

CUBS WIN!

A Ten-Minute Play by Marisa Smith

© 2019 by Marisa Smith
marisasmithkraus@gmail.com

Agent:
Peregrine Whittlesey
Peregrine Whittlesey Agency,
279 Central Park West, NYC, 10024. Tel:
(212) 787-1802
pwwagy@aol.com.

CUBS WIN!

SYNOPSIS: The Chicago Cubs finally win the World Series after 108 years...but there are some devastating consequences for the women in one Chicago book group...and one man.

CHARACTERS

Aly, 30's-50's: Grounded, confident, calm, down-to-earth.

Becca, 30's-50's: Regal, vain, sexy.

Colleen, 30's-50's: Emotional, scattered, insecure, girlish.

Vicki, 30's-50's: Alcoholic, tough, but very needy.

NOTE: The women can be in their 30's, 40's, 50's, even 60's, as long as they are *roughly* the same age. And they can be any race or ethnicity.

SETTING: A room in a country club, after a memorial service. Aly, Becca and Colleen, all members of the same book group, are sitting on a couch, drinking white wine. They're on their third round or so. They're all dressed in black, grim. Colleen is sniffing into her tissue.

ALY

Poor Vicki. She looked terrible at the service.

BECCA

She's a bitch.

ALY

Becca!

BECCA

Well, she is, Aly. An uber bitch. Everybody says so, c'mon, it's not just me.

COLLEEN

She is a *total* bitch.

BECCA

Remember when she wanted to be in our book group and we said, no, it was closed?

COLLEEN

I would have left the group if she came. I would have definitely left.

ALY

Well, I don't like her much either but her husband did just *die*, girls.

COLLEEN

Vicki and Rick are so miserable together.

BECCA
Were so miserable together Colleen.

COLLEEN
I heard he wanted to...leave her.

ALY
Really?

COLLEEN
She is so wicked.

BECCA
Ice flows in her veins.
The women think about Vicki.

COLLEEN
Oh, poor Rick.
(sniffing)
I still can't believe it, it's so awful.

BECCA
He was so young, so vital, so...

ALY
At least he got to see the Cubs win the World Series, I know he was a huge fan.

BECCA
At least he got that.

COLLEEN
To think, and I'm trying to see this as a good thing—that the last thing he saw, the last thing he saw in his *entire* life, was when Kris Byrant—
(she can't go on)

BECCA
--threw out Michael Martinez/

BECCA AND COLLEEN
--for the last out!
Becca and Colleen shake their heads, Colleen sniffles.

COLLEEN
Then he just keeled over.

BECCA

It was his heart.

COLLEEN

And he wasn't fat at all, there wasn't an *ounce* of fat on him, and he didn't smoke, I just don't understand!

BECCA

It was stress, it must have been. Maybe the game was too much for him. There was that seventeen-minute rain delay. And the game was *tied*--I mean that was stressful. Those were seventeen very stressful minutes.

COLLEEN

He loved the Cubs so much.

ALY

It was a family thing. His father loved the Cubs, his grandfather. His *grandmother*.

COLLEEN

His grandmother? So you knew Rick pretty well then?

ALY

Well, yuh, I mean he was my dentist.

COLLEEN

Right.

ALY

Not super well.

COLLEEN

Did you know him well, Becca?

BECCA

We were both on the Conservation Committee.

COLLEEN

Oh, I think I knew that.

BECCA

And he was a-- (her voice breaks) *birder*.

ALY

Right, you and Dan are birders.

BECCA

No, no, no! Dan *hates* birding. Rick and I went out birding sometimes together.

COLLEEN

You and Rick went out birding together?

BECCA

A few times.

COLLEEN

Just the two of you?

BECCA

He really knew a lot. He really knew his birds.

COLLEEN

I didn't know that. That you went out birding with him.

BECCA

I mean, not alone, very much. You know.

Colleen looks at Becca suspiciously and blows her nose.

ALY

It was great how they had the Cubs hat in the coffin with him—

(to Colleen)

--didn't you love that Colleen?

(Colleen doesn't respond and keep sniffing in her tissue.)

Cols, are you okay? Colleen? What's wrong?

COLLEEN

(blurting it out)

I loved him!

ALY

What?

BECCA

What?

COLLEEN

I loved him! And he loved me!

ALY

What! Were you...*involved* with *Rick*?

COLLEEN

He was gonna leave Vicki!

BECCA

He told you that?

COLLEEN

He said if the Cubs won the series he would leave Vicki!

BECCA

Leave her? He really said that?

COLLEEN

Yes! He felt if they won it was a sign from God that he should leave her!

BECCA

How long have you been—

(looks around and whispers)

--sleeping with Rick?

COLLEEN

Years! He was my sunshine!

BECCA

Years! How many years!

COLLEEN

And I was gonna divorce Stuart but now...

Colleen bursts into tears.

BECCA

I don't believe this! I had no idea you involved with Rick! *I* was seeing him, we were...he never said...I don't believe this!

ALY

(alarmed)

What? No! Not you and Rick too?

COLLEEN

Whadd'ya mean you were seeing him? You were sleeping with him?

BECCA

It just happened, it was electric, it was bigger than us/

Colleen jumps up and lunges for Becca. Aly steps in between them.

ALY

Colleen! Becca, stop! Stop it right now!

COLLEEN

(to Becca)

When, when did it happen? How many times?

BECCA

(trying to fend off Colleen)

Just a few times, after the birding—

COLLEEN

You're lying, it's not true, it's not!

Colleen lunges for Becca again. Aly rushes to restrain Colleen and pushes her down on the couch.

BECCA

(to Colleen, yelling)

He told me that if the Cubs won the series he'd take me to Costa Rica! That we'd go with a group of birders so Dan wouldn't suspect anything!

COLLEEN

He said that? He said if the Cubs won he'd do that?

(Colleen leaps up from the couch)

You BITCH.

Colleen starts flailing away at Becca.

ALY

Girls! Colleen! Becca! Sit down!

(Aly pulls Colleen off Becca and pushes Colleen down on the couch)

You can't make a scene here. People might come in from the service! Behave yourselves, Jesus! Becca, you sit *down*.

(Aly points to a chair near the couch and Becca sits. Aly sits next to Colleen on the couch.)

COLLEEN

I want to die. I can't believe Rick cheated on me.

BECCA

Colleen, I'm sorry. Listen, it wasn't a big deal between us. It was just sex. He looked so cute in his birding outfit, that's all.

ALY

He was a womanizer, Colleen.

COLLEEN

No, he wasn't.

ALY

Yes, honey, he was. A classic, no-one-understands-me, my-mother-didn't-love-me-enough womanizer.

Becca and Colleen look at Aly.

COLLEEN

What are you saying?

BECCA

Oh, no.

ALY

(to Becca)

Oh, yes.

BECCA

Oh, *no*.

ALY

Yes.

COLLEEN

Will someone please tell me what's going on!

ALY

Sweetie, I'm sorry, but Rick...well, Rick and I had a monthly meeting at the Chesterfield Arms.

COLLEEN

What?!

ALY

Every month. At the bar. We pretended to be different people each time. It was fun, it was a game.

COLLEEN

You met at the bar of the Chesterfield Arms every month and had sex?

ALY

Well, not *at* the bar.

COLLEEN

I am definitely going to kill myself.

ALY

Colleen. Rick was charming, funny, sexy.... irresistible, you know that.

BECCA

He should have run for office.

ALY

Really, leave the root canals to other men.

BECCA

(to Aly)

Once a month? Role-playing. Cool. I'm impressed.

COLLEEN

No, I'm serious, I mean it, I'm gonna jump out a window or throw myself in front of a bus, I'm warning you.

Becca and Aly both notice a woman walking towards them, dressed in black, unsteady on her high heels, holding a glass of white wine.

BECCA

Oh my God, it's Vicki!

ALY

What's she doing here?

BECCA

Getting more wasted obviously.

COLLEEN

Don't let her come over here! I hate her! I'll kill her!

Vicki approaches the women. She is tanked and holding a glass of white wine.

VICKI

Hey, it's the book group hens.

(makes a chicken clucking sound)

Read any good "libros" lately.

(she cackles)

ALY

Vicki, we are so sorry for your loss.

VICKI

Yeah, yeah I know. It's a tragedy. Frigging Chicago Cubs.

BECCA

The Cubs? What do you mean?

VICKI

Goddamn Cubs gave Ricky a heart attack. During the rain delay he started sweatin', went pale. I gave him a drink, thought that would help but he kept muttering that he was in big trouble. He just kept saying that-- "I'm in trouble, I'm in trouble"--it was like he was in another world. I dunno what the hell was goin' on.

BECCA

Maybe he bet against them to win, you know?

VICKI

I thought of that. He bets big money in football. But why would he bet against his precious Cubs? Doesn't make sense. But men are weird.

BECCA

Yeah, they are. Weird.

ALY

Totally weird.

VICKI

And the thing was, he told me if they won he'd take me to Paris on vacation!

ALY

Really? Paris?

VICKI

We went there on our honeymoon.

COLLEEN

Your honeymoon?

Colleen starts crying again.

VICKI

What's with her?

BECCA

She hates funerals. Can't deal with death.

ALY

And her...her dog...her dog Bread died last week.

VICKI

Bread? That's a stupid name for a dog.

ALY

Well, he really liked bread. The dog.

VICKI

(looking at Colleen)

Poor baby. Maybe she needs a hug. I think she needs a hug.

Vicki goes to give Colleen a hug. Becca intervenes.

BECCA

No, no! She needs space now. She'll be okay.

Colleen is sobbing silently.

VICKI

Okay. I get it.

(Vicki steps back and sits down)

So gals. I'm sorta on my own, you know?

(Becca and Aly nod. Vicki drains her wine glass. The women watch her.)

You think you might let me join your book group now?

Colleen wails, Becca puts her hand over Colleen's mouth.

Becca and Aly look at each other, and then turn to Vicki.

BECCA AND ALY

Sure? Why not?

END PLAY