

24th Hour

a short play by
Peter M. Floyd

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

JOHN

AMANDA

Lights up on a living room in a small apartment; there are a couch, a couple of chairs, and a coffee table. JOHN sits in the couch, while AMANDA is perched at the edge of a chair. They are playing cards.

JOHN

Gin. *(He puts down all of the cards in his hand.)*

AMANDA

Bullshit. Again?

JOHN

Yup.

AMANDA

You cheat. You've got to be cheating. You can't be beating me all the time without cheating.

JOHN

You've won a couple times.

AMANDA

A couple. And you've won, what, twenty times?

JOHN

Something like that.

AMANDA

Because you cheat.

JOHN

No, because you suck at gin.

AMANDA

John, just shut up and deal. Hey, that's a line from something, isn't it? "Shut up and deal."

JOHN *(standing up)*

The Apartment, Shirley MacLaine. You deal. I'm thirsty. I'm gonna go get a coke from the fridge.

AMANDA

Sure. Can you get me a Rolling Rock while you're there?

JOHN

Whatever you want.

JOHN exits. AMANDA looks at her watch.

AMANDA (to herself)

Twenty-three hours and fifty-four minutes. Fucking hell.

She begins shuffling the cards. JOHN returns with two cans of coke.

AMANDA

Hey, where's my beer?

JOHN

In my exuberance over winning that last game, I clean forgot to get you one. *(He hands her one of the cokes, which she sets on the table. JOHN opens his and takes a sip.)*

AMANDA

It feels hot in here. Are you hot?

JOHN

I'm smokin', baby! *(He sits back down.)*

AMANDA

I'm sweating all over. *(She begins dealing cards.)*

JOHN

Don't get the cards all greasy!

AMANDA

Listen, we're not gonna play gin this time. It's a stupid game to play, especially tonight.

JOHN

What do you mean?

AMANDA

Oh, come on. Gin? Tonight of all nights? Way too fucking ironic. And anyway you cheat like a bastard. We're playing something else now.

JOHN

What?

AMANDA

I dunno. Anything. *(She stops dealing.)* How about poker?

JOHN

No.

AMANDA

Why not?

JOHN

You can't play poker with just two people.

AMANDA

Sure you can. They have these games of Texas Hold 'Em on ESPN that are always just two guys going head to head. It's totally intense.

JOHN

Amanda, you suck at poker even more than you suck at gin.

AMANDA

Fuck you! I'm an ace poker player. Nerves of steel. *(She holds out her hand to prove it; it is shaking slightly.)*

JOHN

You have no poker face at all.

AMANDA

I have a total poker face. Check this out. *(She contorts her face into a ridiculous caricature of emotionlessness.)* See?

JOHN

Right. Here, let me show you something. *(He clears his throat, and assumes a theatrical manner.)* Ladies and gentlemen, I proudly present the world premier performance of "Amanda Playing Poker".

AMANDA

John, if you want your testicles to remain intact, you'll stop this right now.

FOR FULL SCRIPT, CONTACT PMFLOYD01@GMAIL.COM