



SCENE 5

(Lia stares at the floor, feeling bad. She sighs and takes a pencil and notebook out of her bag.)

LIA

Okay, "Stereotypical Gender Roles in Literature". Here we go...

(The lights goes off. When they come back on, a guy walks into the room.)

GUY

Are you okay?

LIA

Clearly, I'm not. And last time someone did this to me, it didn't end well.

GUY

Is that a threat? Because you don't need to threaten me. I can help you.

LIA

No, it's just me telling you to go away.

GUY

Yeah, I guess that makes sense. I didn't really think it was a threat, I just thought that would be a badass thing to say.

LIA

Okay. Well don't bother trying to be my badass hero. Just because I'm a girl doesn't mean I need some guy to save me.

(Exaggeratedly helpless voice)

Oh please Prince Charming...

(Back to normal voice)

GO THE FUCK AWAY.

GUY

I would, but now you've pissed me off. How judgmental can you get? You're one of those people who acts like you want everyone to be treated equally. And so you go and fuck up all the equality you claim to be trying to bring.

LIA

Where's your fedora, asshole?

GUY

(Laughing)

That is actually the most hilarious thing you could say because I actually have a fedora with me.

(He pulls a fedora out of his bag)

You know why?

LIA

Because it's literally a symbol for guys like you who think they're entitled to fuck every girl they act decently to?

GUY

No.

(He dramatically puts on his fedora)

It's because I think they look cool.

(Long pause)

You know, detectives in the old days used to wear fedoras. They were great until people like you decided to... ooh, here's a word I bet you like... appropriate them for your crusade against men.

LIA

There was no "appropriation" going on here. You're the one who chooses to be a dick.

GUY

Awww, now I'm feeling bad my name's not Richard, because then I could say, "Yes, I am Dick"

LIA

Why don't you just go away?

GUY

Because I'm enjoying this and I think you are too.

LIA

Oh, so now you know how I feel. How just like a man of you to tell me how I feel.

GUY

Oooh, ooh. Are you ready for this? Are you ready for me to wreck you with three little words? Okay, here goes: Not all men.

LIA

Oh my god, you are so much of a stereotype it's kind of funny and also kind of makes me want to puke.

GUY

Please, explain to me what's wrong with those three words.

LIA

I don't even want to entertain a conversation with you.

GUY

Evading the question, I see. This is why I said that, I knew you wouldn't give me an answer.

LIA

Oh, so this is a game of strategy now? Bring it on.

GUY

And you continue to evade the question. Tell me, what is wrong with me saying that not all men assume they are superior to women? What's wrong with saying that not all men are horrible sexist?

LIA

It's a lie.

GUY

Now we're getting somewhere.

LIA

Get this in your thick little skull: men have historically mistreated women. Even now, men unknowingly oppress women in subtle ways. Men still make more money than women, and still feel entitled to it.

GUY

Fair point. But I'll answer that with a question: Do you have a father?

LIA

You know, it's perfectly possible that I don't.

GUY

I know, that's why I asked.

LIA

Yes, I have a father.

GUY

Do you hate him?

LIA

No, but...

GUY

Is he sexist towards you? Does he judge you because you're a girl?

LIA

No! But that's not relevant!

GUY

Yes it is, because clearly, your father is not sexist.

LIA

No, this entire argument is not relevant! Just because my dad isn't blatantly sexist doesn't mean that all men aren't privileged and more likely to be sexist towards women.

GUY

All I'm saying is that, if what you say about your dad is true, he's already doing better than both of us.

LIA

What are you talking about?

GUY

Just hear me out. When I came and saw, not a woman, but a HUMAN BEING who seemed upset, I went to help. Then you judged me for my gender, assuming I only came to help you because you're a girl. Not to mention when you...

LIA

So Mr. Dick is always right.

GUY

No, wait. Then I judged you based on your demeanor, and your gender, as one of those completely overzealous activists that give feminism a bad name. And you're just proving me right. You're just playing into the stereotype.

LIA

I don't know what to say to you. I honestly don't know.

GUY

So we've reached a stalemate, huh? How about then, we don't draw this out painfully like the Vietnam War. What if we came to a truce?

LIA

I've already compromised enough. So, no.

GUY

What?

LIA

I'm not going to give you the last word. Let you feel like you've been right this whole time.

GUY

Is that what's most important to you. Being right?

LIA

My ideals are most important to me.

GUY

So when faced with a truth that contradicts your ideals, you deny it. Or try to justify it.

LIA

You don't know that!

GUY

You preach equality, but you don't practice it when it doesn't suit you. One would think you would have learned from your incident with Tina.

LIA

No, fuck you.

SUSAN

(Offstage)

Lia! Where are you?

GUY

What's the point of that? The only one to blame is yourself.

(The lights turn off. When they turn back on, the guy is gone and Lia is sitting on the floor with a pencil in her hand staring blankly at a half written paper.)

LIA

(Writing)

Thus, the stereotype of males saving females in literature is a destructive one. (Stops writing)  
Done! Stupid homework.

(She stares up at the ceiling.)

SUSAN

Is that you Lia? So we are in this room today? Is Tina here too?

LIA

Yes, we're in here. And no Tina's not here.

(Susan enters)

She might not be coming for a while. Or ever.

SUSAN

(Half-joking)

Why? She made too many tree puns for you?

LIA

Yeah, something like that.

SUSAN

Well, then you might have to kick me out too.

(Notices Lia's dejected expression)

Wait, are you okay? We don't have to meet today if you don't want to.

LIA

No, I'm not going to give up just because of a little struggle. I was just getting a little upset over this assignment about guys in literature. I was thinking about all the stupid things men say and do to make themselves feel like they aren't oppressors.

SUSAN

That's quite an issue. Maybe you should take a little break and calm down.

LIA

No, come on, let's get going.

SUSAN

I don't know if we'd do great work though if you're feeling so bad.

LIA

Maybe you're right. But I can't let it get to me. Subpar work is better than no work at all.

SUSAN

But what if we had a slightly longer meeting but did quality work?

LIA

Why, what are you suggesting?

SUSAN

Say we do something fun for a half hour, then get down to business.

LIA

What do you mean by "fun?"

SUSAN

I mean, why don't we watch a funny show or play a game or something?

LIA

What? No, we can't waste our time on something trivial like that. We don't deserve to!

SUSAN

We won't be wasting our time. We would have done serious stuff for an hour. Like this, we do light, entertaining stuff for 30 minutes, then serious stuff for an hour. No time lost.

(Pause.)

LIA

Fine.

SUSAN

Really?

LIA

Yeah, I need to keep an open mind about things. That's something I need to work on.

(Pause)

So, what exactly are we gonna do?

SUSAN

I know! This is a really funny show. It should get your mind off things, hopefully.

LIA

We'll see.

(Susan pulls out her computer, and the lights dim.)

(End scene)