

Change of Plans

A Ten-Minute Play

## CHARACTERS

LEX, F, mid to late 20's. Romantic, spontaneous, and relaxed. Wears comfortable clothes/loungewear.

MADDIE, F, mid to late 20's. Shorter, nervous, planner, and excitable. Wears some type of baggy shirt and pajama pants, maybe some fuzzy slippers.

## TIME

Present day

## SETTING

Modest apartment represented by some representation of a couch, a coffee table, two uninteresting books, and a wireless video game controller.

LIGHTS UP on MADDIE on couch playing video game

LEX

(Offstage) Thank you so much!

LEX walks in from another room, hangs up phone, and crosses to MADDIE

Pause it!

MADDIE

Whhhhhhy?

LEX

It's worth it. I swear.

MADDIE

Fine.

She pauses the game

Okay. What?

LEX

Hm. I don't know if I want to tell you anymore. You aren't excited enough!

MADDIE

How am I supposed to be excited if I don't know what it is!

LEX

Well what if I give you a hint?

MADDIE

You know I hate these games.

LEX

You'll like the reward this time.

MADDIE looks at LEX suggestively

Okay not THAT kind of reward... probably.

I know, I know! Okay what's the hint?

MADDIE

It's something you brought up last week.

LEX

That could be anything!

MADDIE

Are you hungry?

LEX

WAit? Was that another hint or..?

MADDIE

This was supposed to be fun, why do you sound so worried?

LEX

Well you did make me stop playing [insert appropriate game name for the controller].  
AND I was just starting to relax.

MADDIE

You're such a buzzkill Mads. Come on, guess.

LEX

I did say I wanted to go to that new place downtown...

MADDIE

Ding ding ding! We have a winner! Come on!

LEX grabs MADDIE's hands and pulls her  
up off the couch, both are now standing

MADDIE

Today?

LEX

Of course today! What's wrong with that?

MADDIE

It really isn't anything big I just... I was gonna play [name of previously chosen game]  
then I thought you would join me and watch while I play and then we could heat up that  
frozen pizza and have a little wine and watch Netflix or something.

LEX

...Maddie you were just talking about how you wanted to try Le Prima.

MADDIE

Yeah..

LEX

AND you were upset that we don't really go on dates anymore.

MADDIE

I guess.

LEX

Hun, come on. What's really going on here?

MADDIE

Nothing!

LEX

Clearly you aren't telling me something.

MADDIE

I didn't plan on going out anywhere... I really just want to stay in.

LEX

Well now the plan changed, let's go have some fun tonight. We'll do something good and exciting.

MADDIE

How about another day? I like the plan I already made. Doesn't it sound like a good time?

LEX

Yes of course it would be a "good time" but we do that stuff like everyday.

MADDIE

Oh so now you don't like hanging out with me everyday?

LEX

Maddie. Seriously? You know that is not what I said or what I meant. You are TRYING to make this into a fight.

MADDIE

No I'm not! You should have talked to me first. Before you decided it without me.

LEX

What's wrong with surprising you with a nice dinner?

MADDIE

Nothing is wrong with it but you know I don't like surprises

LEX

You liked it when I brought you home a new pack of pens! How is this any different?

MADDIE

Well.. it is different.

They stare at each other for a beat

I didn't have to rearrange my whole life to make room for those new pens

LEX

And this makes you rearrange your whole life? Really? Please, I'm just trying to do something nice for you. And you're being so difficult.

MADDIE

And I appreciate the thought! I really do. Let's just go another day.

LEX

We don't have anything else we have to do tonight! Let's go now! Besides, I already made the reservations over the phone.

MADDIE

You can cancel them!

LEX

If you give me one VALID reason why I should cancel them then I will.

Beat

LEX pulls MADDIE in close for a calming hug. LEX speaks softly.

Come on, let's go get ready.

MADDIE pulls back from the hug

MADDIE

Wait, is it super fancy?

LEX

It is pretty nice.. They have a whole dress code.

MADDIE

Now I have to figure out what to wear!

LEX

That's why we are getting ready now, the reservation isn't until 8:30. We have plenty of time.

MADDIE

That's only 3 hours!

LEX

That is PLENTY of time Mads.

MADDIE

Yeah but what if it isn't. What if I try on all my nicer dresses and I don't like any of them. What if I only like a shorter one? I still have to shave my legs! And what if I can't get my makeup right OR I get it perfect but then I start to freak out again about time so I get flustered and teary and my mascara is BAM all over my face. What about that, Lex? Did you ever think about that?

LEX

..I mean.. No?

MADDIE

Exactly! You never think about that kind of stuff.

LEX

You're always there to worry about it for me weirdo.

MADDIE

I'm trying to be realistic! And so right now it is less than 3 hours! Minus picking out the dress minus the shaving minus the makeup mishaps! We have to leave by 8 to get there before 8:30! And what if there is traffic! You know how downtown gets! So now we decide we have to leave by 7:40. That gives us so little time!

LEX

You are so cute and ridiculous but why are you getting so worked up about this?

MADDIE

This is just how my brain works! You know that!

LEX

Well if time is that short then you might as well start getting ready

MADDIE

No no! You don't get out of this that easily! Just admit it.. you don't like me the way I am! You want me to change!

LEX

Maddie. Listen to yourself. You know I love you.

MADDIE is now clearly grasping at straws to stop them from going out

MADDIE

Well.. maybe now i'm not so sure..

LEX

Seriously? You're gonna pull that now? We are going to go there today! It was hard to get that reservation.

LEX looks at MADDIE to see if that argument is working before continuing

I called the lady last week when you first mentioned it but she said that they were already booked for a full MONTH. The restaurant only just called back saying they can do it today because someone else cancelled!

MADDIE

Just drop it! I'm not leaving.

LEX

Mads-

MADDIE

I just.. I told you the plans I had for today. I was really looking forward to a normal comfy calming day. So why are you ruining everything?

LEX is taken aback as the last line comes off a bit harsh

I mean.. Please just stay home with me tonight. Please.

LEX approaches, thinking she understands



LEX

Hard day?

MADDIE

Not exactly.. Leave me alone for a sec. Lemme think.

LEX

If you aren't feeling good that's all you have to say. It's okay. I won't be mad if we can't go.

MADDIE

I'm fine, just shush.

LEX is visibly confused, she waits

Okay. I'm sorry. I KNOW that you love me and I was just trying to start a dumb fight.

MADDIE takes a deep breath in

LEX

..So can we go?

MADDIE

I wasn't done yet!

LEX

Okay! Okay! Go on.

MADDIE

I love you. So much... So now that we both know that we love each other.. Let me just get this straight.. Uh, hmmm, okay.. Please just wait until the end and listen.

MADDIE sits on couch, motions LEX over

I love spending time with you, I love going out, I love staying in, I love all of it. (beat) I have spent the last 5 years marveling at how great you are for me and how accommodating you are EVEN when I am very clearly being annoying. You always make me the priority and and and sometimes I can see that that hurts you.. I shouldn't have to lean on you everyday just to get through it all. You have your own problems at work and with your family but you ALWAYS put me first. I don't think that is healthy.. So I've been thinking and I think it is time for something new..

LEX

Wait what?

MADDIE

I asked you to let me talk, please.

LEX

Mads.. you're scaring me.

MADDIE

Just let me say what I need to say. It'll all make sense in a second.

LEX shuts up, still worried

Where was I? See this is why you shouldn't have interrupted.

She can't remember

Fine, whatever. Basically, I don't want to go out to Le Prima. Because.. I saw the ring.

LEX

You saw it?

MADDIE

Yeah.. and I just.. I don't think that it would be right to-

LEX

-you don't like it? You don't want to marry me!? You just said how much you love me and this is what you're trying to tell me now?

MADDIE starts to laugh softly, gets comfy on the couch and relaxes some, amused

What! I let you talk. Now I get to talk. Why are you being so rude to me today? You started a fight because you didn't want me to propose? What the fuck Maddie?

MADDIE

Calm down, please. Of course I want to marry you!

MADDIE leans forward, grabs one of the books off the table and flips to a page in it

I just.. I thought that because you were the one who always did the nice things for me that maybe this was my chance to surprise you. This-

MADDIE takes the ring out from the book and holds it up for LEX to see

-is the something new that I decided would be good for both of us. I should get to treat you for once as a signifier that.. that from now on.. We can work harder to be a team rather than me just using you as more of a therapist than a partner.

LEX is speechless but in a much better mood now

So, Lex, what do you say?

LEX, recovering finally

LEX

You got me an engagement ring too?

MADDIE

That is NOT what you were supposed to say!

LEX

I know! This is just a lot to take in. I was ready to ask you but now I'm just confused.

MADDIE

I was looking for places to hide the ring I got you and of course I went for the Christmas stash first..

LEX

Aggh! I knew I should have just kept it on me

MADDIE

Can I continue now?

LEX

Okay! Ask me again. I'm ready now.

MADDIE and LEX stare at each other lovingly and smiling

MADDIE

Lex-

LEX

-Maddie

MADDIE

Who is being the ridiculous one now!?

LEX

Sorry! Sorry, I'm still adjusting. I'm fine. Go ahead.

MADDIE

Lex-

MADDIE looks at LEX to see if she is going to interrupt again

-Will you-

LEX

Okay but shouldn't you be on one knee?

MADDIE

Whose proposal is this???

LEX

I mean.. Ours?

MADDIE

Fine. I'll do it right.

MADDIE pulls LEX off the couch so that LEX is standing, MADDIE gets down on one knee

Lex, I have loved you from the moment I met you and from now on I promise to be just as understanding of your wants and needs as you are of mine. Will you marry me?

LEX

YES! Of course, yes!

LEX leans down to MADDIE and kisses her

LIGHTS DOWN