Women Of Manhattan

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Theatre 2110

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**Character Checklist**

**Biography**

I am an only child born into an upper middle class family in Manhattan. My father is a senior supervising urban planner for New York City and my mother works as a Gallery Assistant at Scaramouch Gallery on the Upper East Side. My father, a work alcoholic, made it home for dinner and spent a limited amount of time with me, where as her mother often took me to the gallery allowing me to meet many colorful characters and play amongst the featured art of the week.

I attend Chapin all Girls private school until grade 7. At that time I convinced my parents to allow me to attend the Dalton School on the Upper East Side. As this was a college prep school, my father was very impressed with my choice. Little did he know, my main reason for this request was the fact I wanted to attend a coed school. My grades were fair, a B average, although I did not apply myself. I was far too interested in the social aspect of school.

After finishing high school with sub par grades, I went to NYU in hopes of getting my Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a focus on Art.

**Physiology**

Age: 30

Gender: Female

Height: 5’6

Hair Color: Blonde

Eye Color: Hazel

Weight: 120 pounds and Slender

Disabilities: None

Skin Color: Sun Kissed

Posture: Confidant, tall, poised yet relaxed.

**Sociology**

Religion: Christian, Presbyterian. As a child we attended church every Sunday. As time moved on we began to go less and less. Life got busy and church became less of a priority

Occupation: An intern in my mother’s art gallery

Education: Chaplin all girls school until grade 7. Then I attended Dalton School followed by NYU. I have my bachelor of Fine Arts.

Home Life: I live with my husband Bob although I am quite bored and restless. I dream of adventure, living life to the fullest and *being* somebody. I do not want to exist in the world only as someone's wife. We live a more then comfortable life as Bob has a good job running a construction company.

Political Beliefs: I do not concern myself with politics as the topic bores me to tears. My parents are both involved in the republicans and try to get me involved but I would rather not. Although I am always up for a good party.

Race: Caucasian

Nationality: American, born and raised in New York

Financial Status: Well off, good life good living

Class: Upper Middle Class

Hobbies and amusements: I enjoy art but am very flighty. I love a good night out and get bored easily.

Place in community: Social Light. I am known to be fun and flirtatious. I also love my gossip and am known to know all the dirt.

**Psychology**

Sex Life: All about the passion. I want to be an object of desire and get bored easily. Bob and I have sex but it is far from consistent.

Moral Standards: Good moral compass. I still have strong Christian beliefs even though I am not a churchgoer. I pride myself on dong the right thing.

Frustrations: I want more out of life! I am not satisfied on being in one place for too long. I am frustrated that no one seems to get me. I am frustrated that Bob is not measuring up to my exception of my marriage.

**Scene Preparation**

**Tone**

The overall tone of the scene is dramatic with bits of comedy.

**Relationship**

Rhonda and Billie met in summer camp when they were young children. Although Rhonda was from the South and Billie is a native New Yorker, they kept in touch through out the years and maintained a strong friendship.

In the beginning of the play the pair seems to get along great and they seem to really like each other. This is evident by the compliments and joking nature of the first few lines. Once the conflict about men is introduced however, their relationships shifts into one of tension and insults as they both attempt to maintain control over what they want. Billie wanting to go out and meet men in order to feel validated and Rhonda wanting to have a different kind of relationship with Billie without men. This tension continues and builds to anger as Billie and Rhonda fight to understand each other.

The relationship begins to settle down after the climax and Billie and Rhonda both realize they are not going to get what they want from each other. Although Rhonda does not seem to understand Billie’s misery, she does offer Billie some sympathy, which brings their relationship back on an even keel. As friends often do, they get along, have a spat, and get along once more, like sisters.

**Characteristics**

* Adventurous
* Affable
* Conscientious
* Cultured
* Dependable
* Independent
* Intelligent
* Persistent
* Exuberant
* Imaginative
* Trusting
* Laziness
* Finicky
* Sarcastic
* Sneaky
* Impulsive
* Self-centered

\*\*For the “Why” of each line please see the attached script. \*\*\*

**Scene Analysis**

**Exposition/Objective**

As stated in the beginning of the play, Billie is a 30-year-old New Yorker who has a dramatic view on life and Rhonda Louise is 28 years and comes from the Deep South. This play takes place in an apartment where the two are enjoying an evening of dinner and wine.

Based on the way the pair speaks to each other it is safe to say that these two are old friend with very different expectations of the evening. As Billie, I feel my main objective in this scene is to go out and party the night away with some men. I really want Rhonda to participate in this adventure. Her being single gives me the excuse I need to hang out with men and let my hair down. Something I would not normally do, as I am a married woman. As the play progresses and I do not get what I want in regards to going out, my objective shifts to the fact I just want some level of sympathy and understanding as I am not happy with my life. I feel as though my life is dull, lacks adventure and I am going nowhere. I want to live in an ever-moving moment and yet I am trapped in a life with no growth.

Rhonda has a different objective where she wants to take hers and Billie’s friendship to a different level. She is hoping this night in will lead to a new beginning for the pair.

**Discovery**

In the beginning of the play I am hopeful that my objective of being with some men will materialize. I ask Rhonda three separate times, “ Where are the men”, only to be told there was not going to be any men. The first few time I think she is just pulling my leg and that though I told her not to invite men she would understand that in this case DON’T means DO. However when I ask, “ …Don’t you feel we’re wasting our gorgeousness on each other” and she replies “No.”, I discover that my objective will not be met. She is not going to go along with my plan and we really are not going to be hanging out with any men.

Another area of discovery for me is after I insult Rhonda about her throwing Jerry out. My attempt to rile her up in order to get what I want, going out and finding men, failed once again as she calls me out on insulting her and using her as an excuse to party.

I also discover what Rhonda really thinks of me as she compares me to fisherman. First she refers to me as a “Happily Married woman”, which could not be further from the truth, then talks about how big of a flirt I am and how I am keeping in shape in case Bob leaves me. These comments lead me to the dark discovery that my best friend has me all wrong.

When Rhonda cannot sympathies with me at all in regards to my trouble in my marriage, the never-ending courtship and desperation for adventure, I discover that Rhonda still cannot understand what I am wanting with my life. My objective here is for her to understand that I am not happy; I want someone to listen to me and that I NEED MORE!

This discovery occurs again at the end of the scene when Rhonda interrupts my rant about my desire to be a Hollywood Star, a Nun in an asylum etc.… and asks what I am talking about. Clearly she still does not understand me.

In the end I discover that Rhonda finally understand my objective of letting her know how empty I feel when she finally agrees to give me some sympathy for an “ache in me that knows no name”.

**Complication**

In the beginning of the play the main complication is the fact that we both have very different expectations of the evening. I want to go out and find men where Rhonda wants to stay in and have a girl’s night.

Another complication that is introduced to the scene is the fact that I am married. It sparks tension between myself and Rhonda as she moves away from the issue of girls night and calls me out on being a flirt and only wanting to go out because my husband it out of town.

The fact that Rhonda threw Jerry out adds complication to the scene as it sparks a fire in Rhonda when I use the information to insult her for being alone. It is here the scene shifts from being about going out or not going out to personal attacks on who I am as a person and why I act the way I do.

The last complication introduced is the fact that Bob asked me to marry him. This comment shifts the scene from Rhonda attacking my character to me explaining that I am not happy and I need change.

**Crises**

The first crises Rhonda and I encounter are our disagreement in regards to going out and meeting men vs. having a girl’s night in. Dinner has been eaten, wine the wine has been drank and now we are deciding what to do next. I want to go out. Rhonda wants to stay in.

The next crisis occurs when Rhonda has decided to let me know all the reasons I am such a flirt. Naturally I disagree with everything she is saying, as she clearly does not understand me and has me pinned all wrong.

**Climax**

The climax occurs when I state, “ I AM GOING TO TELL YOU WHY I FLIRT.”

I can no longer take Rhonda’s insults about whom I am. She clearly does not understand my objective of wanting to go out nor does she understands nor who I am. Her words enrage me and feel it very necessary to let her know why I act the way I do.