

FINDING URSA MAJOR

by:
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Players:

HANK, a lanky, college-aged Texan with a gentle disposition

GRACE, his older sister, blunt and prickly by nature

JOSHUA, their college-aged roommate, handsome and forgivably cocky

The play takes place after midnight on the shores of Austin's Town Lake.

AT RISE: The pop and hiss of a fire. Dim lighting.

*A picnic blanket is spread out before a softly glowing fire pit.
There are cans of beer about, some empty, others still snug in
plastic rings.*

*HANK and JOSHUA are reclined on their elbows, gazing up at the
stars.*

GRACE sits, Indian-style, on the other side of the blanket.

HANK

What a beautiful night.

JOSHUA

Look. See the Big Dipper?

HANK

Yup... That's the only one I can find.

JOSHUA

No, if you can find the Big Dipper, you can find Ursa Major.

HANK

Really? Where?

GRACE

I wonder what happened to Kelly.

HANK
Huh? O... I dunno.

JOSHUA and HANK sit up.

JOSHUA
I could go look for her.

GRACE
Might be a good idea.

HANK
No, no. I invited her. I should go.

JOSHUA
We could both go—

GRACE
You know what? Never mind. I'm sure she's fine.

JOSHUA
[*To Hank*] Where'd you say you met her?

GRACE
San Antonio.

JOSHUA
No.

HANK
[*Nodding*] San Antonio.

JOSHUA
Really? I thought Texarkana.

GRACE
Texarkana? Hank's never been to Texarkana.

HANK stands up. He brushes off the seat of his pants, more by habit than need.

HANK
Well, actually...

GRACE

What the hell were you doing in Texarkana?

HANK

Nothin'.

JOSHUA

The Big Ten Auto Show?

GRACE

The auto show was in Houston.

HANK

I'd better go look. She's been gone too long.

JOSHUA

No it wasn't.

GRACE

Yes it was.

HANK shakes his head, then exits stage left, unnoticed.

JOSHUA

Wasn't.

GRACE

Was.

JOSHUA

Wasn't.

GRACE

Was. Hey, Hank, where was—?

JOSHUA

He's gone.

Slight pause.

GRACE

Look, I'm fed up.

JOSHUA

Fed up? With what?

GRACE

You know what I'm talking about. [*Mocking*] "I'll go, Hank. Do you want me to go, Hank? Let's go look together, Hank."

JOSHUA

Grace—

GRACE

It's sickening.

JOSHUA thinks for a moment.

JOSHUA

You know, we were never an item. No matter what you think, you and I never—

GRACE stands.

GRACE

[*Highly agitated*] Don't you think I know that?

JOSHUA

Then why? Why are you getting so bent out of shape?

GRACE

Because he's my brother. Because you used me.

JOSHUA

Bullshit. I never led you on.

GRACE

[*With a false laugh*] My God... You know that's not what this is about.

This has nothing to do with you and me. This is about you and Hank, and what you did. It was heartless and cruel.

JOSHUA stands and tosses aside an empty beer can.

JOSHUA

I think you're being over-dramatic. We were drunk off our asses, and nobody gives a damn about it. Nobody, but you. Why? I have no idea... I mean, since when do you give two-shits about him, anyway?

GRACE

[*Ugh!*] That does it. [*Calling out*] Hank! Hey, Hank!

JOSHUA

Jesus! What are you doing?

GRACE

Getting this out in the open, once and for all. I'm sick of all the bullshit, the lies.

JOSHUA

No! You can't!

GRACE

Why not? If it's no big deal, let's get it out. Let's talk about it.

JOSHUA takes GRACE by the shoulders (not too rough).

JOSHUA

Cut it out, Grace.

GRACE pushes JOSHUA away.

GRACE

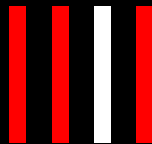
Why? I think it would do us all a world of good.

JOSHUA

Because it's not fair. Because he's your brother. And because, if he finds out that you know about what happened, it'd kill him. He's not ready.

GRACE

Baloney. The truth never killed anybody. And you're the one who's hiding from it. You're scared shitless by the truth! [*Calling out*] Hank! Hey, Hank!



**FIND OUT HOW
THIS PLAY ENDS.**

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