

Amanda Split

A short play

by

Dale Griffiths Stamos

AT RISE: AMANDA is seated at a desk.
Piled in front of her are law books.
MANDY is sprawled out on the couch,
staring above her. Both women are 32.

***NOTE:** AMANDA and MANDY, played by two actresses that look similar, are the mind and body halves of AMANDA BROOKS, law associate.*

MANDY

Look at the light! ...Remember how we used to think the little dust particles in a beam of light were fairy dust, and we'd dance around it, trying to catch it?

AMANDA

...That was you dancing.

MANDY

Oh, come on. In those days, it was you too. ...I'm thirsty.
(no reaction from AMANDA)
...I'm thirsty!

AMANDA

All right!
(while MANDY goes and gets herself a drink.)
Ten minutes ago, you were hungry. Before that, you had a fit of itching.

MANDY

Well it kept moving from one place to another!

AMANDA

No, you are just trying to keep us distracted! ...Don't tell me you're not! You do this every time I have something important to do. And this is more than important! This is major! My first brief as an associate. It took me too many years to work my way through law school. I will not allow you to pull us off track. Now. If you don't mind, I have a good 6 hours to finish this if I push through to eleven.

MANDY

(looking outside the window)
Well, I don't know, maybe a little less.

AMANDA

What do you mean?

MANDY

It looks like we have company.

AMANDA
 (joining MANDY at the window)
 Oh no.
 (MANDY takes a mirror and
 lipstick out of her purse.)

AMANDA (CONT'D)
 Stop that. We're trying to discourage him, remember?

MANDY
 You're trying to discourage him.

AMANDA
 No, no, no, you agreed! This is not the time to start---!
 (The doorbell rings. MANDY
 rushes to the door.)

FREEZE!

(MANDY immediately freezes.)

MANDY
 (moving her lips with
 difficulty)
 Ah, come on.

AMANDA
 No.

MANDY
 He's standing out there. He'll get cold.
 (The doorbell rings again.)

AMANDA
 If we don't make any noise, maybe he'll just go away.
 (MANDY manages to wave her
 fingers at someone)
 What are you doing!

MANDY
 He can see us. Through the crack in the curtains.

AMANDA
 Damn! All right. We'll let him in. But we're going to get
 rid of him fast, understand?
 (MANDY makes a pleading face.)
 Understand?

MANDY
 Okay, okay.
 (AMANDA goes to the door.
 MANDY hovers behind her.
 ETHAN walks in. He is good-
 looking, and reeks charm.)

Hi.
 ETHAN

Hi!
 MANDY
 (pulling out in front)

Hello, Ethan.
 AMANDA
 (dragging MANDY behind her)

(As the women speak, it will be clear he can only hear or see the one who addresses him directly. He hears nothing of the conversations between the two women.)

I didn't expect to see you. I mean, I thought I had... well, made it pretty clear...
 AMANDA (CONT'D)

Oh you did. At least your words did. But something in your... eyes...
 (MANDY smiles broadly)
 ...was saying something very different.

Look, Ethan, whatever it is you think you've...
 (glares at MANDY)
 ...picked up from me, I want you to forget it. I admit, I find you... attractive.

Attractive? This man's smile could melt steel.
 MANDY

And certainly you're a sweet boy...
 AMANDA

"A sweet boy?!"
 MANDY & ETHAN

And maybe over these weeks I've given you cause to believe some romantic feelings were... developing, but I still feel we have to stop nurturing something that has no possible future.
 AMANDA

But why not?
 ETHAN

I've told you! We're not exactly compatible. I mean... I'm 32, you're 25.
 AMANDA

I'll be 26 in two months.
 ETHAN

AMANDA

I've just started a new job at a law firm and you're... well, you're a gardener!

MANDY & ETHAN

A landscape manager.

AMANDA

Whatever. You just... I have a plan, that's all.

ETHAN

And I don't fit into it.

AMANDA

Not exactly, no.

ETHAN

(after a beat)

I'd like to kiss you right now.

AMANDA

Don't.

ETHAN

I'd like to explore all the soft places inside your mouth with my tongue.

MANDY

(to AMANDA)

You expect me to resist this?

AMANDA

Please, Ethan.

ETHAN

Your skin against mine... my face in your hair...

MANDY

Ahhh...

AMANDA

Stop it, please.

ETHAN

You don't really want to live your life according to a plan, do you?

AMANDA

Yes, yes, I do.

MANDY

No! We don't!