

BAREBOARDS 2019

WHEN WE WERE YOUNG

Written by Melissa Myles

Evelyn - Older Married to Nolan for 60 years.

EVELYN I was a hostess for a sophisticated gentleman's lounge when we met. He was assistant manager of a nearby company. Youngest manager ever and on his way up the corporate ladder. It was 1963... The Royal Family has just arrived in Australia and he started coming to the club a few times a week. One night, he asked me out for a drink. We talked until closing time, and then he drove me home. At my door, he leaned down and ever so tenderly brushed my lips with his. That was all it took.

NOLAN. I fell in love with her as soon as I saw her. In the Pullman Lounge. I'd never been there before and I went to try and escape the crowds hoping to catch a glimpse of the Queen. I couldn't forget her and kept going back night after night. It took me about a month to ask her out, and I was shocked when she said yes. I still can not figure out what she saw in me. She was so beautiful. To me, it was like Beauty and the Beast.

EVELYN Some dates bring red roses, candy, even jewelry. Instead, Nolan brought food. Frozen dinners, to be precise. He said, "I looked in your fridge; it was pretty empty." How could I not fall in love?

The dance begins. A Tango. A dance of love and romance.

EVELYN We were married in spring and our daughter Rhianna followed soon after. Nolan always compares our love to Beauty and the Beast. I thought it was because he thought I was beautiful but I was beginning to think that he knew how beastly he could be. How quickly he could tear me apart...

The Tango gets more sinister in nature.

EVELYN The drinking started first then the womanising.

After a while another woman joins in the dance. Her name is Lilly-Anne Freeman. The three characters dance for a while before Evelyn gets pushed away in favour of Lilly-Anne.

She was tall, good-looking, striking with a long slicked back ponytail. She was sophisticated, smart, a real modern 60's girl. Everything I was not.

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That was the moment i knew we were broken. I was sad for our marriage but I didn't want to be divorced so i knew i would stay. My mother stayed for the sake of her children as did her mother before her. That's just the choice one makes, I guess. insecurity and loneliness are the worst of emotions, sometimes a broken marriage seems better.

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Evelyn - Younger Late 20's/30's housewife. Loves her husband but is constantly disappointed by his double standards.

NOLAN Okay, it happened. But it is over now.

EVELYN Are we not enough? Am I not enough for you, anymore?

NOLAN I've never done anything like this before.

EVELYN So why? Why now.

NOLAN It felt good to know that I'm still attractive, at least to someone.

EVELYN What about me? What about "til death do us part".

NOLAN What about the "love, honour and obey"?

EVELYN glares at him,

EVELYN I suppose you are going to tell me that you love her?

NOLAN No...It was a huge mistake. I don't want to lose you or Rhianne. I don't want to lose my family. I love you.

EVELYN You should have thought about that before you...That woman.

NOLAN Her name is Lilly-Anne... She works with me at the office. It was late and we were drunk.

EVELYN Well that's a surprise.

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Clearly it isn't

NOLAN It didn't stop with a kiss. I thought that it would and it didn't.

EVELYN It's not so much that you cheated, it's that you lied. Lied about where you have been and who you were with. So does this Lilly-Anne...

NOLAN Don't blame her. This isn't her fault.

EVELYN I think i have every right to question the morality of a person who decides to embark on an affair with somebody else's husband.

He didn't even bother to apologise for what he had done. Maybe he isn't sorry. All justification and no emotion. Maybe it wasn't as much of a mistake as he wants me to believe.

The dance continues with a focus on Lilly-Anne and Nolan. Evelyn dances alone.

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Lilly-Anne Freeman - Nolan's mistress Dances and Sings. Non-speaking.

The whole play is a dance. A Tango. They switch and change partners throughout. The dance should be emphasised. Some moments of dialogue are a part of the dance.

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Nolan Late 20's/30's. Loves his wife but gets bored. Gambles and cheats.

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Stephen Crawford Rhianne's teacher and Evelyn's revenge.

Time: 60s. Playground noises. Children playing. Students giggling. A disheveled, disheartened Evelyn walks hand in hand with her daughter Rhianne.

Evelyn says goodbye and Rhianne runs off to join her friends and Rhianne's teacher attempts to engage Evelyn in conversation. Rhianne is written so that she can be mimed. If it is decided that an actor will be used, dialogue can be improvised.

STEPHEN Hello, Mrs. Cohen...

Evelyn begins to walk away. He has to chase her.

STEPHEN Mrs Cohen... I'm Stephen... Crawford. I'm Rhianne's teacher.

EVELYN Yes.. Of course... It's nice to see you again.

STEPHEN I wanted to have a quick word with you about Rhianne.

Evelyn looks for an escape but cannot find one. She cares about her daughter but is still fragile and getting her head around her husband's infidelity

STEPHEN Mrs. Cohen, Rhianne is a good student. She's attentive in class, a hard worker, and hands in her homework on time... Usually.

Evelyn looks at him confused.

STEPHEN Lately, however, she hasn't been so well behaved. She often has disagreements with other students and loses her temper... Mrs. Cohen, Academics are important, but learning to work cooperatively with other students...

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EVELYN I'll have a talk with her.

Evelyn tries to get away and Stephen touches her elbow. She shrinks back.

STEPHEN Is everything alright at home?

Evelyn is too emotional to answer him. It is clear to Stephen that nothing is right at home. He reaches for her arm

STEPHEN Are you okay? Mrs Cohen?

There is a moment before Evelyn rushes away.

EVELYN Mr Crawford. My home life is most certainly none of your business.