

THE HOURS

You didn't mind?

Woman/Woman  
Drama/LGBT+

LOS ANGELES, 1951

LAURA, 35, is making a CAKE for his his son RICHIE's birthday.

KITTY, 35, friend and neighbour, comes to the door. She knocks.

KITTY  
(coming in)  
Hello? Laura?

LAURA  
Hi, Kitty.

KITTY  
Hi. Am I interrupting?

LAURA  
Of course not. Come in.

KITTY  
Are you alright?

LAURA  
Why, sure.

KITTY  
(to RICHIE)  
Hi, Richie.

LAURA  
Sit down, I've got coffee on. Would you like some?

KITTY  
Please. Look, you made a cake.

LAURA  
I know. It didn't work. I thought it was gonna work. I thought it would work better than that.

KITTY  
Oh, Laura. I don't understand why you find it so difficult.

LAURA  
I don't know either.

KITTY  
Anyone can make a cake -

LAURA

I know.

KITTY

Anyone can. It's ridiculously easy.

LAURA is serving the COFFEE.

KITTY

Like, I bet you didn't grease the pan.

LAURA

I greased the pan.

KITTY

Alright. You know, you have other virtues. And Dan loves you so much, he won't even notice. Whatever you do, he'll say it's wonderful. Well, it's true.

LAURA

Does Ray have a birthday?

KITTY

(laughing)

Sure he does. September. We go to the country club. We always go to the country club. We drink Martinis and spend the day with 50 people.

LAURA

Ray's got a lot of friends.

KITTY

He does.

LAURA

You both have a lot of friends. You're good at it.

Beat.

LAURA

How's Ray? I haven't seen him in a while.

LAURA

Ray's fine. These guys are something, aren't they?

LAURA

You can say that again. They came home from the war. They deserved it, didn't they? After what they'd been through.

KITTY

What did they deserve?

LAURA

I don't know. Us, I guess. All this.

KITTY looks away from her.

KITTY

(noticing a BOOK)

Oh. You're reading a book.

LAURA

Yeah.

KITTY

What's this one about?

LAURA

It's about this woman who's incredibly... well, she's a hostess and she's incredibly confident, and she's going to give a party. Maybe because she's confident, everyone thinks she's fine. But she isn't. (Beat) So... well... (beat) Kitty, what is it? Is something wrong?

KITTY

I have to go into the hospital for a couple of days.

LAURA

Kitty.

KITTY

Yeah, I have some kind of growth in my uterus and they're going to go in and take a look.

LAURA

When?

KITTY

This afternoon. I need you to feed the dog.

LAURA  
(standing up)  
Of course.

KITTY opens her HANDBAG and brings out a KEY which she places on the TABLE.

Slowly, she sits down again. LAURA sits down with her.

LAURA  
Is that what you came here to ask?

Beat.

LAURA  
What did the doctor say exactly?

KITTY  
Well, it's probably what the trouble's been, about getting pregnant. The thing is... I mean, you know, I've been really happy with Ray. (Beat) And now, it turns out there was a reason. There was a reason I couldn't conceive. (Sighs) You're lucky, Laura. I don't think you can call yourself a woman until you're a mother.

LAURA lowers her eyes uncomfortably.

KITTY  
But the joke is, all my life I could do everything. I mean, I could do anything, really. Except the one thing I wanted.

LAURA  
Yes.

KITTY  
That's all.

LAURA  
Well, at least now they'll be able to deal with it.

KITTY  
That's right. That's what they're doing.

LAURA  
That's right.

KITTY  
I'm not worried. What would be the  
point of worrying?

LAURA  
No, it's not in your hands.

KITTY  
Well, that's it. (Starting to cry)  
It's in the hands of some physician  
I've never even met. Some surgeon  
who probably drinks more Martinis  
than Ray.

LAURA  
Oh, Kitty.

KITTY  
I mean, of course I'm worried about  
Ray.

LAURA  
Come here.

KITTY  
I'm doing fine. Really.

LAURA  
(coming closer to KITTY and  
hugging her)  
I know. I know you are.

KITTY  
I'm more worried about Ray. He's  
not good with this stuff.

LAURA  
Forget about Ray. Just forget about  
Ray.

LAURA kisses KITTY on her forehead. KITTY looks up at her.  
LAURA kisses KITTY. KITTY closes her eyes. LAURA breaks the  
kiss.

KITTY  
You're sweet. (Beat) You know the  
routine, right? Half a can in the  
evening and check the water now and  
then. And... Ray'll feed him in the  
morning.

KITTY gets up and picks up her HANDBAG.

LAURA  
Kitty, you didn't mind?

KITTY  
What? I didn't mind what?

KITTY goes towards the door.

LAURA  
Do you want me to drive you?

KITTY  
I think I'll feel better if I drive myself.

LAURA  
Kitty, it's gonna be alright.

KITTY  
Of course it is.

KITTY puts on her bravest and brightest smile and goes.

KITTY  
Bye.

As soon as the door closes, LAURA becomes restless, agitated.