

WHERE WE LIVE

by Donal Foreman

FOURTH DRAFT

INT. BEDSIT - NIGHT

Dark. Laughing and fumbling with keys outside the door. It opens and STEVEN and ELLA fall in. They bump around in the dark a bit, drunk.

STEVEN

It's eh, it's eh ... somewhere around here. Hold on. I'll find it.

ELLA

(laughing)
That's me.

STEVEN

Really, I could have sworn that was the lamp...

ELLA

No...

He finds the light and turns it on. They see each other. She checks the place out.

ELLA

This place is nice.

STEVEN

What, are you serious?

ELLA

I don't know. Stop asking so many questions. Fathead.

STEVEN

Oh...nasty.

ELLA

It's only nasty if you actually have a fat head.

STEVEN

Well you know, I'm starting to wonder.

He sits down on his bed.

ELLA

It's not fat...it's just full-bodied.

STEVEN

You mean bloated.

ELLA

No...solid.

STEVEN

Yeah, let's stop talking about my head.

She sees a silly hat.

ELLA

Oh my god...you are so pathetic. You bought this. You cabbage.

He stands back up.

STEVEN

What can I say, it's my favourite style.
... I didn't really buy that, it was a present.

She tries it on.

ELLA

I like it.

She sits down on the bed.

STEVEN

Well it looks better on you.

He sits down beside her.

ELLA

It's probably my clothes. They work with anything. You on the other hand...

STEVEN

What are you saying?

ELLA

I'm saying you dressed in the dark.

STEVEN

Oh really, did I.

ELLA

You did. It's OK. I mean, maybe you thought those rags actually matched.

STEVEN

Hey, I dress how I dress. At least I don't...pretend to have this like fake trendy image of what I'm supposed to look like. You probably don't even like what you're wearing. Those shoes, those shoes are hurting you right now; they're hurting me just looking at them. You're just doing it to fit this image of a girl, it's not even you it's...

ELLA

Fake.

STEVEN

No...I...I don't mean to...

ELLA

You think I'm fake.

STEVEN

No I—

ELLA

Fuck you...

STEVEN

I didn't mean—we were just joking, weren't we, you know, fake insulting?

(pause)

Are you joking now?

She looks at him. She tries not to laugh.

ELLA

Don't make me laugh, you're a shithead.

She punches him in the arm.

ELLA

There's more where that came from.

STEVEN

What, am I getting it in instalments?

ELLA

I'm pacing myself.

(pause)

I'm not fake.

STEVEN

I know, I didn't mean it. I meant it more about myself. I'm like that. Not just my clothes--it's everything you know? You put on a certain act and it gets you through the day. Like I pretend I...know things about stuff...

ELLA

(amused)

"Know things about stuff".

She takes the silly hat off.

STEVEN

Or I pretend that I'm really interested in what you're saying--and I am interested, but I'm also trying to seem like...likeable...

ELLA

Why do you think you do that?

STEVEN

(hard to say)

I'm afraid. I don't like myself. I feel like I should know better or something, you know. Do you know what I mean?

ELLA

Nope.

STEVEN

OK, so none of this makes any sense to you...

ELLA

Look, people are shit anyway.

STEVEN

No they're not.

ELLA

They are. Why do you think the world's the way it is? Because we're so honest and nice? They're weak--

STEVEN

--Yeah but you can't just make a blanket judgment--

ELLA

--They never live up to their ideals----

STEVEN

--That's only half the story.

ELLA

It's the right half.

STEVEN

I don't know how you can say that.

(no response)

Are you being serious?

ELLA

What do you think?

There's almost nothing left to say.

STEVEN

I can't reason with you, this is ridiculous.

ELLA

Don't then.

Nothing left. He tries to kiss her. She resists.

ELLA

What the fuck are you doing?

STEVEN

I was, I mean--I thought...

ELLA

We were arguing. You can't just-

STEVEN

I'm sorry I thought...it felt like...I was trying to be spontaneous...

She laughs.

ELLA

Why don't you spontaneously say something clever for a change.

He's hurt. She puts the silly hat on his head.

STEVEN

So what are you doing here?

ELLA

What am I doing here? Waitin' to rob the place while you're not lookin'.

STEVEN

You should kiss me. If you don't know why you're here you should leave. But if you like me, you should kiss me. I'm serious.

(pause)

OK, so you don't like me, get out.

ELLA

Don't be stupid.

STEVEN

Then kiss me.

He looks at her. She looks at him, looks away, looks back at him.

CUT TO BLACK