

QUITTING TIME

a 10 minute play

by

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--FINAL DRAFT--

Revised

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--WHO--

HEATHER
age 25, wife

DAVE
age 27, husband

--WHERE--

A living room in the Detroit suburb
of Hazel Park, just north of 8 Mile.

--WHEN--

The present

AT RISE: A living room in the Detroit suburb of Hazel Park, just north of 8 Mile.

The remnants of a family gathering fill the room-- dirty ashtrays, empty pop cans, soiled paper plates, etc.

HEATHER, 25, enters with a trash bag and a can of air freshener. SHE gives the room a good spray then begins cleaning up the mess.

After a moment, DAVE, 27, enters.

HEATHER

Did you get lost or something?

(DAVE drops his car keys on the table.)

I didn't think you were ever coming home.

(HE heads into the kitchen.)

Dave...?

(After a moment, DAVE returns with an open beer.)

HEATHER (cont'd)

What took you so long?

(Pause.)

DAVE

This place is a pit.

HEATHER

I'll clean it up.

DAVE

Smells like a goddamn bowling alley in here.

HEATHER

I sprayed some air freshener.

DAVE
Real nice. Flowers and cigarettes.

HEATHER
I thought it would help.

DAVE
From now on, I don't want nobody smoking in this house.

HEATHER
Don't tell me. Tell your family.

DAVE
You hear me? It's my house, Heather, and it makes me sick.

(HE sits in his favorite chair,
lost in thought. HEATHER cleans.)

HEATHER
Is everything set over at your sister's?

DAVE
I wouldn't know.

HEATHER
Where's your Mom?

DAVE
Home. Where she belongs.

HEATHER
She shouldn't be alone, right now.

DAVE
She's gonna have to get used to it, sometime.

(HE sips his beer. HEATHER
continues cleaning.)

DAVE (cont'd)
Did you see the way she balled her eyes out when they put
him in the ground? It's his own goddamn fault. She begged
him to stop. We all did. He watched his own dad kill
himself. Now he's gone and done the exact same thing. If
you ever did that to us, we'd never forgive you.

HEATHER

Dave, please. I just put Scotty down in his crib and I'd like to get some sleep.

DAVE

You know that, don't you?

(HEATHER reaches for the phone.)

HEATHER

I'm gonna see if your Mom needs anything.

DAVE

Leave her alone.

HEATHER

We've got plenty of mostacholi.

DAVE

My mother doesn't need you bugging her.

HEATHER

She buried her husband, today.

DAVE

I said, leave her alone!

(Pause.)

HEATHER

Why don't you go to bed?

DAVE

I'm not tired.

HEATHER

You look exhausted.

DAVE

Lemme help you.

HEATHER

I got it.

DAVE

You sure?

HEATHER

Positive.

(SHE crosses away from DAVE.)

DAVE

No kiss?

HEATHER

I'll be right up.

DAVE

You don't like kissing me, all of a sudden?

HEATHER

I gotta clean up this mess.

DAVE

Where's my kiss goodnight?

HEATHER

Dave...

DAVE

Why won't you kiss me, Heather?

(HEATHER gives in, kisses DAVE,
a short peck. HE holds her close,
kissing her deeper, then pulls
away.)

DAVE (cont'd)

You promised me. Six months ago. Right in this room, you
stood here.

HEATHER

I'm sorry... I slipped. There were all these people here.
Your sister's kids were running around. The baby was
crying.

DAVE

Don't lie to me.

HEATHER

It was the first time.

DAVE

You think I don't know you're still doing it behind my back?

HEATHER

I'm not.

DAVE

Bullshit!

(HE digs through her purse, finds
a pack of cigarettes, crushes them.)

You come home from bowling every week, you think I don't notice it?

(No response.)

You crawl into bed next to me. You rub my chest. I can smell it on your fingers.

HEATHER

It's the only time I do it. When I'm out with the girls.

DAVE

Then you better quit going out.

HEATHER

It's one night a week. When else do I get to have any fun?

DAVE

You think lying to me is fun?

HEATHER

I said, I'm sorry.

DAVE

Do you?

HEATHER

No.

DAVE

Then why are you?

(No response.)

I asked you a goddamn question.

HEATHER

Because I know how you get.