

EXTRACT

A difficult birth

a short play

by

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Cast

PETYR

CAROLINE

SIMON

Setting

Hospital Waiting Room. Reykjavik, Iceland.

Time

Midnight. New Year's Eve.

1. A Difficult Birth

Hospital Waiting Room. Reykjavik, Iceland. Midnight.

PETYR sits alone on the row of seats. Pause.

CAROLINE enters.

CAROLINE: Here you are. I've been up and down, all over – no one could tell me where I was supposed to ...

PETYR: You're here now.

CAROLINE: Eventually.

PAUSE.

PETYR: Would you like to sit down?

CAROLINE: Yes. Thank you.

CAROLINE SITS.

CAROLINE: Thanks for the call.

PETYR: It's okay.

CAROLINE: No. I mean it. You didn't have to and you did – immediately. I appreciate that.

PETYR: I'm glad you could come.

CAROLINE: Of course I could come. It doesn't matter what ... she's still my ... When did you hear?

PETYR: About an hour ago.

CAROLINE: Who ...

PETYR: The hospital.

CAROLINE: How did they ...

PETYR: She gave them my name.

PAUSE.

CAROLINE: Oh. Good. That's good. But how did they ...

PETYR: I was a patient here once.

CAROLINE: Really?

PETYR: Gall bladder. Perhaps they looked me up on there ... system.

CAROLINE: Very ... resourceful. (PAUSE) So ... how bad ...

PETYR: I just got here.

CAROLINE: You haven't seen –

PETYR: Not yet.

CAROLINE: But how will we know what to ...

PETYR: They'll tell us.

CAROLINE: But when?

PETYR: Soon.

CAROLINE: But how much time have we ...

PETYR: Soon.

PAUSE.

CAROLINE: All this waiting. I can't stand it. Coffee?

PETYR: No. But you go.

CAROLINE: Is that alright? I just can't bear –

PETYR: I'm okay.

CAROLINE: Okay. Won't be long.

CAROLINE EXITS. SIMON ENTERS.

SIMON: Mr Russik?

PETYR: Yes. (CALLING) Caroline.

SIMON: You're Mr Russik?

CAROLINE RETURNS.

PETYR: Petyr.

SIMON: Petyr?

PETYR: My name is Petyr.

SIMON: Simon Delaunay. I'm the Resident -

CAROLINE: How is ...

SIMON LOOKS AT CAROLINE, THEN AT PETYR.

CAROLINE: It's okay.

SIMON LOOKS AT PETYR AGAIN.

CAROLINE: I'm the mother. Caroline Helmers.

SHE PUTS OUT HER HAND. SLIGHT PAUSE. SIMON SHAKES IT.

SIMON: Of course. Please. Sit down.

THEY ALL SIT.

PETYR: How is she?

SIMON: Usually it's a quite routine condition. If she'd come to us even a few months ago –

PETYR: I haven't seen her for six months.

SIMON LOOKS AT CAROLINE.

CAROLINE: Don't look at me. She hasn't deemed me worthy of a phone call for three years.

PETYR: So how bad is it?

SIMON: If we'd seen her a few months ago –

CAROLINE: I think we've established that.

PETYR LOOKS AT CAROLINE.

PETYR: Go on Simon.

SIMON: If we had seen her it may have been possible to stop the infection before it spread.