

In The Clear

Andy

Sal

/ - an interruption by another character
- - the end of the thought or sentence
... - when a character is speechless

We see bright sunshine come down through the top of the stage, it's a clearing in a forest, mid-afternoon. From stage left we see Andy, covered with cuts and mud. He's lost.

Andy Hello? Hello!?

Andy looks around despearately, and then gets up his phone, no signal. He then produces a compass.

Andy Right, North is/

Sal /Hi!

Andy *(Startled)* Jesus Christ.

Sal Sorry

Andy Jesus, Christ.

Sal Sorry I- are you okay?

Andy Yeah fine. Jesus *(He cluthes his chest)*

Sal I startled you.

Andy You did, yeah you startled me, alright. What are you *doing* out here?

Sal Me?

Andy Yeah

Sal Walking. Out for a walk. Are you okay? You look a bit/

Andy /What?

Sal Lost.

Andy Yep.

Sal What?

Andy Bit lost, yeah got it in one.

Sal Need help?

Andy No, no I'm fine, thanks. Just/

Sal /North is that way (*She points the way he came*)

Andy North is?

Sal The way you came

Andy Oh you heard me?

Sal Yeah, North, behind you.

Andy Yep, thanks, great.

Sal You lost then?

Andy Yeah. I knew my way, I mean I was on the path, but thought I'd take a
shortcut

Sal That didn't work so great for youi did it?

Andy Shortcut, no it didn't.

Sal Bit of an ironic shortcut then

Andy Yeah, yeah, are you?

Sal What?

Andy Lost too or?

Sal No. No, I know these woods, just walking

Andy Bit of a seculed place to be walking - sorry, bit presumptuous of me there,
you're not lost either I'm sure you know the woods like the back of your hand

Sal Yeah

Andy Right. Which way is the path?

Sal The way you came

Andy Of course, yeah.

Andy waits for her to start walking again

 Are you?

Sal What?

Andy Walking too then?
Sal Sorry?
Andy *(Retracting)* Sorry. No. Sorry
Sal I'm not walking no.
Andy Right oh
Sal Just having a little breather/
Andy /Gotcha

Sal starts to crouch and then sits on a log.

Sal Wow, oof, long day.
Andy Yeah tell me about it. This is supposed to be a small park I thought
Sal It's not
Andy Yeah I know that now
Sal *(Ushering him to go)* Alright, well, good luck!
Andy Oh thanks.
Sal No worries
Andy Actually
Sal Oh.
Andy I might just rest too
Sal Oh
Andy Sorry is that awkward? It's just that I'm a bit knackered after fighting the bushes.
Sal Right
Andy Yeah, got cuts all over so.
Sal Right. Well, umm, sure go! Rest sir.
Andy Ta.

They both sit there awkwardly. Andy goes to reach for the phone in his pocket, but then rememebers the

lack of signal. He then goes to his backpack, rumagges around and pulls out a sandwich. He starts to unwrap it and then goes for long, dull bites.

Sal starts biting her nails. And stretches a little more while still sat. It's clear that both of them don't want to go anywhere.

Sal What have you got?

Andy Sandwich

Sal Right

Andy Yeah.

Sal Good to be prepared

Andy Oh definitely.

Sal How long did you think you'd be out here for?

Andy 2 hours. 2 hours maybe.

Sal Right. Straight across the park then.

Andy Yeah A to B.

Sal Efficient.

Andy Well it is if you don't take shortcuts.

Sal *(Half-laughs)* Yeah. Yep.

Andy *(Confirming)* Yeah, just 2 hours.

Sal Nice.

Andy What time is it? Sorry?

Sal Oh. Umm, I don't know.

Andy goes to get his phone, he looks at the time and then gets distracted and starts messaging someone. He then looks around the woods, dazingly. He puts his phone away.

Sal Sorry. What's - what's the time?

Andy Oh, um sorry.

He takes out his phone and then checks the time.

It's 3:05.

Andy puts his phone away again.

Sal Sorry, 3, 0??

Andy takes out his phone again, Sal laughs, he checks the time.

Andy 05, it's 3:05.

Sal Thank you.

Andy You're welcome.

Sal Did you notice that?

Andy What sorry?

Sal When I asked you for the time.

Andy What?

Sal You checked the time after checking the time?

Andy Oh my phone yeah.

Sal Yeah. but you just gave it to me.

Andy Right,

Sal If you ask someone the time, they'll tell you. Then they put their phone back
in their pocket and forget the time. Then you ask them again and they look at their
phone again...sorry, bit stupid.

Andy Oh that! Right, haha, you got me then. Sorry I didn't realise, I didn't know.

Sal Not your fault.

Andy Yeah, sorry, nice one!

Sal Yeah, it's - try it next time.

Andy Oh right, yeah I will, I will.

Sal Good!

Andy Hey, what's the time?

They laugh. Sal pretends to go for her phone, they laugh more.

Sal Yep, you're not getting me.

Andy No I suppose not.

Sal No.

Long pause

Look, are you? *(Gestures him to leave)*

Andy Oh yeah. I will.

Sal Finished your lunch, bet you've got the energy now.

Andy Oh yeah *(Tenses his muscles jokingly)* Grr! Ready to go!

Sal Right, well.

Andy Yeah I guess

Andy rises.

Sal Yep, bye then, good luck.

Andy Thank you for the directions, and hey *(He pretends to get his phone out and check the time)*, thanks for the prank thing.

Sal Oh yeah, yep that's all yours!

Andy Can't wait to use it.

Andy and Sal are in an awkward tension. Sal still sitting and Andy standing. Very long pause.

Sal Are you?

Andy No

Sal *(Surprised)* Oh right

Andy Are you?

Sal Not just yet.

Andy Right.

Sal No.

Andy See, I, I think I need to rest a little more. I tripped earlier-

Sal Oh!

Andy Yeah, see, so I, hit my knee and I thought I'd stand just to stretch it out or something.

Sal Ah!

Andy Yeah so. Are you not going then?

Sal Me?

Andy Yeah.

Sal I will. Definitely. I've got to get home/

Andy /Yeah.

Sal But not yet no, I...I've been walking all day so, I'm tired.

ANdy Right yeah.

Long pause, they both start to study each other.

Sal What kind of bushes did that to you?

Andy The sharp ones, with the little needles, back there *(Points North)*.

Sal Ouch right.

Andy Yeah, bit of a ruff and tumble in the woods.

Sal Yeah.

Andy Yeah, it's all right though.

Sal Why, do you love a bit of rough and tumble in the woods then?

Andy *(Laughs)* Oh yeah.

Sal Yeah.

Long pause. They look between each other, there's something in their gazes, a curiosity. Then, Andy rushes over to Sal and then crouches in front of her.

Andy Are you here to?

Sal What?

Andy Are you here for a...you know, rough and tumble in the woods? Is that why you're here.

Sal Oh. Right. Umm.

Andy Yeah, is that why you're *here*, and I don't mean in the woods but, *here*, here.

Sal Right. Are, are you?

Andy Yeah, yes.

Sal Okay then. Yeah. I am yeah actually.

Andy Right, shit, okay?

Sal Right now actually.

Andy Right, now?

Sal Yeah, so, if you could just fuck off I'd really appreciate it.

Andy Sorry?

Sal Right now. I'm doing it in the bushes right now. Over there.

Andy Right now?

Sal Well not right now - right now, you dingus.

Andy Well obviously.

Sal I'm doing...I'm...I was, doing it before you came so, I would like to continue, can you please fuck off?

Andy Umm. Sorry oh, sorry. You, you bring your boyfriend to the woods?

Sal No, what? No.

Andy Oh...sorry what? Girl/

Sal /He's not my boyfriend. It's a Tinder date that's gone pretty well. So can you please/

Andy /Tinder?/
Sal /Yes, Tinder, fuck off.
Andy You were having a date and then went to fuck here.
Sal Yes, so what? Well no no, not exactly. Why are you so interested, you
 perv?
Andy No I'm, I'm not a perv.
Sal Then get out of my face.
Andy Right.

Andy steps back.

Sal It wasn't a date, it was a meet and greet, a...meet and fuck, sort of thing.
Andy In the woods?
Sal No in the fucking supermarket, yes in the woods.
Andy Here?
Sal Yes. Not now obviously, I'm obviously I'm waiting for you to go.
Andy Right.
Sal Unless you want to watch? I mean, I'm sure the guy likes that, he seems to
 be in to weird stuff.
Andy No. No, I don't want to watch you.
Sal Good.
Andy No.
Sal Well good, I didn't fucking want you to, to be honest.
Andy Why did you ask?
Sal I thought Leon might like it. Sorry, might get him off more or something.
Andy Leon?
Sal Sorry, I didn't actually want you to watch.
Andy Sorry. (*Quickly*) Hi I'm Andy.
Sal What? Oh hi...Andy..Sal.

They quickly shake hands.

Andy *(Straight in)* You're meeting a guy called Leon?

Sal Yes, I'm screwing a guy called Leon.

Andy Right.

Sal Yeah.

Short pause

Andy I'm meeting a guy called Leon.

Sal Oh. What?

Andy Coincidence or...?

Sal Must be?

Andy But. This spot.

Sal Right.

Andy This spot for you?

Sal Yeah.

Andy So?

The whispering between them is aggressive.

Sal Yeah. Umm. Definitely fucking not obviously *(She starts to whisper)* What the fuck do you mean you're here to meet a guy called Leon?

Andy *(Whispered)* As in, I have been invited for a fuck by a guy called Leon in this exact spot in the woods at this exact time.

Sal *(Whispered)* What the fuck?

Andy *(Whispered)* Yes.

Sal *(Whispered)* Well you've mistaken something obviously. Maybe the place?

Andy *(Whispered)* No definitely not. I followed his directions soundly. That's why I was so confused earlier, I'm fucking excellent at directions.

Sal *(Whispered)* Oh really? Obviously fucking not/

Andy */(Whispered)* Yes obviously fucking yes. I'm great at them.

Sal Right then.

Andy Right!

Sal They're different guys, obviously.

Andy Well clearly if he's fucking you.

Sal Excuse me?

Andy Well, you heard.

Sal Are you saying I'm ugly?

Andy What?

Sal "If he's fucking you"? As if I'm some fucking ragdoll he found off the street?

Andy What no!

Sal What then?

Andy No as in, fucking hell, obviously you're a woman!

Sal Oh!

Andy Yes.

Sal *(Dubious)* Right well.

Andy What?

Sal Well, not really?

Andy He could be bi, you're thinking?

Sal Maybe yeah.

Andy Could be different guys.

Sal Lemme see your phone.

Andy What?

Sal Show me your message from Leon.

Andy Oh, yeah

Sal Lemme see his profile.

Andy shows his one to Sal.

Sal *(Whispered)* Fuck! That's the same guy.

Andy *(Whispered)* No!

Sal *(Whispered)* Yes!

Andy *(Whispered)* Fuck off.

Sal He said to meet you here at 3:15?

Andy Yeah.

Sal Right.

Andy What?

Sal gets out her phone and shows Andy the message she recieved.

Andy "And then left at the path, keep going until you get to the clearing. 2:15, see
ya/

Sal /Right?/

Andy /That fucking swine./

Sal /Right!

Andy He's booked us in!

Sal Fucking swine.

Andy Yeah!

Sal What a little pig.

Andy How about this?

Sal What?

Andy We both just leave right now, fuck him.

Sal Yeah. Yeah! No.

Andy What? Why not?

Sal Let's beat the shit out of him

Andy No!

Sal No witnesses.

Andy No. No I'm not beating him up

Sal Oh.

Andy Yeah sorry.

Sal Right.

Andy ...

Sal We confront him then. Tell him what a little fucking suckling, piggy, swine
 he is.

Andy A boar!

Sal Yes! A hairy fucking snorting, fat boar with dicks for tucks.

Andy Little tusky dicks!

Sal *(Short)* No. Oh no. *(She gestures length)*

Andy What no?

Sal *(Mouthed)* No, big tusks.

Andy Oh.

Sal Yeah.

Andy Well hold on.

Sal What?

Andy That's not fair then.

Sal What?

Andy You've already fucked him. You've had his big tusk.

Sal Yeah, so what?

Andy That's not fair, I want to have his- you get it, it's not fair. Why do you get to
fuck him and I'm left here just covered in fucking bruising for nothing.

Sal Because I was booked first.

Andy The starter.

Sal *(gasps)* You little shit.

Andy I'm the fucking main, bitch.

Sal Hey. No, don't you start.

Andy Why not? Why not!

Sal Because he's a fucking pig and we shouldn't be fighting!

Andy Fuck!

Sal You don't want it anyway

Andy I don't?

Sal No, it's big, but. Like.

Andy What?

Sal What's the point of going on a big ride if it doesn't even work?

Andy Oh, what.

Sal It's not worth it. Really. I was boasting but, I'm just getting slapped by it.

Andy Oh. Maybe he's fully, my way then?

Sal No fuck off. I mean, after a while. Like he got it up.

Andy Oh.

Sal But there was no engine behind it. Like a, dodgy motor.

Andy Oh.

Sal Yeah. Like, gets breakdowns mid drive.

Andy Oh, he didn't finish, not like in a finish way.

Sal No, not even that. Barely started.

Andy Gotcha.

Sal So.

Andy I kind of feel sorry for him now.

Sal slaps him.

Sal No. We're going to tell him what's what.

Andy Ow. Yes. Right, you're right.

Sal stands next to Andy, they both face downstage right.

Sal Let's go tell that fucking swine what's what.

Andy Let's.

They cheerfully hold hands, and walk off with purpose off stage. Blackout.

End.