

the beginning of

**RIGHT SENSATION** (from **COUPLES**)

a short comedy by Rich Orloff

*Place:* Paula's bedroom.

*Time:* Evening.

*Characters:* PAULA, a woman beyond young adulthood  
STEWART, a man beyond young adulthood

As the play begins, PAULA and STEWART are in Paula's bedroom, kissing with enthusiasm. They're horny and attracted to each other, but not yet comfortable and confident with each other. They're both dressed and have not yet reached the bed.

PAULA

You kiss really well.

STEWART

Thanks. You, too.

PAULA

And I'm not just saying that because I'm drunk.

STEWART

Me, neither.

PAULA

I'm not that drunk.

STEWART

I'm as drunk or as not drunk  
as you want me to be.

He puts his hand up her blouse. She moves it away from her breasts, and so he slides it to the back of her blouse. They continue to kiss.

PAULA

I don't normally do this.

STEWART

Me, neither.

PAULA

I've never done this.

STEWART

I'm willing to have done this or not  
done this, whichever you prefer.

She moves his hand away from her bra strap. They continue kissing,  
and his hand moves to the bra strap again.

PAULA

Please don't.

STEWART

Okay.

Their kissing becomes more passionate. Stewart puts a hand on her bra strap  
and quickly unsnaps it. Paula recoils, grabbing her blouse so her bra stays on.

PAULA

I said NO, you bastard!

Paula runs into her bathroom and slams the door. Stewart is a bit stunned.  
He approaches the door.

STEWART

Look, I'm, I'm, I'm sorry, I – I didn't mean to,  
it's just – when my hand gets in the vicinity...  
I, I can't tell you how proud I was when  
I mastered the skill... I'm, I'm really sorry...  
Patty, are you okay?

PAULA (o.s.)

(not okay)

I'm fine, and my name's Paula.

STEWART

Will you come out – Paula... please?

PAULA

Why should I?

STEWART

'Cause, 'cause I'd like to see you.

PAULA

Why?

STEWART

Because, because you're nice, and, and you're  
really sexy, and you have a great smile.

PAULA

What if I didn't have teeth?

STEWART

You'd still be sexy.

PAULA

Why?

STEWART

Well, you have beautiful eyes.

PAULA

What if I didn't have eyes?

STEWART

You'd still be sexy.

PAULA

Why?

STEWART

You have a great neck.

PAULA

What if I didn't have a neck?

STEWART

Is this a puzzle? Because I suck at puzzles. You want to torture me? Lock me in a room with a crossword puzzle.

Paula enters.

PAULA

What if I only had one breast?

STEWART

I see two... don't I?

PAULA

I had a mastectomy.

STEWART

Oh... Oh, well, you know, that's okay, no, I mean it's not o- I mean, whatever... So you had cancer?

PAULA

No, my right breast just got in the way during archery.

STEWART

I'm sorry, I was –

PAULA

No, no, that's –

STEWART

They look fine. From here.

PAULA

I had an implant.

A long silence.

PAULA (cont'd)

If you want to go...

STEWART

No, I, I, I just can't think of anything to say that doesn't make me sound like a jerk. Which I'm not, I swear, I'm not, it's just not always readily apparent.

PAULA

You don't seem like a jerk.

STEWART

Yeah, well, the night is young. How long ago did –

PAULA

Uhhhhhwhile ago.

STEWART

Am I your –

PAULA

Uh-huh.

STEWART

How much did you have to drink to –

PAULA

I didn't count.

STEWART

Well, I'm honored you chose me.

PAULA

You should be.

STEWART

You know, you really don't have to be self-conscious, I mean, I've seen implants before.

PAULA

You have?

STEWART

Sure. Plenty of times.

PAULA

Plenty of times?

STEWART

After my divorce, I uh, I uh, I kind of went through a, a strip joint phase – which I'm *way* over –

PAULA

Uh-huh.

STEWART

Anyway, so, like shifting subjects, like I know this must be traumatic but, well, like what's the big deal?

PAULA

What's the – !

STEWART

I just mean, lots of people have fake parts these days. Like hip replacements, or fake knees, or hair plugs. Most people are not 100% there – if you know what I mean.

PAULA

It's just not the same as it was. It's like replacing, ummm –

STEWART

A Lexus with a Honda?

PAULA

No!

STEWART

(defensive)

Sorry. Just trying to empathize.

PAULA

It's like replacing an orange, with a wax orange.

STEWART

Better than a wax prune.

(off her glare:)

You know, you don't cheer up easily.

PAULA

How would you like it if you had surgery  
and woke up with a wax testicle?

STEWART

My trousers would be more comfortable.  
Look, I'm sorry about your, your misfortune  
and everything, but you still got one good one,  
don't you?... Was that a stupid thing to say?

PAULA

For a human being, yes. For a guy,  
not necessarily.