

Acting Edition

In Love and Warcraft

by Madhuri Shekar

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|| SAMUEL FRENCH ||

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www.concordtheatricals.com

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info@concordtheatricals.com

1-866-979-0447

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IN LOVE AND WARCRAFT was first produced by the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia in 2014. The performance was directed by Laura Kepley, with sets by Andrew Boyce, lighting by Liz Lee, sound by Kendall Simpson, and costumes by Lex Liang. The Production Stage Manager was R. Lamar Williams, and the Dramaturg was Celise Kalke. The cast was as follows:

EVIE	Lily Balsen
KITTY	Alexandra Ficken
RAUL	Evan Cleaver
RYAN	Patrick Halley
MALE	Bobby Labartino
FEMALE	Diany Rodriguez

CHARACTERS

EVIE – a 22-year-old college senior

KITTY – 22, Evie's best friend

RAUL – 25, One of Evie's clients

RYAN – 25, Evie's somewhat boyfriend

*Some of the miscellaneous characters
(ideally played by one male and female actor):*

Male:

TONY – a gamer, **JERRY** – a Lakers fan

NATHAN – Evie's hairdresser, **MAN** – a man in a movie theatre

MONSTER – a Warcraft monster

Female:

CHAI – a gamer, and Tony's aggrieved girlfriend,

CHARLOTTE – Evie's client, **WOMAN** – a woman in a movie theatre

DOCTOR – Evie's OB/GYN

SETTING

A college campus in Southern California

Evie's apartment

Raul's apartment

A doctor's office

A bar

Inside Warcraft Universe

TIME

Present Day

WARCRAFT GLOSSARY

Avatar – A graphical representation of the player's character.

Battle Rez – A resurrection spell cast while in combat to bring a player or group back to life.

Boss – The monster

Cosplay – Costume Play- dressing up and performing as specific characters or ideas.

Damage Dealers – Players responsible for inflicting damage in the group.

Debuffs – A spell or ability that decreases a players effectiveness, usually cast by in-game enemies.

DPS/Deeps – Damage Per Second- a measure of the damage inflicted by a person or group.

End Game – the part of the game where level advancement is no longer the goal.

Guild – An in-game association of players. A team.

Healer – Spellcasters with the power to heal other players.

iLevel – Item Level. A measure of how powerful a players gear is.

IRL – In real life

L2P! – Learn to play!

Mage food – magically conjured food to nourish the player

N00bs – Newbies (new players)

Ready Check – checking to see if all the players are ready to proceed

Slash or Forward Slash – the “/” key typed before each gaming command

Strats – Strategies

Tank – The player in the group assigned to absorb the damage

Twenty-five manning – Running a raid dungeon designed for a group of 25 players.

Vial of Sands – An item that can let you transform into a transport animal

Wipe – A wipeout- where the entire party or raid is killed.

BABY PLEASE

(EVIE, 22, stands by herself on stage. She wears a hoodie, jeans, and a pair of gaming headphones with a mic. She looks out, and starts to speak. Heartfelt.)

EVIE. Baby please. Just hear me out. I know I screwed up, okay? I know I'm an asshole. But I – I love you. Beyond anything I can control, I love you, Chai. I know I don't deserve it – I know – but if you could find it in your heart to forgive me ...

(Suddenly matter-of-fact. Into her mic.)

Tony, are you writing this down?

(Lights change. EVIE is not by herself. She has her laptop set up on a table in her apartment. In two other spaces (not in her apartment) RYAN, 25, and TONY, 19, play on their own laptops, gaming headphones in place.)

(There is another workstation with a laptop set up, but no one is sitting there.)

TONY. Got it. I screwed up. I'm an asshole. Please forgive me. My spicy Chai latte.

EVIE. Do NOT call her your spicy chai latte.

(They're all typing and clicking, fast and furious, deeply immersed in the game.)

RYAN. We don't have the deeps for the raid. I'm blowing all my CDs just clearing trash.

TONY. Evie, I know you do this for a living, but I know my Chai.

EVIE. Yeah, and now you know her roommate even better.

TONY. Hey –

EVIE. Rule number one of Warcraft, Tony. Never stand in the fire.

TONY. (*overlapping*) Never stand in the fire. I know.

EVIE. If you knew you were attracted to her roommate, you shoulda just stayed away.

But no, you had to be a dumbass.

RYAN. Our hit points are dropping!

EVIE. And because of you, she's not logging on, we're one man down for the raid –

TONY. She'll log on, okay. She's mad at me, she's not gonna punish the guild.

RYAN.

EVIE.

Yeah, right.

Yeah, right.

(CHAI, 19, *pissed off, enters and takes her place at the fourth laptop. She puts on her gaming headphones.*)

(*The others gasp in relief.*)

TONY. Chai, you're online!

CHAI. I'm not talking to you, Moldrok. Azareth, Dragnathor, what's our status?

(*Everyone is typing furiously. The team is complete.*)

RYAN. Okay, trash is pretty much cleared, but we're totally out of pots, and the boss is in the shadows.

EVIE. Ready check passed, pulling boss in 3 – 2 – 1...

TONY. (*awkwardly, while playing*) Baby, Chai, look I know you're mad – I screwed up, I – HEY WHAT THE HELL –

CHAI. Ouch, Moldrok, looks like you took a pretty bad hit.

TONY. Look, I'm sorry, okay, I'm sorry, I really am –

EVIE. Chai, I'm not able to access the emergency vault – what are you doing?

RYAN. Fuck, I can't get into the vault either.

TONY. Baby don't do this. This is a mistake.

CHAI. Oh you're telling me what to do now, buttface?

EVIE. Moldrok! Tony! Don't stand in the fire! Don't stand in the fucking fire!

TONY. AAAAAH!

RYAN. Fuck! Great. Moldrok's down. He's dead.

(EVIE picks up her phone and starts dialing.)

TONY. What? Chai! Heal me!

CHAI. *(pounding her keyboard)* Why don't you ask Brenda to heal you, bitch?

TONY. Are you literally kicking me when I'm dead?

(TONY's phone rings and he picks up.)

What?

EVIE. *(on the phone)* Go to her dorm.

TONY. What?

EVIE. Go to her dorm. Right now. Tell her the speech I wrote for you. Word for word.

TONY. I don't remember.

EVIE. Bluetooth it. BLUETOOTH. NOW.

(TONY wears a Bluetooth device and runs out of his room.)

RYAN. Battle rezzing Moldrok, boss going into phase 2 in 3 – 2 – CHAI WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?

CHAI. You know what, this game is stupid.

(RYAN gasps.)

EVIE. *(struggling to stay calm)* Chai, I know you're hurting, but we don't have to sink to that level.

(TONY bursts into CHAI's room. CHAI looks at him in astonishment.)

TONY. Chai, baby. Please. Just ... hear me out. I ... I ...

CHAI. What?

(EVIE talks into her phone, connected to TONY's Bluetooth.)

EVIE. I screwed up.

TONY. I screwed up.

EVIE. I did the one thing I swore I would never do, I hurt you.

TONY. I did the one thing I swore I would never do, I hurt you.

EVIE. But I love you. More than anything else in the world.

TONY. But I love you. More than anything else in the world.

EVIE. I can't live without you Chai. You're my better half.

TONY. I can't live without you Chai. You're my better half.

EVIE. You have been for three semesters and 600 hours of gameplay, that has mean something, right?

(RYAN stops typing.)

RYAN. What?

EVIE. Not you, sweetie. Keep playing.

TONY. *(finishing)* ... That has to mean something, right?

(The moment of truth. CHAI is moved, but not completely.)

(TONY is lost. EVIE blurts –)

EVIE. Spicy chai latte! SPICY CHAI LATTE!

TONY. Please take me back! My spicy Chai latte.

(CHAI melts.)

CHAI. Oh Tony. I hate you.

(They start making out furiously. EVIE listens in.)

EVIE. Okay! I think it worked.

(TONY and CHAI, still making out, disappear from view – they're no longer playing the game.)

EVIE. Moldrok. Tony? Chai?

RYAN. Where the fuck are they?

EVIE. ... I think we just lost them.

RYAN. WHAT? WE LOST OUR DPS? What are they doing???

(EVIE's back on the game. Fast and furious.)

EVIE. Having sex, probably.

RYAN. FUCKERS.

EVIE. Yeah, exactly.

RYAN. Why the hell would they be having sex when we're on the verge of a legendary server first boss kill? I mean what the hell is wrong with them?

EVIE. They just don't get it. What can I say? Let's focus. We can do this.

RYAN. We are two men down. There is no fucking way we can do this.

EVIE. FOLLOW MY LEAD. You have to be our DPS and healer – I'm taking the damage –

RYAN. That's a wipe, run back!

EVIE. Ryan, Ryan. Listen. I'm almost there.

RYAN. What?

EVIE. Just – let me – there – take that! And that! And that!

RYAN. Oh my god. That's so good. Keep doing that.

EVIE. Are you feeling me baby?

RYAN. Right there.

EVIE. Aaaaargh!

RYAN. DO IT!

EVIE. NUKE IT! FOCUS FIRE!

RYAN. FEEL THE POWER!

EVIE. AND THAT!

(Pause. Breathing heavily.)

And that's it. It's dead.

(They both lie back in their chairs, panting.)

RYAN. That was great. You were great.

EVIE. So were you.

RYAN. You were better.

EVIE. Yeah. I was.

(KITTY, EVIE's best friend and roommate, walks into the apartment. Little black dress, sex hair, and carrying her spiky stilettos in her hand.)

(She looks at EVIE at the computer, still panting.)

KITTY. What kinda porn you watching?

EVIE. Kitty. *(into the mic:)* Hey, BRB.

KITTY. Look at you, all flushed and sexy. You sure I didn't interrupt anything?

EVIE. Where have you been?

(KITTY walks about the place, dropping her possessions wherever she pleases, effortlessly creating a mess.)

KITTY. I told you, I had a date with Mason.

EVIE. Yeah, on Tuesday, like 48 hours ago.

KITTY. It was a good date. I have to get rid of him.

EVIE. What?

KITTY. I hate having a boyfriend. I hate being exclusive. He's a fucking weirdo.

EVIE. Why?

(KITTY perches on the edge of the couch.)

KITTY. He said his mother's name in bed this morning.

(RYAN laughs, overhearing.)

RYAN. Hehehe. Nice.

EVIE. *(into her mic)* Dragnathor, I'm taking 5.

(She takes off her headphones. When she does, RYAN disappears. EVIE turns to KITTY, concerned.)

Are you sure?

KITTY. He said "MEREDITH" when he came.

(She flops backwards onto the couch.)

KITTY. I can't do this anymore. This is just like, the last straw.

EVIE. Then break up with him already. I don't even know what you guys have in common besides sex.

KITTY. What else do you need?

(pause)

I need to make him break up with me, though. I can't be the bitch who dumped him. We're in the same study group.

(pause)

How do I do this?

(EVIE starts turning back to her computer.)

EVIE. Kitty. I help couples stay together. I don't help them break up.

(KITTY grabs her.)

KITTY. Save me, I'm dying here.

EVIE. *(thinking)* The answer's pretty obvious when you think about it.

(pause)

Stop having sex with him. Tell him... he's not doing it for you anymore.

(KITTY lets go.)

KITTY. Ouch.

EVIE. Withhold sex long enough, and he'll break up with you. But his pride will stop him from telling people why.

KITTY. *(pause)* Of course your solution is to cut off sex all together.

(EVIE goes back to her computer.)

EVIE. Life is a lot less complicated without it. You'll see.

(She starts typing.)

(KITTY looks at her, affectionate, sad. KITTY kisses her on the neck.)

EVIE. Ew, stop it.

KITTY. What are you doing tonight? Let's go out and get you laid.

EVIE. *(suddenly remembering)* No thanks. I'm meeting with a new client.

KITTY. Ugh, you are the worst.

EVIE. *(looking at her watch)* Oh, shit, I'm meeting with a new client on the quad. Like, five minutes ago.

(KITTY saunters off. EVIE puts on her headphones.

RYAN appears.)

I have to go.

RYAN. WHAT? You can't! The monster's coming back to life! I need you!

EVIE. I'm late for the meeting with the new client. Remember? I told you about him.

RYAN. Blow him off, dude! Who cares about your stupid clients? This is important!

EVIE. I'm sorry, you have to manage solo for a little bit. Slash kiss!

(She shuts down her laptop, grabs her bag, and runs out of her apartment.)

RYAN. EVIE! EVELYN! THIS IS SO NOT COOL!

(pause)

Fucking. Fuck. Great. I'm decapitated. I don't have my head. I am lacking a head. Which is like, the most important organ. I hope you're happy.

(He looks around. He's by himself. He takes a sip of his beer.)

IT WOULD BE NICE IF THERE WAS MORE

(Outside the campus cafe, in the quad. EVIE rushes in, cradling her laptop in her hand – still playing.)

(RAUL, 22, very easy on the eyes, sits with a cup of coffee and notices EVIE.)

EVIE. *(into her headset)* Let me take care of the fireballs – get out of the way – just try and find your head!

(She bangs into RAUL.)

Shit! Sorry!

RAUL. No problem.

(She turns around and sees RAUL.)

(She is struck speechless.)

Are you okay?

(We hear the aggravated squeaks of RYAN from her headset.)

Are you okay?

EVIE. Yes. Sorry.

RAUL. Are you Evie?

(EVIE shuts down the laptop.)

EVIE. Y – yes – are you my – Raul – my client – sorry – Raul?

RAUL. That's me.

EVIE. You... have the girlfriend problem. You have a girlfriend! Great!

RAUL. Um –

(She sits down at his table.)

EVIE. I'm so sorry I'm late – I just lost track of time –

RAUL. It's fine. What were you –

EVIE. Oh, it's just Warcraft Universe. You know, like World of Warcraft?

RAUL. Oh. Cool.

EVIE. *(putting away her stuff)* Yeah. Anyway –

RAUL. I didn't think girls played that.

EVIE. Some do.

RAUL. That's pretty cool.

EVIE. (*sudden enthusiasm*) It is!

(*a second...*)

It's really cool.

RAUL. (*amused*) Cool.

(*an awkward moment*)

RAUL. So... I need to tell you something.

EVIE. (*back to business*) Right, right. Your email said you needed a letter for your girlfriend?

RAUL. Ex-girlfriend.

EVIE. What?

RAUL. That's the thing. We broke up. This afternoon.

EVIE. Shit. I'm... so sorry.

RAUL. So... to be honest... I'm not really sure why I came.

EVIE. Well you want her back, right?

RAUL. Can you do that?

EVIE. Yeah.

RAUL. Really. You sound pretty confident.

EVIE. I'm good at this.

RAUL. I've heard.

(*leaning forward*)

You write love letters, right? That's what you do?

EVIE. Well, whatever people need. Love letters, emails, text messages, Facebook wall posts, telegrams...

RAUL. Telegrams?

EVIE. Oh yeah. "Baby. Stop. I screwed up. Stop. Take me back. Stop." It's not rocket science really.

(*RAUL smiles.*)

I do some hidden microphone work sometimes. Feed you lines when you're with your girlfriend.

RAUL. That's wild. And it always works?

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