

## NICOLA AND RICK

PLAY: Football Romeo  
 GENRE: Comedy  
 TIME: 3:30

## DESCRIPTION

Nicola and her boyfriend, Rick, prepare for "Romeo and Juliet" auditions. Nicola is enrapt in her preparations. Rick is asleep.

## ACTING HINTS

Nicola is a girl who gets what she wants. How does that drive affect the way she moves and speaks?

Think about why Nicola is with Rick. What does she see in him? What does Rick see in Nicola?

Make sure you understand the Shakespearean part of the text.

*NICOLA stands downstage centre. She stands in a pose of longing.*

NICOLA: Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?

Deny thy father and refuse thy name.  
 Or if thou wilt not but be sworn my love,  
 And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

*NICOLA holds a pose of longing. She waits. And waits. She's waiting for RICK, her boyfriend, who has fallen asleep on the couch. NICOLA keeps up her pose as long as she can before she swats him.*

NICOLA: It's your line!

RICK: (waking up) Huh?

NICOLA: It's your line!

*She shows him his place in the script and gets right back into her pose.*

RICK: (speaking in a deadpan voice) Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

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NICOLA: Rick!!!

RICK: What?

NICOLA: Never mind. Never mind. I'm ready. (She takes in a deep breath.) I know I'm going to get this part. (She starts to gather her things.) So, you're going to meet me at the audition tomorrow at 4:00. Can you remember that or should I write it down?

RICK: 4:00. I got it.

NICOLA: Good. (She gives RICK a peck on the cheek.)

RICK: Why?

NICOLA: Why what?

RICK: Why do I have to meet you at the audition? (A thought comes to him.) Oh, I get it! You want moral support. You want me to cheer you on. Maybe I should borrow a set of pompoms from one of the cheerleaders - "Go Nikki!" (He laughs to himself at his own cleverness. Then he notices NICOLA is staring at him.) What?

NICOLA: Rick. We've been going over these lines for weeks.

RICK: Yeah.

NICOLA: I've been reading Juliet. You've been sort of reading Romeo.

RICK: You're great, Nik. I know you're going to get the part.

NICOLA: We're both going to get the part.

RICK: I'm going to be Juliet?

NICOLA: Try to stay with me. We've talked about this. Planned this. We've been practicing for weeks so that we can audition together and get the parts together and be on stage together.

RICK: On stage?

## NICOLA AND RICK

NICOLA: You - Romeo. Me - Juliet.

RICK: On stage?

NICOLA: Yes.

RICK: In front of people?

NICOLA: That's how it's usually done.

RICK: You never told me that!!!

NICOLA: Rick...

RICK: Uh uh, no way, no can do. It's fine behind closed doors where no one can see us but there's no way I would ever stand... *(He becomes lost in thought - it almost looks like his brain has closed down.)*

NICOLA: Rick?

RICK: Tights...

NICOLA: Rick, what's the matter?

RICK: This guy, this Ray...

NICOLA: Romeo.

RICK: He wears tights! Nikki, you want me to embarrass myself in front of the entire football team looking like a ballerina?

NICOLA: There are no tights. Mrs. Cavendish is doing a modern version. No tights.

RICK: No?

NICOLA: Jeans and T-shirts.

RICK: I still can't do it.

NICOLA: Ricky...

## NICOLA AND RICK

RICK: I play football. I take other football players by the head and slam them to the ground.

NICOLA: And you're very good at that. But don't you want to be more than a football player?

RICK: No.

NICOLA: Don't you want to be something else?

RICK: No.

NICOLA: Don't you want to fully experience the wonder, the thrill, the excitement that is William Shakespeare?

RICK: *(like he's eaten a bug)* No!

NICOLA: Fine. I see. *(She moves away)*

RICK: You're mad.

NICOLA: No. Not at all. I'm perfectly - *(RICK moves in to hug her)* Don't touch me!!

RICK: I'm sorry, Nikki. It's just not going to work.

NICOLA: I understand.

RICK: Good.

NICOLA: So I guess you'll be ok with the kissing scenes.

RICK: What?

NICOLA: You've been reading the lines, Rick, surely you noticed there are at least two kissing scenes.

RICK: I wasn't really paying attention.

NICOLA: If you're not playing Romeo that means I'll be kissing somebody else.

## NICOLA AND RICK

RICK: Give me that!

*He takes the book from NICOLA and frantically begins searching.*

NICOLA: I'm really impressed, Rick. I never thought you would be so open about this. You are really growing as a human being.

RICK: *(whining like a baby)* I can't read this. I hate this guy! Why can't he write English like everybody else?

*He hands the book to NICOLA, who acts out the scene between Romeo and Juliet at Capulet's masked ball. She plays each part with utter seriousness.*

JULIET: Saints do not move though grant for prayers sake

ROMEO: Then move not while my prayers effect I take.  
Thus from my lips by thine my sins purged.

JULIET: Then from my lips the sin that they have took.

ROMEO: Sin from my lips? O trespass sweetly urged!  
Give me my sin again.

*NICOLA closes the script with a sigh and holds it to her chest. She is clearly quite moved by the scene. RICK looks very, very confused.*

RICK: Is that Shakespeare for kissing scene?

NICOLA: Big time.

RICK: Give me that book. When did you say the auditions were?

NICOLA: *(with a big smile)* Four o'clock.

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**Scenes for  
 Two Men**  
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