

Insomniacs in Heat

A Ten-Minute Play

by

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CHARACTERS

TIM Male, Late 20s. Sandra's husband.

SANDRA Female, late 20s. Tim's wife.

SETTING

The play takes place in TIM & SANDRA's bedroom at roughly 2:30 in the morning. It is an unusually hot and humid October evening with temperatures nearing triple digits.

THE PLAY

(The lights rise on TIM & SANDRA's bedroom. There should be a bed and a rickety fan running but all other furniture can be implied including the window. SANDRA is lying in bed alone with the sheets strewn everywhere. After a beat TIM enters with a cup of ice.)

SANDRA

(Furiously kicking the sheets before sitting up.)

Kill me.

TIM

(Handing her some ice.)

In time.

SANDRA

Do it now.

TIM

It'll cool down soon Sandra. Here.

(He puts some ice on her neck.)

SANDRA

(Startled.)

Holy...what's the matter with you?

TIM

Sorry. Just trying to help.

SANDRA

A one inch spot of freezing cold on the back of my neck doesn't help. I think I might be going into shock.

TIM

Your complaining isn't making it any colder.

SANDRA

Shut up Tim.

TIM

It feels good.

SANDRA

God, it's three hundred degrees in here. I've lost like fifty pounds.

TIM

Should I put the fan on high?

(SANDRA stares at him. Pause. He gets out of bed and puts the fan on high. He stands in front of it.)

TIM

It's not so bad right here.

SANDRA

What time is it?

TIM

About two-thirty.

SANDRA

OH. MY. GOD. WHY IS IT SO HOT IN THE MIDDLE OF OCTOBER!

TIM

Must be Indian Summer.

SANDRA

Is that like their revenge for small pox?

TIM

Pretty crappy revenge.

(He gets back in bed. Pause. SANDRA moans.)

TIM

That's not helping.

(Pause. SANDRA moans.)

TIM

Seriously?

SANDRA

I'm sorry, am I keeping you up?

(Pause.)

TIM

I haven't been up this late since college.

SANDRA

God, we're old.

TIM

I'm just hot.

SANDRA

Remember when we stayed up all night watching reruns of "Family Ties" instead of studying for finals? I sure do love me some APK. Oh God, remember that one where Stephen has that heart-attack, but it's a two-parter-to-be-continued one and they were showing them out of order, so we like missed the second half.

TIM

No.

SANDRA

It was freshman year, remember? We had to wait like three hours for part two.

TIM

I was a year behind you. That must have been Chad.

SANDRA

Oh. Sorry.
I wonder what he's up to?

TIM

Go to sleep.

(Long pause. They both fidget and shift trying to find a cooler position. They keep pushing each other away whenever they get too close together. There is a moment of stillness.)

SANDRA

Do you want to have sex?

TIM

It's too humid for sex.

(Pause. TIM gets out of bed and goes to the window.)

TIM

I can see all the way into the Ryan's backyard now.

SANDRA

Let it go.

TIM

No, he had no right to cut down that tree.

SANDRA

It was on his property.

TIM

It overhung onto our lot.

SANDRA

Shut up Tim.

TIM

It ruined the whole landscape.

SANDRA

Are you sure you don't want to have sex?

TIM

Don't try to distract me.

SANDRA

Does the fan have an extra high setting?

(Pause.)

SANDRA

Tim, turn the fan as high as it will go.

TIM

It's so loud though. I can't hear myself think.

SANDRA

It's three in the morning, I want to sleep not think.

TIM

My dreams will be all distracted. I don't sleep well when my dreams don't make sense. Then I'm all tired the next day.

SANDRA

It's already three in the morning Tim.

(Pause.)

TIM

I guess we could have sex.

SANDRA

It's so hot though. And you sweat.

TIM

Yeah.

(Pause. TIM gets into bed and pulls the covers up over him and SANDRA.)

SANDRA

What are you doing?

TIM

I can't sleep without covers.

SANDRA

Are you a nine year old girl?

TIM

What? I like to be covered. Without covers I feel vulnerable. You know like if a robber or something came in.

SANDRA

So if somebody broke into our house, came into our room to murder us, you're saying that by having a sheet over your legs you'd be safe?

TIM

I think that I'm safe. So I can fall asleep.

SANDRA

Are you really that worried about being killed in your sleep?

TIM

I'm not that worried about it, but it crosses my mind.

(SANDRA throws the sheets off. Pause.)

TIM

I think that fan is starting to work.

(Pause.)

SANDRA

God, why is the night so long?

(Pause.)

TIM

Do you think this is what October is normally like in Alabama?

SANDRA

Shut up Tim.

TIM

Just curious. You know, if we were like from Alabama would we be asleep right now, or would we think it was hot?

SANDRA

This conversation is happening?

TIM

It's just a question.

SANDRA

People in Alabama have air conditioning.

TIM

It's broken. What do you want me to do?

SANDRA

Fix it.

TIM

Right now?

SANDRA

Yes.

TIM

I sell ad space. I can't fix anything. You're the one who wouldn't let me call anybody. I wanted to get it taken care of three weeks ago but you said we could wait until spring.

SANDRA

Not the time for it Tim.

TIM

I'm just saying—

SANDRA

Tim.

(Pause.)

TIM

Do you want me to go get some more ice?

SANDRA

There's still some here.

TIM

Do you want fresh ice?

SANDRA

I want it to not be four hundred degrees so that I can get some sleep.

TIM

I think I might call in sick tomorrow. I'm no good without eight hours.

(Pause.)

SANDRA

Maybe we should have sex.

TIM

It's something to do.

SANDRA

We could start trying.

TIM

It's hot, but not so hot that I forgot how.

SANDRA

No, I mean trying trying.

TIM

Oh.

(Pause.)

We could.

SANDRA

It would be a great story.

TIM

Nobody wants to have a great conception story.

SANDRA

For us then.

TIM

We could name him Heat or something.

SANDRA

Heat?

TIM

It's the first thing that came into my head. I don't know, Fan, Summer, Humidity..

SANDRA

What about August?

TIM

It's October though.

SANDRA

But August is always so hot.

TIM

I don't like month names for babies.
St. Louis? St. Louis is hot. What about St. Louis?

SANDRA
Let's worry about the name later.

TIM
Okay.

(Pause.)

TIM
So, should I come over there?

SANDRA
That's usually how it works.

TIM
Sorry. I'm thinking too much now. It usually just happens.

SANDRA
Okay. Clear your mind.

TIM
Okay.

(Pause.)
I can't, the fan's too loud.

SANDRA
Forget it.

(Pause.)

SANDRA
(As she says her lines she approaches
TIM. She should start out in a fairly
normal tone getting more and more
seductive as she goes.)
Do you think Alabama is hotter than South America?

TIM
Depends where in South America.

SANDRA
Brazil.

TIM

Brazil is pretty hot. Although their winter is our summer,
so it would depend on the time of year.

SANDRA

During Carnival. People dancing in the streets. Masks every
way you look. So mysterious.

TIM

Crowds are always hot. So much body heat.

SANDRA

So hot.

(She should be standing extremely close
to TIM. Pause.)

TIM

(Realizing what is happening.)

Oh. Well played.

(They kiss.)

TIM

What about Carnival for a name? Or Brazil?

SANDRA

Just shut up.

(Lights fade.)

THE END