

"I CAN EXPLAIN"
by Bruce Kane

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"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 seconds 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.

MARGIE: He let me drive.

SCOTT: I was incredible.

CAROLINE: When he said Bergman... I thought he meant "Casablanca."

SCOTT: You took her to see The Seventh Seal?

JIM: She loved it.

MARGIE: The Seventh Seal?

CAROLINE: It was so depressing. All that symbolism.

JIM: You know how it is with women sometimes? You're working your ass off trying to get to know them...

SCOTT: Right... You're telling them what you do, what you like, how much money you make...

CAROLINE: I think he said he was a dentist

SCOTT: And you know she can't wait to jump in and start talking about herself.

JIM: But, not this one. She really listened.

CAROLINE: Or maybe it was a chiropractor.

MARGIE: How's the sex?

CAROLINE: Margie!!

SCOTT: She good in the sack?

JIM: Hey, come on... We're talking about a woman I care about.

SCOTT: Not so good, huh?

(Caroline finds her way into his Jim's arms. Margie stands next to Scott..)

JIM: (to audience) In the best of all possible worlds, nothing would ever change. Everything would stay just the way it is, right now.

CAROLINE: (thinking out loud) Mrs. Caroline Rosen... Mrs. Caroline Higgins Rosen.

SCOTT: This is without a doubt the best relationship I've ever been in.

MARGIE: You poor guy.

SCOTT: No I mean it. We have the perfect relationship.

MARGIE: Frightening isn't it?

SCOTT: Two people meet. They're attracted to each other. They get it on. No ties. No remorse. No guilt.

MARGIE: Not much of anything, when you look at it.

(Caroline and Jim walk downstage to address their unseen shrinks)

CAROLINE: He wants me to move in with him, Doctor.

JIM: She wants to move in with me, Doc.

CAROLINE: Well, no... He didn't actually spell it out in so many words.

JIM: No, she didn't actually say it. But, I can tell.

CAROLINE: He didn't have to...

JIM/CAROLINE: It's that kind of relationship.

(Jim joins Scott. Caroline joins Margie.)

JIM: (to Scott) Caroline moved in.

CAROLINE: (to Margie) I moved in.

MARGIE: (to Caroline) He moved in.

SCOTT: (to Jim) I moved in.

(The four of them begin weaving in and around one another in a sort of mating dance)

CAROLINE: I thought by this time he'd have asked me to marry him.

MARGIE: Have you told him ?

JIM: She expects me to marry her.

CAROLINE: I don't have to.

SCOTT: She said that?

JIM: She didn't have to.

JIM/CAROLINE: It's that kind of relationship.

(They continue weaving. Jim and Margie brush against each other surreptitiously. Scott and Caroline briefly touch hands. They part, stop for a moment and glance back at each other)

ENSEMBLE: (whispering) Call me.

(Margie takes Jim's arm. Caroline takes Scott's arm)

MARGIE: I find Bergman's use of symbolism, so, I don't know...

JIM: Symbolic?

MARGIE: Yes. Symbolic.

SCOTT: Wanna see my new Jag?

ENSEMBLE: I'll call you.

(They weave in and around each other moaning and groaning and writhing in growing sexual pleasure)

MARGIE: Oh...

SCOTT: Oh...

JIM: Oh .

MARGIE: Oh

CAROLINE: Oh God.

SCOTT: Oh God.

JIM: Oh God.

MARGIE: Oh God.

JIM: Yes.

MARGIE: Yes.

CAROLINE: Yes.

SCOTT: Yes.

MARGIE: Yes. Yes.

JIM: Yes. Yes.

CAROLINE: Yes. Yes. Yes...

JIM: (to Margie) Oh, God, you're incredible.

SCOTT : (to Caroline) Damn, I'm good.

ENSEMBLE: Call me.

(They continue weaving)

JIM: These things happen... You can't blame yourself.

MARGIE: Who said I was?

CAROLINE: I've never been the other woman before.

SCOTT: You're kidding.

CAROLINE: It's so sexy.

ENSEMBLE: Call me, dammit.

JIM: Oh God, I feel like I'm suffocating.

CAROLINE: I can't breathe

MARGIE: Would somebody open a damn window.

SCOTT: Everything's cool.

MARGIE: I can't go on like this.

JIM: Caroline... Margie.

CAROLINE: I've got to make a choice.

SCOTT: Margie... Caroline... Caroline... Margie... Is this great or what?

(They stop and dial their cell phones)

JIM: (anxious) Be there.

MARGIE: (desperate) Please, answer.

CAROLINE: (pleading) Where the hell are you?

SCOTT: Damn... I don't remember which one I was suppose to call.

(Caroline joins Scott. Jim joins Margie)

CAROLINE: Do you think this is a good idea?

JIM: I don't think this is such a good idea.

SCOTT: I think this is a very good idea.

MARGIE: Do you have a better idea?

JIM: I feel terrible about this.

CAROLINE: You're such a caring person. Unbutton my blouse.

MARGIE: How can we do this? Caroline is my best friend.

SCOTT: And it's a friendship I've always encouraged. Unbutton your blouse.

JIM: What if Scott finds out?

CAROLINE: What would Margie do if she found out?

SCOTT: You're such a caring person. I think that's what attracted me to you in the first place.

CAROLINE: Really?

SCOTT: That... and your ass, of course.

JIM: Every time I see Scott after I've been to bed with you, I'm racked with this terrible guilt.

MARGIE: Oh God, I envy Scott your friendship. Feel me up.

SCOTT: You and Margie are such opposites.

JIM: You're so different from Caroline.

SCOTT: You give so much.

JIM: You expect so little.

(Scott kisses Caroline. Jim kisses Margie. While kissing the two couples spot each other.)

JIM: Caroline?

CAROLINE: Margie?

SCOTT: Jim?

MARGIE: Scott?

JIM: Scott?

CAROLINE: Jim?

MARGIE: Caroline?

SCOTT: Margie?

(They turn to the audience)

ENSEMBLE: I can explain!!!

BLACK OUT:

THE END