

UNTOUCHED (excerpt)

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ACT I, SCENE 8

[The fire escape of Adam's apartment. Kira climbs out of the window onto the metal stairs. She has a small pair of white, feathered wings on her back. They are not part of a 'costume,' but are simply a part of Kira herself. She looks back through the window, waiting.]

Adam?	KIRA
	ADAM <i>(from inside)</i>
Yeah?	
You comin' or what?	KIRA
Um. Yes.	ADAM
...And when do you think that might be happening?	KIRA
I'm just...preparing.	ADAM
Ok. Preparing for what?	KIRA
Adam, what are you doing in there?	<i>[She waits for him to respond. He doesn't.]</i>
The AC's on, it feels fantastic.	ADAM
You have an air conditioner?	KIRA
You have to come back in to find out!	ADAM
You're stalling.	KIRA
	ADAM

I told you, I don't really do heights.

KIRA

It's just a fire escape. *Your* fire escape.

[Adam pokes his head out to talk to her.]

ADAM

And it's meant to be an emergency exit, not a picnic table.

KIRA

Oh stop, you're being silly. We're not that high up.

ADAM

We're six stories off the ground!

KIRA

Come on, give me your hand.

ADAM

No. I'll plunge to my death and be eaten by the rat king that lives in my recycling pail.

[Kira scowls and mutters something under her breath before reaching her arms out to Adam.]

KIRA

Come on, I'll keep you safe. Promise.

ADAM

Oh fine. Fine!

[Adam extends his hand to Kira and awkwardly climbs onto the fire escape. He is barefoot.]

KIRA

There you go!

ADAM

Oh God.

KIRA

It's ok. Right? You're ok.

ADAM

This is awful.

KIRA

Why aren't you wearing shoes?

ADAM

More traction this way. Like a...mountain lion.

KIRA

Uh-huh.

ADAM

(briefly glancing down)

Aw crap, I'm going back inside.

KIRA

Stop looking down!

ADAM

Why did I let you talk me into this?

KIRA

(turning his head towards a point in the distance)

Just look at that, will you?

[Adam gasps and is momentarily distracted from his fear of the fire escape.]

Full moon.

ADAM

It's red, that's a blood moon.

KIRA

What does that mean?

ADAM

Change, I think.

I never knew my apartment had a view!

KIRA

You're welcome.

[Their hands are still clasped. Kira and Adam seem to notice this at exactly the same time but make no move to let go.]

ADAM

You know, sometimes I really miss the views from back home. How far away the stars seem here.

KIRA

I would've have pegged you for a New Yorker through and through.

ADAM

Nope. Midwesterner down to my bones.

KIRA

Huh.

ADAM

When I first got here I was riding the coat-tails of my high school sweetheart, this 'big-city-wannabe' with the dreams of being on Broadway...*[he looks to her concerned]* Is this too soon? The Ex-files?

KIRA

No, I like knowing things about you.

ADAM

Anyway, that didn't work out for very long...so I moved to Brooklyn on my own, got my shit together and got a degree, bought my first fedora. Never looked back.

KIRA

Why didn't you go home when things fell apart? Why did you stay?

ADAM

I wanted to New York a fair chance.

KIRA

And now?

ADAM

(shrugging)

We'll see. Don't know which way the wind is shifting yet.

KIRA

So there *is* an adventurous spirit in there after all, huh.

ADAM

(laughing)

I like to think so.

KIRA

As long as you're at ground level.

ADAM

Correct.

Then again, you're the one living in a house of ill-repute. So you might have the market cornered on adventure.

KIRA

How has none of this touched you?

ADAM

What do you mean?

KIRA

You're just...a guy.

ADAM

That doesn't sound like a compliment.

KIRA

Everyone else is panicked and suffering and preparing and you're...

ADAM

Just a guy.

KIRA

When I'm with you, I can almost forget that everything outside is crumbling.

ADAM

Isn't that a good thing?

I worry about you over there. There've been a lot of closings.

KIRA

I know.

ADAM

A lot of the bigger firms are moving out of New York. And I know the Pantheon's been slashing their prices—

KIRA

Do we have to talk about this tonight? It's not very...date-y.

ADAM

I didn't mean to upset you...I just worry.

[A tender look passes between them. Adam cradles Kira's face in his palm and she melts into the touch.]

ADAM

Yes?

KIRA

(with an emphatic nod)

Yes.

[Kira gets very quiet, contemplative as he strokes her cheek. With his free hand he gestures to her wings.]

ADAM
Can I ask about these?

KIRA
(embarrassed)
Oh. Um.

ADAM
You always had them?

KIRA
Yeah.
Lady Lazarus said when she found me—

ADAM
Found you?

KIRA
In a...box, yeah. Anyway, when she found me, she said she thought I was a duck. But then she heard me cry and she saw my little face in all the feathers...and she decided I must be a Valkyrie.

ADAM
You're gonna have to help me here, my Norse mythology isn't so strong...

KIRA
They decide who lives and who dies in battle. Take the fallen warriors to Valhalla.

ADAM
And they've got wings.

KIRA
Yeah.

ADAM
Ah. So a Valkyr, huh?

KIRA
(shrugging)
It's just something she says.

ADAM
It's a nice thing to say.

Can you fly?

KIRA

Course not.

ADAM

So you're like a flamingo.

KIRA

That's a fallacy.

ADAM

What is?

KIRA

That flamingos can't fly. In zoos, they get their wings clipped so they can't escape. And then I guess the rest are too scared to try.

ADAM

So you're a flamingo in the know.

KIRA

Even if I could fly, I'd have to leave you down here. You're too scared of heights.

[Adam's hand moves to rest on Kira's ribcage. He strokes his thumb along her side.]

ADAM

Yes?

[Kira breathes deeply in and out, Adam's hands moving with each of her breaths.]

KIRA

Yes.

[Kira places a hand on Adam's chest.]

Can I...?

ADAM

Yes.

[Kira grabs a handful of his shirt, tries to rip it but can't. He looks like he'd like to devour her whole in this moment.]

ADAM (cont'd)

Kira...

[Kira trails a finger across Adam's collarbone.]

KIRA

You skin is like fire.

ADAM

I don't know how this heat doesn't bother you.

KIRA

The night is alive when it's warm like this.

[She's still touching him, exploratory but chaste.]

ADAM

Run away with me.

KIRA

Where?

ADAM

Anywhere. We'll create a whole civilization from scratch. A new Utopia.

KIRA

Something better.

ADAM
(nodding)

Something better.

KIRA

I remember the passion and fire of this place...but it's burned mostly to ash now. And Lady Lazarus will never leave, so I have to help her before she freezes to death.

ADAM

How do you plan to do that?

KIRA

I have no idea.

[Both of Adam's hands are on Kira now, barely leashed passion in the way he touches her. Kira balls her hands in Adam's shirt, leaning her forehead against him.]

ADAM

Too much?

KIRA

I don't know.

ADAM

What do you feel? Are you scared?

KIRA

I don't...think so.

[Kira moves back a bit so that she can look at him. He places his hand over Kira's heart.]

ADAM

Yes?

KIRA

Yes.

[Adam leans his forehead against Kira's, smells her hair, tastes the spot behind her ear. She moves her face just slightly and their mouths collide. They kiss and Kira plows her hands through Adam's hair. He moves his hand so that it covers one of her breasts and she abruptly lets go. They pause that way, their breath filling the silence.]

ADAM
(reluctantly)

No?

KIRA
(quietly)

No.

[Adam takes a step back and the fire escape shakes. Adam shuts his eyes and he takes a sharp breath.]

KIRA

Easy. *Easy*. You're not going to fall.

ADAM
(cracking one eye open to look at her)

Oh, I've already fallen.

KIRA
(playfully swatting at him)

Shut up.

[Kira rises on her toes to kiss Adam again but the movement unbalances him and he jostles the fire escape again.]

KIRA (cont'd)

Whoa! Hey there. Breathe.

ADAM

Ok, you've proven your point, heights are fun! Woo! But I think I'm going to have a stroke. So can we go back inside now?

[Kira nods and gestures towards the window. Adam takes a cautious step and has a momentary freak out. Kira's laugh rings out as the lights fade down.]