

Excerpt from...
THE MEDIAN LINE
by Kitt Lavoie

Scene 2

Darkness. Silence. Voices are heard off-stage as the lights rise on Zack's apartment. The clothes that had been strewn around the bed are gone. Medi is asleep on one side of the bed wearing the same pajama top she had been wearing earlier.

Girl #2 (offstage) What? Here?

Zack (offstage) Mmm-hmm. This is it.

Keys are heard jangling off-stage.

Girl #2 (offstage) Can't wait to see it.

Zack (offstage) Uh, yeah.

A door is heard opening and closing. Zack and **GIRL #2** enter. Zack is wearing a pair of jeans, a button-down shirt, and a sports-coat. Girl #2 is wearing a tight-fitting skirt and a button-down shirt, perhaps tied off at the stomach-- she should be somewhat disheveled. It has already been a long night of partying.

Girl #2 Hey!

Zack Like it?

Girl #2 Yeah, nice place.

Zack Thanks. (indicating) Kitchen. Bathroom. Window. Bed.

Girl #2 Bed?

Zack (taking out his wallet) Mmm-hmm. (he removes a condom from his wallet and tosses it on the bed) So, what are we going to do about this?

Girl #2 (pouncing onto the bed) C'mere.

Zack approached the edge of the bed.

Zack Here?

Girl #2 No. (pulling Zack atop her) Here!

They begin kissing, caressing each other, etc. They clumsily kick off their shoes. Girl #2 removes Zack's shirt as they pull the covers over them. Zack begins to unbutton Girl #2's shirt. Before he finishes, she disappears under the covers.

Zack Where are you going? Oh. Oh!

Girl #2 (from beneath covers) Well, well, well. What do we have here?

Zack That would be my... ahhh... Thank you. Thank you much...

A mumbled response is heard from under the covers. Medi murmurs and begins to stir. Medi sits up, stretches, and looks to see Zack on the other side of the bed. Medi quickly realizes what is going on.

Medi No.

Zack Hey...

Medi No.

Zack Well...

Medi No. There is no... no... possible way you've done this ag-- I cannot believe that you wou—

Zack Not now. I'm, uh, busy. Can we go over this... mmm... later.

Medi Can we go... can we... (getting out of the bed) Yeah. Yeah, sure. but I thought we went over this alrea—

Zack Look, um. This kind of, um... oooh... later, okay?

Medi Jesus... (Medi retreats to the back corner of the stage, Zack resumes enjoying himself. After a moment of thought, Medi reapproaches the bed, leaning over the head-board from behind to get right near Zack's ear) Sure. Sure, we can do this later. 'Cause, y'know, I've got plenty to think about while you're... busy. Like, that presentation you've got to make on Monday. Mr. Ames is very anxious to hear what you have to say, you know. (Zack is getting progressively more distracted by what Medi is saying) And if you came through for him, he could really help you with... hey, did you remember to tape the game tonight. No? Who do you think would have taped it? Bill? Jeff? Or... hey. What time are you supposed to meet Jeff at the courts tomorrow? Was it nine o'clock or nine-thir—

Girl #2 (from under the covers) Hey, what's going on down here, huh? Where'd he go?



Medi Hey, remember that time your sister walked in on us in the shower?

Girl #2 (from under the covers) There we go!

Medi You really are a sick fuck, Zack.

Zack Mmmm...

Medi Or walking in on your parents. Huh? "Oh, George. There! Yes! There! (Medi sinks behind the bed) Yes! Yes! Ohhhh, yes!"

Zack is obviously disgusted by Medi's display. Girl #2 crawls up from under the covers and looks Zack in the eyes. Zack is obviously embarrassed.

Zack I think you had better go.

Girl #2 Yeah. I guess I better.

Girl #2 rises out of bed and buttons up her shirt.

Zack Look, uh... I just have a lot of things on... can I call you.

Girl #2 Sure.

Zack Your number?

Girl #2 I'll see you around. (exits apartment)

Zack Yeah. Sure... Fuck... I cannot believe you did that.

Medi (rising from behind the bed) You can't....

Zack I cannot believe you di—

Medi You cannot believe? You can... You brought her back here.

Zack Yeah. And?

Medi And you brought her back here.

Zack And you... I can't believe you did that. Aren't you... what? Embarrassed? Humiliated?

Medi Yes. A little. Are you?



Zack Yes... no. But... why? I just... I don't get it. What did I—

Medi You brought her back here.

Zack Yes? And?

Medi And you didn't check with me.

Zack I have to—

Medi Yes.

Zack I have to ask—

Medi Yes.

Zack Every time I meet a—

Medi Yes.

Zack Meet a girl?

Medi Yes.

Zack Every time I want to have—

Medi Every time.

Zack Even if I just want—

Medi Yes.

Zack Even if I just want to get my—

Medi Don't say it. Yes.

Zack Mmmm.

Medi Are we clear? We good?

Zack Uh... no. No, no we're not.

Medi No?

Zack No. What about my... what I want?



Medi What about what you want? You've been getting—

Zack It's my dick.

Medi Really? And what about me? What—

Zack What, you want my dick? For what? You haven't had any use for it—lately.

Medi Yeah. Well, I used to have plenty to do with it, didn't I? Then you decided...

Zack Yeah. Lay it all on me. Go...

Medi You decided you wanted more.

Zack Yes, I dec—

Medi And I was fine wi—

Zack Fine? Right. Then what is this? Huh?

Medi You got—

Zack I—

Medi Got what you wanted, and I—

Zack So, what—

Medi And I don't get sh—

Zack So—

Medi Don't get—

Zack No, listen... no... So, what do you want? Just you and... we've been over this—

Medi Yes.

Zack Just you and me again? 'Cause—

Medi No.

Zack Look, you've got great hands, y'know. Fine. But it was us for so—

Medi I know—

Zack Us for so long, and I want mo—I need more. I thought you understood—

Medi (overlapping with "you understood") I understand. And I need mo—

Zack I know. It isn't just me...

Medi (overlapping with "It isn't just me") It isn't just you. I want more, too.

Zack Then why...

Medi Because I want more with you. You want more than these hands, fine. I understand. But find some hands I can talk to. Shit. We've done this before. And it never makes a diff—

Zack Look. I want you to be happy. I do. I... I just... I go out, with you, and we drink and then, you're... I don't know. And I see these girls—

Medi Yeah—

Zack And I just want... to touch them. To let them touch... I don't know... So I bring them—

Medi Just ask me fir—

Zack I try. I would. But where do you go?

Medi I don't... I—

Zack I would let you choose, but you're not—

Medi Look, I—

Zack And they look so good to me—

Medi I know—

Zack Until you show me how—

Medi Yes—

Zack They are... I... I'm sorry. I am. But—



Medi Look, we'll just... just try to stay...

Both Together.

There is a contemplative silence at the two consider the situation.

Zack But her... she was really good... I mean at—

Medi I know.

Zack But you wouldn't let me bring her ho—

Medi No.

Zack Well, then, where does that leave us? I know that you deserve to get what you—

Medi And I know you—

Zack So we find someone you like...

Medi Hopefully.

Zack Someone nice.

Medi Yeah.

Zack Who chooses her relationships carefully.

Medi Well...

Zack And wants to find someone to love...

Medi Yeah...

Zack And someone to love her...

Medi Yes...

Zack Who is probably a mediocre fuck.

Medi No. (they look at each other) Good sex comes from more than just experience.

Zack I guess...



Medi Do you really need someone who has taught herself to, uh, what, put a condom on with her teeth? Who has ke—, uh, steroid-induced Kegel muscles?

Zack It helps.

Medi Circus tricks.

Zack Hmm?

Medi It's like the two-headed dog at a carnival. Neat to look at. You'd like to pet it. But do you really want to take it home? Do you want it for yours? Or do you want a dog that loves you? Would protect you? A dog that's *yours*—

Zack Did you see that girl that just left here? No dog, that girl. I don't do dogs.

Medi Damn it...

Zack No, I know. I do. But... I still feel... It's a trade. We can't both have—

Medi We can.

Zack Maybe. But, what that girl was doing... what good girl... what girl that you would accept, could possibly—

Medi Courtney Hoff.

Zack Mmmm. Yeah.

Medi Nine months.

Zack A good nine months.

Medi For me, too.

Zack Yeah?

Medi Yeah. You know, at the beginning...

Zack When it was just you and—

Medi No. After. After you decided to go out... to find more.

Zack Yeah.

Medi And for a long... what seemed like a real long time... you would bring these girls home, back to our bed. And I would stay in the shadows and watch. Watch you with these women. And you'd be with them and I... they never knew I was here. They seemed to be there for the same reason as you. You know, just to be there. And I would just watch.

Zack Mmm.

Medi I wanted to be there. But those girls, they wanted you. Not me. I would have been... to much for them.

Zack Mmm.

Medi But Courtney. She saw me in the shadows, watching. And she was the first... the only... the first one who invited me into the bed with you. The only one... the only time when I felt that she wanted me there... and you wanted me there. And every night... I don't know if you knew... every night you and she, and I would have—

Zack Great, great se—

Medi For the only time ever, I really felt part of it. Even when it was just us... I really felt like I belonged in that bed.

Zack And you were better than you ever—

Medi And, I don't know if you knew... every night, after we... I ... you would fall asleep and she and I would curl up. And we wouldn't talk. We wouldn't move. We would just lay there. And I could feel the length of her body against mine, and feel her breast against my side, and feel her hair against my cheek, and feel her breath, warm and even on my neck. And I have never been happier. I've never felt so close to anyone. Not even you. Because...

Both I was in love with her.

Medi And I miss it.

Zack I knew.

Medi You did.

Zack I knew how happy you were. And I liked it. It made me happy, too. To see you so—

Medi And after she was gone, you—



Zack I know—

Medi You started *this*. These women. Every night. And I don't know them. And I don't know you. And I miss you.

Zack And I—

Medi And I crawl in bed with you and give them what they want, and you get what you want, and I... I just sit up and hate myself, and you, and them, and you slee—And I just can't do it anymore. I can't.

Zack Okay. Alright. (Zack and Medi take a breath, then curl up next to each other to sleep) Nine-thirty.

Medi What?

Zack Jeff for tennis.

Medi Oh. Right.