

## **After the Bows**

by Deborah Savadge

### **CHARACTERS**

**Jules** - neurasthenic, emotional, active, fair. She wears white.

**Jon** - fit, handsome. He wears a grey shirt, black pants, boots.

They are both about 30. They make a handsome couple.

**Kristine** - older than the other two, maternal, capable, a talker. Disappointed in love, she retains her sense of humor. She is a waitress and part-time sous-chef in a restaurant owned by a man she's in love with.

*LIGHTS bump up to full.  
SHE is mid-thought.*

JULES

It was, wasn't / it?

JON

It was – I think it really was – one of the / best –

JULES

I know. I know. Maybe the very best time of my life. / Ever.

JON

Yep. For me / too.

JULES

Everything went well. Didn't/ it?

JON

It did.

JULES

I mean, it couldn't have gone better, / from

JON

From meeting up at the / airport –

JULES

We knew, / didn't we?

JON

We did. As soon as I / saw you –

JULES

As soon as we saw each other, we / knew –

JON

We knew. I knew. And I was so / relieved.

JULES

I knew I couldn't do this role unless I had a Jon who was - And I was so thrilled when I said, "Are you my Jon?"

JON

Didn't I say, "Julie, right?"

JULES  
We both knew immediately!

JON  
It's been – well, it's been –

JULES  
Magical from the / beginning.

JON  
Really. / Unbelievable.

JULES  
So I thought, maybe, a little celebration supper.

JON  
/ Excellent.

JULES  
But, see, I couldn't really cook / because of the

JON  
No, no. Of course / not.

JULES  
So I ordered a bit of supper. It should be here before too / long.

JON  
Great! That's not easy to find around / here.

JULES  
The little Italian place on Wisteria Street told me they would do it for me. (*SHE produces a bottle of wine and proceeds to uncork it and pour two glasses.*) Tada!

HE  
Nice.

SHE  
But in the meantime, we have a LOT to figure out.

*During the following SHE sets a table with candlesticks,  
silverware, plates and linen napkins.*

JON  
You mean like, how are we going to get packed and out of here at the crack of dawn?

SHE  
*(pushing him, playfully)*

Oh, you!

JON  
*(looking around)*

Your place looks pretty pulled together, but I've still got stuff everywhere and I haven't finished packing and I want to take the posters and programs and /everything from the

SHE

You're taking the boots?

JON

I can't fit them in my bag, so I'm wearing them. And the gloves. Carrie's letting me have / them.

JULES

She wouldn't give the dress. It has to be returned. But I'm taking the handkerchief and the barrette.

JON

Oh / good.

JULES

I loved having you let down my hair every night. *(SHE clinks her glass to his.)*

JON

Yes.

JULES

I wanted to take the canary and cage, but they were a loan from the Historical Society.

JON

No wonder you're all packed. You don't have a lot of huge props to try to stuff into your / suitcase.

JULES

I'm so glad we're travelling together.

JON

Just to the airport.

JULES

???

We're on different planes. JON  
 We are? How did that happen? JULES  
 Before we even left home I asked Kim to book me into LaGuardia. JON  
 Why? JULES  
 It's just easier. JON  
 But we flew from / Kennedy - JULES  
 I know, right? But I asked her if she would let me fly back to LaGuardia / because... JON  
 Why? JULES  
 It's just easier to get...to get...home from there. JON  
 ...She's picking you up at the airport. JULES  
*(crushed to discover this)*  
 / Um? JON  
 She's picking you up at the airport, isn't she? *(Mocking the name)* Dan-i-elle. JULES  
 Um. That's the plan. JON  
 But did you tell her? JULES  
 Did I...? JON

Did you tell her about... / about...? JULES

Um. JON

When are you going to tell her? JULES

I'm... / I'm... JON

I mean, she knows about me already, / right? JULES

You met her when she came down for the first / preview. JON

Yes. JULES

You two sort of...got along. JON

But that was / before. JULES

Yes. JON

We / didn't - JULES

We / hadn't... JON

No. I mean, we'd sort of flirted with each other. But we / hadn't JULES

JULES told me she thought you were really pretty. JON

Did she. JULES

JON  
She said, "She's really...pretty, isn't she?"

JULES  
And you said...?

JON  
I said..."Yes."

JULES  
I can't stand the idea of her putting her little stubby hands on you.

JON  
Well –

JULES  
I mean, what made you marry her?

JON  
/ Um.

JULES  
She's soooo not worthy of you.

JON  
She...She puts up with a...fair amount.

JULES  
...I don't want to talk about her.

JON  
No. I know. It's our last night. / Let's just –

JULES  
The next time I see you, we'll be back in New York and it will feel very different to to  
/ to

JON  
Yes.

JULES  
We'll be part of each other's regular lives. I mean this has been so extraordinary  
because we've had the show and adjoining apartments and the pool / and the

JON  
It's / been –

JULES

But now you have to tell her about Us and I / have to

JON

Well, this is all going to take... / time.

JULES

I understand if you don't feel you can tell her immediately.

JON

No. I don't think I / should -

JULES

But when?

JON

/ When?

JULES

When will you tell her?

JON

I was sort of / thinking -

JULES

I don't think you should wait. She's used to your being away. But if you let her think you're going to settle back there, it will just make it / harder to -

JON

Yeah. But, you know how when you first get home there's a million things? Like -

JULES

Like?

JON

Like mail. Like bills. / Like -

JULES

Just bundle it all up and bring it to my house.

JON

Well, not on the first...Not on my first night... / home.

JULES

Okay, but when you do you think you'll / come to my

JON

This has been a really special...I mean it's been an amazing /time

JULES

It's been amazing hasn't it? I never thought I could feel anything like this / again

JON

But we have to be practical / about

JULES

I know. There are so many details to work / out.

JON

No. No. But I mean. It's different for you and Tom. But Dani and I / are...

JULES

I know. I know. It's different for me. Because I already told Tommy.

JON

You already / told - ?

JULES

I told you I was going / to.

JON

I know you did, but that was in the middle of...I didn't know you were...What did you tell / him?

JULES

I just said that I had always thought we had a good relationship, that he had been a brick: A good guy. But when I found real...passion...it's just a whole / different -

JON

You told him about us?

JULES

I had to. I called him this morning. I didn't want to pretend / that -

JON

And he's...he's.../ what?

JULES

Leaving the apartment. He has that house in the Poconos and he texted me that he packed a couple of suitcases and moved out of my apartment and went back / up to his -

JON

So he just said, "Okay, fine," and moved / out?

JULES

He didn't say, "Okay, fine!" It wasn't like that. We cried on the phone, but, I mean, he knew something was different. Every time I talked with him. He could / tell.

JON

How do you know he's not going to – I don't know – lay in wait for...one of us. Or call Dani and tell her... / something, or –

JULES

That's what you're worried about? That Tommy will tell your Wife about us before you get a chance / to to - ?

JON

I just...I don't want everything to come unglued here.

JULES

Oh Babe. It already has.

JON

No. But look. This has been a wonderful time, / but, I mean

JULES

It has. It has. It's /been –

JON

No, but I...Let me just...We've had a great...run here. The play was –

JULES

I know. I / know.

JON

No. But let me just...

We have to...I have to...go back to my actual real...life tomorrow and I don't think I can...

JULES

What?

JON

I don't think my actual real life is going to...can really.....Much as this has been a really special, / amazing -

JULES

I know. It's always like that when a show closes and you have to go back home and start slogging away again. / Auditioning,

JON

Yes, / but, I also mean –

JULES

And this whole time has been fantastic.

JON

It's been intense, / but –

JULES

It HAS been / "Intense."

JON

But I think. You and I both knew going into it / that

JULES

We thought it was just one of those actor-y flings. I know. I know. But it wasn't!

JON

No. It wasn't. It was a real –

JULES

You're different than anyone I've / ever –

JON

And you're different than anyone I'VE / ever –

JULES

And that's why we have to be / together.

JON

I wish...I can't...

Here's the thing...I'm married.

JULES

*(laughs)* I know. You don't think / I know that?

JON

But I mean...I'm seriously...married and I can't just...

JULES

What are you saying?

JON

I'm saying. Let's just have one last, wonderful night together and then, in the morning, we have / to –

JULES

No. No! We're not going to – What are you talking about?

JON

You're a beautiful woman.

JULES

/ And you!

JON

I just wish I'd met you....a long / time ago.

JULES

But you said –

JON

I know. But we were doing the show and our characters were...It was all just kind of bound up in the play and who we were / on stage

JULES

You're just getting cold feet, or something, / because

JON

No. That's / not it.

JULIE

- because you have to face Dan-i-elle and her whiny – But see: You can come to my apartment. You don't even have to go back to her. You / can just –

JON

I can't –

JULES

But you said / you wanted –

JON

I know. I said a lot of – I'm not proud of the things I said that led you to / believe –

JULES

*(beginning to get angry)*

You can't just –

JON

Look. Let's not spoil / our last

JULES

No. But this is...This isn't just some...This is Important. For both of us. You KNOW / that.

JON

It's going to be hard. For me. For both of us. But we have to be realistic / about this -

JULES

I AM being realistic.

JON

No, but I mean - / We're in a precarious profession and we have to

JULES

What are you - ?

What do you think you're - ? You have to just -

***(As she says this she is attempting to put his arms around her, but he is pulling away from her.)***

JON

Look. It's not going to - I thought we were on the same page here. I didn't realize you thought / we could -

JULES

*(frightened)*

What are you talking about? I had no idea / you'd

JON

Look, I got you a present.

*HE pulls a small box out of his pocket.*

JULES

Oh, thank you, Love. I'm sorry I didn't get you anything. I thought about it, but I...I'm sorry. And this is *(SHE snatches it from him.)* This is - I hoped. When we went to the historic district and saw that wonderful - *(SHE opens it.)*

Oh! It's not what I -

JON

No, it's just a little -

JULES

I thought.....I thought you'd get me / the the

JON

I'm sorry. I just thought you'd like...See, it's a guardian angel.

JULES

You're my guardian angel.

JON

But now you'll have this in a pocket / or in your

JULES

I don't want this.

JON

I'm sorry we can't / be

JULES

*(becoming unraveled)*

No. No. No. We have to. This is so RIGHT. I've never been so sure of anything in my whole – Just come home with me. To my apartment. Did I tell you? I have a huge bathtub up on legs. / We can

JON

*(reaching for her)*

You'll be better off without me. I'm not an easy guy to live with. You can ask Dani –

JULES

*(pushing him away)*

Don't say her name. Don't say her name to me.

*(Clutching at him in desperation)* You you you don't seem to realize. This isn't just some some blip on our life...lines. This is Meant. You think you have to Go Back to Grey Ordinary life, but you don't. With me you can... You'll see. You'll see. Just take the risk.

JON

I can't. I can't do that. But / I'll always

JULES

Try. Just try it for a month...or a week or or - / I could even

JON

I'll always feel something soooo –

JULES

*(She shakes her head and backs away from him hardly able to speak)* No.

JON

You'll always be very –

*SHE starts to cry.*

Darlin' don't, don't cry. I'm I'm sorry. I thought you knew.

JULES

*(through tears)*

Knew what?

JON

I thought you knew it was...it was a Showmance. For while we were here. That you'd go back to your boyfriend and I'd go back to / Dani.

JULES

Tommy? Tommy is...It doesn't...That doesn't make sense...You can't / mean –

HE

You've been with Tom for – what – ? Two years?

JULES

/ Three.

JON

I didn't think you were going to throw that over for for / for...

JULES

But I told you. Tommy is...Tommy is a sweetie pie, / but

JON

I know / you said

JULES

What we have is a whole, different...order of magnitude.

JON

It's just tied up with the seduction scene in the play. You said / yourself –

JULES

I don't fall in love every time I'm in a play. I'm not a / a a

JON

No, of course not, but the fact that the show sold out, and got a lot of press and and we were kind of the toast / of the town –

JULES

I know, but I'm not delusional. We talked. We didn't just...fuck... We made / plans.

JON

But I never said I was going to leave my wife and and / and –

JULES

How else were we going to be together?

JON

Frankly, you talked about being together beyond...tomorrow. I / figured

JULES

You can't mean that! You don't mean that!

JON

Honey, here's the thing: there's something I haven't told you.

JULES

Okay. Okay.

JON

I wasn't going / to tell

JULES

Just tell me. Don't... Just tell me.

JON

All right.

JULES

...So what is it?

JON

It's Dani. She....

JULES

Oh not the old, "My wife has cancer," story.

JON

No. / No.

JULES

Then what?...

...Oh my God, she's pregnant.

JON

*(nods)*

And you're the...sperm donor

JULES

Uhhch!

JON

You're the *(as if it's an epithet)* father?

JULES

Yes.

JON

...and she wants to keep it.

JULES

Yes!

JON

How long?

JULES

How long have / I - ?

JON

How long? How long? How far gone is she?

JULES

She's...It was...while she was...here.

JON

Oh Jesus God.

JULES

Yes.

JON

You said you weren't...You said she didn't...

JULES

I know I did. I just meant

JON

JULES

*(flinging herself at him)*

Liar! You're a liar! You lied to me about everything! / God damn you!

JON

I didn't. I didn't lie about – Hey, take it easy! You're going to hurt yourself. Hey/ that hurts!

JULES

*(flailing at him)*

I can't believe – I believed you. I trusted / you. I – I - I –

JON

I know. I know you...We both did –

JULES

/ Why did you ever - ?

*A knock at the door.*

What did you think we / were – ?

JON

Take it easy. Let's see who's at the door.

JULES

You Shithead! You bastard! You're betraying everything we we did / and said and felt for each other

JON

Wait a second! Hold on! Be calm for a second. / Let's see who's at the door. What do you say?

JULES

I can't "be calm." You can be calm for both of us. I'm broken. I'm heartbroken. I can't believe. You can't mean what you're saying. None of it. You're lying to yourself and to me and

*Another knock at the door. More insistent.*

*~ For the rest of the play, please contact the playwright. ~*