

The Proposal

A short play

By Cecilia Copeland

Cecilia Copeland  
319.594.0232/845.901.4427  
ceciliacopeland@gmail.com

SARAH      Woman in her late twenties/early thirties

WAITRESS   Woman

CHRIS      Man in his late twenties

A table and two chairs onstage. SARAH sits at the table and WAITRESS bring out a bottle of champagne.

SARAH

Can you bring two glasses?

WAITRESS

Sure, sure. I'll be right back.

WAITRESS starts to leave.

SARAH

It's my boyfriend's birthday and I-

WAITRESS

You want to make it special.

SARAH

Well... here.

She pulls out a ring box and shows the WAITRESS.

What'da think?

WAITRESS

Wow. Is that platinum?

SARAH

Yeah, it's... He works with metal. He's a sculptor so it's gotta be platinum. Otherwise, it could just get ruined, you know. It could...

WAITRESS

Platinum is really expensive.

SARAH

I'm getting a raise next month. I got the promotion last week, but as of next month my paycheck will be enough... I mean... in case anything happens... I can take care of it... of him... of us...

WAITRESS

Are you gonna pop the question?

SARAH

I... yeah... In a way. I mean, when he sees it, he'll know... he said he would never wear any ring except a wedding ring. I know this. He knows I know it... I just have to give to him. It's tough though, you know. Both of us have this bad history with marriage... His parents... My dad... Not good. But if we... together... you know? I think we could...

WAITRESS

Yeah, why not? I'm mean you've talked about it right?

SARAH

Well, not really. I mean we talked about the ring thing... But... maybe it's not the right time. I'm not good at... neither is he, but you know... well, My dad died last year and he hasn't talked to his dad in like... forever. So... fuck I should've just got him a watch.

WAITRESS

You can always just buy him dinner.

SARAH

Maybe I'll see how dinner goes.

WAITRESS

Yeah, have dinner and see what happens. It could go really well. I mean, my boyfriend and I just got engaged. I don't have a ring for him... Can't really afford one, but we're happy. It's good. I think the ring the nice.

CHRIS enters.

SARAH

Yeah... can you get the glasses?

WAITRESS

Of course. I'll be right back.

CHRIS

Hi there!

SARAH

She gets up and hugs him.

Hi there.

She pulls him down to kiss him and kisses him.

Happy Birthday.

CHRIS

Yeah. It's a Happy Birthday now.

SARAH

You're great.

CHRIS

You're great.

SARAH

You... you wanna get married- marinaded... steaks- steak- food- some food?

CHRIS

What?

SARAH

Dinner. Dinner's on me. Um, have a seat.

CHRIS

Thanks honey.

(Sits.)

Champagne?

SARAH

I thought... Yeah. It's on me, so whatever you want. Don't worry about it. I got it. I'm taking care of everything.

CHRIS

Uh.. great. Is the, uh waitress bringing glasses?

SARAH

Yeah, she'll be right back.

CHRIS

Cool. You gonna sit down?

SARAH

Yeah, duh, yeah, I'm gonna sit.

(Sits.)

Sitting.

CHRIS

You alright?

SARAH

I'm great. I'm fine, I mean I'm fine. You? How are you?

CHRIS

I'm great. I'm... hungry.

SARAH

Perfect, cuz this place has great food I thought I would take you out cuz you like to eat, and... um...

CHRIS

(His phone buzzes.)

Oh, my phone. I'll just turn it off.

CHRIS pulls out the phone to turn it off and SARAH pulls out the ring box.

CHRIS

Oh my god.

SARAH

(She covers the box.)

Who is it?

CHRIS

It's my dad.

SARAH

Your dad?

CHRIS

Yeah... I... what do I do?

SARAH

Do you wanna answer it?

CHRIS

He's such a... but he's my dad. I...

SARAH

Don't answer. Call him tomorrow... or do whatever you want. I just want you to have a good night.

CHRIS

He can always ruin a moment... Shit I can't believe he called.

SARAH

Yeah... it's up to you.

CHRIS

If I don't answer it then I'm just not answering it on purpose... and he is my dad.

SARAH

Dinner can wait.

CHRIS

You know, we think we can escape these roles... Father, Son, Husband, Wife, but... can we? These roles are carved out and they are clearly defined... I mean here I am... almost thirty and I'm scared of my father. I'm scared to talk to him like I'm a little kid. I'm not a kid. I'm... but then...

(He picks up the phone.)

Dad... Yeah... Thanks... I... thanks... no... I... I'm sorry to hear... Not now... You seriously gonna start that now Dad? Five years and now... On my birthday you wanna get into this?... Now is not the time. I'm not gonna do this.

(SARAH gets up and puts the ring away.)

I don't know why I answered the phone. I'm going dad. I'm having dinner with my... I'm going dad. Good Bye dad... Asshole! Fucker.

SARAH

That doesn't sound good.

CHRIS

He's getting another divorce. That makes five.

SARAH

Wow.

CHRIS

Yeah. It's a corrupt institution.

SARAH

Yeah...

CHRIS

He calls me to preach to me about how I should live my life and the pitfalls of getting married, and meanwhile that asshole has fucked up five times.

SARAH

You aren't him though. You're great. You know that right?

CHRIS

I'm not gonna make the same mistakes he made. Come back and sit down.

SARAH

I was just looking for the waitress. She's hiding.

CHRIS

You know... I'm not actually that hungry. Can we just go home? I don't feel like having dinner.

SARAH

Of course. It's your birthday. We can do whatever you want. We can get carry out?

CHRIS

I just...

SARAH

How about I order you a burger to go? I saw they have uh... onion rings. You want onion rings?

CHRIS

Sure. I'm gonna go have a cigarette.

SARAH

I'll meet you outside. I'll just tell the waitress.

CHRIS

Thanks honey.

SARAH

It's gonna be a great birthday and a great year. I promise.

CHRIS

I love you. I really do.

He exits. WAITRESS enters.

SARAH

Hey, um look we've gotta run, but I want to get two burgers to go... and um... um... an order of onion rings.

WAITRESS

Onion rings?

SARAH

Yeah.

WAITRESS

Rings! Right on!

WAITRESS exits.

SARAH

Yeah... Thanks.

SARAH puts the ring box on the table. She picks up the champagne bottle and exits.