

the beginning of

AFTERGLOW

a short play by Rich Orloff (from **COUPLES**)

Characters: LENA, late twenties
GLENN, late twenties
Place: Glenn's bedroom.
Time: Nighttime.

A bedroom. His bedroom. Things are still a little messy from what has just happened. There are clothes strewn on various objects.

Her name is LENA. She's in her late twenties. She probably dresses well. Lena likes people to think she is worldly and sophisticated. Some people do. Lena's in a grand mood, very happy and very pleased with herself.

LENA

You know, that was probably – No,
no, no. That was, without a doubt,
the best sex I've ever had.

He pops his head up from under the covers of the bed. His name is GLENN. Glenn is also in his late twenties. Glenn is more charming and less shy than he thinks he is - but nobody has yet convinced him of that. He's in a great mood, a bit overwhelmed by a wonderful experience he can't explain.

GLENN

Gee, thanks... Thank you very much.

LENA

Don't get cocky. I was complimenting
myself as much as I was complimenting you.

During the rest of the scene, Lena finishes getting dressed and ready for the world. The actors are welcome to ad-lib a few remarks along the way, such as "Where did I put my shoes?"

GLENN

(still amazed by it)
We *were* good, weren't we?

LENA

(nonchalantly)
I'm always good...
(smiling)
We were damn good.

GLENN
Yeah.

LENA
Yeah.

GLENN
Yeah.

LENA
I never thought I'd be able to top the sex I had two years ago in Yosemite. There's something about fucking with a bear in the distance...

GLENN
I've never felt so accomplished.

LENA
I've never felt so glad I'm so accomplished... It's Glenn, right?

GLENN
Right. Lena?

LENA
Right.

Lena starts to get dressed.

GLENN
What are you doing?

LENA
I really have to get going.

GLENN
Stay the night... I make a great breakfast.

LENA
Do you?

GLENN
I make a mean piece of toast.

LENA
(not necessarily meaning it)
Maybe some other time.

GLENN
(regarding her decision to go)

You sure?

LENA

Yeah.

GLENN

Yeah.

LENA
Yeah... You know, you do make
good eye contact.

GLENN
Thanks... You know, this was the first time
I ever met anyone at the supermarket.

LENA
Oh, don't give me that.

GLENN
It's true.

LENA
Sure. I bet all your buddies refer
to the produce section as "Glenn's turf".

GLENN
No, honest.

LENA
(skeptical)
Uh-huh.

GLENN
I mean it. I haven't been intimate
with anyone for, God, over six months.

LENA
(mulling it over)
I don't think I have, either, really.

GLENN
(skeptical)
Come on. An attractive woman like you.
You haven't been to bed with anyone
for six months?

LENA

Bed, yes. Intimate, no.

GLENN

Oh. How does one do that?

LENA

How to put this... The guys I *have* had sex with lately I didn't really have the sex with while I was having sex with them.

GLENN

I see.

LENA

You I had sex with.

GLENN

I'm honored.

LENA

You should be.

GLENN

I still can't get over it.

LENA

You will.

GLENN

I always thought that for sex to be this good, you had to really had to – I mean, I know nothing about you. This is such a threat to my belief system.

LENA

Oh, good. Threatening belief systems is a real turn on for me.

GLENN

Feel free to threaten mine whenever you want.

LENA

I will.

(looking at him)

You know, regardless of what some women say, I think men are definitely better than vibrators.

GLENN

Boy, you just come right out with it, don't you?

LENA

Uh-huh.

GLENN

You're very bold.

LENA

Thank you. I used to be very shy.

GLENN

What happened?

LENA

It got boring. So I changed.

GLENN

Just like that?

LENA

That's right.

GLENN

A person can't change just like that.

LENA

I can. I can do anything once
I put my mind to it.

GLENN

But how? I've been trying to get
over my shyness all my life.

LENA

I just did.

GLENN

That's no answer.

LENA

(with some bitterness)

Look, I just got sick of... of... of all of it.
Waiting for the phone to ring. Waiting for
them to make up *their* minds. Waiting
for the right moment for everything.
That's what shy people do. They wait...
I just got sick of it. So I changed.

GLENN

Just like that?

LENA

(case closed)

Just like that.

GLENN

I wish I could change so easily.

LENA

Wishing is a very passive activity.

A beat.

GLENN

So what do you do?

LENA

Must we?

GLENN

What?

LENA

It's just that talking about our jobs after sex like we had would be like, like... like winning the lottery and celebrating at McDonald's.

GLENN

It was fantastic, wasn't it? I've never yelled "Oh, God" nearly so loud.

LENA

Let's not begin to wallow in nostalgia, shall we?

GLENN

Why was it that good? It had no right to be that good. If sex with someone I just met in a supermarket can be that satisfying, why have relationships? Why get involved? Why go through all those hassles? Why not just shop more often?