EMBER

She’s not coming.

EVE

The traffic was bad for me so maybe--

EMBER

It’s been forty-five minutes and she hasn’t even called you. She doesn’t want to be here with you.

A SERVER approaches EVE.

SERVER

Would you like to get an appetizer while you wait or anything? Another drink?

EVE finishes her drink then looks at her phone.

EVE

No, I’m ready for the check. Thank you.

The SERVER exits. EMBER puts a hand on EVE’s back. She winches, it burns.

EVE

Ow! This was stupid.

EMBER

I tried to tell you but you were just so committed you didn’t listen to me.

EVE

That’s because you--

EMBER

EVE’s phone dings. She quickly flips over her phone again and reads the text.

EVE

“Hey! I would love to,” smiley face “here’s my number. Know of any good places by you?”

EMBER

Oh god, who’s that from?

EVE

That girl, Shay.
EMBER
Just ignore it, what are you doing?

EVE is already typing a response.

EVE
Might as well go to this one; it balances out the lack of a date tonight.

EMBER
That’s just a waste of money and you know it.

EVE
Martin said quantity’s the way to go so--

EMBER
EVE sends her response. The SERVER returns with the check. EVE gets her card out and her phone dings again.

EVE
“I’ve never been there. I look forward to it. See you then!”

One last flurry of activity while the bar is set up into a restaurant. EVE is once again in new first date attire. She just sips on water. EMBER paces around her. The chain sounding uncomfortably.

EMBER

EVE
Maybe it’s not.

EMBER
But it probably is! Yes, she confirmed that you were still on for tonight but that just means she was probably scheduling other plans at this time. She probably doesn’t even want to show up.

EVE
And maybe--

EMBER

At that moment. A women enters in date attire. She puts her phone away and looks around. EVE checks her phone.
“I’m here”. Where--

EVE

EVE and EMBER spot SHAY. The world shifts with the music. SHAY slowly approaches the table, ethereally even, the lights reflect this. EVE stands slowly, EMBER stares, then, SHAY is at the table by the final note of the song. There is a moment.

SHAY

Eve?

EVE

(almost falling out of her mouth)

Hi.

SHAY

It’s nice to meet you.

EVE

It’s nice to meet you too.

They both sit down.

SHAY

It’s sort of a dreary day isn’t it?

EVE

It’s kind of nice.

SHAY

Oh I think it’s lovely, just dreary. I kind of like that gray overcast sweater weather thus:

She gestures to her outfit.

EVE

I think that was a very good choice of top.

EMBER

For more than just that reason.

SHAY

Have you ever eaten here before?
EVE
I actually haven’t; I’ve had drinks here before. They’ve got three dollar sangria on Wednesday’s which is just // something--

SHAY
Something no one should pass up.

EVE
Exactly.

EMBER
Oh my god she’s wonderful.

SHAY
But you’ve never eaten here?

EVE
No I haven’t, I’ve heard and seen great things about this place though.

SHAY
Wonderful, taking a girl out to a place neither of us has been hoping we don’t get food poisoning.

EVE
Actually I was banking on it. I find bonding over stomach issues is the fastest way to to grow a relationship.

EMBER
Oh my GOD! Did you just mention a relationship? Why would you--

SHAY
Our relationship? Awfully presumptuous aren’t we?

EVE
I majored in presumption at college, obviously.

SHAY
Where did you go to school?

EVE
Ohio State. What about yourself?

SHAY
Ooo, this is treacherous territory then.
EVE
Don’t say it.

SHAY
U of M. Go Blue.

EVE
You’re a monster. A filthy monster.

SHAY
I’m basically a pile of garbage. But at least I’m not an insane Buckeye.

EVE
Hey hey now, I’m only partially insane. I’m not the one who tears down the cities when we win or lose. I liked my campus.

They share a laugh. EMBER looks on nervous, focused on SHAY. A SERVER approaches.

SERVER
Hey, how’re we doing tonight folks?

EVE
Doing // well.

SHAY
Excellent.

SERVER
Excellent. Can I offer you all anything to drink? Any appetizers to start this evening?

SHAY
I’ll go with that house special mojito.

EVE
And I’ll have that pomegranate martini.

SHAY
And you know what? Can we also start with that Persian Flat Bread?

EVE
And the Tomato Lentil Soup.
SHAY
For myself as well.

SERVER
Very good.

The SERVER exits.

EVE
What did you study in school?

SHAY
International business--

EVE
So you’re--

SHAY
With a minor in Women’s Studies--

EVE
So you’re--

SHAY
And French.

Beat. EMBER’s jaw drops.

EVE
So what you’re saying is you’re better than me // I get it.

Obviously.

EVE
I get it, I get it.

SHAY
What about you? What was your area of expertise? Did you actually major in music?

EVE
I did, I majored in music composition and minored in theatrical studies. Figured if music didn’t work out my back up career would be lucrative.

SHAY
So when can I expect to see your work on Broadway?
EMBER

Probably not for eighty years.

EVE

Probably not for eighty years.

EVE whips around and angrily stares at EMBER who stares back in a state of confusion. SHAY laughs, which draws both of their attentions back, EMBER smiles, EVE stifles a smile, then lets one through. The SERVER returns with the drinks followed by someone carrying the appetizers. Their table is set up with all of the food and drinks and the servers depart. EVE raises her glass, prompting SHAY to do the same.

SHAY

Here’s to that Tony in eighty years.

EVE

Cheers.

They toast and take sips of their respective drinks.

EVE

Oh my god this is amazing.

SHAY

Do you want to try mine?

EVE

I do, only if you try mine though. And be warned, I carry several diseases only transferrable through alcoholic beverages.

SHAY

Oh good, I do too, no worries.

They swap drinks, sip each other’s, revel and trade back.

SHAY

Now what have we got going on here?
I believe they call it food.

Fascinating. Do tell Professor.

Sharp.

Sorry, I’ve been told I have a very dry and sarcastic tone which gets me into trouble.

Did I say anything against it?

I could feel it happening.

EVE picks up a radish and plays with it in her hand.

Please, the amount of times I’ve gotten in trouble for something I’ve said is actually ridiculous.

Having fun with that radish?

Is that what this is? I’ve never had one.

Try it. They’re good.

EVE immediately puts the radish in her mouth, chews for a moment, then spits it into her napkin.

Shay laughs.

That’s dirt. That’s just straight up dirt.

They share a laugh. Blackout. The lights come up. There are two empty glasses on the table and the entrees have already be started on.
EVE
I’m convinced you work for the CIA.

SHAY
I do not!

EVE
That’s what you’re trained to say. It’s obvious.

SHAY
You’re right, this is all a mission to get food and make you write me a song so I can take it to my handlers and spy on you for some classified reason.

EVE
You know--

EMBER
Don’t say it. Don’t you fuckin’ say it.

EVE
I would probably write a song for you if you asked. Though I have to warn you, the last person I wrote a song for ended up becoming my ex.

EMBER
WHY WOULD YOU BRING UP AN EX ON THE FIRST DATE??

EVE
I’m sorry, I probably shouldn’t bring her up. Especially on a date, I just feel // so comfortable--

SHAY
Why? That’s not the present. We’re here now so it’s fine.

Beat.

EVE
You’re right. Yeah. Yeah! Fuck that, it’s the past.

SHAY
Fuck that past.

EVE
Exactly.
They smile. Blackout. The lights come up. There are two to-go boxes and two more empty drinks. SHAY’s phone dings.

SHAY

I’m so sorry. This is so rude.

EVE

No, it’s totally fine.

SHAY looks at her phone. The SERVER returns with the check. EVE very quickly pulls out her wallet and lays down her card. SHAY attempts to do the same.

EVE

It’s fine. I’ve got it.

SHAY

No, let me split it, please, it’s a lot.

EVE

Listen, I haven’t really had...done...this...in a while so it’s my treat.

The SERVER walks away with the check. SHAY’s phone dings.

SHAY

Two things, one: did you know we’ve been here for four hours.

EMBER

Oh my god.

EVE

Oh my god. Has it really?

SHAY

Sick of me?

EVE

I was going to say the same.

SHAY smiles.
SHAY
And the second thing is unfortunately I have to go to a friend’s party and I need to hop on a bus now if I have any chance of getting there fashionably late.

EVE
I understand.

SHAY
But I had a really great time.

EVE
Me too. I would love to do this again.

SHAY
This exact scenario?

EVE
Or something like it.

SHAY smiles. They embrace. It lingers for a moment. Then:

SHAY
Good night.

SHAY exits. The SERVER re-enters and gives EVE the check. She signs, the SERVER departs and the restaurant falls away. EVE smiles, then stifles the smile, beginning to walk home, EMBER in tow.

SONG #8: AGAIN
EMBER
LIKE A MATCH BEING STRUCK
I FLICKER TO LIFE
THE CHEMISTRY CHANGES IN THE AIR.
WITH A DELICATE SWIPE
SHE HAS IGNITED ME
FROM A MATCHBOX
FROM A DUSTY DRESSER UPSTAIRS
HOW CAN A FLAME BE EMBODIED IN NAME?
SHAY,
SHAY,
SHAY!
DO YOU FEEL THAT--

EVE

STOP.

EMBER
EVE I KNOW YOU FEEL IT A--

EMBER
EVE I DON’T. IT WAS A DATE AND NOTHING MORE.

EMBER
YOU DON’T BELIEVE THAT.

EMBER
I DO.

EMBER
YOU CAN’T BELIEVE THAT.

EMBER
EVE IT WAS A NICE DATE. AND SHE WAS LOVELY BUT MY HEART’S INDIFFERENT.

EMBER
EVE IT’S NOT. THAT SONG “INDIFFERENCE” WAS BULLSHIT.

EMBER
EVE EXCUSE ME?

EMBER
YES BULLSHIT.
EMBER
YOU TOLD A PITY PARTY STORY.
EMBER
EVEN MARTIN CALLED YOU OUT.
EMBER
I CAN FEEL IT LIKE A DRUM
EMBER
MARCHING ON TO VICTORY
EMBER
IT BEATS AND SHOUTS “IT’S COME” AGAIN.

EVE evades as best as she can. EMBER stops her.
EMBER

NOW LISTEN TO THAT, THOSE MAJESTIC GRANDIOSE CHORDS.
IF YOUR HEART FEELS NOT FOR NAUGHT I ASK YOU
WHAT AM I SINGING FOR?
I CAN FEEL IT AGAIN
THAT HOLLOW EMPTY CHEST
DON’T DENY YOU FEEL HER EV’RYTHING FILLING UP YOUR VACANT CHEST.

EVE

I’M IN LOVE AGAIN.

EMBER

YOU FEEL AGAIN.

EVE

I CAN LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND.

EVE

I HEAR THE COSMIC FORCES
WHISPER OUR SOULS ARE
INTERTWINED

EMBER

I FEEL A COSMIC BREATH
WHISPER I WON’T BE SO
CONFINED.

EVE

OH, SHAY!

A PASSERBY walks past EVE and stares. EVE adjusts.

EVE

SHAY...
SHAY!

The final chord plays. EVE checks her phone.

EVE

“Hey, I had a really fun time tonight, thanks for dinner” Smiley face.

EMBER

Hey, that’s a pretty good sign I’d say and--

EVE

“When you get a chance send us the music you have, we want to take a listen!”
EMBER

Shit.

EVE

I haven’t had time I need to--

EMBER

Come on. We have shit to write.

They exit.
Blackout
End of Scene.