

SPLIT ENDS

A ten minute play

-by-

Harriet Romney

CAST OF CHARACTERS

KATHLEEN

A hairdresser in her 40's with considerable experience. A good listener

BARNEY

A hairdresser in his late 20's with considerably less experience. Verbose.

GABRIELLA

A refined, sedate woman in her mid 50's.

CLEO

A social butterfly in her late 20's ecstatic with her latest beau.

SCENE 1

Queenstown Time: 2021.

SETTING: Friday morning at Hairdressing Salon: "Friseur"

AT RISE: KATHLEEN is seating GABRIELLA.

BARNEY is seating CLEO whilst chatting away.

KATHLEEN

Good morning Gabriella how are you? It's been a little while between cuts, are you wanting your usual trim?

GABRIELLA

Hello Kathleen. I've been very well thank you. How about you?

KATHLEEN

Great thanks. It's been very busy here now we're passed the covid drama.

GABRIELLA

Yes it's been a massive time alright. I'd quite like, along with my usual trim, a bit of a zhoosh up if possible thank you Kathleen.

KATHLEEN

Sure. Have you got a special occasion coming up?

GABRIELLA

Yes, now the covid 'drama', as you put it, is well not entirely over, but a little less hectic for Marcus, we're off for the weekend for a bit of r'n'r.

BARNEY

Rightio Miss Cleo first things first then you can fill me in on this mysterious new fox you're all in a dither about. Okay what kinda magic would you like Barnwell to work today? Foils, colour, cut, re-style, perm, petals, beehive, Rastafarian, you name it baby. Your wish is my commando.

CLEO

Definitely no cutting, my man's a little old fashioned, he loves my long hair. But yes to more blonde highlights thanks and well...that's about it really. I know what you're thinking Barney I'm a bit boring huh?

BARNEY

Well I wasn't going to say that but yep kinda is for you. This new man sounds a bit interesting, like real spesh doll. So the order is, leave these locks long- think Glorivale- and more blonde highlights think Marilyn M? Right?

CLEO

(giggling) Thanks Barney, you got it and yes he sure is spesh.

BARNEY

Super doops. I will have to get rid of these split ends though babe. Don't panic. You can trust Barnwell not to chop too much off. I don't want to be responsible for Mr Old fashioned specialness losing interest.

KATHLEEN

(whispering) Young love huh.

GABRIELLA

Yes takes you back a bit doesn't it just. No doubt it was exciting when you met a new male friend but nerve racking don't you think? Hoping they liked your hair, the way you dressed, what you said etcetera. Mind you I only really courted Marcus others were more friends.

KATHLEEN

Yes I agree it was exciting back then but at the risk of sounding smug, I'm very pleased to be settled and comfortable. I'm sure you are too Gabriella.

GABRIELLA

I certainly am. Of course there's always speed bumps along the way but well communication that's the key, just keep talking.

BARNEY

So come on give us a few deets Cleo hun. How and where did you meet? What's his work? Does he work out? Is he fit looking? And if yes to all the above, does he need a haircut? (laughing)

KATHLEEN

Barney!!

BARNEY

Oh don't sweat it Kathleen, just joshing. Cleo gets me. Don't you sweet cheeks? I mean really I have to depend on my mates filling me in on their hoo ha since I'm in the middle of a bleeding drought relationship wise. Excusez-moi Mrs Doyle.

CLEO

Ha ha. Of course. It's a little complicated, but really Barney he is.. well a gentleman. Just so respectful and treats me like a like a lady. He's chiv..um chivalrous yes that's the word, it really highlights what lowlifes all those dead beat punks were that I used to attract. So yep I can sure put up with a little complication when you weigh it up against being treated like shite.

BARNEY

Wow chivalrous aye – that’s a cool word. Does that mean he’s similar to Sir Lancelot? Seriously though Cleo just as long as this little complication isn’t that’s he’s done time for murder or has a rap sheet as long as my arm. You know what you’re like, you dive in quite quickly. Have you checked him out like on line?

KATHLEEN

I ‘spose there’s always one little itch.. I mean hitch with most new relationships and they get ironed out along the way right?

GABRIELLA

Dare I say, and this is very naughty of me but, there may very well be an itch as well as a hitch (quietly tittering). But seriously yes nothing is ever smooth. I maintain solving little problems as they arise builds a sound and solid foundation for an honest and loving marriage or these days a solid de facto relationship. The institution of marriage sadly seems a thing of the past. (tut tutting)

CLEO

Nothing sinister about my man Barney. He’s fit, he’s intelligent, he may be a little older but he’s up with the play in all respects. He’s stylish and wealthy so yep I can cope with his little issue which he is actively working on changing . I really trust him Barney.

BARNEY

That’s fab darl. Can’t wait to meet him. He sounds a real belter and quite deeeeeelicious.

CLEO

Yep a little down the track defo I’ll have a party or no, better than that, a dinner party. I need to start behaving in a more sophisticated way . O.M.G when I think back to what I used to think was an okay time with those creeps, getting drunk, vaping etcetera I shudder.

GABRIELLA

Oh dear (in hushed tones) sounds like the poor girl has been led astray mixing with some most unsavoury types. I do hope she’s on the right track now though. Our daughter had similar issues with finding a suitable young man, but now she has and he’s very nice, even her father, who is terribly protective, approves so that’s saying something.

BARNEY

So babe what’s the haps this weekend with lover boy? Are you sailing away to an exotic island. Or jetting it to Paris? Come on do tell. I can only dream about finding someone hot like your man. It’s just so boring around here. I never ever meet anyone interesting. How did you meet Sir Lancelot? I mean did he just come clanking along all armoured up and sweep you up onto his white horse or.....

CLEO

I actually met him through a well... he was on this dating sight, not the tinder type, a superior version that you have to be quite elite to use. I was lucky enough to have a friend in the know and she got me on the platform. It was meant to be finding my poor Marty. His ex is horrific Barney, and well yes I'm a bit of a sucker for anyone being bullied, we got chatting and the rest is like they say history. We're going to have a quiet weekend in at mine, well hopefully the whole weekend together, he may have to visit his mother, she's elderly and sometimes he just needs to be with her. I understand.

BARNEY

Wow you are head over those high heels of yours. Not like you not to be out there partying girlfriend.

KATHLEEN

Your husband Gabriella, sorry if I appear nose, but he has a high powered position as a medic doesn't he?

GABRIELLA

No you're not being nose at all. Yes he's a cardiologist. A rather stressed one at that.

KATHLEEN

I can well imagine with all the covid interruptions going on, he'd be struggling to keep up with the backlog of patients. He'll be in such need of this break away.

GABRIELLA

Yes it will be just the medicine, excuse the pun, getting right away, hopefully to a remote location with no phone coverage. We haven't booked any accommodation anywhere. Marcus seems to think we should just drive and see where we end up.

KATHLEEN

Good on you. Yes I agree just drive and leave the stress behind in a cloud of dust. Sounds like bliss.

GABRIELLA

Hmm. I must say I was a little surprised with how he didn't book any accommodation though as normally he books and organizes in advance right down to just about what toilet stops we'll be requiring. Mind you overall he hasn't been his normal self lately so yes as you say the impact these covid times have had on one has been very stressful.

BARNEY

All righty Miss Marilyn these foils will need another twenty odd minutes of processing to make sure we get the real blonde bombshell look a-happening girl.

KATHLEEN

How's this looking for you Gabriella. Have I zhooched it up enough do you think? I'll lacquer it thoroughly so it holds. Are you leaving tonight or tomorrow?

GABRIELLA

We're not sure yet whether we can get away tonight but definitely by morning. That certainly is a great load of zhooshing thank you Kathleen and yes it feels very set.

KATHLEEN

Yes it's pretty stiff, so apologies in advance for hubby not being able to run his fingers through it.

GABRIELLA

Haha. No fear of that dear. Marcus is not...well let's just say some boats have sailed. (phone text alert).(Gabriella reads). Oh for goodness sake! This CANNOT be happening.

KATHLEEN

Are you okay Gabriella?

GABRIELLA

No..no not really. Marcus has texted saying there's an emergency at work and he'll be having to stay back and cover for one of the other surgeons which means staying at the hospital from tonight in their quarters.

How can this be happening!

CLEO

(phone text alert). O.M.G. Yay! Yay! Yay!

BARNEY

Well Miss do tell? A message from Lancelot by any chance?

CLEO

Sure is. He's managed to get round a family matter and instead of staying at mine, we're off out of town and better still for the whole, I mean the entire weekend. We're off tonight. I'm soooooo excited Barney.

THE END

