

# EXTRACT

# Qwendolyn's Gambit

a short play

by

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**Characters**

RAZZA	- A Rook
BRENDAN	- A Bishop
KEIRA	- A Knight
QWENDOLYN	- The Queen
PATTIE 8	- A Pawn
BELINDA	- The Replacement Queen

(PLEASE NOTE: Height is quite important in the play – QWENDOLYN and BELINDA must be the tallest, then BRENDAN, KEIRA and RAZZA. PATTIE must be noticeably smaller than the rest – can be on her knees. Characters can be played by either male or female actors.)

**The Setting**

The corner of a chessboard

**Time**

Sunday afternoon.

**RAZZA, BRENDAN, KEIRA, QWENDOLYN and PATTIE** stand on stage – **RAZZA, KEIRA, BRENDAN and QWENDOLYN** in a line – **PATTIE** in front of **RAZZA**. Their feet are rooted to the spot but they can move their upper bodies.

As the lights come up they all sway on the spot, trying to avoid something swinging above their heads.

RAZZA: Here he comes again.

BRENDAN: Ooh, he's a clumsy one this one.

KEIRA: (TO QWENDOLYN) Watch out he's coming for you.

QWENDOLYN: No, he's just hovering.

PATTIE: Where's he going now?

KEIRA: (TO RAZZA) Over towards you.

BRENDAN: Watch out!

RAZZA: Here he comes, great clob-hoppers.

**RAZZA DUCKS.**

RAZZA: Ha, ha – missed me!

PATTIE: I think he got me.

QWENDOLYN: Are you sure?

PATTIE: I think so.

KEIRA: He'll have to move you then.

BRENDAN: But was it a real touch – or just a graze?

PATTIE: I'm not sure.

RAZZA: We'll get sure. I'm involved here.

PATTIE: I think it was a graze.

QWENDOLYN: You're safe then.

KEIRA: Is it tournament rules or a friendly?

PATTIE: Or maybe it was a touch.

RAZZA: Make up your mind.

BRENDAN: All this uncertainty is quite off putting.

PATTIE: I don't know!

QWENDOLYN: It's okay. He's castling.

RAZZA: Castling?

BRENDAN, KEIRA and RAZZA: Which side?

QWENDOLYN: King's side.

PATTIE: Whew! We can all relax then.

RAZZA: Not for long.

SLIGHT PAUSE.

KEIRA: Can anybody see? How we doing?

BRENDAN: Not too good. He's already lost a front liner.

PATTIE: Which one?

QWENDOLYN: Mine.

PATTIE: Oh no – good old Pattie 5.

BRENDAN: I thought you were Pattie 5.

PATTIE: No silly – I'm Pattie 8. But don't feel too bad. We are identical.

RAZZA: Did he at least get one of theirs?

BRENDAN: Afraid not. Gave it up without even the slightest hint of a fight.

KEIRA: He's hopeless.

RAZZA: We're doomed! All doomed!

QWENDOLYN: Quiet now. It's early days. We all have to make sacrifices occasionally.

PATTIE: Did she say 'sacrifices'?

BRENDAN: Fraid so.

KEIRA: (TO **BRENDAN**) Well you'd know all about those I guess.

QWENDOLYN: It's all for the greater good.

RAZZA: Don't see what's good about it.

QWENDOLYN: We make an individual sacrifice so the rest may survive.

RAZZA: It's all very well for you to talk about sacrifices Miss La De Da, because it's not you who gets sacrificed.

KEIRA: How do you figure that?

RAZZA: Think about it – you got Rook's Gambit, Knight's Gambit and Bishop's Gambit – even Pawn's Gambit – but who ever heard of Queen's Gambit.

PATTIE: What's a Gambit?

BRENDAN: A sacrifice – he's talking about giving up your mortal role so the rest of us may live on.

PATTIE: Don't like the sound of that.

RAZZA: Well we all do it my small friend – me, Brendan, Keira – even all eight of you. All except Miss Queen Qwendolyn.

QWENDOLYN: Do be quiet – he's about to make his next move.

BRENDAN: Probably botch it up again.

RAZZA: No I won't be quiet. It's a travesty and I'm not putting up with it.

KEIRA: Actually I have.

RAZZA: Have what?

KEIRA: Heard of a Queen's Gambit. I believe it's quite common actually.

RAZZA: Crap.

KEIRA: It is.

RAZZA: Is not.

QWENDOLYN: I can assure you Rachel – it does exist.

RAZZA: Don't call me that. My name's Razza.

QWENDOLYN: Well Razza I can assure you – there is such a thing as a Queen's Gambit.

RAZZA: Oh yeah – how can you be so sure?