

1 (LEANNA and BRANDON meet, after a long separation, at  
 2 a party.)  
 3 LEANNA: (She sits alone, isolating herself from the noise of a  
 4 party in another Off-stage area.) Well, this is fun. What  
 5 ever possessed me to come to this party is a mystery to  
 6 me. (She pulls a small compact from her purse.) So glad I  
 7 took the time to have my roots done so I could impress all  
 8 these people I don't give a damn about. (Yelling) I hate  
 9 everyone here!  
 10 BRANDON: (He enters on her last line.) Oops, sorry...Leanna?  
 11 Is that you?  
 12 LEANNA: Brandon. Of course. Why wouldn't it be you? It's  
 13 been a lousy party, a lousy day, and now, to add insult to  
 14 injury, you come in. Thank you, God. You're a funny guy.  
 15 BRANDON: Ah. Carrying around some unresolved conflicts  
 16 from your past?  
 17 LEANNA: And you're talking to me because...?  
 18 BRANDON: Sorry, I just poked my head in for a minute.  
 19 LEANNA: Well, then, why don't you just poke it back out.  
 20 BRANDON: It's been a long time.  
 21 LEANNA: Not nearly long enough.  
 22 BRANDON: Uh-huh. Well, I'm glad we had this chance to talk,  
 23 to renew old friendships. I'll just be going.  
 24 LEANNA: Go to hell, Brandon.  
 25 BRANDON: Ah, still thinking of opening the Leanna  
 26 MacDonald school of how to win friends and influence  
 27 people?  
 28 LEANNA: Please, sit down, stay a while. I need more crap in  
 29 my life.  
 30 BRANDON: What is with you? This is a party, lots of people  
 31 you haven't seen in a long time, good food, good music,  
 32 nice memories. It's supposed to be a fun thing, you  
 33 know?  
 34 LEANNA: Go to hell, Brandon.  
 35 BRANDON: You are a piece of work, aren't you?

1 LEANNA: Look who's talking. Why don't you get the hell out  
 2 of here?  
 3 BRANDON: You invited me to stay.  
 4 LEANNA: You can't hear sarcasm?  
 5 BRANDON: Hey, I just came in to find my fiancée. I can see  
 6 she's not here, so I'll just be on my way.  
 7 LEANNA: Your fiancée? You're getting married?  
 8 BRANDON: That surprises you? I'm over twenty-one.  
 9 LEANNA: But to make that kind of commitment. To actually  
 10 be there for someone other than yourself.  
 11 BRANDON: Listen, you've obviously got some unresolved  
 12 problems that have nothing to do with me and  
 13 everything to do with your own screwed-up mind. I  
 14 haven't seen you in years, I said hello, you said go to hell,  
 15 I think our conversation has run its course.  
 16 LEANNA: Witty as you always were. Quite the little  
 17 wordsmith, aren't you? Of course, I don't remember us  
 18 doing that much talking lo those many years ago.  
 19 BRANDON: Jeez, Leanna, that was how long ago?  
 20 LEANNA: Five years, seven months, two weeks and three  
 21 days.  
 22 BRANDON: (Uncomfortably taken aback) Oh...I didn't realize...  
 23 LEANNA: Please, I made that up. It's been about five years. I  
 24 haven't been counting the days since last we touched,  
 25 trust me.  
 26 BRANDON: Oh. I didn't think you had. I mean...never mind.  
 27 LEANNA: God, there is just no end to your ego, is there? Your  
 28 name should be Axis, you seem to think the world  
 29 revolves around you.  
 30 BRANDON: You seemed to think it did, way back when.  
 31 LEANNA: Brandon, I was barely fifteen. I was stupid. Only  
 32 someone as stupid as a fifteen-year-old would get that  
 33 wrapped up in someone as shallow and superficial as  
 34 you. Most women grow up and expect to marry a man,  
 35 not a worm. So did you meet your fiancée on the

1 playground? Still cruising around looking for innocents?  
 2 BRANDON: I want to know what your problem with me is. We  
 3 haven't seen each other in years, yet you act like I  
 4 murdered your family yesterday. So, we made love a long  
 5 time ago...  
 6 LEANNA: We didn't make love. I made love, you had sex...  
 7 BRANDON: OK, it was sex.  
 8 LEANNA: What surprises me is that I actually thought it was  
 9 love. It's what you told me.  
 10 BRANDON: I was a kid myself. I would have said anything to  
 11 get what I wanted. What are you still so upset about?  
 12 LEANNA: It meant something to me. It still does.  
 13 BRANDON: Well, get past it.  
 14 LEANNA: I can't.  
 15 BRANDON: What do you want from me? You want me to lie to  
 16 you and say it meant something special? I was in high  
 17 school. I'm sorry that you got caught in the fallout.  
 18 Accept my apologies and move on.  
 19 LEANNA: That's all it was to you. You are pathetic. You take a  
 20 little girl and use her. That, no doubt, is what you're  
 21 going to end up doing to that poor girl you intend on  
 22 marrying.  
 23 BRANDON: I love Sarah.  
 24 LEANNA: You told me you loved me, as I recall.  
 25 BRANDON: I never told anyone *else* I loved you. Hey, when  
 26 you're a kid you say what you have to say to get what you  
 27 want. I'm sorry. What do you want from me?  
 28 LEANNA: Nothing. You've got nothing to give me that can  
 29 change anything.  
 30 BRANDON: If I could take it back, I would. But that was a long  
 31 time ago.  
 32 LEANNA: You never even think about it, do you?  
 33 BRANDON: Honestly? No.  
 34 LEANNA: Hardly a day goes by that I don't.  
 35 BRANDON: It wasn't that big a deal, trust me.

1 LEANNA: It was for me. I thought I was someone important  
 2 to you, that you cared. Obviously I was wrong. People,  
 3 I've discovered, are only interested in what they want  
 4 and everyone else be damned. And that is the basic fact  
 5 of life.  
 6 BRANDON: (*Beginning to become angry*) No, sweetheart! The  
 7 basic fact of life is if you don't talk, you can't expect  
 8 anyone to know what's going on. And here's something  
 9 else for you to think about. I didn't force you to do  
 10 anything you didn't want to do. You were a more than  
 11 willing accomplice, if memory serves.  
 12 LEANNA: Wrong! I was a child. What you did was practically  
 13 rape.  
 14 BRANDON: Take some responsibility for your own actions.  
 15 You were fifteen, I was seventeen. You could have said no.  
 16 LEANNA: So could you.  
 17 BRANDON: Oh, right. You invite me over to your house, your  
 18 parents are gone for the night, and we end up in your  
 19 room "watching TV." You know why I didn't call you?  
 20 Because you were a little too easy. I just wasn't interested  
 21 in a girl that would be so willing to give herself away.  
 22 LEANNA: That's a horrible thing to say.  
 23 BRANDON: Sometimes the truth is pretty ugly. Deal with it  
 24 and get on with your life.  
 25 LEANNA: Get on with my life?! You have no idea how hard it  
 26 has been to just "get on with my life!"  
 27 BRANDON: It was one time. One crummy time. My God, let  
 28 it go.  
 29 LEANNA: That's so easy for you to say.  
 30 BRANDON: Yeah, it is. Why are you holding on to this? What  
 31 is the big deal?  
 32 LEANNA: I got pregnant.  
 33 BRANDON: (*Pause*) What?  
 34 LEANNA: That one time, I got pregnant. That's what the big  
 35 deal is.



1 BRANDON: You got pregnant? How? Never mind, stupid  
 2 question. Why didn't you tell me?  
 3 LEANNA: I tried to. You wouldn't listen.  
 4 BRANDON: When? When did you try?  
 5 LEANNA: I came over to your house, I looked for you outside  
 6 the school after your classes, I would wait for you in the  
 7 parking lot. Hell, I even came to football practice and  
 8 stood at the sidelines hoping to talk to you.  
 9 BRANDON: Why didn't you say something?  
 10 LEANNA: It's hard to talk to the back of a head. You would  
 11 never look at me. You know as well as I do that you  
 12 wanted nothing to do with me after you accomplished  
 13 your goal of bedding me. I was a number to you. Well, my  
 14 number got called.  
 15 BRANDON: What happened?  
 16 LEANNA: Now you're interested?  
 17 BRANDON: Yes, now I'm interested. I would have been then,  
 18 too, if you'd given me a chance.  
 19 LEANNA: Oh no you don't. I tried to talk to you, dammit, I  
 20 tried.  
 21 BRANDON: No, you didn't. You would stand there and look at  
 22 me with those big sad eyes. What the hell was I supposed  
 23 to do?  
 24 LEANNA: Oh, I don't know. Maybe show some capacity for  
 25 human kindness. Ask me what's wrong? I was a kid. I  
 26 needed you to ask.  
 27 BRANDON: I was a kid, too. A male kid. You think I needed to  
 28 have some cow-eyed girl follow me around making me  
 29 feel guilty for taking her virginity?  
 30 LEANNA: You could have asked. But you didn't. Completely  
 31 wrapped up in yourself. But even if you did and I told  
 32 you, what would you have done?  
 33 BRANDON: Done?  
 34 LEANNA: Yeah, done. You know, a course of action, a plan?  
 35 What would you have done?

1 BRANDON: I don't know.  
 2 LEANNA: Typical.  
 3 BRANDON: Dammit, Leanna. You spring this on me years and  
 4 years after the fact and I'm supposed to come up with  
 5 instant answers.  
 6 LEANNA: I knew I wouldn't have been able to count on you.  
 7 BRANDON: You don't know anything. You're speculating.  
 8 LEANNA: You know I'm right. It would have ended up exactly  
 9 as it did. I was alone and you went on with your life.  
 10 BRANDON: Well, it's not like you gave me a chance.  
 11 LEANNA: I gave you plenty of chances.  
 12 BRANDON: You never told me!  
 13 LEANNA: You should have known.  
 14 BRANDON: I'm sorry, what? I *should* have known? How  
 15 should I have known?  
 16 LEANNA: Push comes to shove and the bottom line is you  
 17 can't count on anyone. You would have left me hanging.  
 18 BRANDON: Maybe I would have. But we'll never know, will  
 19 we?  
 20 LEANNA: I knew then. You would think only of yourself and  
 21 anyone who got in your way was simply a roadblock to be  
 22 pushed through. You would have turned your back on  
 23 me, admit it.  
 24 BRANDON: Would you have wanted me to marry you? With  
 25 you at fifteen? And me on my way to college?  
 26 LEANNA: At least I would have had an option.  
 27 BRANDON: So would have I, but you took those away. What  
 28 did you do?  
 29 LEANNA: What the hell do you think I did? I was alone, I had  
 30 no choices. I had an abortion.  
 31 BRANDON: By yourself? You went through that by yourself?  
 32 LEANNA: Not completely.  
 33 BRANDON: Did you tell your parents?  
 34 LEANNA: No. Only one other person knows, the person that  
 35 took me to have it...taken care of.

1 BRANDON: I should have been that person.  
 2 LEANNA: You're saying you would have been there for me?  
 3 Don't make me laugh. I was so low on your list of  
 4 priorities that I didn't exist.  
 5 BRANDON: Maybe you're right. Maybe I would have been an  
 6 ass about it. But you assumed facts not in evidence.  
 7 LEANNA: Oh, I had plenty of facts. Every time I came up to  
 8 you, you ran like a rabbit in the other direction.  
 9 BRANDON: Of course I did. You would come up to me in front  
 10 of my friends.  
 11 LEANNA: You were always surrounded by your friends.  
 12 BRANDON: You could have called me.  
 13 LEANNA: I tried. But every time I heard the annoyance in  
 14 your voice when you realized it was me on the line, I  
 15 knew what you would do.  
 16 BRANDON: So you would just hang up.  
 17 LEANNA: I hung up because I was scared. I knew what you  
 18 would do, and I didn't want to accept it.  
 19 BRANDON: So you didn't even try?  
 20 LEANNA: Don't try, don't fail...  
 21 BRANDON: Good attitude.  
 22 LEANNA: Being frightened can do that to a person.  
 23 BRANDON: Why do you think I'm such an ass? You might  
 24 have been surprised.  
 25 LEANNA: What would you have done? Married me?  
 26 BRANDON: No, I wouldn't have married you. But I would  
 27 have supported you in whatever decision you made.  
 28 LEANNA: What if I decided to keep it?  
 29 BRANDON: I can't guess what I would have done. I'd like to  
 30 say that I would have been a good father and supported  
 31 you both financially as best I could...  
 32 LEANNA: But...  
 33 BRANDON: But I honestly don't know. I was a high school  
 34 jerk, one of those guys that they write as the fool on TV  
 35 sitcoms. But I honestly don't think I would have let you

1 go through it alone.  
 2 LEANNA: It's been my experience that we all end up alone  
 3 when it comes time to count on someone. You proved  
 4 that.  
 5 BRANDON: I proved nothing! I wasn't given a chance to prove  
 6 myself. You could have tried. So you made all the choices,  
 7 for me, about me, and without me.  
 8 LEANNA: Listen, I said what I had to say. I've carried it  
 9 around for a long time, and now that it's out I guess I can  
 10 let it go.  
 11 BRANDON: Yeah, you've carried it around for a long time. You  
 12 just dumped this on me. I need to deal with it.  
 13 LEANNA: What's there to deal with? It happened to me, not  
 14 to you.  
 15 BRANDON: It happened to both of us. You just didn't bother  
 16 to share it.  
 17 LEANNA: I'm going to say this once, OK, and I don't want to  
 18 go over it again. You made me pregnant when I was  
 19 fifteen, you ignored me right after it happened, treating  
 20 me as if I didn't exist. It was a problem I had to deal with  
 21 in the best way a fifteen-year-old knows how. Maybe I  
 22 should have had more faith in your nature, but I didn't.  
 23 But basically, the facts are I carried this anger and  
 24 hostility around for a long time and directed it at  
 25 everyone I dealt with and everything I tried. My attitude  
 26 was that I was alone and you reinforced that, directly or  
 27 indirectly, it doesn't matter. And, yeah, maybe I should  
 28 have tried harder to tell you, and maybe, just maybe,  
 29 you would have been warm and compassionate. I doubt  
 30 it, but we'll never know. The great thing is, I told you.  
 31 You wanted me to get past it, to let it go? Well, maybe now  
 32 I can.  
 33 BRANDON: So you dump this on me?  
 34 LEANNA: Dump what? That you impregnated some stupid  
 35 little girl who had a mad crush on you? I took care of the

1 problem, Brandon. It's done with. And frankly, a day  
 2 doesn't go by that I don't think about it and have more  
 3 than a few regrets. But I have to tell you what an ass I  
 4 always thought you were and finally the reason why. I've  
 5 waited a long time to do this. God, I feel great.

6 BRANDON: I feel like crap.

7 LEANNA: Then my work here is done.

8 BRANDON: You don't feel the slightest remorse?

9 LEANNA: About the abortion? Yeah. But, from my point of  
 10 view, I had no choice. I was fifteen and had to make some  
 11 grown-up choices on my own.

12 BRANDON: What about the way you told me, the way you just  
 13 screwed up my mind with your news?

14 LEANNA: Hello! This isn't about you. This is about me.

15 BRANDON: You could have counted on me, I'm sure of that.  
 16 You could have.

17 LEANNA: Well, I'm sure you can't count on anyone except  
 18 yourself, Brandon. I learned it early and remembered  
 19 my lesson well.

20 BRANDON: You never gave me an opportunity to prove you  
 21 wrong.

22 LEANNA: You're a funny guy. It's so easy for you to say this  
 23 now, from a safe distance from the reality of the  
 24 situation I actually dealt with. Trust me, you have no  
 25 idea what you would have done. Or maybe you do...and  
 26 you can't face the fact of it. Maybe you're not the great  
 27 compassionate guy you'd like to believe. Think about  
 28 that one in about fifteen years or so when you and your  
 29 little wifey have a daughter and she starts dating some  
 30 cute seventeen-year-old guy who reminds you of yourself.  
 31 Think about that, my friend. *(She begins to exit.)*

32 BRANDON: I would have helped you to keep the baby.

33 LEANNA: Easy to say now, big guy, when you're already off  
 34 the hook.

35 BRANDON: I'm not a bad guy.

1 LEANNA: Tell it to someone who cares. *(She exits.)*  
 2 BRANDON: *(To himself)* I'm not a bad guy.

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