

Excerpt from...
"I CAN EXPLAIN"
by Bruce Kane

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WARNING No one shall make any changes to this play for the purpose of production. Publication of these plays does not imply its availability for production.

"I CAN EXPLAIN"

TIME: Now
PLACE: Here

CHARACTERS:

Jim – Late twenties, insecure
Caroline – Also late twenties and equally insecure.
Scott – Thirty, self centered, shallow, overbearingly confident
Margie – Late twenties, cynical.

(Lights up on Jim and Caroline standing downstage facing directly out to the audience. They are talking to their unseen shrinks)

JIM: Can I tell you something, Doc?

CAROLINE: Please don't take offense at what I'm going to say, Doctor.

JIM: The truth is, I'm not sure I want to continue these sessions.

CAROLINE: I'm having second thoughts about all this therapy stuff.

JIM: I mean, you put all this energy into trying to figure out what's wrong with you...

CAROLINE: All these months of talking and talking and talking about yourself and your life and relationships... And then you realize...

JIM: It's not you.

CAROLINE/JIM: It's them.

JIM: You can be the most well balanced...

CAROLINE: Mentally sane...

JIM: Emotionally stable.

CAROLINE: Human being...

JIM: On the face of the earth.

CAROLINE: And you still ...

JIM: End up in a dead end relationship...

CAROLINE: With some thumb sucking.

JIM: Self involved...

CAROLINE: Sports addicted...

JIM: Mirror obsessed...

CAROLINE: Egocentric..

JIM: Orgasmically challenged...

CAROLINE: Son of a...

JIM: Bitch.

(Scott and Margie enter. The four characters begin to weave in and around each other introducing themselves. The words are not directed at any particular character)

CAROLINE: Caroline.

SCOTT: Scott

JIM: Jim

MARGIE: Margie.

SCOTT: Drink?

CAROLINE: Lunch?

JIM: Coffee?

MARGIE: (invitingly) Dinner?

CAROLINE: (to Margie) Oh God, don't let me screw this up.

JIM: (to Scott) I think she likes me.

MARGIE: (to Caroline) Just don't be so damn pushy, this time.

SCOTT: (to Jim) Go for it.

CAROLINE: I'm not pushy. I'm assertive.

JIM: (to Scott) Women don't go for that stuff, anymore.

CAROLINE: Men like women who are up front.

SCOTT: They say they don't, but they do.

MARGIE: They say they do, but they don't.

(Caroline crosses to Jim. Margie crosses to Scott.)

CAROLINE: (to Jim) It was amicable... as divorces go.

JIM: (to Caroline) We gave it a try.

MARGIE: I heard he's seeing someone else.

SCOTT: I slept with her once after the divorce was final. Just wanted to see if it was really over between us?

MARGIE: And?

SCOTT: It was... She got married the next day.

(Caroline crosses to Margie. Scott walks over to Jim.)

CAROLINE: He's the first man I've been out with who didn't try to hustle me right into bed.

MARGIE: He showed me his Porsche.

JIM: I took her to a Bergman movie.

SCOTT: I showed her my Porsche.

MARGIE: Five speed... Convertible...All leather interior.

CAROLINE: He took me to a Bergman movie.

SCOTT: Forget marathon sex... This was triathlon sex. We did it on the beach, in the middle of the road and on a bicycle.

(The play continues...)

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