

◆Crystal Clear◆

by:

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ACT ONE

Scene One

“Shock”

Lights fade up dimly. Boxes are scattered around the stage. ERICA is placing home decor in boxes and walking busily around her living room. A knock is heard offstage before the door swings open. ERICA flinches with an object in her hand. TANYA enters and takes notice of all of the boxes.

ERICA

Geez, Tanya! You scared me.

TANYA

You left the door open!

ERICA

Oh, I keep doing that.

TANYA closes the door behind her and she continues looking around the room. ERICA walks up to her and gives her a kiss on the cheek.

Missed you.

TANYA

I missed you too...

She trails off the conversation, distracted by all of the covered furniture and boxes.

(gesturing around) Are you going somewhere?

ERICA

(smiling)

Something like that.

ERICA sheepishly walks over to the coffee table. She grabs a box and holds it behind her back.

I wasn't expecting you until later on tonight...

She guides TANYA downstage and flickers a light switch. A SPOTLIGHT settles down on both of them.

But I don't think I can wait any longer.

TANYA

What are you...

ERICA

... Tanya Ray Holland, I love you with everything I have and I never want to be apart from you. Will you marry me?

TANYA kneels down to ERICA's level, shaking with excitement. She takes her hands in her own and slides the ring on her finger.

TANYA

Yes!!!

They hug and kiss excitedly.

TANYA

(emotional)

I love you so so much. *(eventually)* But I still can't help but wonder why your apartment is packed up right now?

ERICA

That was my second surprise.

She holds TANYA's hands.

I want us to move in together.

TANYA

What? Did you find a place already? (*chuckling*) Are you gonna kidnap me from my apartment?

They let go and TANYA sits down at the half-wrapped coffee table.

ERICA

No, not yet at least. But I've been looking at a few places for us, and Tanya, there's so much of the world we have yet to explore. We could shop and eat croissants in France, or we could sunbathe and explore the Amazon jungle in Brazil. But, I did have my eye on one particular place.

She takes TANYA's hand and guides her over to the table where a pamphlet rests. TANYA reads it over carefully.

TANYA

Houston...?

ERICA

Texas! I've even looked at some career opportunities for you there. And trust me, there is way-y more there than little old Pennsylvania. (*sensing TANYA'S hesitation*) Listen, we're gonna figure it all out. I'm just *really* excited, and well, I figured we'd get a headstart on things. We're not running away tomorrow, and maybe not even next week, but I was thinking in a month.

TANYA

A month?

ERICA

Yes, Sunshine! We've wanted to be together, and I mean together-together for so long now and life's too short. So, I got a ring for you and started packing. And we're both pretty financially stable...

TANYA

(looking at the dozens of boxes)... You more than me...

ERICA

Which is why I'm saying, why not start fresh? You and I have outgrown this place and I really think opportunities are calling us across the country.

TANYA

Erica, as great as the idea sounds, I just don't know.

ERICA

(confused)

Do you not want to move in together?

TANYA

Well, of course I do.

ERICA

Then why wait?

TANYA

I mean, there's things in my life that I'm in the middle of, like my job? And my family?

ERICA

By family, you just mean your parents.

*TANYA takes off her jacket and
tosses it onto a nearby chair.*

TANYA

Well, maybe not.

Pause.

ERICA

I'm confused, I thought you wanted nothing to do with her anymore?

TANYA

(turning back to ERICA) Maybe I've had a change of heart, or something... I don't know. And like you said, it's not like we're leaving tomorrow. There's still some time to make changes in our lives.

ERICA

Yeah, but not enough to rewind the clock. What she said can't just be taken back.

TANYA

(warningly)

Erica—

*ERICA walks back over to
TANYA, pulling her close.*

ERICA

Tanya, all I know is that I love you, and I cannot wait to marry you when we're settled in together. You're nervous about all of this, and I completely understand. But trust me when I say that there will be so much to look forward to in the long run.

(“A NEW START”)

ERICA

DON'T YOU WANT A NEW START?
TILL DEATH DO US PART?
NO MORE WALLS, NO MORE FIGHTING AGAINST THE ODDS
CAUSE WITHOUT YOU
I WOULD BE LOST WITHOUT A CAUSE

THINK OF ALL THAT COULD BE
IF YOU JUST LEFT ALONG WITH ME
NO MORE SLEEPLESS NIGHTS
WHEN YOU'RE IN MY ARMS
AND I'M HOLDING YOU TIGHT

CAUSE I NEVER WANT TO LET YOU GO
YOUR LOVE'S THE ONE THING THAT FEELS LIKE HOME
YOU'RE ALL THAT I'VE DREAMED OF
HAVEN'T YOU KNOWN?
YOUR HEART IS WITH MINE
ONE THING'S FOR SURE

TANYA

IT'S A PLACE WE'D CALL OUR OWN

WHERE YOU'D NEVER FEEL ALONE
CAN YOU SEE IT NOW?
PICTURE FRAMES HUNG AROUND OUR LITTLE HOUSE
NO ONE AROUND TO OBJECT OR BRING US DOWN

THINK OF WHAT THIS COULD MEAN
IF WE STARTED NEW LIVES, YOU'LL SEE!
TAKING HIGH TO NEW HEIGHTS
THERE WILL NEVER BE DARK
WHEN YOU ARE MY LIGHT

CAUSE I NEVER WANT TO LET YOU GO
YOUR LOVE'S THE ONE THING THAT FEELS LIKE HOME
YOU'RE ALL THAT I'VE DREAMED OF
HAVEN'T YOU KNOWN?

YOUR HEART IS WITH MINE
ONE THING'S FOR SURE

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

ERICA

I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU SENSELESS
WHEN YOU WALK THROUGH THAT DOOR
BE WITH ME ALWAYS
THAT'S ALL THAT I ASK

MOVE ON TO A NEW LIFE
NO HOLDING BACK

ERICA & ENSEMBLE

I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU SENSELESS
WHEN YOU WALK THROUGH THAT DOOR
BE WITH ME ALWAYS
THAT'S ALL THAT I ASK

ENSEMBLE

FOR

ERICA

ALL I NEED IS YOUR ANSWER
ONE REQUEST THAT I ASK

WILL YOU BE WITH ME ALWAYS?
OR AM I TOO OFF TRACK?

TANYA

I'LL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS
THAT ONE THINGS FOR SURE
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU SENSELESS
MY HEART IS ONLY YOURS

*TANYA and ERICA hug excitedly
and share a kiss.*

TANYA

Let me grab some more boxes. I'll be right back.

*She walks away, her hands
lingering in ERICA's before she
exits. The stage darkens and the
first curtain closes on ERICA and
the furniture. The second curtain
remains open on the empty boxes
downstage.*

*TANYA enters and begins picking
up the empty boxes and stacking
them into each other.*

*Enter AUSTIN holding a recycling
bag. He dispenses it into a
recycling bin. AUSTIN and
TANYA acknowledge each other
and he seems to recognize her.*

AUSTIN

Tanya?

TANYA
(awkward)

Austin? Hey! Wow... it's been forever since I've seen you.

AUSTIN
(chuckling)

You look good.

TANYA

You look well, yourself!

They stand there awkwardly for a few moments before mutually deciding to hug. They part briefly.

TANYA

So uh... how've you been? How's Taylor?

AUSTIN

Still living in my basement. He thinks his garage band is days away from reaching their debut.

TANYA

His garage band? I didn't know people still did that.

AUSTIN

You'd be surprised. Retro has made its way back in style. Anyway, um, how have you been?
(uneasy) How is everything with you? I didn't know you lived here.

TANYA

Everything has been great! And actually, I don't live here. Ironically, you'll be the first to know, but...

*She reveals the ring to AUSTIN.
He examines it in awe.*

AUSTIN

Wow, wow, congratulations! Who's the lucky person?

TANYA

Well, you definitely called it about two or three years ago, but... it's Erica.

His expression falls. His eyes linger on the ring.

A BEAT.

AUSTIN

Erica?

TANYA

Yes! Oh, geez, I hope this isn't awkward or anything...

AUSTIN

No... uh, no definitely not, um, when did this happen?

TANYA

Today! And we're also trying to find a place to move in together, but we're figuring it out day by day.

AUSTIN

That's all really great! I'm so happy for the two of you...

TANYA

(giddy)

Thanks! Well, I gotta get going, the future Mrs. is waiting. God that is *so* weird to say! *(picking up the stack of boxes)* It was really nice seeing you, Austin.

TANYA exits. AUSTIN stares over to where she leaves and appears confused. He takes out his cellphone and places a call.

AUSTIN

(on the phone)

Hi, uh, this is Austin, and hopefully I've got the right number and I'm speaking to Kiara. You probably don't remember me, but I was your sister's old... friend from college. Dated her briefly but that doesn't really matter. Anyway, I just ran into Tanya and... she's engaged! So uh, to make a long message short, give me a call back when you can. Thanks... Bye.