

The Royal We

written by

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CHARACTERS

GWEN- 21, female, Creative Writing major, Motherly and calm.

JUNE- 21, female, Drama major and drama queen, likes the word "whatever"

JAMIE- 19, male, Friendly stoner, mysterious but not suspicious

TARA- 22, female, psych major, straight-laced and a little uptight, but not at all timid

BONES- 21, male, handsome musician, kind of grumpy

TIME

May 19, 2018. 3:00 am.

PLACE

The off-campus home of three college students. San Joaquin, California.

Props list:

Gwen's knitting project
TV remote
Umbrella
June's purse and coat
six pack of White Claw
Tara's fascinator
Lucky Charms and other snacks
Tara's cell phone
Tea Kettle
Bones's hoodie
ointment and bandaid

Note: Underlined stage directions are to be read aloud during a staged reading.

(LIGHTS UP on a colorful, cozy home. Upstage is a kitchen with a stove, sink, and fridge. Downstage Center is a sitting area: a coffee table surrounded by a giant bean bag, a big plush couch, and an armchair. Between the kitchen and sitting area is a dining table with a few seats. Upstage Right is the front door. Next to the door a few coats, scarves, and purses hang from hooks on the wall. There is another door Stage Left that leads to the bathroom and girls' bedrooms.

The home is decorated like a college dorm. Posters and tapestries hang on the walls. The furniture neither matches nor clashes. Fluffy pillows sit on the couch and armchair. Lots of snacks are strewn about the kitchen counter. A few textbooks are scattered around the room.

On the couch sits GWEN knitting a scarf and watching the news. JUNE and JAMIE enter from the front door under an umbrella.)

JUNE

Gwen? What are you doing up? It's like 3:00.

GWEN

Can't sleep. Watching C-SPAN. I thought you were in your room.

JUNE

I was out.

GWEN

(She turns to see them in the kitchen.)
Who's this?

JUNE

This is Jamie.
(Beat.)
He just took an edible. I think...

GWEN

Where did you find him?

JUNE

He was on the shuttle.

GWEN
Why hasn't he said anything?

JUNE
I dunno.
(To JAMIE:)
Why haven't you said anything?

JAMIE
Uh... Can I have some water?

JUNE
There are mugs in the cupboard above the microwave and a Brita in the fridge.

GWEN
(Cautiously:)
Can you please take off your shoes?
(He nods.)
Okay. Thank you.

(GWEN returns her attention to knitting. JAMIE removes his sneakers and leaves them at the front door. He goes to rummage in the kitchen.)

GWEN
So how was your night?

JUNE
(With a wistful sigh.)
She drinks screwdrivers.

GWEN
Who?

JUNE
Who do you think? The love of my life!

GWEN
You're going to have to be more specific.

JUNE
That girl from my Women in Performance class.
Ruby.

GWEN
She drinks screwdrivers? What's that again?

JAMIE
(With his mouth full.)
Orange juice and Vodka.

GWEN

(Disgusted by Jamie and the drink.)

Ew.

(To JUNE:)

That's all you did tonight? Learn that Romy drinks screwdrivers?

JUNE

(Irritated.)

Ruby.

JAMIE

(Chill, with his mouth full.)

Ruby.

GWEN

How am I supposed to live vicariously through your partying if all you do is stalk lesbians from your improv classes?

JUNE

She's from Women in Performance. I wasn't stalking her, I was accidentally on purpose bumping into her. And I think she's straight.

(GWEN sighs.)

What?

GWEN

I'm just worried about you, is all. You've been acting kinda... reckless I guess? Ever since you and Bones—

JUNE

I'm doing fine. Great.

GWEN

You're deliberately setting yourself up for heartbreak by going after straight girls.

JUNE

(Smug.)

Actually, we made out on the porch.

GWEN

What! Talk about burying the lead.

(Many police sirens blare as cop cars drive through town.)

JUNE

Oh, shit.

(To JAMIE:)

That must be your ride.

JAMIE

(Panicked.)

What!?

(JAMIE ducks under the table.)

GWEN
She's kidding. You're kidding right?

JUNE
Get up dingus, I was joking.

GWEN
That makes me nervous.

JUNE
Literally everything makes you nervous.

GWEN
With good reason!

(TARA enters from the hallway door wearing classic matching button up pajamas and a big fascinator on her head.)

JUNE
What the hell are you wearing on your head?

TARA
(Pointing at JAMIE.)
Who is this? Why is he eating my food?

JAMIE
(Mouth full.)
Oops. My B.

(He takes his hand out of a LUCKY CHARMS cereal box and clothes it.)

JUNE
This is Jamie.

GWEN
June found him on the shuttle bus.

TARA
June, what the hell?

JUNE
What?

TARA
(Sighing.)
We're going to have to have another housemate meeting.

JUNE
Now?

TARA

(Irritated.)

No. When it's just us and there isn't some grimy dude in the kitchen with his hand in my Lucky Charms.

JUNE

(Laughing.)

Ha! His hand in your Lucky Charms. That's good. Gwen, remind me to add "Lucky Charms" to my list of euphemisms for vaginas.

TARA

June!

JAMIE

Uh... should I go...

JUNE

No, stay, it's raining.

TARA

So you're allowed to kick my brother out of the house but I'm not allowed to kick out this guy?

GWEN

June, if you get to kick people out of the house just because you feel like it, then it's reasonable for Tara to—

JUNE

I didn't kick Jordan out just because I felt like it, I kicked him out because he was driving me nuts! Mansplaining all over the living room!
(Gesturing to the whole area.)

TARA

He doesn't mean to mansplain, he was just talking. That's how he talks.

JUNE

He started spewing such sexist bullshit once I brought up the new Star Wars.

TARA

So he got a little heated about a movie. He was just expressing his opinion.

JUNE

He was making me uncomfortable and therefore I had right to make him leave my home.

TARA

You are so dramatic. You didn't have any good reason to kick Jordan out.

JUNE

Well, what's your good reason to kick Jamie out?

TARA

He's a stranger!

JUNE

Pfft. He seems normal enough, he's just stoned.

TARA

Ugh! You are all ruining my special day!

(TARA stomps.)

GWEN

Does this have something to do with the hat?

TARA

It's a fascinator!

JUNE

Why are you wearing it at three in the morning?

TARA

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are getting married today.

JUNE

(Visibly confused.)
At three in the morning?

GWEN

If it's 3:00 here, it must be
(Mumbling and counting on her fingers.)
4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10— It's 11am in England right now.

(While she counts, a loud horn blows in the distance five times, pauses, and then five times again.)

JAMIE

(Slightly frightened.)
What was that noise?

GWEN

It was a horn to alert the volunteer fire-fighters.

JAMIE

There's a fire?

GWEN

Or someone needs the paramedics.

TARA

The wedding starts at noon, but people should be arriving now. I want to watch the live stream.

JUNE

Tara, come on. You can't be serious.

TARA

(Finally sitting down.)
What is your problem?

JUNE

Idolizing the Royal Family is ridiculous. Did you know that Mrs. Windsor makes twenty million pounds a year?

JAMIE

Who is Mrs. Windsor?

JUNE

The
(Air quotes.)
"Queen."

GWEN

(To herself:)
Not this shit again.

TARA

What is with the air quotes? She is the Queen. I don't know anything about their politics. I'm not saying I politically support the royal family or whatever—

JUNE

Actually—

TARA

I just really like Meghan Markle. She's gonna be England's first Black princess! She's a huge advocate for women's rights. When she was a little girl, she—

JUNE

(Cuts TARA off.)
Okay, whatever, I get that part. But how do you explain the hat? You look so... pompous.

TARA

It's just the culture. They wear fancy hats to events. Every woman there will be wearing one.

JUNE

So, you're taking part in some sexist tradition?

TARA

Ugh. Half of the fun is the fashion. I'm sure people you like will be there in hats just like these.

JUNE

People I like?

TARA

Like celebrities.

JUNE

I don't like any celebrities.

TARA

Ugh! Can you just like, let me enjoy myself? Stop being an asshole and let me wear my fascinator and watch the wedding? If anyone is being sexist here it's you for shaming me for the stuff I like.

JAMIE

(Nods slowly.)
Word.

(He holds up a fist to show solidarity. Only GWEN notices it.)

GWEN

Jamie, no.

(JAMIE lowers his fist.)

JUNE

(Giving up.)
Okay. Fine.
(Sincerely.)
I'm sorry.

TARA

Thank you for apologizing.
(She turns her attention to the TV.)
Wait, why are you watching C-SPAN?

GWEN

I like to be informed. And I thought maybe the voices would lull me to sleep, but instead I got angry at Pence talking about gun control.

TARA

Can I have the remote?

(GWEN hands TARA the remote, who points it at the TV to pull up the wedding. In the distance, more sirens are heard. Now everyone takes notice.)

JUNE

Damn, even more cops. That's weird.

TARA

That sounded like a firetruck to me.

JUNE

Whatever same thing.

TARA

They're literally not.

JUNE

Well the sirens sound the same.

GWEN

(Analyzing the situation.)
Tara's probably right. We just heard the horn for the firefighters. Although the sirens came from the direction of the police station. Oh god, maybe it's both.

JUNE

It's probably just an old person that fell in their toilet or something.

GWEN

I hope so.

JAMIE

Uh... you're hoping an old person fell into their toilet?

GWEN

No, I'm hoping that's about the worst it gets.

JUNE

We're in the middle of nowhere central California. What else would it be?

GWEN

Bad things can happen any time, anywhere.

JUNE

Stop being so ominous. You're going to scare our guest.

*(The three GIRLS look at JAMIE.
BEAT.)*

JAMIE

Can I use your bathroom?

JUNE

I don't know, why don't you ask Cinder-fucking-ella.

*(Nods towards TARA. She attempts
an English accent.)*

Princess Tara, may Sir Jamie use the lavatory?

TARA

(To JUNE.)
Does he have to pee?

(JAMIE looks at JUNE and nods.)

JUNE

Yes, your highness.

TARA

(Still to JUNE.)
Does he have a penis?

JUNE

Sir Jamie, dost thou have a penis?

GWEN

(Mumbling to herself.)
No one in this house has any tact.

JAMIE

*(Plays along and speaks with a cockney
accent.)*
Yes, your highness.

TARA

*(Finally addressing JAMIE directly, amused by
his accent.)*
Could you please pee outside?