

THE LAST VIRGIN (excerpt)
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ACT II, SCENE 4

[Several days later. Lady Lazarus stands near the kitchen table, looking at a collection of poster designs, all with images of Kira. She picks one up to get a closer look as Kira enters and approaches the table.]

KIRA

That one's my favorite.

LADY LAZARUS

No, it's seedy. You look like a circus act.

KIRA

It's the wings. Can't be helped.

LADY LAZARUS

We can do better.

[She picks up another picture.]

This is...an improvement. I guess.

KIRA

(with a smirk)

Such enthusiasm.

LADY LAZARUS

We could adjust the color...? Although that's a lot of thigh.

KIRA

You're not going to find one you like.

[This gives Lady Lazarus pause.]

LADY LAZARUS

I'm trying.

KIRA

I know.

[Kira edges closer to her.]

Lady Lazarus?

LADY LAZARUS

Hm?

KIRA

I wanted to....no. Forget it.

LADY LAZARUS

What is it?

KIRA

What is it going to feel like?

LADY LAZARUS

Sex, you mean?

KIRA

No, no...I've taken biology.

LADY LAZARUS

(laughing)

You're basing all of your assumptions about sex on what you learned in a science class?

KIRA

That's...whatever. I understand the finer mechanics of the physical act. That's not what I'm asking you about.

LADY LAZARUS

Sex for money. You want to know what that feels like.

KIRA

Yeah.

LADY LAZARUS

God, I don't know, Kira. It's different for everyone. With or without the money. It's extremely...personal. I don't know how I'd go about explaining it.

KIRA

Well, try. Please. Please?

LADY LAZARUS

...Ok.

KIRA

What was it like for you the first time?

LADY LAZARUS

Scary. I was nervous. I dressed up in this frilly little satin thing with lots of bows and buttons and I couldn't seem to stop sweating. I was trying to look fresh and youthful but I

just looked...sweaty. The guy was much, *much* younger than I'd expected. Gentle hands though.

KIRA

Was it bad for you?

LADY LAZARUS

No. I mean...it wasn't *good* for me. I didn't...well...I didn't experience any kind of...*[she hunts for an appropriate euphemism, substitutes some sort of gesture in place of the word]*. I think I pretended to, but I didn't.

KIRA

Did you talk much?

LADY LAZARUS

After?

KIRA

Before.

LADY LAZARUS

A little. He said the usual things, I guess.

KIRA

The usual things being...?

LADY LAZARUS

He told me I was beautiful. Sexy. Told me how much he wanted me, how good I felt in his hands.

KIRA

Didn't it feel fake?

LADY LAZARUS

What do you mean?

KIRA

You know, having someone talk to you like that. Someone you didn't even know.

LADY LAZARUS

I guess? But it's always like that. Always a little fake, no matter how well you think you know the guy.

KIRA

That's so sad.

LADY LAZARUS

Kira...A man sees you naked and wants to be in you. On you.
 No matter what else exists between you, that's always there.
 It's chemical. Primal.
 And at least with these men...there's no pretense.
 The foreplay isn't to show me how much he cares, it's to get me wet.
 He doesn't have to pretend to be grateful when I go down on him.
 He can just want, expect, enjoy.
 No part of the physical act is complicated by forced emotion.

[Kira is clearly uncomfortable.]

Kira...have you ever done *anything* with a boy?

KIRA

You know I haven't.

LADY LAZARUS

No, I don't mean...intercourse. Oral sex? *[Kira shakes her head.]* Anything involving...fingers? *[Kira sputters and coughs nervously.]* Is that a yes?

KIRA

No! It's a no.
 I'm really uncomfortable with this conversation.

LADY LAZARUS

Haven't you ever wanted to?

KIRA

Of course I've wanted to.

LADY LAZARUS

Then why?

KIRA

I don't know. I was just...waiting, I guess.

LADY LAZARUS

Waiting for what?

KIRA

I can't remember now.

[Kira fidgets.]

LADY LAZARUS

Kira, about Adam—

KIRA

I've embarrassed him.

LADY LAZARUS

Did he say that?

KIRA

He doesn't have to.

We were starting to mean something to each other and I went ahead and...

He was just ice when I told him. Cold and quiet and I felt something break in me.

LADY LAZARUS

Are you having second thoughts?

KIRA

(defensive)

Why does everyone keep asking me that?

LADY LAZARUS

Because you don't have to do this.

KIRA

If any of the girls heard you—

LADY LAZARUS

I don't care! I swear to you, if you tell me right now that you've had a change of heart, we'll pack up all of our things and the birdcage and take some donuts and we'll be on the first bus anywhere. And somehow we'll...figure this all out. It'll be difficult...But Kira, you have to tell me *now*.

[Kira is silent.]

If you're doing this because of what you've seen here...because of me—

KIRA

Lady Lazarus, I want to help.

LADY LAZARUS

We'll land on our feet somehow.

KIRA

How? How? *[Lady Lazarus is silent.]* I can't let you drown. Any of you. I can make enough money here to keep all of you from ever having to sell yourselves ever again. From having to worry ever again.

It'll be finished.

And then we really will be ok. All of you. All of us.

Besides...it's just my body, right?

LADY LAZARUS
(*disturbed by this*)

...Just your body.

KIRA

It is! It's just my body. For one night. It's not the rest of me.

LADY LAZARUS

Adam could still be your first.

KIRA

(*in a sudden show of anger*)

And why can't he be my second?!

Why am I worth less to him if someone else has been there first?

He's not a virgin. He's been with other women. Known other women.

And yet he thinks that he has the right to judge me for this.

I hate him a little.

LADY LAZARUS

No you don't.

KIRA

I do. I hate him. I *hate* him. I hate him so much it aches.

LADY LAZARUS

Where?

KIRA

What?

LADY LAZARUS

This ache. Where does it hurt?

KIRA

...Everywhere.

SCENE 5

[*Two days later. Just past sunset. Adam and Kira enter, their discomfort a physical presence in the room. Kira leads him inside, conservatively dressed. Surprisingly so. Adam follows behind, hanging back slightly.*]

ADAM

You're dressed so...prim. I hadn't expected that.

KIRA

What *were* you expecting? Sequins? Tassels?

ADAM

I don't know. Maybe something less...buttoned up.

KIRA

You want me to undo a button? That would make you feel better?

ADAM

(*shrugging*)

I mean...

KIRA

Ok.

[She undoes the bottom button of her shirt. This makes Adam chuckle.]

What?

ADAM

You live right on the edge, don't you.

KIRA

You didn't say *which* button.

ADAM

Talking to you is like a game of Simon Says.

KIRA

Well, if this is a game...I think I'm winning.

[Kira's smile is wide, inviting. Adam tenses, but Kira doesn't seem to notice.]

ADAM

Kira...

KIRA

(*impassioned*)

I've missed this. So much. You have no idea. Seeing you, talking to you...flirting with you. I've missed this.

ADAM

Kira, I don't think we should...*[clearing his throat]* There are things we need to—

KIRA

(laughing lightly)

You're so cute when you're flustered.

[She moves towards him but he holds out a hand to stop her.]

ADAM

You said you wanted to talk. That's why I came here. To talk.

KIRA

(her smile slowly fading)

I know. And we're talking.

ADAM

I'd prefer if you stayed over there.

KIRA

All right.

ADAM

I almost didn't get on the train. I thought maybe I'd be out of money on my metrocard and that would make the decision for me.

KIRA

Adam...

ADAM

I just...it's weird how I can't seem to get that first image of you out of my head. That moment before you knew me, before your eyes trusted mine. Before any of this happened between us. Before all this shit happened to *you*.

KIRA

Adam—

ADAM

(continuing over her interjection)

Your vulnerability, your secrets, your beautiful, private hope. All knit together. You devastate me.

[Kira takes a few careful steps forward, halving the distance between them.]

KIRA

That's halfway.

ADAM

What's halfway?

KIRA

The space between us. Cut in half. And if I take another step or two, [*she does*], half again.

ADAM

That won't work. You can keep dividing the distance by half, but you'll never reach me that way. You'll just keep moving a half of a half of a half of—

KIRA

Unless you move the rest of the way.

[Kira holds her arms out to him and he moves forward, almost as if propelled towards her. Adam leans forward so that their foreheads touch and their breathing gradually falls into a communal rhythm. The beginnings of a haunting melody are heard from a distance. Perhaps 'Lucky' by Bif Naked. A dark waltz.]

ADAM (cont'd)
(noticing the music)

What is that?

KIRA

Sometimes Dafni likes to have music playing when...[her voice trails off.]

[Adam leads Kira into the steps of a slow dance. He is surprisingly graceful, but she is not, and she finds it difficult to follow his lead. Adam attempts to lead her into a turn and they collide.]

ADAM

Whoa there!

KIRA

I'm so sorry.

ADAM
(laughing)

No, don't worry it's—

KIRA
(with great sincerity)

No, you have to let me apologize. I'm sorry, Adam. I'm sorry. For all of this. I'm so sorry.

ADAM
(brushing her hair back from her face)

I know.

[Adam kisses Kira, cradling her face in his palms, reverently. Their mouths catch and retreat, a tactile conversation. Adam begins to cry. Kira can taste the tears on her lips and slowly pulls back from him.]

KIRA (cont'd)

Hey...look at me.

ADAM

I don't know how I'm supposed to act around you now. What we're supposed to be.

KIRA

I can't be your fairytale, Adam. I warned you.

[Adam continues to cry, his shoulders shaking. Kira's arms come around him and he tries to distance himself from her. She does not back down and speaks with her cheek pressed against his chest.]

KIRA (cont'd)

If I let myself hope. For just a second. If I let out the breath I've been holding since you walked in the room. If I can just do that...I see our whole future together. Everything we could be. Years from now.

ADAM

I can't see that.

KIRA

Won't you try?

[Adam pulls back just far enough that he can see her face. He brushes a piece of her hair out of her eyes.]

ADAM

In this vision of yours...in this version of our future...are we happy?