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Tipping Point
by Jon Jory

CAST OF CHARACTERS
1W / 1M

MARISA; female college student raped by Rafe
RAFE; male student who belongs to a Fraternity

RUNNING TIME
Approximately 12 Minutes
Tipping Point
by Jon Jory

AT RISE: An outdoor table on a college campus. A young man enters. A young woman sits at the table.

Hey.

MARISA

Hey.

RAFE

Thanks.

MARISA

Thanks for what?

RAFE

For standing there.

MARISA

Logan said you wanted to talk to me. She gave me your note.

RAFE

And you’re here.

MARISA

I’m not usually on campus on the weekend.

RAFE

But you’re here.

MARISA

Yes, I’m here.

RAFE

I didn’t think you’d come.

MARISA

I’m here. What is it you want?

RAFE

You don’t know what I want?
RAFE
I don’t know you. I know your name because it was on the note.

MARISA
Do you ordinarily know the names of the women you rape? (He turns and starts to leave.)
If you leave you better be on your way to get a good lawyer.

RAFE
You were assaulted?

MARISA
Yes, I was raped.

RAFE
That’s terrible.

MARISA
It is, yes.

RAFE
Have you gone to the police?

MARISA
It happened in your room at the frat.

RAFE
My room?

MARISA
It had your name on the door.

RAFE
When?

MARISA
When you guys threw the winter solstice party.

RAFE
That was on the 21st. I’d already gone home for Christmas.

MARISA
And your family will testify to that?

RAFE
You leave my family out of this.
MARISA
That’s what we’re trying to do here, Rafe. I woke up in your room with only my bra on. I remember being in a room, I think there were three guys. I was really wasted.

RAFE
Getting stone drunk at a fraternity party that’s kind of asking for it.

MARISA
I was asking to be raped?

RAFE
It sounds like you put yourself in a dangerous position.

MARISA
So that would be a misjudgment?

RAFE
Yeah. Yeah, that would be a misjudgment.

MARISA
You were there, my friend Sofia took a picture of us playing beer pong.

RAFE
Okay, I was there in the early part of the evening. Maybe ‘til around ten or ten-thirty then I got in my car and drove back to Montana to be with my family. When did this happen to you?

MARISA
I don’t know. I remember the party was breaking up and I fell asleep on a sofa in the game room.

RAFE
You said you were in my room.

MARISA
I woke up in your room. It was just getting light. My clothes were all over. I only found one shoe. I threw stuff on and left.

RAFE
Your friends just left you in the game room?

MARISA
They just thought I had left.

RAFE
Nice friends.

MARISA
Shut up about my friends.
RAFE
Look, you’re upset and obviously you should be upset. I’m upset as you can tell. If you were raped…

I was raped.

MARISA
Did you get tested?

RAFE
You mean a rape kit?

MARISA
I guess.

RAFE
So you did go to the police?

MARISA
And I have pictures of bruises and cuts.

RAFE
And are you pressing charges?

MARISA
I took pictures of your room.

RAFE
Are you pressing charges?

MARISA
And in the bed I found your UCLA identity card.

RAFE
I lost that. You better not be pressing charges.

MARISA
I better not?
RAFE
I said that the wrong way. Look, I have one of the few single rooms in the house. When I left
to drive home I gave the key to a friend so he could use the room and get some studying done.

MARISA
Who?

RAFE
He wouldn’t do something like this.

MARISA
Who?

RAFE
I’m not going to tell you that.

MARISA
I’m not feeling well, Rafe. I’m really sad and I cry all the time. I’m not back in school. My
parents think I am, but I’m not. You know what I do when they think I’m in school? I play
miniature golf. Crazy, huh? I play seven, eight, nine rounds. It seems so… manageable.
That’s the world I like to live in now… miniature golf. I can’t seem to get right.

RAFE
Look, you should probably take this to court. I see that. I promise you, on the Bible, that I
didn’t do this. And this would, as it should, get huge publicity. It’s the right moment. And you
might find out who was in the room or you might not. And this would go on for months and
this whole thing will be your identity and my identity. You’ll be the girl who was raped and
I’ll be the rapist, or maybe the rapist. And what happened to you is unspeakable and it will
always be there. And I’ll end up as the maybe rapist and that’s who I’ll always be. Look,
you’re the victim. You’re the victim. But the way this will roll is that I’ll end up as a victim
too. I’ll be right and truly screwed. For life. Because it’s going to end up unclear nobody is
going to come out well. Please don’t do it. Please.

MARISA
Nice speech.

RAFE
What do you want?

MARISA
I want to feel better, Rafe. And while I was playing miniature golf, I figured out the only way
to feel better was to go to court and put a college rapist in jail so that a bunch of drunk guys
on college campuses see the cost – feel the cost.

RAFE
That’s pretty abstract.
MARISA

Abstract?

RAFE

Do you have dreams?

MARISA

Of course I have dreams.

RAFE

Do your dreams cost money?

A pause.

MARISA

Don’t embarrass yourself.

RAFE

Don’t be naïve. My family has money. Name a figure.

MARISA

I don’t want your money.

RAFE

A hundred thousand? (Silence) Half a million? Name a figure! (Silence) You know there’s an infallible tell?

MARISA

You should stop now.

RAFE

People who wear really cheap shoes don’t have money. Now before you make a righteous speech think it over. You know the people who make ketchup? Heinz. Those are the people who make ketchup. My mom’s a Heinz. How about a million?

MARISA

No.

RAFE

Three million?

MARISA

Stop it.

RAFE

Five. That’s the top.
MARISA

(Rising)
We’re done now.

RAFE
Your mom and dad couldn’t use a couple of million? I didn’t rape you, that’s what you’ll find out. So you’ll have ruined my life for nothing. What happened to you is intolerable. In the end you won’t feel better for doing me harm. I have dreams too. I’m a human being with dreams and I didn’t rape you.

MARISA
You know what else I sort of remember? A scar on the guy’s shoulder.

RAFE
Yeah, well I’m not stripping for you.

MARISA
Some good irony there, huh?

This is Not the End of the Play
Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes