

Your Call

A One-Act Play
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SYNOPSIS

It's not cheating if it's online.

Lucy, a devoted wife and mother, yearns for something more. She finds Cadence, a woman who makes her living through cybersex (online video sex). Unsure of her intention, Lucy finds that her relationship with Cadence begins to evolve in unexpected ways.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

LUCY, F, 20s-40s, searching for her true self

CADENCE, F, 20s-50s, sure of herself

SETTINGS

Lucy's house (could be a bedroom, an office, or any other private room)

Cadence's place of work (most likely her bedroom or home office)

PRODUCTION NOTES

The time is modern day in two different cities/towns.

Lucy exists in one location and Cadence in another

Written as a part of the Online Theatre Movement, the play is meant to be produced in two geographically different locations with two separate audiences. One audience for Lucy and one audience for Cadence. The two audiences are connected just as the two women are connected, through online video calls.

SCENE 1

LUCY waits anxiously and checks the time.
What's taking so long? Finally, CADENCE
calls.

LUCY
(Answering the video chat)

Hello?

CADENCE

Hi Lucy.

LUCY

Um... hi... hi,..

CADENCE

I'm Cadence.

LUCY

Hi Cadence.

CADENCE

I was excited to meet you.

LUCY

You were?

CADENCE

Of course. Your profile says this is your first time.

LUCY

Yeah, I just found your website on Google and it said that anyone could call in and that you all were...

CADENCE

I love first-timers. I love making people happy. And there's always something special about the first call.

LUCY

Yeah, I was excited to try things out. I'm glad you talk to other women...

CADENCE

Talk to them? I prefer women. Men are a bore. There's no game with men, no artistry. I'm an artist, Lucy.

LUCY

You seem like the artistic type. I should warn you, I don't know much about... art.

CADENCE

That's why I'm here. Do you like my sweater, Lucy?

LUCY

Yes, it's very nice. I was going to say earlier how nice I thought...

CADENCE

Do you want me to take it off?

LUCY

Take it off? Just like that?

CADENCE

Just like that.

LUCY

Are you cold? Because you don't have to...

CADENCE

(Unbuttoning her sweater)

Lucy.

LUCY

Yes?

CADENCE

I want you to relax. I want you to unbutton your top button.

LUCY

I'm so sorry... I just... I don't know if I should have done this. This might have been a mistake. I'm married.

CADENCE

You think I didn't see that wedding ring?

LUCY

Oh my God. I can't believe I left my ring on. This is karma... this is karma telling me I'm a horrible person for cheating.

CADENCE

You're not cheating. I'm not there. I'm not holding you or running my hands through your hair. Touching your lips or unbuttoning that shirt for you... What's his name?

LUCY

Should I be telling you personal information? The online agreement said we couldn't discuss...

CADENCE

My personal information, but you can tell me whatever you want. That's what I'm here for.

LUCY

Maybe I better not...

CADENCE

You don't need to. You scream domestic bliss.

LUCY

I do?

CADENCE

Ignorance is bliss, Lucy. I don't blame you. I envy the simpler times. The times when life wasn't quite so... interesting. But I find you interesting, Lucy.

LUCY

You do?

CADENCE

Of course I do. And it looks like our time is up.

LUCY

Already? That was so fast.

CADENCE

Time flies when... I can't wait to talk to you again, Lucy.

LUCY

Oh... I don't know if I'm going to...

CADENCE

Like I said, I can't wait to talk to you again. Hopefully you won't wait too long to schedule another session.

LUCY

I'll just have to see...

CADENCE

Goodbye, Lucy.

LUCY

Goodbye, Cadence.

CADENCE

Lucy.

LUCY

Yes?

CADENCE

Take the ring off next time.

LUCY

But...

CADENCE

It's not cheating. It's freedom. You deserve some freedom. Goodbye, Lucy.

Cadence hangs up. Cadence prepares for her next call. Lucy is left alone with her thoughts... and her wedding ring.

SCENE 2

The next call. Cadence calls Lucy. Before answering, Lucy remembers to remove her wedding ring.

LUCY

Hi!

CADENCE

Hello, Lucy. It's so good to see you again.

LUCY

You too...

CADENCE

I wasn't sure if you were going to schedule another session.

LUCY

I wasn't sure either, but...

CADENCE

But here we are...

LUCY

Here we are. (A moment) I took off my wedding ring.

CADENCE

Oh, I noticed. I wasn't going to bring it up, but since you did... I'm proud of you. How do you feel?

LUCY

I'm not sure...

CADENCE

How did you feel before?

LUCY

Trapped.

CADENCE

Welcome to the land of the free.

LUCY

Free? Free from what?

CADENCE

You tell me? What was trapping you?

LUCY

I don't know... I can't even believe I said trapped. I love my life, I love my husband, I love my family...

CADENCE

I'm sure you do. I love a lot of things too, but that doesn't mean I don't crave change every now and then.

LUCY

Yeah...yeah... of course. I take it you're not married?

CADENCE

(Amused)

That's a personal question...

LUCY

Right, sorry...

CADENCE

But no, I'm not married.

LUCY

That makes sense...

CADENCE

Why does that make sense? You think I'm not marriage material?

LUCY

Oh my God, no! That's not what I meant. That's terrible I'm so sorry...

CADENCE

Lucy... I'm just giving you shit.

LUCY

Still, I shouldn't have... I'm sorry ... I just... I'm still trying to figure out how to talk to you I guess.

CADENCE

How do you want to talk?

LUCY

I don't know... I guess I just want it to seem casual... I want it to seem like we've known each other for years. I want it to be... familiar... you know?

CADENCE

I do know. Familiar sounds nice. I already feel like I know you better than most of my clients, Lucy.

LUCY

You do?

CADENCE

Absolutely. You're pretty unique, Lucy. Most people seeking women in my profession don't always desire familiarity or even a good conversation.

LUCY

I didn't think about that. I guess that makes sense though...

CADENCE

You're a breath of fresh air...

LUCY

That's sweet of you to say...

CADENCE

I mean it...

LUCY

I bet you meet some interesting people through your line of work...

CADENCE

Interesting is an understatement. Meeting people is one thing, but playing out their deepest fantasies... taking part in their most cherished secrets... it's a glimpse into their soul.

LUCY

Wow... yeah... I hadn't thought about it like that.

CADENCE

But you don't want to hear about me and my silly adventures...

LUCY

No! Please! I like the break from talking. I feel like I've been rambling on about nonsense. I'm a much better listener anyway...

CADENCE

You are something else, Lucy. Who pays to listen to other people talk?

LUCY

(Sharing a laugh)

Me... I guess...

CADENCE

Well, like I said... there's something different about you.

They share a moment. It's genuine or at the very least, it seems genuine to Lucy.

SCENE 3

The scene and the next call begin mid-conversation...

CADENCE

...So this guy is dressed like a Catholic school girl and I have him spanking himself with a spatula while he barks like a dog...

LUCY

No way

CADENCE

I kid you not... I tell him to crawl on all fours while he spans himself...

LUCY

In the Catholic school-girl outfit?

CADENCE

In the outfit... no underwear...

LUCY

Nooooooooooooo....

CADENCE

Oh yes... it was a disaster, but by this point I'm like, what else can I get this guy to do?

LUCY

Oh God...

CADENCE

So I'm just looking to see what he has in this room and I see a fish tank by the back wall...

LUCY

A fish tank? Like with live fish?

CADENCE

Yeah... Like your standard five-gallon aquarium. I tell him to go over and lift the lid... mind you he's spanking himself the whole way over... He lifts the lid...

LUCY

Oh... Cadence, no!

CADENCE

I'm not a monster... I wasn't going to have him eat the fish or anything deranged, but I tell him to bark at the fish.... So this grown man starts barking at his fish while dressed like a Catholic school girl and...

LUCY

...And spanking himself with a spatula...

CADENCE

(Overlapping)

...And spanking himself with a spatula! It takes every fiber of my being not to laugh! But I'm a professional, so I hold it together. And I keep going. I say in my sexy voice, "Yeah, bark at the fish. I love it when you bark at the fish. Now drink it! Drink the water like a dog."

LUCY

He doesn't!

CADENCE

Oh, but he does. So this grown ass Catholic school girl man is drinking fish water while spanking himself... and I don't know if the Holy Spirit took over, but he was so committed to this role that he eventually submerges his entire head in the water!

LUCY

Ugh...

CADENCE

Water's splashing, but he couldn't care... this is gold to him. I don't even have to say another word... he's fully in character. I'm ready to give this man an Oscar. Spanking, barking, licking, splashing.... It sounded like someone was drowning a Doberman. Amused as I was... he was definitely getting carried away. Well, he loses his balance... he slips... and as he's going down, he tries to catch his balance by holding onto the tank...

LUCY

Oh no, the fish!

CADENCE

He goes down and the tank lands beside him and shatters. And you don't know how much 5-gallons is until it spills out on your bedroom floor. I was afraid this man was going to drown! Well he's down, skirt exposing his family jewels, glass everywhere, fish flopping... and then you hear a woman scream...

LUCY

A woman?

CADENCE

Yes... a woman screams in the distance and then seconds later there's a banging on the door! "Dennis! Dennis! Are you in there?"

LUCY

Oh no... his wife!

CADENCE

"Dennis! It's raining in the kitchen! What's going on! Unlock the door! Your father and I are coming in!"

LUCY

HIS PARENTS!?

CADENCE

His parents! I kid you not! They keep banging on the door. Dennis is trying to get up, and trying to tell them to go away, but eventually his dad breaks down the door. The mom screams, "Dennis! What happened? The fish! Walter, go get a bowl for the fish!" The dad runs off...

LUCY

Wait a second, his son is on the ground and she has him go get a bowl for the fish?

CADENCE

Apple doesn't fall far from the tree I guess. She says, "Oh God, it's a mess in here! Who's that on the computer?"

LUCY

Oh no, did you hang up?

CADENCE

Hell no! This was too good! She says, “What are you doing with my spatula? And why are you wearing my skirt with no underwear on!?” I couldn’t compose myself anymore. I start laughing so hard... half dead Dennis musters all his strength to come over and hang up. And that’s the funniest thing that ever happened to me at work.

LUCY

(Slow clapping)

Wow... I... I don’t...

CADENCE

You don’t know what to say. I told you it would leave you speechless!

LUCY

You were right... He must have been so embarrassed.

CADENCE

And usually I’m so good at making sure people don’t feel embarrassed about whatever they want to do... and as you know... it gets strange...

LUCY

Yeah... how do you recover from something like that?

CADENCE

Oh he’s fine.

LUCY

How do you know?

CADENCE

He told me.

LUCY

He talked to you again?

CADENCE

He’s still one of my regulars.

LUCY

He’s a regular?! I would have been so embarrassed I probably would have burned my computer.

CADENCE

Uhhh... have you seen me? I knew he couldn't stay away long.

LUCY

Of course not. What did he say? How do you bounce back from something like that?

CADENCE

I was just going to ignore it, you know... pretend like it never happened, but he brought it up... He was like, "Yeah, so about last time..." And I'm thinking oh God, he's going to try to talk his way out of this... He says, "My parents were just visiting. I was just in character. I really wanted to commit." Blah blah blah.

LUCY

His parents were not visiting.

CADENCE

Of course not! This 37 year-old man still lives with his parents.

LUCY

Oh Dennis... How do you even respond to that?

CADENCE

Well I know he's just trying to save face, and he's one of my regulars, so I tell him what he want's to hear. I'm really good at telling people what they want to hear. I say all sexy like, " I love how much you commit to your characters. It always turns me on. You look so hot when you're wet." Stupid shit like that. The people I talk to are morons, they'll believe anything. (A moment) Not you though. You're not a moron.

LUCY

Sure.

CADENCE

I didn't mean to...

LUCY

I know what you meant. It's fine, Cadence.

CADENCE

It's just so easy to talk to you now... sometimes I forget I'm working.

LUCY

You don't have to say that...

CADENCE

I mean it, Lucy. You think I talk to anyone else like this? Hell, you think I even talk to anyone else? I told you, there's something different about you. I meant that.

LUCY

That's just you telling me what I want to hear... like all the other morons.

CADENCE

It's not... I've never even... Look, this is uncharted territory for me. I know how to talk to people and tell them what they want to hear, but I don't always know how to say what I want them to hear. I usually have that filter on when I work, but for some reason it's down when we talk. You're my favorite person to talk to, Lucy. Talking with you is always the highlight of my week. I'm sorry...

A moment. Maybe another...

LUCY

Don't be sorry. It's... It's the best part of my week too.

They apologize and forgive with a single smile.

SCENE 4

Lucy is waiting for Cadence to call. She's never waited this long. Finally...

LUCY

I was beginning to worry...

CADENCE

Sorry, the guy in the last session wanted to extend his time, but I told him I couldn't because I had another appointment, but then he said I could charge him double... and I was like, um yes please! I knew you would understand. Your girl's gotta pay the bills. Sorry, Luce.

LUCY

It's fine, I just had a rough day, so I was really looking forward to talking to you...

CADENCE

Oh no, I'm so sorry honey. If I'd have known, I never would have extended his time. You poor thing. What's going on?

LUCY

It's my mother-in-law...

CADENCE

Ugh, that bitch again?

LUCY

Yes... she's still here.

CADENCE

What's her name?

LUCY

Betty...

CADENCE

Henceforth she will be known as Betty the Bitch... it's too perfect.

LUCY

That is awful...

...But...
CADENCE

But so accurate.
LUCY

CADENCE
Betty the Bitch Betty the Bitch Betty the Bitch. (Singing the Chili's jingle) Chili's Betty the Bitch, Betty's a bitch.

LUCY
Oh my God, would you shut up! I need to turn down the volume. What if she wakes up and hears you?

CADENCE
Good! She needs to know! (Yelling) BETTY'S A BITCH!

LUCY
Be quiet!

CADENCE
You know you agree! Say it!

LUCY
I will not!

CADENCE
Say it!

LUCY
No!

CADENCE
I'm Lucy and I won't say anything bad about anyone. I fart roses and sneeze rainbows...

LUCY
Oh my God! Fine!

CADENCE
Yes! Say it. Betty's a Bitch. Betty the Bitch.

LUCY

Betty's a bitch.

CADENCE

Yes!

LUCY

Betty's a bitch!

CADENCE

Now look who's yelling!

LUCY

I don't even care...

CADENCE

Ugh, I'm so proud of you!

LUCY

You're ridiculous. I knew you would make me feel better.

CADENCE

That's what I'm here for... unlike dat bitch, Betty! What did she do this time?

LUCY

It's nothing big, it shouldn't bother me as much as it does.

CADENCE

If it's bothering you, then it's a big deal!

LUCY

So... I'm in the kitchen and Molly runs in after she'd been outside playing all afternoon. And she says, "Mommy, can I have some ice cream."

CADENCE

Mmm, yes Molly! Girl after my own heart.

LUCY

I tell her she can have two scoops and I ask her which flavor she wants. Well, Betty has been sitting there the whole time...

CADENCE

I'm sorry, who?

LUCY

Betty the bitch has been sitting there the whole time and says, "Do you really think that's a good idea?"

CADENCE

In front of Molly?

LUCY

In front of Molly!

CADENCE

Betty, you mother fucking bitch.

LUCY

So I say, "She always gets two scoops of ice cream on Saturday." And Betty the bitch says, "Do you think that's a good idea? Childhood obesity is at an all-time high."

CADENCE

She did not!

LUCY

She did! I was stunned I didn't even know what to say.

CADENCE

Maybe if she ate more ice cream she wouldn't be such a bitch!

LUCY

Ugh, that's good... I wish you were there... I can just see you now letting her have it.

CADENCE

I'm sure you did great. What did you say?

LUCY

I just said, "Well I'm her mother and I'll decide what she eats and now she gets three scoops of ice cream."

CADENCE
(Screaming)

No you didn't!

LUCY

Was that good?

CADENCE
Good?! Betty might be a bitch, but you the baddest bitch!

LUCY

I was kind of impressed with myself... I just thought, what would Cadence say...

CADENCE
You give me too much credit... that is pure genius.

LUCY

I will admit... for the first time in the ten years I've known her... she didn't have anything to say. She just walked away.

CADENCE
Look at you! Fighting off Betty the Bitch!

LUCY

I wish the story ended there, unfortunately she went straight to Bill...

CADENCE

No... don't tell me he...

LUCY

He comes into the kitchen not five minutes later and says to me, you owe my mother an apology.

CADENCE

No he didn't...

LUCY

He doesn't ask me my side of the story, doesn't ask for any details, doesn't ask me how I'm feeling... just "you owe my mother an apology."

CADENCE

Oh Bill... sweet sweet stupid William.

LUCY

I was all proud of myself for standing up to Betty the bitch, and I can't even get my husband to back me up. So we fought for like an hour after that... I'm still not ready to talk to him again.

CADENCE

Oh Luce, I'm sorry. Sometimes I feel like he doesn't know you at all.

LUCY

Sometimes? More and more I feel like I'm married to a stranger. He's gotta feel the same way.

CADENCE

You deserve the best.

LUCY

That's why I have you. You're the best.

CADENCE

I think you're the best... and no, I'm not just saying that because you just said to me...

LUCY

Cadence... I... Oh my God, our time's up already. These sessions always fly by...

CADENCE

They do. Time flies...

LUCY

Well... I guess...

CADENCE

You know what, I'm not supposed to do this, but I'm going to extend our session...

LUCY

That's sweet, but I can't...

CADENCE

No cost. It's on me. I don't want to hang up yet...

LUCY

Me either.

They share a moment.

CADENCE

So what else can you tell me about Betty the Bitch?

LUCY

How about the time her teeth fell into the Thanksgiving turkey!

CADENCE

Yeeesssss!!!

SCENE 5

CADENCE

So when's the last time you two had sex?

LUCY

This is so weird to talk about...

CADENCE

It's not weird, we're just two girls talking about sex. Don't you talk about sex with your friends?

LUCY

Yeah right, we hardly talk about anything substantial. I can tell you when the next farmer's market is, when girl scout cookies are going on sale, and how much money we have left to raise for the church fundraiser.

CADENCE

Wow...

LUCY

I'm so lame... I know...

CADENCE

Not lame, I wasn't going to say lame... there's something so picturesque about your life...

LUCY

Picturesque, yet here I am... talking to you...

CADENCE

Filling the void... pun intended... but all joking aside... I get it.

LUCY

How do you get it? You talk about this kind of stuff all the time and I can't even answer a simple question...

CADENCE

I talk about this kind of stuff because I have people I can talk to. Who do you have?

LUCY

I have you.

CADENCE

You sure do! So let's just take some of the weight off this conversation and just be two girls talking. Deal...

LUCY

I just don't know how...

CADENCE

I'll be here. You just answer my questions. Yeah?

LUCY

Okay. Yeah. Yeah. Let's... let's do it.

CADENCE

Okay, first question. How old were you when you had your first kiss?

LUCY

Eighteen.

CADENCE

Eighteen!? You didn't have your first kiss until you were eighteen?

LUCY

See? This is why I don't like to have these conversations! I'm afraid people are going to react in a judgmental way...

CADENCE

No! I wasn't judging you...

LUCY

Yes you were, I knew this was going to happen...

CADENCE

It wasn't judgement, I was just surprised...

LUCY

I'm embarrassed about it and I told you I didn't want to have this conversation, but you...

CADENCE

I know... I'm sorry...

LUCY

If there's anyone I don't want to judge me, it's you...

CADENCE

I'm not judging you... it's not judgement... I swear. If anything, it's admiration.

LUCY

What's to admire?

CADENCE

You... your self-control, your discipline, your ability to wait.

LUCY

Yeah, if there's one thing I can do... it's wait.

CADENCE

How was it? What was it like?

LUCY

I don't know... I remember thinking... are there going to be fireworks? Am I going to know from this one kiss if he's the one?

CADENCE

That's a lot of pressure for a first kiss...

LUCY

I know... well, I know that now...

CADENCE

First kisses are awkward...

LUCY

Oh it was awkward. I didn't know what to do, so I went in for a quick peck, but he...

CADENCE

Oh he was ready with the tongue.

LUCY

Yeah... he pressed his tongue against my lips and it was so gross... I wasn't expecting a tongue...

CADENCE

Surprise tongue can sometimes be fun...

LUCY

Well, I didn't know I was supposed to open my mouth, so he just kept licking my lips.

CADENCE

Ohhh.... Gross...

LUCY

So gross... later he said, "you should try opening your mouth." That was worse! It's just two tongues touching each other without any rhyme or reason.

CADENCE

You don't like French kissing?

LUCY

No it's disgusting...

CADENCE

You're just not doing it with the right person. Didn't you ever try with Bill?

LUCY

Only a couple times.

CADENCE

How was that?

LUCY

I just told you about it...

CADENCE

Wait... stop... your first kiss was with your husband?

LUCY

Yeah.

CADENCE

You've never kissed anyone else romantically?

LUCY

No.

CADENCE

This is the sweetest thing I've ever heard. You're one of a kind, Lucy. You might be the most loyal person I know.

LUCY

Loyal? How can you say that when I'm up every night now talking to you?

CADENCE

Loyalty is a two-way street, Lucy. (A moment) When's the last time you and Bill had sex?

LUCY

It's kind of hard to have sex when we don't even sleep in the same room anymore.

CADENCE

You two don't sleep together anymore?

LUCY

He's been sleeping in the guest room... he says it's because of his snoring... that he doesn't want to wake me. But it doesn't even seem like we're married. We're just two roommates. Not even... just two beings inhabiting the same place. Putting on a show for everyone. Making it seem like we're happy... making it seem like we're normal...

CADENCE

No one's normal. Abnormal is normal. Everyone has secrets. Everyone has a life they're trying to hide.

LUCY

Well... then I guess I am normal...

CADENCE

When's the last time you had sex?

LUCY

I haven't had sex for eight years. The last time I had sex was when Molly was conceived.

CADENCE

That's a long time...

LUCY

I know... I can only imagine what Bill must be thinking...

CADENCE

Not for Bill. Forget that lip-licking sad sap. I'm saying for you. That's a long time for you to go without that physical connection. That romantic touch.

LUCY

Honestly, I haven't missed it much. I'm sure Bill has... he's certainly tried a few times. First I used the excuse that I was pregnant, then I was healing from the pregnancy, and then I was either too tired or conveniently on my period. He eventually stopped trying.

CADENCE

But what about you? Didn't you ever want?

LUCY

I guess... a couple times throughout the years, but every time I thought I might initiate something, I just got so turned off...

CADENCE

So... eight years of masturbation. When's the last time you masturbated?

LUCY

(A moment to gather her answer)

I... uhhh... I've never masturbated.

CADENCE

That's okay. Do you want to try? I can show you how. I want to show you.

LUCY

Yeah... okay... yeah...

CADENCE

I'm going to unbutton my sweater a little.

LUCY

Okay.

CADENCE

I want you to unbutton your shirt too...

LUCY

Okay...

Lucy and Cadence unbutton their top layers.

CADENCE

I want you to do what I do...

Cadence begins to gently run her fingers across her neck, her chest, her face, etc. Lucy follows.

CADENCE

Keep going, but close your eyes. Imagine I'm the one touching you.

Lucy does. Her breathing begins to change.

CADENCE

Now bring your hands down to your boobs... caress them gently. Use both hands to grab them. Squeeze... just a little. Again. Again. Let your hands wander down. Unbutton your pants. Move your hand to the clitoris. Imagine it's my hand.

Lucy begins to masturbate. Her breathing continues to change as the scene ends.

SCENE 6

LUCY

I've done it three times this week already.

CADENCE

Proud of you! You deserve some sexual release.

LUCY

It's been a... nice addition to my weekly routine.

CADENCE

Well you have years to make up for, so have fun! Did you have another orgasm?

Lucy grins.

CADENCE

That means yes! Good for you! A professional already.

LUCY

I can't believe it's taken me this long in life.

CADENCE

Better late than never!

LUCY

True... how old were you when you started?

CADENCE

Mmmm... I can't really...

LUCY

Sorry, was that considered a personal question? I don't want to break the rules.

CADENCE

It's fine.. it is considered a personal question, but what the hell... we're friends... I can let it slide just this once.

LUCY

You really don't have to...

CADENCE

Lucy, it's fine. The first time I masturbated I was nine.

LUCY

Nine? Wow. That's pretty...

CADENCE

Pretty young?

LUCY

Yeah...

CADENCE

Now who sounds judgemental?

LUCY

Oh no I didn't mean...

CADENCE

I'm teasing you... I know it's young. I've always been advanced for my age.

LUCY

I was literally twice that age before I even had my first kiss.

CADENCE

It's different for everyone.

LUCY

How old were you when you had your first kiss?

CADENCE

Lucy... I really shouldn't...

LUCY

Oh my God... sorry... I didn't mean to ask you another personal question. Sometimes I really hate that rule.

CADENCE

I know. It's a hard one to follow, but I get why it's there.

LUCY

Yeah, it's good to keep you protected.

CADENCE

It's good to keep clients protected too.

LUCY

I tell you personal stuff all the time. You know more about me than my own husband.

CADENCE

And that's totally fine... you can tell me whatever you want. As long as you're not a murder or a rapist, we're good. You're not a murder are you?

LUCY

(Hesitating)

I'm playing, I'm not a murderer.

CADENCE

Girl, you had me going for half a second. It's always the innocent type who you have to watch out for!

LUCY

Yeah right, I get nervous when I have to tell a waiter they messed up my order, you think I could hurt someone?

CADENCE

True... true...

LUCY

Though I did accidentally hit someone in the face with a volleyball once.

CADENCE

Oh you devil! They should just lock you up!

LUCY

I felt so bad! I went home and cried to my mom about it!

CADENCE

Awww, I can just see sweet little Lucy telling her mom she hit a kid in the face with a ball.

LUCY

I wasn't a kid! This was in high school.

CADENCE

(Laughing)

Oh no... sweet precious high school Lucy!

LUCY

I know! It's a problem. I couldn't hurt a fly.

CADENCE

You are the most adorable thing on this planet.

LUCY

Haven't you ever done something like that?

CADENCE

(The laughing subsides)

Lucy...

LUCY

Oh my God! I can't believe I did that again! I'm sorry.

CADENCE

It's fine... don't worry about it...

LUCY

No, you know what... I'm sorry, but I'm not sorry...

CADENCE

(Humored)

You're sorry that you're not sorry?

LUCY

I'm being serious.

CADENCE

Right... okay... my bad...

LUCY

I'm not sorry that I want to ask you personal questions. I'm not sorry that I want to get to know you. I'm not sorry that I love spending time with you.

CADENCE

Lucy, you know I love spending time with you too. I wish I could tell you more, but the rules...

LUCY

Fuck the rules, Cadence. I'm tired of the rules.

CADENCE

Lucy...

LUCY

Why do we have to follow the rules?

CADENCE

Lucy, this is my job.

LUCY

You cannot tell me you don't feel something different with me.

CADENCE

Lucy...

LUCY

I've never felt like this before. I've never felt like this anyone. How do you explain that?

CADENCE

Lucy, please...

LUCY

Why can't you just give me your phone number? Why can't we just talk on the phone or meet up for coffee? Or...

CADENCE

Lucy... I'm not gay.

LUCY

What?

CADENCE

I'm not gay, Lucy.

LUCY

What are you talking about? Why would you even say that to me?

CADENCE

I'm saying, we could never be together because I'm not gay.

LUCY

What are you implying? You think I'm gay?

CADENCE

Lucy...

LUCY

How could you even say that? I'm married! I have a kid!

CADENCE

You haven't slept with your husband in eight years. You don't even sleep in the same room.

LUCY

That doesn't mean anything... Lots of people have bad marriages...

CADENCE

What do you think about when you masturbate? Who do you think of? Do you think of your husband? Do you think of any man? Or do you think of me? You're gay, Lucy... and it's okay.

Lucy hangs up and ends the phone call abruptly. Both women are left with their thoughts.

SCENE 7

Cadence calls Lucy. Lucy answers.

LUCY

Hey...

CADENCE

Hey.

LUCY

I uhhh...

CADENCE

I'm glad you scheduled another session.

LUCY

You are?

CADENCE

Of course. I always look forward to our time together.

LUCY

I'm sorry for hanging up on you last time. I shouldn't have...

CADENCE

That's okay... I shouldn't have said those things to you. It wasn't my place. I don't know anything, so just don't listen to me...

LUCY

No... you do know me. Better than anyone. And... you were right.

CADENCE

What do you mean?

LUCY

I've been thinking about what you said last time... a lot. And I thought to myself, what if she's right? What if I am gay? Since we first started talking I've felt like you've known me better than I've known myself.

CADENCE

No, Lucy... I shouldn't have assumed...

LUCY

No... just... just listen. Part of me didn't want to believe it. Part of me didn't want to accept something I always knew to be true. I wanted to be the perfect Lucy everyone thought I was, but I'm not. And that's okay. I think I tried to hide it for so long that I started to believe it myself. I tricked myself into believing that these sessions were between two friends... but they're not. I never viewed you as a friend. It was always about so much more... I love you, Cadence.

CADENCE

Aww, Lucy... you know I love you too...

LUCY

No... don't... don't give me a Dennis answer okay? Don't tell me what I want to hear. I'm not Dennis. I'm not another story you get to tell. Let me talk to the real Cadence for a second, okay?

CADENCE

Lucy... the rules...

LUCY

Stop with the rules. We are so much more than rules. I don't just love you, Cadence. I'm in love with you...

CADENCE

Lucy... I...

LUCY

Tell me you don't feel the same way! Tell me all the time we spent with each other didn't mean anything to you. Can you do that? Is it so easy for you?

CADENCE

Of course it's not easy. This is part of the reason why we don't talk about our personal lives... to avoid stuff like this from happening.

LUCY

Stuff like what? Like love? I can't help who I love, Cadence.

CADENCE

You don't love me, Lucy. You just think you do...

LUCY

Don't tell me that! I know how I feel. I'm sure of this and I've never been more sure of anything in my life. This is all I've been thinking about since the last time we talked, so don't tell me...

CADENCE

I'm married, Lucy.

The earth cracks.

LUCY

You're... you're married?

CADENCE

Yes... happily married... to a man.

LUCY

No... don't lie to me...

CADENCE

I'm not lying, Luce.

LUCY

Don't call me that.

CADENCE

This is my job...

LUCY

I know it's your job... but there's something more here.

CADENCE

You pay me to provide a service. That's all this is.

LUCY

No, you know me and I know you, Cadence.

CADENCE

That's not even my real name, Lucy.

LUCY

What are you talking about?

CADENCE

That's a name I made up for work.

LUCY

Why would you make up a name?

CADENCE

To protect me... and my family... and to protect you. I'm sorry Lucy. This was always a job for me. That doesn't mean I didn't enjoy our time...

LUCY

Don't.

They sit in silence.

CADENCE

Our session is over now. So, I guess I'll be seeing you... maybe.

Cadence hangs up and Lucy thinks... and thinks...

SCENE 8

Cadence calls Lucy. Lucy answers.

LUCY

Hi Cadence.

CADENCE

Hi Lucy. It's been a while.

LUCY

Yes, it has been. Sorry about that...

CADENCE

No apology necessary. I understand.

LUCY

It took some time before I could build up the courage to see you again.

CADENCE

I'm glad you did. How have you been?

LUCY

I've been... I've been different.

CADENCE

A good different?

LUCY

Yeah... a good different. Bill moved out.

CADENCE

Oh Luce, I'm so sorry...

LUCY

Don't be... I'm not... It's better this way. It was going to happen sooner or later. We're two strangers who felt obligated to stay together... and that's not healthy. It never was.

CADENCE

Wow... I'm proud of you. Did you tell him...

LUCY

Did I tell him I was gay?

CADENCE

Did you?

LUCY

Not yet... I told him about you though... I'm sure he'll connect the dots.

CADENCE

What did he say?

LUCY

He said surprisingly little for ten years of marriage. His mother on the other hand...

CADENCE

Betty the bitch! How could I forget?

LUCY

She gave me an earful. Going on about ruining a perfect marriage, ruining Molly's life, I was never good enough for her son.

CADENCE

Betty the bitch strikes again. What did you say?

LUCY

I was about to let her have it, but before I could say anything, Bill stepped in...

CADENCE

Oh no... what did that momma's boy say this time?

LUCY

Actually... he said she was wrong about me. He told her The marriage failing wasn't my fault, it was no one's fault... and that I've always been an excellent mother to Molly. I was stunned.

CADENCE

Way to finally grow a pair, Billy.

LUCY

That moment was the closest I ever felt to him. We're going to be okay.

CADENCE

How's Molly taking it?

LUCY

She's doing okay. She's still confused about why she has two bedrooms, but she has two parents who love her, so she'll be just fine.

CADENCE

You're a great mom. How are you doing?

LUCY

I'm doing pretty well... all things considered. My life was pretty dark for a while, but I finally feel free.

CADENCE

I'm so glad, Lucy.

LUCY

I started going to a therapist... and I told her about our talks... and how I was feeling.

CADENCE

What did she say?

LUCY

She thought it might be a good idea to reach out to you... one last time. So here I am.

CADENCE

Here you are.

LUCY

I just wanted to say goodbye, Cadence... And thank you.

CADENCE

Thank you for what?

LUCY

Thank you for helping me find myself.

CADENCE

It's been my pleasure.

LUCY

So... goodbye.

CADENCE

Goodbye, Lucy. If you ever need me, you know where to find me.

LUCY

(Smiling)

Don't count on it.

CADENCE

(Smiling)

I'm not.

Lucy and Cadence hang up.

End of play.