

CREATURES

By Janet Malia Allard

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CREATURES

A 10-Minute Play

By Janet Allard

PLAY HISTORY

CREATURES was produced by The Truffle Theatre Company in their 2011 Piglet Slaughterhouse festival. In addition, it was selected as a finalist for the Actor's Theater of Louisville National 10-Minute Play Contest and published in Teaching Theatre Magazine Summer 2010 vol. 21 in an article by Bruce Miller and in The Best American Short Plays of 2010-2011 edited by William W. Demastes.

CHARACTERS:

A WOMAN

A WEREWOLF

SETTING:

In the woods. At a drive-in movie. A full moon.

AT RISE:

[A WOMAN and a WEREWOLF in a car at a drive-in movie. There is a full moon behind them. The WOMAN stares at the WEREWOLF in disbelief.]

WOMAN

So...

Anything else you'd like to tell me?

[Pause.]

[The WEREWOLF says nothing.]

[He offers her popcorn.]

WOMAN

No. You can't pretend this is Normal, Tom. This is not a normal night at the drive-in anymore.

[SCREAMS come from the drive-in speakers. A horror film-- a 'B' movie.]

WOMAN

So the monthly business trips to Vegas?

[He shakes his head.]

WOMAN

Why didn't you tell me sooner?

[The WEREWOLF is quiet.]

WOMAN

Did you think I wouldn't find out?

[Quiet.]

[From the movie speakers: *Run! Run for your lives! It's the creature! (More screams)*]

WOMAN

When were you planning on telling me? At the alter?

[Quiet. The WEREWOLF eats popcorn.]

WOMAN

I already knew.

[THE WEREWOLF looks at her. Really?]

WOMAN

I found a strange hair in the bathroom.

[He goes back to eating popcorn.]

WOMAN

You are something else, you know that?

I knew it. Somewhere in my I knew this was too good to be true.

So...What now? What does this mean for us, Tom?

[He shrugs.]

YOU DON'T KNOW?!

How can you be so nonchalant? It's not like this is going to blow over.

Here's your ring. Here's your goddamn ring back!

[He stares at her. He offers her popcorn.]

WOMAN

I don't want popcorn!

[He HOWLS.]

WOMAN

You don't scare me.

[HE HOWLS, SHE HOWLS, he grabs her--]

[Movie: romantic music...maybe a woman's voice—"I'm not afraid of you...creature! "]

WOMAN

No! I can't trust you Tom! I mean...

So what else? What next?

Any other surprises you'd like to spring on me?

[He lights a cigarette.]

You smoke?

[He puts out the cigarette.]

what else? Bring it on.

[He shakes his head. This is everything.]

How am I supposed to believe that?

You hide things—everything—the hair and the teeth...and I never would have known except then the moon—and then you just eat popcorn and—

How can I trust you?

It's BULLSHIT Tom!

I don't keep things from you!

I don't have any secrets!

[WEREWOLF stares at her.]

WOMAN

What? I don't.

[The WEREWOLF looks at her.]

WOMAN

Not like yours.

[He looks at her.]

WOMAN

What?

[She eats popcorn.]

You know everything about me there is to know. I'm clear. Transparent.

[He stares at her.]

WOMAN

What?

What what what?

What?

Why are you looking at me like that?

I'm not keeping anything from you.

[He sniffs her.]

I am not hiding—

[He sniffs harder.]

I am not hiding any—

Stop sniffing me!

[He sniffs her like crazy.]

What are you?!—

No!

[He pulls a chocolate bar out of her coat. Triumphant.]

WOMAN

Chocolate! So what?

I was going to share it with you.

[HE goes to take a bite. She grabs it away.]

Okay! I was hiding it. Hoarding it.

I didn't say I was giving up chocolate forever, just for lent.

So what? I don't have to share!

[She devours the entire chocolate bar. He watches. Some sort of melodramatic music plays through the movie speakers.]

It's nothing like I'm keeping something HUGE hidden – Like the fact that I'm a WEREWOLF. I am happy to eat chocolate out in the open! I love it! I don't care who knows it. And I will not share! And by the way, while we are coming clean--since this is "tell all night"!

[She pulls a cigarette out of her purse and lights it.]

I smoke too! I never quit. There. Those are my “shocking secrets”. That’s all I have to hide.

[He grabs her hair. It comes off.]

Alright. It’s a wig. So what? I like how it looks.

[He tries to grab her purse.]

Stay outta my purse!

[He gets a text message.]

[They both freeze.]

Is someone texting you?

[He shrugs.]

Aren’t you going to look?

[He shrugs.]

You know, Tom, I think it’s good that you revealed this “werewolf business” tonight. I think it’s made us closer. With the nuptials fast approaching we really need to be transparent, get it all out on the table now so it doesn’t bite us in the ass, know what I mean? You’re a werewolf, I hoard chocolate, we both still smoke. That’s it. Is everything on the table now?

[He nods.]

That’s everything?

[He nods.]

Good.

[He grabs her purse.]

WOMAN

Give me back my purse!

[He holds the purse.]

Go ahead. Go through it. I don't care.

[He starts to open the purse—gauging her reaction.]

You know Tom, I think trust is a choice. Maybe there are some little things we don't know about each other. We change. We choose. Every day. We choose to trust. I'm going to choose to trust you. I trust you.
I love you.

[He smiles.]

We're missing the movie. Put that down and we can cuddle.

[She smiles.]

Do you want more popcorn? I'm dying for some butter on this. Why don't you just run and—

[He opens the purse. Looks at her to see her reaction. She laughs.]

Oh, Tom, you're so funny I told you I have nothing to--

[He sticks his paw into the purse.]

NO!

[He rifles through the purse.]

Hey asshole— That's my passport!

You have no right to look at my passport!

Yes, I wear bright red lipstick sometimes. So?

I have nothing to-

Yeah, a letter. So what.

Go ahead. Open it.

Yeah, pills. I had a -prescription—they're painkillers for my--

Give me my --

[He pulls out the ornate box. Stares at it.]

Put that back—

Put that—

[He sniffs it.]

Nothings in that box

It's just an empty--

You can open it—

Don't—

[He opens it.]

[SCREAMS! On screen.]

[Something in the box glows green.
He looks at her in disbelief. She sips her diet coke.]

[She takes the box and puts it back in the purse. She takes the purse. Closes it. And puts it next to her.]

[He looks at her. She takes off her wig.]

WOMAN

Okay. There are some things you need to know about me. I—

[He shakes his head.]

It's just that I—

[He puts his finger to her lips.]

No, I do need to tell you. I—

[He puts his finger to her lips. He offers her popcorn.]

[She eats popcorn. She starts to cry.]

[He puts his paw on her leg.]

[Romantic music plays.]

[Maybe we hear something from the movie like: "I don't care to return to that world, creature. I'll live where you live. In outer space or at the bottom of the lake. As long as I'm with you." Passionate kissing on the movie screen. Love music. They watch.]

I'm sorry, I just need to tell you I—

[She leans over and whispers in his ear.]

[He looks at her.]

And another thing...

[She whispers in his ear.]

[He laughs. He whispers in her ear.]

[SCREAMS on the screen.]

[He puts his arm around her. She puts her head on his chest. The sound of the movie overtakes them.]

END OF PLAY