

DAY ONE

By Marisa Smith

A Ten-Minute Play

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

JANIE 20's, just married to Jake, any ethnicity

JAKE 20's, just married to Janie, any ethnicity

SYNOPSIS

Janie and Jake wake up to the first day of their married life together in a remote cabin in the Adirondacks.

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JANIE is sitting on the porch of the cabin, drinking a cup of coffee, a large sweatshirt over her pajamas, a covered basket at her feet. We hear the flush of a toilet from inside the cabin.

JANIE

Jake! Jakie! C'mere! I'm on the porch!

(JAKE appears in the doorway wrapped in a blanket, very sleepy.)

JAKE

It's freezing. What time is it?

JANIE

I don't know! I don't care!

(opening her arms wide, leaning her head back into the sun)

I am one with the universe and time has no meaning! Come out here! They brought the breakfast basket!

JAKE

I think I'll go back to sleep—

JANIE

No, sit, I'll get you some coffee!

JAKE

Honey, I'm off coffee.

JANIE

(going through basket)

You can have tea! Organic green tea! Or white tea! What's white tea?

(JAKE sneezes)

JAKE

I think my allergies are kicking in. Probably the leaves.

(JANIE prepares tea)

JANIE

Here, sit down.

(Hands him a mug of tea and JAKE sits down)

JAKE

I think I need a Benadryl.

(JANIE takes a china plate and food from the basket)

JANIE

Real dishes! Muffins. Scones, I love scones.

(looks at JAKE)

Our first *married* breakfast. I can't believe we're married.

JAKE

I know, it's weird.

(off JANIE'S look)

No, good weird, you know, *good!*

JANIE

The wedding was just perfect wasn't it?

JAKE

It was great, really great, except when, what's her name? Fainted. Who was she again?

JANIE

Cousin Beryl, she has Munchausen's. She just wants attention, it's really sad.

JAKE

And then she kinda mauled me in the receiving line.

JANIE

I know, she's a total whack job. But she couldn't resist!

(kissing and hugging him)

I just want to *devour* you. Nibble, nibble. Nibble.

(kissing her back, this is an old routine of theirs-- they may repeat it or say it together)

JAKE

Nibble, Nibble. Nibble.

JANIE

Nibble.

JAKE

Nibble.

JANIE AND JAKE

Nibble.

JANIE

Last night--you were a sex *machine*.

JAKE

(pulling away)

I think you're exaggerating. We did it like twice.

JANIE

We(*re*) gonna to have the best honeymoon ever!

After breakfast we can take a hike-- and then we can go swim in the lake—

JAKE

Isn't it a little cold to go swimming?

JANIE

And then at one o'clock they bring the *lunch basket* and maybe we can work on our life plan and our goals and name our future kids and talk openly about what bugs us about each other---

(JAKE sneezes again)

JAKE

I gotta get a Benadryl. My allergies are going ballistic here.

(JAKE exits back in to the cabin)

JANIE

(yelling after him)

Maybe we should think about moving to the country. I feel so invigorated here, so grounded, so, so, *Amazonian!* And, jeez I'm really hungry, I have such an appetite.

(She starts in on a scone, JAKE comes back holding his phone)

JAKE

I'm not getting service, you said we'd get service.

JANIE

They told me we would.

JAKE

Well, I don't have any.

JANIE

We can ask at the Lodge. C'mon Jakie, the point is to disconnect.

JAKE

I know, I'd just feel more comfortable, you know in case of an emergency.

(He sits next to JANIE)

JANIE

My *mother* knows where we are.
(*JAKE gives her a look*)

JANIE

Don't say it, whatever you're thinking... don't.

JAKE

I'm not thinking, I'm not, I'm too tired to think.

JANIE

She's not gonna show up here, no way. Only if someone died.

JAKE

I didn't say anything.

JANIE

Look, I told her not to talk about her bowels in public. I know it's horrible.

JAKE

She told me about her *hemorrhoids* at the dinner table. While we were *eating*.

JANIE

I know, it's terrible, I'm working on her. It's sort of funny really, kind of.

JAKE

It's really gross.
(*yawns*)
God, I'm pooped.

JANIE

Why couldn't you sleep? I slept like a baby.

JAKE

The silence here is deadly. I never sleep well in the country. I need traffic, garbage trucks, *sirens*.

JANIE

Here, you need food. Have a muffin.
(*Hands him a muffin*)

JAKE

(*inspecting the muffin*)
I don't know, Janie, it looks suspect.

JANIE

I told them no nuts!

JAKE

No! I don't think it's safe!

JANIE

But I explained to them that you were deathly allergic to nuts and that you would go into anaphylactic shock if you ate one-- they are not going to put nuts in your muffin!

JAKE

People screw up! I'm not gonna risk it out here in the middle of nowhere!

JANIE

We are not in the middle of nowhere! The Lodge is just up the road and there's a freaking military base a mile away!

JAKE

There is? A military base?

JANIE

No, I made that up.

JAKE

I'm not eating this muffin Janie.

JANIE

Fine. I'm sorry, I just want you to be happy and if you're hungry you're not. You're so cranky then. When you're hungry.

JAKE

I have Zwieback.

JANIE

Good. Great. Zwieback.
(*pause*)

JAKE

Why did you say it like that?

JANIE

Like what? I just said Zwieback.

JAKE

No, you didn't, you said it with like an edge, an edge of *contempt*.

JANIE

No, I didn't. I mean if I did, I didn't mean it.

JAKE

(*standing up*)
I'm getting my Zwieback.

(*He exits into cabin, then, yelling from inside the cabin*)
Ahhhhhh Go away! Shoo! Shoo! Get the hell outtahere!!!
(*He comes running out*)

JAKE
There's a raccoon in there, right on our bed!

JANIE
WHAT!

JAKE
He's eating my Zwieback!

JANIE
But raccoons are nocturnal!

JAKE
He's eating my food! Janie! You're the animal lover!

(JANIE marches into the cabin and we hear her stomping her feet and yelling)

JANIE
Go away, go away Mr. Raccoon. Go! Go!
(She returns)

JANIE
He's gone. He jumped out the window.

JAKE
Good. It's a long way down.

JANIE
Jake! You're terrible. He was so cute.

(JAKE gives her a look and they sit down)

JANIE(cont.)
You hate it here.

JAKE
No I don't.

JANIE
Yes, you do. You hate the country.

JAKE
No, look at the leaves, they're really beautiful, the reds, the yellows---

JANIE
We coulda gone to Italy or something.

JAKE
I knew how much you wanted to come here.

JANIE
But if I knew how miserable you were gonna be—

JAKE

No, I'm fine, babe, really, I just need to adjust a little, you know me.

JANIE (*alarmed*)

Ohmygod. Hold still, don't move, there is this humungous spider on your back.

JAKE (*freaked*)

A... a... spider?

JANIE

It's really hairy, it could be a tarantula.

JAKE

A tarantula? Are you shitting me?

(Turns his head and tries to look at it)

JANIE

Maybe a baby one, I can't tell. Okay, okay, I'm just gonna get the broom and sweep it off, don't move, if you move it might bite you.

JAKE

Sweep it off? Are you crazy! Just smash it, kill it!

JANIE

I can't, I can't kill another living creature!

JAKE

Janie, if you don't kill it, I'm going to kill you!

JANIE

Oh, no, I don't see it anymore.

(JAKE jumps up)

JAKE

It must have gone down my shirt or my pants or something.

(Shakes out his shirt and his pants)

Thank God I'm not allergic.

JANIE

Well, you're allergic to so many things that I can't keep track.

JAKE

Well, excuse me for being allergic.

JANIE

Hopefully our kids won't get the allergic gene.

(pause)

JAKE

Or the unsympathetic one.

JANIE

Or the I can't sleep because it's so quiet one--

JAKE

Or the I care more about the frigging spider than my own husband one--

JANIE

--or I can't be unplugged from my beloved phone for more than like two seconds one--

JAKE

Or the I'm a total bitch one—

JANIE

Or I'm a total *wuss* one---
(*pause*)

JAKE

That was harsh.

JANIE

And calling me a bitch wasn't?

JAKE

I'm sorry-- that was bad.

JANIE

We never fight like this when we're in the city do we?

JAKE

No.

JANIE

In fact, we don't usually fight at all.

JAKE

No, we don't.

JANIE

This was like our first real fight! You never, ever, called me a bitch before!

JAKE

You never called me a wuss!

JANIE

Maybe it's because we're married now. Maybe we shouldn't have gotten married Jake!

JAKE

You don't think we shoulda gotten married?

JANIE
Maybe we ruined everything by getting married!

JAKE
We had such a nice relationship.

JANIE
We did.
(pause, looking at each other for answers)

JAKE
No! I've got it! It's because we're *here*.

JANIE
What, in the country?

JAKE
Yes, that's it. That's why we're fighting.

JANIE
The country is making us fight?

JAKE
It's *toxic*.

JANIE
So it's like poisoning us?

JAKE
Exactly. Ironically.

JANIE
I see what you *mean*.

JAKE
I seriously think we should go back to the city.

JANIE
I *really* see what you mean. It all makes sense. Oh my god!

JAKE
Like right now.

JANIE
Before the lunch basket?

JAKE
Definitely before the lunch basket. Before more damage is done.

JANIE

I think I'd get *fat* here.

JAKE

And we should promise that we'll never come back to the country again.

JANIE

And that we'll always live and vacation in a major metropolitan area.

JAKE

Absolutely.

JANIE

But what if our kids wants to go to camp?

JAKE

We'll put him on a bus. No helicopter parents here!

JANIE

Good! Or bribe him. Video games. Beer!

JAKE

Keystone Light!

JANIE

Okay, let's go! We're outta here!

JAKE

Alright! Hey, this isn't so hard is it?

JANIE

Piece of cake, hubby. Piece of cake.

(They kiss)

JAKE and JANIE

Nibble, nibble, nibble.

END OF PLAY