

Change of Heart

Katy, 16, troubled and persistent.

Ray, 43, Katy's father.

Col, underworld boss.

Quince, Col's bodyguard.

Xavier, Col's bodyguard

Jayden, 16, Katy's boyfriend.

Califronia, present day.

Act 1 – Katy's Predicament

The play opens on a teenage girls room, however it is not a typical girls room. The walls are all beige with nothing on them. The floor is a hard wood with no rug. There is a bed SR freshly made with a bear and a laptop open, its light shines towards the SR wall. There is a door SL. A wardrobe sits UL and a huge window centres the room upstage. It shines a bright orange light into the room, and onto Katy who is sat on a chair facing towards the audience. She wears a multi-coloured striped jumper and ripped blue jeans. Her hair is a mess; she wears no make-up and looks devastated.

Katy tries to cry but no tears will come, she tries for some time, often making frustrated noises. Exhausted, she moulds her left hand into the shape of a gun, and puts her fingers in her mouth. She holds it there for some time. All of a sudden she makes the sound of the word "Bang" with her fingers still in her mouth. She pulls her head back, and slowly brings it back round to her chest. She is looking down.

Katy (Under her breath) That fuck, how could he do that to me? How could he fucking even dare?!

There are noises off, banging and the sound of a glass smashing.

(Under her breath still) I want it to stop, please.

Ray (Off) Oh shit, hold on!

Katy I'm done with this, all of this. What's the point of it all? Why am I letting myself be hurt because of him? Enough of this Katy, enough. It's time you do something about it. I've got to act fast, I've just gotta act. Tonight, this instant.

Sounds of someone coming up the stairs.

Where's that damn number?

Katy begins to frantically search on her laptop. There is a loud bang at the door, Katy is shocked, there is another loud bang.

Ray (Off) Katy let me in.

Katy Not now, please, please!

Ray This is hot, please!

Katy has a moment of thought, she brushes her hair behind her ears and rushes over to the door. She takes a deep breath, unlocks the door and opens it. Ray hurriedly enters, he has a tray with a pizza on it and a glass of juice.

Ray I'm sorry hunny I smashed the glass as I brought it up, you must be starving. Where should I put it?

Katy On the bed dad.

Ray places the tray on the bed. Katy stands there hollow.

Ray I made it myself. I spent all afternoon making it, whilst your mum was out at work. It's a normal pizza, but I added my favourite topping - anchovies, there's a lot of them on there so enjoy. I know you just love fish as much as me!

Katy Dad, I'm not a-

Ray -A huge fan of fish I know. But you're my daughter, and someday you'll change your mind, and come round to my way of thinking.

Katy I'm killing myself, dad.

Ray What did you say?

Katy I'm going to end it tonight. I've had enough, it's over, dad. I mean it.

Ray Hunny, what are you-

Katy Jayden, he fucking cheated.

Ray Hunny, no, no no!

Katy It's okay, I've decided.

Ray You can't do this.

Katy Yes I can, and I'm going to do it. It's the only way to stop.

Ray What are you saying?

Katy If I do this, tonight. The pain goes away; I get a gun, put it to my head and pull the trigger. Dad, it's the only way to stop my heart hurting this much! It's already done. I've got the gun coming; I'll need the car tonight.

Ray No, you don't. I won't let you, you eat your pizza and you stay here.

Katy You don't understand dad!

Ray Of course I do! Of course I do, you're my daughter. Realise right now how much this is breaking my heart! To hear you say this. My own daughter. If it means turning the gun on Jayden then I'm all for it. I am not losing you.

Katy Wait, what, on Jayden?

Ray On Jayden, yes Katy.

Katy You'd, you'd do this?

Ray If it means keeping you, then yes. I'll do this. I've got to change things.

Katy If Jayden dies, I can live. So I don't have to kill myself! Thanks dad!

Ray This is going to change our relationship. Maybe, don't call me Dad until it's done.

Katy Dad, this is amazing.

Ray But it's wrong, understand?

Katy I'm not a killer.

Ray Neither am I, hun.

Katy But we're doing this?

Ray We're doing this together.

They hug, it is warming and disturbing considering its context. Blackout.

Act 2 – The Price To Pay

The bed moves away and the whole room becomes cold and dark. The bed is replaced by a table and a chair, on which Col is sat. He is a small, thin man, and wears a black suit. He has a short grey beard and is bald on top. His eyes are contrasting colours. Behind him is Quince, a large bodyguard with a scar across his face. The door opens (SL) and Ray and Katy nervously enter, they are followed by Xavier, an even heavier bodyguard. Xavier closes the door and then stands next to it. Ray and Katy approach the table.

Ray It smells of fish.

Katy Dad! Not the time.

Ray No it's really nice.

Katy We're by the docks.

Col Enough. Please, sit down.

Ray and Katy sit down on the chairs by the table.

Col What is your request?
Katy A gun, we need a gun. I've been a bit troubled recently, and I need to take care of something, please.
Col And your request sir?
Ray It's actually the same.
Col Very well, Xavier, please.

Xavier locks the door.

Understand this. You are not to leave until the business is finished. You want a gun fine, but my services come with a cost. And that is not cheap. It comes in two forms, one, you pay me for the price of the gun. You do understand?
Ray Yes of course we'll pay. And what, if I may ask, is the second cost?
Col Not a cost. It is a deposit. You give me something and I return it.
Ray What would that be? We have more than enough money if that is the case?
Col Quince, the jar please.

Quince goes over to the wardrobe and takes a jar out of it. He places it on the table.

Katy This isn't a gun.
Col My dear - this is the second cost. You see here an empty jar, correct, miss?
Katy Um, yes I do.
Col So you understand why I have such a reputation. (Pause) It is not of my dealings or what I have built. It's what I can do.

Col slowly raises his left hand and points it towards Ray. He adds a level of tension to his reach, and all of sudden Ray is lifted into the air, he shakes. A light shines from underneath Ray's shirt, just as a light begins to form in the jar. As the light dims on Ray, it gets brighter in the jar. Once the light has gone out on Ray, Col releases his grasp. Ray comes crashing to the ground and is unconscious.

Katy (Spoken during Col's actions) Oh my god, what stop it! Stop it now, hey, that's enough!! Please, leave him!

Kay rushes over to Ray's body. He is still unconscious.

Col Xavier, please take 'Ray' outside. (Pause, Xavier cooperates) You must understand that this is the second part of my deal. Your father is my deposit. He is mine.
Katy What, what are you?

Ray is taken out of the room.

Look after him please.

Xavier nods and then closes the door. Pause.

Col Please, sit back down.

Katy's tears have finally arrived, but she follows Col's orders.

Ray is my deposit. Here he is, right in here. (Col pats the lid of the jar) The moment your target is killed, Ray returns to his body.
Katy I'll do it tonight.
Col Just what I like to hear, where will it happen? Tell me the details. (Pause) Please.
Katy There's a dance tonight at my school. I'll do it there, for everyone to see.
Col Beautiful, the time please?

Katy It starts at five.
Col Five o'clock, some party.
Katy It's a school party.
Col Of course it is. We shall be there. Do the deed, and get out. And we'll clean up everything, messy, afterwards.
Katy Thank you, Col, thanks.
Col Leave now, we're done.

Quince spits. This is not a safe place.

Katy And where do I get the gun Col? I will need it before the dance, I, I need to practice shooting.

Pause.

Col waves his hand. Quince heads to the wardrobe and gets a brown bag, he hands it to Katy. Quince then goes through the door and leaves.

This is it then?
Col This is it Katy.

Pause. They shake hands. Katy gets up and leaves the room. Blackout.

Act 3 – Dance To Death

The wardrobe moves out of the scene and Col has exited the room, but the table remains. A horde of teenagers erupt into the room. The window opens up and a stage with a DJ is revealed. The table has now been decorated with cups, drinks and a cloth. The kids are dancing to "Cake By The Ocean" – DNCE, the songs in the rest of the scene are similar to this.

Jayden emerges through the crowd, avoiding the chaperones glances, he and two friends swig Jack Daniels from a bottle.

Col enters dressed in a cheap suit; he wears a lanyard and poses as a teacher. Quince and Xavier enter through different entrances; they are dressed as traditional club bouncers. There is no sign of Katy.

Col *(Into his microphone on his jacket)* Do you see her?

There is no response from Quince or Xavier, they work their way through the crowd to find Katy.

Keep an eye on the girl, I want to return her father tonight, it is not an easy burden to carry.

Suddenly Katy emerges through the crowd; she's wearing a duffel coat over her dress and keeps her right hand in her pocket. She is hungrily looking for Jayden.

I see her, boys.

Quince and Xavier go to Col's position.

Guys, there, in the centre.

The guys look to the centre.

Zig zag over to the far side Quince, and stop her leaving. Xavier, block this exit. I'm heading over to her.

Quince and Xaiver follow Col's orders. Col makes his way through the dancing crowd.

(Into his microphone) Please blend in boys.

Quince and Xaiver begin to subtly dance in their positions. Col reaches Katy.

Katy Girl, it's time. Find your target and settle this. Relax when you have the gun.
Col I will Col. I'm ready for this. Where is my father? Is, is he safe?
Col He's dancing over there.

Col points to upstage right, Ray is dressed as a chaperone and is dancing. However, he isn't there mentally, and is physically drooling.

Katy Right, then I'll do it. Thank you Col for this. Promise to return my dad?
Col You have my word.
Katy What do I do?
Col Commit now, Katy, blend in, dance. Feel the rhythm and just let it go, now!
Katy It's not that easy!

Pause

Katy tries to start dancing, so does Col as he moves towards Xaiver by the exit. Everyone in the room is now dancing, some better than others. Suddenly "Shake That Thing" – Sean Paul suddenly comes on, Jayden emerges from the crowd and begins to sing along to it. He is drunk and is shouting. Katy sees him and brings out her gun. Col, Xavier and Quince have everything under control; they are the only chaperones in the room (excluding Ray). Jayden looks around, he points into the crowd.

Jayden Guys, guys! Right there, right there is my girlfriend! Love of my life, fire in my heart, isn't she beautiful? Eh, eh?! Love you girl!

Katy looks down when he's pointing, it's not at her. It's at someone else. She is visibly poisoned by the action. She deliberates for a moment. And works out whether this is the right decision to make. She decides. She aims the gun up at Jayden and fires. Blackout. Screams are heard. And the sound of people rushing out. All of a sudden a bright light is emitted from Col's jacket; it begins to dim just as Ray begins to brighten. His soul is being placed back. The lights come back on once the exchange is done. Col, Quince and Xavier stand around the edges. Jayden lies off of the table, blood is seeping out beneath him. We see Katy running to Ray.

Katy Dad, dad! It's over!
Ray What, what happened hun?
Katy I'm alive, that's all.

Katy and Ray embrace. Blackout.

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