

Control (Excerpt)

June 14th, 2014

ROCKY: A teenage girl

RAINE : A teenage girl

ASHLEY : A girl in her twenties

BEN: An old man

[The stage is comprised of elements and pieces, which each belong to a different location. The set pieces should not be dividing the stage or stopping the actors from using the full space, but rather create a core for the location which they represent, from which the action can spawn from. Lights should not go down between scenes. Instead, the actor who is lingering into the next scene can stay in the moment, before being broken out of it by the arrival or by the voice of another character.]

Scene 1

[From outside the door we hear voices and laughter. ROCKY and RAINE enter.]

RAINE: Oh look at that!

ROCKY: Hey!
It works this time!

RAINE: *[Exiting into the other room]* My handy craft is flawless my friend

ROCKY: Oh really?
What was it
A WR5?

RAINE: *[Off]* It's a Y1

ROCKY: A Y1?

[After a moment]

RAINE: *[Entering with a bottle of vodka]* Yes

ROCKY: You didn't happen to find anything to mix that with?

RAINE: Well
No
I did not want to check

ROCKY: Okay
Well

RAINE: BECAUSE
Wait
BECAUSE
One would remember how much juice they had
But they aren't going to remember how much vodka they had

I mean

By the time they put away the bottle
You see

ROCKY: You trying to get me drunk?

RAINE: No!
I'm trying to get *us* drunk!
So raise your glass
And I know that you don't have a glass
But you can raise it
To
Hang on

[Pops outside and reads a piece of mail]

Mr. Tony Findley

ROCKY: Ahh delicious

RAINE: You can do it for real now

[Passes her the bottle]

ROCKY: Not so delicious

RAINE: You jealous I got his phone number?

ROCKY: What do you mean am I jealous?

RAINE: That I got it and you didn't have the guts?

ROCKY: No
I'm very impressed with you

RAINE: Thank you m'lady
Anything cool around?

ROCKY: What?
His stuff?
Yeah there's cool stuff

RAINE: Woah!
This is dope!

ROCKY: You can't take it

RAINE: Why?

ROCKY: Those are the rules

RAINE: Well when it's your key it's your rules
And it's my key
So stinkers lady
It's mine

ROCKY: Oh
You're a key cutter and you're a big shot

RAINE: Take a swig

ROCKY: I'm going to get some pop or something

RAINE: Fuck off
Take your swig

ROCKY: No!
I don't want my fucking swig

RAINE: You mad cause I took this fucking
Thing?

ROCKY: Yes
I am
Raine
Because that's stupid
And that's how we'll get caught
And I don't want to do this with you if you're going to be a bitch about it

RAINE: Okay
Okay
I'm sorry
We'll make new rules
Okay?

Okay?
Man?
Rocky?
Man?

We'll compromise

ROCKY: What new rules?

RAINE: It's like the vodka
We won't take anything that they'll miss
Or remember
Okay?

Okay?

ROCKY: Give me my fucking swig

RAINE: We'll take something that's meaningful to the night
And the person
Without it being something they'll miss

I'll take this pencil
Okay?
And we'll both chew a mark on it
Okay?

ROCKY: Okay
I like that

RAINE: Good

Scene 2

ASHLEY: So yeah, the blade's attached to the one end and the
This thing
Here
This just
Like
Piece of metal
Is on the other side
Yeah?

ROCKY: Yeah
Cool

ASHLEY: So the piece of metal feels the grooves and the blade cuts the blank key
So that
Ideally
The blank key fits in the lock

Anyway
We'll come back to that
The main thing to get is the key blank

Alright?

ROCKY: Alright

ASHLEY: Cool

So

The main three types of house keys are WR5's

KW1's

And

Uh

These

SC1's

Look at the ridges

You see the difference?

ROCKY: Yeah

What are the names again?

ASHLEY: Uh

KW

Actually

You know what?

Fuck it

Don't worry about that right now

It's easy

I know it's overwhelming

But like

I've only been working here for like two months

So it doesn't really matter you know?

Scene 3

RAINE: How did you know she was on vacation?

ROCKY: She told me

RAINE: What?

ROCKY: She was a really bitchy customer

And she insisted that she needed them for a certain date

Cause she was going on vacation

RAINE: So you broke into her house?

Do you always break into houses of difficult customers?

ROCKY: No
Alright
Here's what happened
I was working with this really dumb chick who sucks at cutting keys

RAINE: How long have you been working there?

ROCKY: Like
Fuck
Like three weeks
Anyway

RAINE: You've been working there for three weeks and you're breaking into houses?
What are you?
A maniac?
Saying she's bad at cutting keys
How good can you be?

ROCKY: No wait
I'm
Just
Shut the fuck up okay?

RAINE: Okay

ROCKY: I was working with this lovely girl
But she was cutting keys for this bitchy woman who said she was going on vacation
Alright?

RAINE: Okay

ROCKY: But
The girl fucked up the keys

RAINE: Oh cause she sucks at cutting keys!

ROCKY: Exactly
So
The lady brings them back
I'm working
And the lady brings them back
And she's all pissed off cause they didn't work
And cause she's going on vacation in like
Two days
Or whatever
So I re-cut them for her

And I'm the bomb at key cutting
By the way

So they're awesome
Of course
But she still wants her money back

RAINE: Cause they probably didn't work

ROCKY: No
Smart guy
I mean right after
Like right after I cut them
Like the second set
She didn't even try them yet

RAINE: Okay
Got it

ROCKY: So I said
Like
You know
You gotta choose
Like
The keys or the money
Like
I can't give you the keys
I can't give you free keys
Not like I'd want to give her free keys if she's being a bitch
But she's pissed off
And so she tells me to phone my general manager
Which I do
And the manager is just like
Why
Like
What are you talking about?
Like
Obviously we can't do it
Like I'm an idiot
So I'm like
Yeah okay
And I do this refund for this woman
And she keeps asking me
Right?
Like
So there's really no reimbursement for me coming all the way up here?

And like
I live on the other side of the city and I can't afford to come here twice in one week
Well
Boo hoo
Don't come across town to get your fucking keys cut then

And she's got \$400 sunglasses and a Gucci purse so
Yeah
So I do the refund
And she leaves
Keyless
And the keys are sitting on the counter
And I can't help but thinking
Like
Maybe this is just some scheme
Like some con that she does
All over town
To like
All the key stores
So she can get free keys
And
So
Like
I was curious
Right?
And I was still pissed about her being a bitch
So
I went to her house
And I was gonna
Like
I don't know
I just
I wanted to see if the keys worked
You know?
Cause I mean
I made them
So I tried them
And they worked
So I was like
Well
Let's get drunk in this bitch's house

Scene 4

ASHLEY: So if you like
Fuck up a key

Then just put it in this book
Alright?

ROCKY: Yeah

ASHLEY: There's like a spot where it says like
What key it is
And how you fucked it up

ROCKY: Is that cause
Like
So people aren't stealing keys?

ASHLEY: Well
Yeah I guess
But I mean it's more just so they know how many keys they have
Right?

Like
Okay
We get boxes of keys
Like
Little boxes of keys
When we're out of a blank
Right?
And every time you sell a key we have one less key in the inventory
And every time you fuck one up
As long as you put it in this book
It gets counted
On the computer

ROCKY: So you guys keep track of all of the keys?

ASHLEY: No
Like
Okay
No one cares about if people steal keys
Like I dunno
I stole these
Like
I mean I'm not going to pay for my keys if I work at a key cutting place
But like
I dunno
Especially if it's a WR5 or a KW1

ROCKY: Or an SC1?

ASHLEY: Right
Good girl
Like
We have tons of those
So we get tons of boxes
People expect these to sell big
So we get tons of boxes of these all the time

ROCKY: How many do we sell?

ASHLEY: Keys?
Like
Oh
Well
I don't know about daily
But say we sold a hundred keys
Probably ninety of them are those main three

ROCKY: So nobody notices them?

ASHLEY: Well
Fuck man
I don't want to be telling you to steal keys during your training
But yeah
I mean
Nobody really cares
Especially those ones
You know?
But
I dunno
Don't do it if the district manager is here

Scene 5

RAINE: So how did you find her house?

ROCKY: There's this little place
On the computer
When you do a refund
Where you ask for their name and their number

RAINE: So she put in her name and you looked it up in the phonebook?

ROCKY: No
The phonebook doesn't

Like
Who's listed in the phonebook now?

RAINE: What?

ROCKY: Nobody's listed in the phonebook

RAINE: Well how'd you find it then?

ROCKY: Well
Okay
Here's the fucking weird thing
Is
She said her name was
I was doing the name phone number thing and I asked like
Phone number
And she gives me her phone number
Like pretty straight up
But I can tell she's getting real annoyed
And so I was like
First name
And she says
Liberty
Which is
I dunno
But I'm really curious for the last name now
So I say last name
And she says Justice
Like
Liberty Justice
Like
Liberty Justice is her name

RAINE: What?

ROCKY: So it's obviously a fake name right?

RAINE: Well how did you find the house with a fake name?
How would that help you?

ROCKY: It doesn't

RAINE: What?

ROCKY: It
Okay

It doesn't
It's not about her name
Like
Okay
If you type a phone number into google it tells you where that person lives
Like ninety percent of the time
It doesn't have anything to do with the fake name
I just thought it was a good story

RAINE: Well how do you know she didn't give you a fake number?

ROCKY: When?

RAINE: Like how do you know it wasn't a fake number
And then you just like
Found a random house based on the number
And broke into a random house
And we're just sitting in this random person's house

ROCKY: Well because the key wouldn't work
Right?

RAINE: Oh yeah

ROCKY: Or
Yeah
I mean
That'd be really fucked up if it did

Scene 6

BEN: What are you doing?

RAINE: What do you mean?
I'm reading

BEN: My god
I thought it was quiet

RAINE: Fuck you

BEN: Don't say that shit in my house

[*Sitting*] Oh lord

Did I ever

I used to live with some Hari Krishna's
At a retreat
For awhile

RAINE: Yeah?

BEN: Real eastern devotees
A long time ago
I thought I was real into it because I'd read the Bhagavad Gita
And a few other books
Wasn't what I thought
I suppose

RAINE: What happened?

BEN: Mmm?

RAINE: Why'd you stop living there?

BEN: Turns out they weren't any less judgmental than anyone else

And they didn't believe in evolution

You're sure quiet today

RAINE: I'm trying to read

BEN: Come here

RAINE: Why?

BEN: Just come here
Are you okay?

RAINE: How come every time I'm happy
Someone asks me if I'm alright?

Does that mean something's wrong with me?

BEN: Nothing's wrong with you

[*Silence*]

RAINE: Are you okay?

BEN: I'm great
Thank you

Nobody's asked me that in a very long time

RAINE: I'm sorry

BEN: No
I'm
No
You're not

You get to a certain age and people
You get to a certain age and you stop making friends
You know?

RAINE: You're my friend
[He smiles. Silence.]

BEN: You know how I said there are things behind your senses

RAINE: Yes

BEN: In front of your eyes

RAINE: Yeah

BEN: Are you hiding here?

RAINE: What?

[A very long moment of connection. BEN kisses RAINE on the forehead]

BEN: Go home

Scene 7

ASHLEY: So nothing went funky with the key cutting
But just in case they don't work for whatever reason
Hang on to your receipt
Within thirty days you can re-cut them
Or refund them
Or whatever you need

BEN: Thank you very much

[*BEN exits*]

ASHLEY: So do you live pretty close to here?

ROCKY: Yeah I just moved

ASHLEY: From?

ROCKY: Airdrie

ASHLEY: Oh wow
You know lots of people up here then?
Down here?
Where's Airdrie?

ROCKY: Yeah
Down here
No
I don't have a lot of friends
I know like
One girl
Which is
I mean
I thought it would be cool
But like
Yeah
I dunno
She moved here awhile ago
And has friends from school
So
I mean
I dunno
I guess I don't really know her that well anymore

So yeah
Not many friends
I've just been chillin' by myself a lot

ASHLEY: Well I'm Ashley
And you know me
And we can hang out whenever you want
So hah
That's two