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Product Code A0564.2

TIPPING POINT

A Short Drama by

Jon Jory

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Tipping Point
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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?

MARISA

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...

MARISA

I was raped.

RAFE

Did you get tested?

MARISA

You mean a rape kit?

RAFE

I guess.

MARISA

Yes, I did.

A pause.

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.

Abstract? MARISA

Do you have dreams? RAFE

Of course I have dreams. MARISA

Do your dreams cost money? RAFE

A pause.

Don't embarrass yourself. MARISA

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

I don't want your money. MARISA

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

You should stop now. MARISA

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? RAFE

No. MARISA

Three million? RAFE

Stop it. MARISA

Five. That's the top. RAFE

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