

Aftermath

A drama in two acts

## Cast of Characters

Eleanor "Ellie"- a young woman, 22-24

Skylar- Eleanor's roommate and childhood friend

Taylor- Eleanor's new partner

## Scene

A small living room in the city, lived in, but not messy. It's very clear that two young women reside here. There should be a comfortable couch and an armchair. Off to the side is a kitchen table, but the rest of the kitchen is off stage. In the back of the living room, there is an old looking wooden chair. That is Skylar's chair, no one can sit there but her.

## Content Warning

This show includes material that may not be suitable for all audiences. Viewer discretion is advised.

**Act One:** Scene One

At Rise: At rise we see the living room in dim light; it's past midnight. We hear two people laugh and then hear them enter through the front door.

(Eleanor "ELLIE" enters through the front door, followed by

TAYLOR)

ELEANOR

It's not much, but welcome to my humble abode.

TAYLOR

It's... a nice place. I've seen a lot worse in this city.

ELLIE

You've been to a lot of other girls' apartments, then?

TAYLOR

What? No! That's not what I meant-

ELLIE

I'm messing with you. I really don't care. I know my place is small- a little cramped. But it's home.

TAYLOR

Oh.. gotcha.

(There's an awkward silence)

ELLIE

Can I get you anything? Water? Juice? Something stronger?

TAYLOR

Water's great, thank you.

ELLIE

I'll grab you one. Make yourself at home!

(ELLIE exits to the kitchen. TAYLOR looks around the living room before settling on the couch, he's looking at the chair in the corner. ELLIE returns holding a plastic water bottle)

We were out of our finest. Hope plastic works.

TAYLOR (laughing like she's actually funny)

Do you treat all your guests this well?

ELLIE (flatly)

No. Some of them get cups.

(TAYLOR looks at her confused, before realizing it's a joke.)

They both smile slowly and laugh)

TAYLOR

Can I ask you something?

ELLIE

Sure. What's up?

TAYLOR

What's the deal with that chair? Do you like to stare at walls or something?

ELLIE

Oh- yeah that's a little weird. That's Skylar's chair. She says looking at plain walls helps her think better. Some weird artist quirk or something.

(ELLIE laughs a bit, then thinks about what she said. She gets scared that SKYLAR overheard her.)

TAYLOR

Oh. Gotcha. Man- artists. I'll never get them but boy are they cool.

ELLIE (Hurriedly, looking at the bedrooms)  
Skylar's great. A little eccentric, but great.

TAYLOR

Yeah?

ELLIE

Yeah.

(Another awkward silence)

TAYLOR

Well... tonight was-

ELLIE (Cutting him off)

Tonight was fun. I'd love to do it again sometime.

TAYLOR

Yeah?

ELLIE

I mean- if you don't feel the same way I totally understand and-

TAYLOR

Woah- Ellie, I had a great time tonight.

ELLIE

You did?

TAYLOR

I did. In fact, I think I can make another date happen. How's  
friday sound?

ELLIE

Friday? Like tomorrow Friday?

(TAYLOR checks the time)

TAYLOR

Technically, it's Friday.

ELLIE (Who can't help but smile)

I think I could make myself available tonight.

TAYLOR

Fantastic. It's a date.

(TAYLOR stands, leaving the water bottle on the table)

I'll get going then, I need my beauty rest.

(They both laugh)

I'll see you at seven?

ELLIE

See you at seven. Can I walk you out?

TAYLOR

Don't worry about it- I'm grown. Get some rest.

(TAYLOR leans down to kiss her, ELLIE dodges and TAYLORs kiss  
lands on her cheek)

ELLIE

Goodnight.

TAYLOR

Goodnight.

(TAYLOR grins at her then exits.)

(ELLIE watches him leave, a lovestruck smile on her face. After a moment she turns to go to her bedroom. SKYLAR has appeared in the doorway)

SKYLAR

You know how I feel about strangers in my house.

ELLIE

He was just here for a little bit.

SKYLAR

You should not have invited him in. At all.

ELLIE

He offered to- I couldn't just leave him at the door.

SKYLAR

You could.

ELLIE

It's rude.

SKYLAR

It's rude to make your best friend uncomfortable.

ELLIE

You were in your room.

SKYLAR

Are you saying you care more about a stranger than me?

ELLIE

No-

SKYLAR

That is so selfish.

ELLIE

No. It's not that- I just-

SKYLAR (cutting her off)

What.

ELLIE

I really like this guy. I don't want to do anything to mess this  
up.

SKYLAR

You can not know if you like him. You have barely been on two  
dates.

ELLIE (mumbles)

It's been four.

SKYLAR

This really says a lot about you. It is so nice to see that you  
care more about a random dude than your best friend. I did not  
realize I was living in a fucking whorehouse.

ELLIE

A whorehouse?!

SKYLAR (with venom)



With all the people you have traipsing through here- and into *your bedroom*, I feel like I'm living in a whorehouse.

ELLIE

What are you talking about?!

SKYLAR

You know exactly what I'm talking about.

ELLIE

Before Taylor I hadn't gone on a date in *months*. He's the first person I've brought over in like- a year!

SKYLAR

Tell that to the sounds coming from your room.

ELLIE (Getting really upset)

Will you STOP?!

(SKYLAR smirks because she got the reaction she wanted. Before ELLIE notices, she returns to a neutral expression)

SKYLAR

Whatever. You don't need to yell. Just give me some warning next time you bring that asshole over. So I can put my earplugs in.

ELLIE

He- wha- we didn't DO ANYTHING.

SKYLAR

Mmhmm. Whatever. Goodnight.

(SKYLAR exits.)

ELLIE (Frustrated and holding back tears)

Skye-

(No response. A door slams. ELLIE sits on the couch defeated.)

(LIGHTS FADE)

**END SCENE ONE**

**Act One:** Scene Two

At rise: The living room is empty.

SKYLAR

Are you seriously going out again?

ELLIE

I already told Taylor yes.

SKYLAR

Okay. So call him and tell him you changed your mind.

ELLIE

I can't do that-

SKYLAR

Why not?

(SKYLAR crosses her arms and stares ELLIE down, like a disapproving mom)

ELLIE

I can't.

SKYLAR

You can. You just won't.

ELLIE

I told you- I really like him.

SKYLAR

You were with him last night.

ELLIE

I don't want to give him any reason to end things. My last boyfriend broke up with me because I canceled on him too much.

SKYLAR

So. You are saying spending time with him is more important than spending time with me?

ELLIE

I didn't say that-

SKYLAR

You might as well have.

ELLIE

It's not what I mean, and you know that.

SKYLAR

No- it's just (she sighs heavily) I feel like I haven't seen you in a while. Like- I see you in passing only. I miss you and I wanted to have a girl's night.

ELLIE

I thought you decided you hated girl's nights.

SKYLAR

I did not.

ELLIE

No, you specifically said-

SKYLAR

So you misunderstood me. Does that mean I can't spend time with my best friend? Fine. Do whatever you want. I'm done with you.

ELLIE

What?

SKYLAR

You keep putting words in my mouth.

ELLIE

No I'm not.

SKYLAR

You just said so. You keep claiming that I hate spending time with you.

ELLIE

No! No, that's not what I said.

SKYLAR

You are trying to make me mad so you can run off with your new friend.

ELLIE

No!

SKYLAR

But you are. Plain as day. Why else are you so against staying with me?

ELLIE

I already had plans.

SKYLAR

Spontaneous plans that can change and be canceled.

ELLIE

But they can't be.

SKYLAR

You are so selfish. So mean and selfish.

(SKYLAR crosses to the bedrooms)

Whatever. See if I ever spend time with you again.

(SKYLAR turns on her heels and exits to the bedrooms. ELLIE watches her go, visibly upset)

ELLIE

Fuck. fuck, fuck fuck fuck fuck.

(ELLIE slumps onto the couch, breathing hard)

What the fuck. God. I can't change my plans. I can't.

(She stands and paces)

Why does she hate me? I can't always do what she wants. I can't change my plans just because she wants me to. Taylor will hate me. But she hates me now. GODDAMN FUCK

ELLIE

I don't know what she wants from me. I don't know-

(She clutches a pillow to her chest, becoming more panicked)

Fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck. This isn't fair. She can't just- fuck-spring shit on this like me. Shit. fuck.

(As she rambles, she curls in even more on herself as the panic sets in. Tears are starting to fall)

I don't know what to do. I don't know what to do. Fuck. fuck.

FUCK.

(She screams fuck into the pillow.)

(Enter SKYLER, holding a shirt)

SKYLER (softly)

Hey- jesus- you did not need to get yourself so worked up.

(ELLIE looks up with tears still in her eyes)

ELLIE

W-What?

SKYLER

Look- it's not that big a deal. Here-

(She sets the shirt down next to ELLIE)

I'm lending you my favorite shirt- for good luck on your date tonight.

ELLIE

I can't wear that-

SKYLER (jesting)

If you don't wear it, I will really start to think you hate me.

ELLIE

Are you sure? I can cancel. I don't wanna lose you.

SKYLER

God-Ellie- you are so dramatic. You are not going to lose me  
over a guy. We've been friends for too long.

ELLIE

But you made such a big deal...

SKYLAR

No, I think you were misunderstanding me.

ELLIE

Oh...

(SKYLAR rests her head on ELLIE's shoulder)

SKYLAR

I hate fighting.

ELLIE (defeated)

Me too.

SKYLAR

You just make. Me so mad sometimes. It is like you don't listen  
just to antagonize me.

ELLIE

I don't-

SKYLAR

I need to be heard too. You only care about yourself. It hurts  
me.

ELLIE

But-

SKYLAR

I know I'm not perfect, and I don't have a new shiny friend, but I have feelings too. I need some validation every now and then.

ELLIE

Wait-

SKYLAR

Seriously. Ever since you and Taylor got together, there has been no Skylar, or even us. Just Ellie.

ELLIE

Sky.

SKYLAR

What.

(SKYLAR stares at her, intimidating but not angry. ELLIE still cowers.)

ELLIE

I'm sorry... I'll do better.

SKYLAR

Thank you. Now take this shirt and go change. You've got a very important date tonight.

(ELLIE wants to fight, but she just takes the shirt and leaves without another word)

(SKYLAR watches her go, upset she didn't get a reaction. After ELLIE is gone, she takes a moment to fix the couch and exits to her bedroom)



**Act One:** Scene Three

At Rise: ELLIE is standing in the living room wearing the shirt from SKYLAR

ELLIE

Do you want to come inside?

TAYLOR

Are you sure?

ELLIE

Why wouldn't I be?

TAYLOR

At dinner you were talking about how your roommate hated you having people over- I don't want to get you in more trouble with her.

ELLIE

Oh. It's fine. She's not even here. Skye texted me a while ago. Some family thing came up. I'd be surprised if she's back before tomorrow.

TAYLOR (Fully entering)

If you're sure.

ELLIE

I am.

TAYLOR

You know- your place looks bigger before midnight.

ELLIE (laughing)

Oh yeah?

TAYLOR

Yeah- it's nice.

ELLIE

I'm glad you like it. I'll grab us some drinks. Make yourself at home!

(ELLIE exits into the kitchen. TAYLOR wanders around the living room before settling into SKYLARS chair)

TAYLOR

Artists, man.

(ELLIE enters and gasps. She rushes over to TAYLOR and pulls him out of the chair)

ELLIE

You can't sit there!

TAYLOR

Woah-

ELLIE

YOU can't SIT THERE

TAYLOR

What the hell?!

ELLIE

Sorry- Sorry- it's just-

(Starting to panic)

That's Skye's chair and she's so protective and if she knew I

let you sit-

TAYLOR

It's just a chair, it's not a big deal.

ELLIE

It's not just a chair

TAYLOR

It is.

ELLIE

It's not.

TAYLOR

*It is*

ELLIE

Not to Skye.

(He pauses)

TAYLOR

Alright. Fine. If you're gonna be like that... is the couch at  
least safe?

(ELLIE nods. TAYLOR makes himself comfortable on the couch)

TAYLOR

Care to join me?

(ELLIE nods again. She joins him on the couch with the drinks)

TAYLOR

Are you okay?

(ELLIE nods.)

TAYLOR

Look. I didn't mean to upset you- I didn't know sitting there  
would freak you out.

(ELLIE shakes her head)

TAYLOR

I'm sorry.

ELLIE

No- I'm sorry. I didn't mean to freak out on you. It's just... (A  
pause) that... I don't know...

TAYLOR

Hey. Don't worry about it, okay? I'm not worried about it. This  
is your house, and you have your rules.

ELLIE

They're more like Skye's rules.

TAYLOR

Huh?

ELLIE (Quickly)

Never mind. (changing the subject) Tonight was fun.

TAYLOR

You think so?

ELLIE

I really do.

(There's an awkward pause, then TAYLOR moves to put his arm around ELLIE. She visibly tenses, then relaxes into him)

TAYLOR

I like spending time with you. It's fun- easy.

ELLIE

Easy?

TAYLOR

Not easy in a bad way- You're easy to be around. Easy to talk to.

ELLIE

Oh, I see.

TAYLOR

I just like being around you.

(ELLIE just smiles. She relaxes more)

Can I ask you something?

ELLIE

Uh, sure?

TAYLOR

What's the deal with you and your roommate? Skye?

ELLIE

What do you mean?

TAYLOR

You seem so scared of her? Why do you live with her?

ELLIE

I'm not scared of her.

TAYLOR

You sure about that.

ELLIE

Um...

TAYLOR

Sorry- that was-

ELLIE

No, I get it. Our relationship is kinda hard to understand. Skylar is basically my sister. Our moms were friends, so we grew up together- Really, she's been my only friend my whole life. I don't know how to live without her around- It would just be weird. She's a bit of an acquired taste, but I love her.

TAYLOR

I see. But you always talk about how awful she is.

ELLIE

She's a bit much, but she's not awful. Besides, Her mom spoiled her a lot growing up because she had a bad accident and almost died.. that's kind of hard to confront because it's hard to talk about.

TAYLOR

An accident?

ELLIE

I don't really like to talk about it.

TAYLOR

Were you there?

ELLIE

We almost died together.

TAYLOR

Oh. Shit. I'm sorry.

ELLIE

Can we talk about something else?

TAYLOR

Of course. Yeah. Of course.

ELLIE (Quick)

Do you want to spend the night?

TAYLOR

What?

ELLIE

We have the place to ourselves. I don't want to do- *that*. But I  
wouldn't mind just hanging out.

TAYLOR

*That?*

ELLIE

Never mind. It was a stupid idea.

TAYLOR

I'd love to stay tonight. But I can't.

ELLIE

It's okay. It was a stupid idea.

TAYLOR

Ellie. It's not stupid. Just bad timing- I have work early in the morning. Otherwise, I would jump at the chance to stay the night.

ELLIE

Really?

TAYLOR

Really. Maybe next time?

ELLIE

Next time for sure.

TAYLOR

I should get going though. I'll text you?

ELLIE

Of course.

(TAYLOR stands and heads for the door)

TAYLOR

Goodnight, Ellie.

ELLIE

Bye.

(TAYLOR exits. Lights fade on ELLIE on the couch)



