

DANIELLE

yes

MARCUS

I knew it...I'm not a fool, I heard her talking about him. He's there and I'm not. (Beat) He's not right for her you know.

DANIELLE

No, but maybe he can help her lose some of her naïveté

MARCUS

Yeah maybe. Maybe I was never right for her either

DANIELLE

Marc, your a great guy and your going to find a great girl, I know it.

MARCUS

Dani, thanks. it's been great to talk to you

GREEK CHORUS

Moment, Second Meetings, 2 months after the party

MARCUS

I never imagined her as anything more than a friend. maybe one of the most intuitive friends I've ever had... we never had to draw the line with each other, or run a gauntlet, we just got each other. hell I started dating her best friend, she had to trust me. but that wasn't all.

DANIELLE

I knew him better than any of my friends, maybe even better than Christine. she knew his heart and I knew his mind. and I understood his manhood. Christine wouldn't think about it, but I understood him. She was a little too innocent to understand him below the belt, but I knew how he thought, I know how men think. I had to respect him though, he kept himself in check around her, he never crossed the line with her. For once there was a man who could think with both heads. that's why I let him get close to her, he could

respect her and lust after her at the same time

#### MARCUS

The end wasn't there, I saw her again, this time when I wasn't dating someone close to her, I saw her as just a friend, not an in or a hurdle, she was already my confidant, but now she was something different. It wasn't till she came to see me act that I saw her again, and it was good to see her again, I was still high after coming off the show, but it was great, she was there, red hair silhouetted in the light, a crimson bird, a phoenix against the dark

#### DANIELLE

I heard once that one of his girlfriend's had called him her guardian angel, and I laughed a bit. I didn't realize what she meant. When I went to see him in The Laramie Project I saw... they did an adaptation which included the "Angel Action" and I was dumbstruck. There he was outlined in perfection, with wings than seemed to naturally spring off his back, I just wanted someone like that to protect me, to wrap me up and make everything okay... sometimes I'm so blind, it took me seeing him in damn huge wings to see what Amy had seen so easily...

#### GREEK CHORUS

Moment, Abstract Definitions, 5 months after the party

(Male Greek Chorus and Marcus sitting on a

couch, Female Greek Chorus and Dani sitting at a table)

#### MALE GREEK CHORUS:

(As Joe) So wait, this girl is intellectually, emotionally, physically, and spiritually attractive to you?

FEMALE GREEK CHORUS:

(As Jessica) Wait, you found a man who respects you privacy, your body, takes a joke well, gives a joke well, can contend with you intellectually, and has a huge dick?

MARCUS & DANIELLE:

hang on you don't have all the story

FEMALE GREEK CHORUS

(As Jessica) no, this is a man who respects you as a person, as a woman and is willing to commit? a man who you already vetted for your best friend, and who even after remains honest?

MALE GREEK CHORUS

(As Joe) a girl who you have an intense emotion connection to, a strong intellectual bond with, physical attraction strong enough to rip each others clothes off, and you have a deep bond of trust with? I'm sorry but if someone asked me for a text book definition of love, that's it

MARCUS:

no, no. it's not that simple, all I can say is, that it isn't love.

GREEK CHORUS

Moment, Flirtation through Tango, 2 months before the party

MARCUS

To figure it out you have to understand what happens next between a man and a woman, flirtation and avoidance. We didn't end up like this immediately ((Marcus moves downstage and gestures upstage to

FGC:))”Gravitation cannot be blamed for the attraction between men and women” (They assume a dance pose)

DANIELLE

(Moves downstage and gestures to Male Greek Chorus) “In life and love, the former is essential while the latter is most important” (they assume a dance pose)

(All begin to dance a loud percussive dance, such as a tango. Music plays throughout, all actors dance, and deliver their lines in breaks in the dancing. Instant messenger beeps accompany some delivered lines)

MARCUS

Hot wet and naked, I'm in the shower, be back later

DANIELLE

Aww, you didn't invite me?

MARCUS

I love my new bed, I'm so glad I got a queen

DANIELLE

Big enough for two?

DANIELLE

Doing some homework, be back later

MARCUS

Ooo,it is anatomy homework? I can be a big help

DANIELLE

Naked and all tangled up, I'm in bed

MARCUS

Aww and you didn't invite me

(The dance ends with Marcus

and Daniele facing each other breathing very heavily)

MARCUS

But this is just the beginning

DANIELLE

It all happened in one night

GREEK CHORUS

Moment, the Party

(Male Greek Chorus and Female

Greek Chorus settle to the background, Marcus goes to talk to Female Greek Chorus and Danielle goes to talk to Male Greek Chorus. They all hold red plastic cups)

FEMALE GREEK CHORUS

(As Actress)Excellent job tonight, you blew the audience away

MARCUS

So did you, you know what Mr. Tillings says go out there-

FEMALE GREEK CHORUS & MARCUS :

-And Fuck em' in the Heart!

DANIELLE

I loved the lighting tonight I was told you were responsible

MALE GREEK CHORUS

(as Lighting Designer)(drunk)Thank you! sometimes we can be so unappreciated... you saw the space between the actors and the audience... that's our job

DANIELLE

And you did a fine job

MALE GREEK CHORUS

(as Lighting Designer)S'right but the actors we damn good tonight.. on fire! makes me happy when the actors are as good as the lights (sly smile)

DANIELLE

Marcus was amazing tonight, I never saw him like that before

MALE GREEK CHORUS

(as Lighting Designer)Well... (light bulb goes off in his head) you know what, could you be my wing lady for a moment?

DANIELLE

(surprised)What?

MALE GREEK CHORUS

(as Lighting Designer)Your his friend staying at his place tonight, right? could you put a few moves on him? You know it won't mean anything. I'm looking to get with the lady he's talking with now

DANIELLE

Hit on him a bit? (devilish grin) okay I can do that, I'm an actress myself

(Daniele goes over to Marcus and whispers in his ear, he laughs. Male Greek Chorus goes to Female Greek Chorus they talk silently for a moment before they both go off to upstage where a bar can be seen.)

(In the next sequence the two pairs should be spiritual mirrors for each other. Marcus and Danielle should range around the whole stage, getting closer and closer as the admit more and more to each other. The Greek Chorus can simply get closer to each other. At some point Marcus and Danielle should put their cups down at the Directors discretion.)

MARCUS

I'm not one to stand in the way of a man getting what he's after, but I never thought you'd be a wing lady at your first party!

DANIELLE

You underestimate my potential, I'm very talented

MARCUS

Oh, at everything I assume?

DANIELLE

Yes of course at all the things that matter

MARCUS

We shouldn't do this

MALE GREEK CHORUS

But it isn't wrong

DANIELLE

I know

FEMALE GREEK CHORUS

What about Christine, she's my best friend

MARCUS

You came all the way up here just to see me perform

MALE GREEK CHORUS

I know that's why we've waited so long, but nothing should stop us anymore

DANIELLE

You went out of your way to make sure I could come

FEMALE GREEK CHORUS

There are girl laws

MARCUS

You got your hair cut just for this

MALE GREEK CHORUS

Which don't apply, She broke up with me

DANIELLE

You didn't give a normal performance tonight

FEMALE GREEK CHORUS

Everyone always has to look out for themselves, to find their own happiness

MARCUS

I knew you were in the audience

MALE GREEK CHORUS

Friends are there to help each other, to protect each other

DANIELLE

I knew you would like my hair

FEMALE GREEK CHORUS

To provide support against the other sex

MARCUS

I can't think about anything else

MALE GREEK CHORUS

A guy should never come between friends

DANIELLE

I don't want to think about anything else

FEMALE GREEK CHORUS

But you have... and I... I want you to

MARCUS

Stay with me?

FEMALE GREEK CHORUS

This isn't wrong

MALE GREEK CHORUS

I know

(Marcus and Danielle kiss, deeply and passionately, their bodies have been waiting months to complete each other. In this kiss we can see the spark of what will happen next between them. Behind them, the Greek Chorus raise their cups)

DANIELLE

(lays her head on his shoulder) I adore you

GREEK CHORUS

(They Toast) L'Chaim!

(Curtain)