

The Characters

A man

A woman

Another man (Tom)

The Set

A chair

The Play

The man is standing, looking at the chair.

The woman enters. She is looking for somewhere to sit.

WOMAN. Excuse me.

MAN. Yes?

WOMAN. Is this chair occupied?

MAN. What?

WOMAN. This chair? Is it being used?

MAN. No

WOMAN. Right.

The woman attempts to sit down

MAN. But it may be used by myself in a moment.

WOMAN. Ah right.

He stands. She waits.

Will you be long?

MAN. I'm sorry?

WOMAN. Will you be using it for long?

MAN. Possibly, yes.

WOMAN. Right. How long?

MAN. What?

WOMAN. How long will you be using it?

MAN. I haven't decided.

WOMAN. Right.

MAN. Why?

WOMAN. I just wondered. I'll wait.

She waits. He stands.

MAN. I may be some time.

WOMAN. That's OK.

MAN. I hadn't planned on sitting down just yet.

WOMAN. No problem.

MAN. It could be awhile.

WOMAN. I'm not in a rush.

She waits. Tapping her feet, whistling, making clucking noises.

MAN. That's very distracting.

WOMAN. Hmm?

MAN. Making those noises.

WOMAN. Sorry. It's just, I'm so in need of a sit down. I've absolutely exhausted.
It's been one hell of a day and I'm really tired. Worn out. Exhausted.

He stands. She waits.

MAN. So you've had quite a day?

WOMAN. Yes, you could say that.

MAN. And you're exhausted?

WOMAN. Absolutely.

MAN. What have you been doing?

WOMAN. I've been looking for somewhere to sit.

They both look at the chair

MAN. There's always this chair.

WOMAN. Yes.

MAN. (reluctantly) Go on then. I'll get another.

WOMAN. You'll be lucky.

MAN. What?

WOMAN. There are no more.

MAN. No more?

WOMAN. No more chairs. Not empty ones anyway. There's none anywhere. I should know, I've been looking for one for days.

MAN. No more chairs?

WOMAN. Not even a bench or a stool. They're all being occupied.

MAN. They'll make some more, surely...

WOMAN. And they're not making anymore, apparently.

MAN. Blimey.

WOMAN. I know!

MAN. And you say you've been looking for days?

WOMAN. Well, for a long time at any rate.

MAN. Well... In that case...

WOMAN. Yes?

MAN. I think you'd better sit down.

WOMAN. I think I better had.

MAN. Before I change my mind.

WOMAN. Yes.

MAN. Or before someone else comes and sits on it.

WOMAN. Yes.

She is about to sit....

Is this just because I'm a woman?

MAN. What?

WOMAN. Is it some sort of male chauvinist thing showing your supremacy over women?

MAN. What? No.

WOMAN. Because I don't NEED to sit down, you know. I can stand. I am capable.

MAN. Yes, I know. I just thought you'd want to sit down because...

WOMAN. Because?

MAN. Because you said you wanted to. Besides...

WOMAN. Besides?

MAN. I don't want to.

WOMAN. Oh. Right. That's OK then.

She is about to sit...

Have you been sitting in the chair already?

MAN. Oh yes.

WOMAN. Doing what?

MAN. Doing?

WOMAN. What were you doing in the chair?

MAN. Just sitting.

WOMAN. Just sitting?

MAN. Pretty much.

WOMAN. Not thinking?

MAN. Not really.

WOMAN. Reading?

MAN. God, no.

WOMAN. Looking?

MAN. I looked a bit.

WOMAN. Good. What did you look at?

MAN. I looked at what I could see.

WOMAN. And what was that?

MAN. Not a lot to be honest.

WOMAN. And you looked at that all morning?

MAN. Well, first I looked over there, and when I'd seen what was over there, I looked over there. And after I'd seen what was over there, I moved my chair and looked over here.

WOMAN. You moved your chair?

MAN. Oh, I know. I might have damaged something. Or not put it in quite the right place. Or worse still...

WOMAN. Yes.

MAN. Someone could have sneaked in as I was in the act of moving, and taken it upon themselves to sit in my place. But I was quick. And careful.

WOMAN. And was what you could see over here any better than what you could see over there or over there?

MAN. Not really. Still, it was nice just sitting and looking.

WOMAN. Sitting and looking.

MAN. Or looking and sitting. Whichever.

They look at the chair

WOMAN. I've been looking too.

MAN. Over there?

WOMAN. No.

MAN. Over there?

WOMAN. No.

MAN. Over here?

WOMAN. No.

MAN. Well, where?

WOMAN. I've been looking everywhere.

MAN. Everywhere?

WOMAN. All over the place.

MAN. What for?

WOMAN. A chair.

MAN. A chair?

WOMAN. An empty chair.

MAN. And did you find one?

WOMAN. No. Not until now.

They look at the chair

MAN. Where have you been looking?

WOMAN. Well, first of all, I went for a walk.

MAN. A walk?

WOMAN. Yes. There were some empty chairs but people had reserved them.

MAN. With what, coats? Towels? Reserved signs?

WOMAN. Children, mainly, and in one case an extremely vicious pit bull terrier.

She holds up her plastered finger.

So then I got on a bus.

MAN. A bus?

WOMAN. Thought I could have a sit down on a bus.

MAN. And?

WOMAN. There were no seats.

MAN. No seats?

WOMAN. None.

MAN. They'd all been taken out?

WOMAN. They were all being used.

MAN. Ah.

WOMAN. So I got off. Without paying. Then I thought... I know, I'll stuff a cushion up my dress, make myself look...

MAN. Fat.

WOMAN. Pregnant.

MAN. Pregnant, right.

WOMAN. So, I got on another bus. Choc-a-bloc with pregnant women.

MAN. No! Did any of them stand up for you?

WOMAN. Not a one.

MAN. Shocking.

WOMAN. I know, what's the world coming to? So I hailed a taxi.

MAN. A taxi?

WOMAN. Too right. 'Taxi!' I hailed.

MAN. Did one come?

WOMAN. One DID come. Although that too was fully occupied.

MAN. Really?

WOMAN. Yes. Do you know, they only allow a maximum of 5 people at any one time in a taxi these days and one of them has to be the driver?

MAN. Only 5?

WOMAN. Including the driver. Ridiculous. Anyway, after I was forcibly ejected from taxi after taxi, I decided to wait for a train.

MAN. A train?

WOMAN. A train. The waiting room was full so I went onto the platform. The platform was overcrowded with people waiting for the waiting room, so I had to stand on the bridge. The bridge was full of people waiting for the wait for the waiting room, so I took to the steps. The steps were all being sat on so I stood in the road. That was overflowing with taxis and buses, so I nipped into a shop. That was heaving with people looking for somewhere to wait for the wait for the train and escape from the bridge and the road and the steps and the shops, so I thought 'sod this' and went to the theatre.

MAN. The theatre?!!!

WOMAN. Oh, there was nothing on.

MAN. Thank heavens.

WOMAN. But still, not a seat to be had.

MAN. Incredible.

WOMAN. I begged and begged but to no avail. I said to the person I took to be the manager, I said, 'So are you telling me that if a member of the

Royal Family arrived, if the Queen herself deigned to pay you a visit, you would turn her away?' He said, 'No, she's already here, along with several other members of the Royal Family'. I said 'Oh' and left.

MAN. I can't believe there's nowhere to sit.

WOMAN. I know.

They look at the chair

MAN. Look. While we're here, while there's a chair here, it seems, well, wrong, not to make use of it.

WOMAN. Make use of it?

MAN. Not to take advantage of the fact that we've got a chair to sit on. Not to sit on it. One of us should really sit down.

WOMAN. And you think I should sit?

MAN. Well, I don't want to.

WOMAN. I may not want to either.