

FURY

A Play

By

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EXTRACT

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CHARACTERS

ROM ISKARN

A PROFESSIONAL SPY AND SEDUCER

FLAVIA:

HIS WIFE

CASSY

ONE OF ROM'S CONQUESTS

FURY

SCENE: A KITCHEN-DINING ROOM IN AN APARTMENT. FLAVIA ISKARN, A CRAGGILY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN HER EARLY 30S, IS IN PYJAMAS PRACTICING TAI CHI. OUTSIDE IT IS LATE EVENING, RAINING HEAVILY. A CAR STOPS IN THE STREET BELOW, A DOOR OPENS THEN SLAMS SHUT; IT DRIVES OFF. A DOOR INTERCOM RINGS. FLAVIA ANSWERS IT.

FLAVIA Who?

CASSY Does Rom Iskarn live here?

FLAVIA Yes, who you?

CASSY I need to speak to him -

FLAVIA You know Rom Iskarn?

CASSY I met him - in Voldau -

FLAVIA Ah. You met him, working.

CASSY Can I come up? It's pouring with rain down here.

FLAVIA So? Go home.

CASSY I can't go home - I can never go home - they exchanged me across the rder
this morning - I have no-where else to go -

FLAVIA (AFTER A MOMENT) Come up -

(A KNOCK SOUNDS AT THE INNER DOOR. SHE YANKS IT OPEN AND DRAGS THE NEWCOMER IN BY FORCE. THIS IS CASSY LANG, MID-20s, PRETTY IN A FLUFFY WAY, WET AND MISERABLE; SHE WEARS A MILITARY-STYLE TUNIC DRESS WITH BADGES. FLAVIA SLAMS THE DOOR AND WALKS ROUND HER SNARLING.)

FLAVIA How many times you do jig-jig with Rom Iskarn?

CASSY Jig-Jig?

FLAVIA Sex Thing.

CASSY Er - who -

(FLAVIA SLAPS HER ACROSS THE FACE)

FLAVIA That was nice. I do it again.

(SHE SLAPS HER TWICE MORE)

Tell. You lie, you die. Not fast, knife through the heart, broken neck, slow.

CASSY Six times - *(FLAVIA SLAPS HER)* Why - I did - six times - he -

FLAVIA Six times. Right. Probably. He find girl, work in enemy government office with secrets, sleep with her, use her to get secrets, after six, seven times no more use, get another girl. His job. Very good at it.

CASSY Who -

FLAVIA This I have to know, do not have to like.

CASSY Who are -

FLAVIA I am Flavia, wife!

CASSY *(SCREAMS)*

FLAVIA You pregnant?

CASSY No -

FLAVIA Baby?

CASSY No -

FLAVIA Pity. Five years ago, at ceasefire, girl come, with baby. Baby girl. Rom's baby. Kill girl, take baby.

CASSY What - you -

(FLAVIA TRIPS HER. CASSY FALLS TO THE FLOOR. FLAVIA OPENS A DRAWER AND TAKES OUT A LARGE KITCHEN KNIFE. CASSY SCREAMS AND TRIES TO GET UP. FLAVIA KICKS HER AND SHE SPRAWLS.)

FLAVIA Wanted baby daughter. Two sons, now three, but not the same as daughter. What for, keep the girl?

CASSY But - didn't they - I mean - you killed her -

FLAVIA One day in prison. Then my colonel say, what's the point, we all know Flavia Iskarn is a mad bitch and the girl is dead.

(SHE SITS DOWN ON THE FLOOR BESIDE CASSY AND PLAYS WITH THE KNIFE)

So now I have daughter, everyone says she looks just like me, now six years old, time to start being a soldier. I love her. Love her, love her.

(SHE SNARLS).

CASSY She starts being a soldier when she's six?

FLAVIA In Mytensk everyone soldier. I am Sergeant Major, junior grade, General Headquarters. Four medals. I teach unarmed combat to soldier girls. Any time you find enemy with heart torn out by small hole, bare hands - I taught them that. Proud. You ready die now? Said prayers?

CASSY No - I -

FLAVIA Too late, then.

(SHE KNEELS ASTRIDE CASSY, UNBUTTONS HER TUNIC, FEELS FOR THE PULSE)

How you get Soldier Girl Dress?

CASSY They made me sign all sorts of papers - I think they've put me in the army -

FLAVIA Sensible. For dead civilian, inquest, serious. But for dead soldier girl , military inquest, one signature by major or above. Heart Failure. Or; tripped and fell. Where pulse. Ah yes. There.

CASSY Oh God -

FLAVIA After I cut heart out, eat. Last time, all my army friends said, Flavia, when you cut that girl's heart out, why not eat? No reason. So ashamed. Wept. So this time -

CASSY (SCREAMS)

FLAVIA Better than getting drunk.

(SHE GRASPS THE KNIFE WITH BOTH HANDS AND HOLDS IT ABOVE HER HEAD; BUT ON THE POINT OF PLUNGING IT HOME, IS STRUCK BY A THOUGHT.)

Funny -

CASSY Funny!

FLAVIA Who told you Rom lives here? Did he tell you?

CASSY No, It was -

(THE DOOR OPENS AND ROM ISKARN COMES IN. HE IS IN HIS MIDDLE 30s, ALMOST INCREDIBLY GOOD LOOKING. HE TAKES IN THE TABLEAU AND IS NEITHER SURPRISED NOR DISMAYED)

FLAVIA Hello darling. Nice day at the office?

ROM Exhausting.

FLAVIA Beer in the fridge.

ROM Thanks. *(HE GETS A BEER)* Is that Cassy?

FLAVIA Is that her name? I didn't ask.

ROM Why should you?

CASSY Rom - please -

ROM I don't know how you came to be here, Cassy, but it wasn't such a great idea.

CASSY She was going to cut my heart out -

