

Stephen's Last Night in Town

a short play by

Trevor Alan Chilver

CHARACTERS

Fi: a strong, self-determined woman, aware of her values and personal standards.

Jules: a confident, fun-loving woman

Wil: a confident, fun-loving and very, very camp gay man.

SETTING

Hallway of a small block of flats.

Stephen's Last Night in Town

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Fi is carrying two small garbage bags which she drops into a big bin.

JULES

Good morning Fi!

FI

What's good about it?

JULES

The sunshine. The birds. The music.

FI

What music?

JULES

Oh, just the music in my head.

FI

Wait, did you...

JULES

You missed an awesome party last night. It was Stephen's...

JULES & FI

...last night in town.

FI

I know. Every night is Stephen's last night in town.

JULES

He's so... rugged. Isn't he?

FI

Oh, I think I may be the last girl in the building to know, but surely it must be my turn soon.

JULES

Fi, are you a bit jealous?

FI

Of what, Jules? Of sleeping with everyone's favourite stud?

JULES

You are. You're jealous.

FI

I'm not. I'm just a little tired of hearing about Stephen's last night in town...

JULES

Oh, it's just a bit of fun.

FI

It's been his last night in town for three months, Jules.

JULES

His transfer just keeps getting put off. He's going. It's not like I sleep with every guy who winks at me.

FI

He's the only guy who's winked at you in months, Jules.

JULES is taken aback. She goes to leave. FI regrets her jibe.

FI

Jules, wait. I'm sorry. I didn't mean that the way it... no, I did mean it that way, but it was just... I was being a bitch and I had no reason to. Except I'm tired. I'm sorry.

JULES

You need to get laid, Fi. Why don't you come to the parties at Rod and Stephen's place?

FI

Well, it's Stephen's last night in town tomorrow. Maybe it is my turn after all...

JULES

Oh, you probably don't have to wait. He's so...

FI

Jules, I'm not going to be the last girl in this whole block of flats to sleep with Stephen Fitzpatrick.

JULES

Maybe that's it: he won't leave until he's slept with every woman in the building! It all hangs on you, Fi!

FI

Well I guess he's staying then, I'm not going to be the last!

JULES

Oh, so I should be?

FI

Sorry.

JULES

No you're not.

FI

Well, I'm sorry that it offends you, then. But I might not be sorry for making it sound sordid. Is that okay?

JULES leans in very close to FI, as if she is about to whisper something nasty.

JULES

Fi, today, everything's okay.

JULES hugs FI.

JULES

I love you even if you are up yourself, Fi.

FI

Umm, thanks?

JULES

Not a problem, not a problem at all Fi. You've been such a great neighbour. And you're always there with a laugh and a joke...

FI

And a cup of sugar, a cup of milk, a toilet roll, a tampon, a panadol and anything else you happen to run out of...

JULES

And always a great big smile. I'm going to hug you until it comes back, I am!

WIL enters, sneaking out barefoot and carrying his shoes, and approaches JULES and FI, drops his shoes and joins the hug.

WIL

Oh, it's a hallway hug! I love living in this building!

FI pulls away.

JULES

Oh Fi, you've got to embrace life! C'mon! Get back in here with us.

FI

Wait, Wil; did you come from Stephen and Rod's place?

FI indicates SR. WIL doesn't answer.

JULES

Did you get blotto and crash on the couch?

WIL bites his lip.

FI

Wait, you didn't sleep on the couch, did you?

WIL looks sheepish.

JULES

Wil! You sly old... is Rod gay?

FI

I would never have guessed Rod was gay.

WIL

Oh honey, Rod's not gay.

FI

What? No. Really?

WIL

Yep.

JULES

What? I'm not following...

WIL

Stephen...

JULES

No!

WIL

Yep.

JULES

But he was...

FI

Where did you?

JULES

At his...

FI

And you spent the night with him, Wil?

WIL

Oh yeah.

FI

In his bed?

WIL

Yep.

FI

Right after you and he...

WIL

Wait, you and Stephen?

JULES nods sheepishly.

WIL

Oh hon...

JULES

It's so...

WIL

I had no idea.

JULES

It's like we've had a three way!

WIL

Eww! Vaj!

FI and JULES slap WIL across the head.

WIL

Sorry, girls. You know I love the rest of you to bits. Just don't make me think about...

FI

I didn't know he was bi.

JULES

He couldn't be. He's so...

WIL

Honey, I got all the evidence I need to prove he's not straight last night!

FI

What about Brad?

WIL

Brad was... Brad's a little bit bi. He just needs to find the right guy, and I obviously wasn't the right guy.

JULES

Obviously.

WIL

Ouch!

JULES

I'm sorry, I didn't mean it like that.

FI

Yes you did.

JULES

Okay, I did, but I'm just being a bitch because...

WIL

You thought it was something special and then he hooked up with me?

JULES

Well...

FI

Jules, there were only two girls in the building he hadn't slept with. Now there's only one. Does that make you feel better?

JULES

Not really, no.

WIL

Well, he was a bit slow with me. Took a little... coaxing, shall we say... Does that make you feel better?

JULES

Eww! No!

WIL hugs JULES.

WIL

Oh don't worry, hun. I'm going to hug you until your smile comes back.

FI

Or until Stephen comes back.

WIL

Oh darling he's going to need a lot of rest before he comes out of that coma, if you know what I mean!

JULES sobs.

WIL

Oh hun, I'm sorry!

FI

No you're not.

WIL

I am so. Jules, listen: why don't you and I go get a coffee and compare notes?

JULES wails.

FI

I don't think you're helping, Wil.

WIL

Come on, Fi. She needs your hugs too.

FI

Oh for fuck's sake...

Fi reluctantly embraces WIL and JULES.

FI

There. Is that better?

JULES pulls back without releasing either of them.

JULES

I thought he was into me, Fi.

FI

We already knew he'd slept with every woman in the block, including Mrs Sahar; did you think you were special?

WIL

I don't think you're helping.

FI

He's a player, Jules. You got to play, then he played with Wil. You should be happy with what you got. Who knows whose turn it will be next.

WIL

Probably Mrs Sahar's son; you should see the way he looks at me with those gorgeous Sri Lankan eyes!

JULES wails and buries her head in FI's shoulder.

WIL

You have to understand the way bi guys work; they're not keepers, Jules. They're just a roll in the hay... or a pummelling in the hay if you know what I mean!

FI

Wil, you're not helping.

WIL

Alright, I'm shutting my mouth and opening my arms.

WIL hugs JULES and FI.

FI

That's what you should have done last night.

WIL

Ooh, feisty this morning, aren't we, Fi!

FI

Okay, that's enough hugging now.

WIL

Is she all better?

JULES wails.

FI

Oh, fuck.

WIL

Why don't we all go out for breakfast?

FI

I'd have thought you'd eaten enough, Wil.

WIL

Ooh, we are very feisty this morning, Fi!

JULES

She's jealous.

WIL

A little bit sexually frustrated?

FI

Wil, you're disgusting!

JULES

Do you know how long it's been?

WIL

How long?

JULES

Three months.

WIL

Oh! Sounds like someone needs a little Stephen time!

FI

I don't...

JULES

Go on Fi.

FI

I'm not a slut!

WIL

And I am?

JULES

Well, actually, Wil...

WIL

But you're not: she just called you a slut too.

JULES

Second time this morning, I'm getting used to it.

FI

I didn't mean...

WIL

Oh I think you meant it... slut shamer!

JULES

Slut shamer!

WIL holds a hand out for JULES.

WIL

Come on Jules, sluts breakfast. No shamers allowed.

JULES takes WIL's hand, and they head off.

FI

Oh come on guys, I didn't mean to...

WIL turns back to FI.

WIL

Stephen's door's still unlocked, Fi. (points SR) I thought I might go back. Maybe you should go wake him up...

WIL makes slurping sounds then takes JULES' hand again and they exit, SL.

FI

I don't need a man to make me happy.

WIL and JULES keep walking.

WIL

You could do with half an hour with one to make you tolerable!

JULES

Or to make you civil!

FI watches after them, then turns slowly towards where WIL was pointing.

WIL

I forgot my shoes.

WIL turns and collects his shoes, humping at FI as he leaves.

Fl

Well, if it's the only way to get him to leave...

Fl runs towards STEPHEN's door.

Finis.