

# EXTRACT

# Achilles

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**Cast**

MELANIE

JOSHUA

BRUCE

**Time**

Day.

**Settings**

A meeting room.

**Meeting room. Day.**

**JOSHUA** ENTERS. HE IS EXULTANT, LETTING OUT A SMALL CRY OF JUBILATION.

HE PACES AROUND BARELY CONTAINING HIS EXCITEMENT.

MOMENTS LATER **MELANIE** ENTERS. SHE IS FURIOUS.

**JOSHUA'S** DEMEANOUR IMMEDIATELY CHANGES.

JOSHUA: That went well.

MELANIE: Really?

JOSHUA: They were impressed.

MELANIE: Until your little – revelation.

JOSHUA: They liked it.

MELANIE: What makes you think that?

JOSHUA: The look on their faces.

MELANIE: You mean the mixture of apprehension and disgust?

JOSHUA: Respect and quite admiration. (BEAT.) I thought you'd be pleased.

MELANIE: Why?

JOSHUA: I filled them in on your incredible struggle. The method of your success.

MELANIE: I didn't ask you to do that.

JOSHUA: It was spur of the moment.

MELANIE: You should have checked with me first.

JOSHUA: It's okay. No need to thank me.

MELANIE: I wasn't about to thank you.

JOSHUA: I took quite a risk in there.

MELANIE: I don't know how.

JOSHUA: Speaking up for another workmate - in a public forum.

MELANIE: How is that a risk?

JOSHUA: Putting myself on the line. Vouching for your reputation.

MELANIE: I don't need anybody to vouch for my reputation.

JOSHUA: Your past history would suggest –

MELANIE: Exactly. My *past* history.

JOSHUA: In these sort of situations they consider all factors – past and present. By telling them of what you've been through they can see the strength of your character. Your true self.

MELANIE: You broke my anonymity.

JOSHUA: Your what?

MELANIE: It's an anonymous programme. No one's meant to know.

JOSHUA: But you told me.

MELANIE: You're my boyfriend. I tell you things I don't tell anybody else.

JOSHUA: Didn't know I had graduated to boyfriend status?

MELANIE: What else do you want me to call you? Lover, fuck-buddy?

JOSHUA: Boyfriend is great, just didn't know we -

MELANIE: Whatever you want to call it – I tell you stuff I don't want other people to know.

JOSHUA: Secrets?

MELANIE: Yes. Secrets. It's not the sort of thing I want -

JOSHUA: But it's an incredible achievement. Something to be proud of. Not hide away.

MELANIE: Yes but it's an achievement I choose to celebrate privately, with other people who understand what it means.

JOSHUA: I understand.

MELANIE: Yes but the panel may not.

JOSHUA: I don't see why.

MELANIE: It's not a condition that's widely understood.

JOSHUA: You said there were hundreds of people around the world like you. Thousands.

MELANIE: And there are.

JOSHUA: Then babe, why do you need to hide it?

BRUCE: (ENTERING) Melanie.

MELANIE: Bruce.

BRUCE: That was very ...

JOSHUA: Brave.

MELANIE: Josh.

BRUCE: No, Josh is right. It was ... brave. To have been where you've been and ...

JOSHUA: Emerge triumphant.

BRUCE: That takes courage.

JOSHUA: Guts.

BRUCE: Fibre. That one story in particular. The one Josh told. It was very ...

JOSHUA: Moving.

BRUCE: Heartfelt.

JOSHUA: Inspirational.

BRUCE: What was his name?

MELANIE: (BECOMING EMOTIONAL) Punky.

BRUCE: And he had the –

JOSHUA: Blackeye.

BRUCE: And the –

JOSHUA: Boxing gloves.

MELANIE: Punky.

BRUCE: And then to go through what you went through and ...