

A Rose is a Rose  
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CAST

KACEY                      Female, 34.

GRIFFIN                    Male, 32.

SETTING

Griffin's studio apartment.

TIME

Winter, 2020.

*Griffin sits at a table, putting baseball cards into protective plastic sleeves.*

*There is a knock at the door.*

*He stares at it.*

*Another knock.*

*He returns to sorting.*

*Another knock.*

*The sound of a key.*

*Kacey enters.*

*She stands just inside the door, staring at him.*

GRIFFIN

I forgot you had that.

KACEY

Sure.

*She places the key on the ground.*

*He continues placing cards.*

GRIFFIN

I don't want to see you.

Thanks for returning the key, Kacey, but I haven't seen you in months, and you really could have just put it in the mail or thrown it out.

So bye.

KACEY

Griffin.

GRIFFIN

What do you want?

KACEY

Have you heard?

GRIFFIN

Heard what?

I haven't left the house or turned on my phone in days, so I haven't heard much of anything. I'm busy here.

KACEY

Look at me, Griffin.

GRIFFIN

Look at me working, Kacey.

KACEY

You're playing with your baseball cards.

GRIFFIN

I'm getting them ready to sell.

KACEY

You're not.

GRIFFIN

I am.

KACEY

Are people buying a lot of baseball cards right now?  
You'd think they'd be hunkering down.

GRIFFIN

*Standing*

The bottom is going to fall out of the market any minute, so if you don't mind...

KACEY

You love those stupid cards.  
You were such a geek about them when you showed them to me.

GRIFFIN

Thanks.

KACEY

All those guys standing in the same four poses, the endless statistics.  
Who was that one guy?  
The one you were really excited about.

GRIFFIN

I don't know what you're talking about.

KACEY

That one guy for the Reds you couldn't stop talking about.

GRIFFIN

Come on.

KACEY

As long as you've stopped sorting anyway.  
Remind me.

GRIFFIN

*Going back to his cards*

I haven't stopped, Kacey.

KACEY

Duane's cabin burned down last night.

*He stops sorting and looks at her.*

GRIFFIN

And?

KACEY

You didn't know?

GRIFFIN

I told you that.  
Wait... was he in it?

KACEY

No.

GRIFFIN

Okay, well, count your blessings, I guess.  
Thanks for the update.

KACEY

Did you do it?

GRIFFIN

Yeah, I burned his house down, I said "I'm thirty-two, time to become an arsonist."

Of course not.

Don't let the door hit you on the way out.

KACEY

I'm not through with you.

You are going to tell me what you know about the fire.

GRIFFIN

This is going to be a short conversation, coz I didn't know it happened until you told me.

KACEY

Griffin, tell me what you know.

GRIFFIN

Sure.

Done.

I don't like lots of people, but I haven't burned down any of their houses either.

Coz I don't burn down houses.

Even asshole's houses.

KACEY

You don't know him.

GRIFFIN

I know I don't "know him," but I know he's a douche bag.

I'm sure he'll bounce back, find a nice cave that you two can fuck in.

KACEY

Shut up!

GRIFFIN

I didn't burn down his house.

Now go away.

KACEY

You don't get to avoid this, Griffin.

GRIFFIN

Are you kidding me?  
Get out!

KACEY

Tell me what you did, Griffin.

GRIFFIN

I didn't do anything!  
Do I have to physically throw you out?

KACEY

Try it.

GRIFFIN

This is my place!

KACEY

Go ahead.

GRIFFIN

I'll call the police.

KACEY

I'm sure you'll be their top priority.  
"Get this girl out of my house!"

GRIFFIN

What is your problem?

KACEY

Pretty much all my problems start with you, Griffin.  
You're stalking me.

GRIFFIN

What?

You don't even see the irony.

It's pretty clear who has a problem here, and it's not me.

KACEY

Blocked number doesn't mean I don't know it's you.

You keep driving by my place.

GRIFFIN

Only when it's on the way to where I'm going.

I'm not going to go around, I'm not afraid of you.

KACEY

You need to get over me, Griffin.

GRIFFIN

This is bullshit, Kacey.

KACEY

You said you accepted that we were over, but you haven't.

GRIFFIN

I haven't seen you since Covid started.

That's almost two months.

I'm over you.

You're the one showing up at my house.

KACEY

It's just you and me here.

Who are you performing for?

We know the truth, so why not just have an honest conversation?

If you ever actually loved me, you would be happy for me, but I don't think you're capable.

GRIFFIN

If I see the woman you were, I'll be happy for her.



KACEY

Admit you're not over me.

GRIFFIN

Kacey.

KACEY

Griffin, I'm not crazy.

GRIFFIN

Kacey, look...

I am sorry that we didn't work out.

And I'm sorry that I haven't gotten, you know, moved on, enough for you.

I get that's not convenient for you.

Like it wasn't convenient for me that you moved on in a month, then let me find out through the fucking internet.

Months after you told me you wanted to grow old with me and have my children.

KACEY

I meant it at the time.

I was asleep with you, in our relationship, and I woke up.

I couldn't stay with you.

GRIFFIN

For me, it was a lull.

For you, it was the end.

You told me we were finished, and I had no say in it.

KACEY

I just wanted to get it over with.

GRIFFIN

And that made it pretty easy to get over you.

*They stare at each other.*

*He waves her to the door and returns to his cards.*

KACEY

Why are you selling them?

GRIFFIN

I just don't want them anymore.

KACEY

Even your favorites?

Even... what was his name... Charlie something?

GRIFFIN

Don't know who you mean.

KACEY

You were acting so weird.

I was afraid you were proposing.

Then you whipped out your shoebox.

GRIFFIN

I thought you enjoyed seeing my childhood treasure.

KACEY

I was being nice.

GRIFFIN

Coz you smiled the whole time.

KACEY

There were a lot of emotions.

Relief you weren't proposing after two months.

Annoyance that you had so many of them.

GRIFFIN

Have we talked now?

Can this be over?

KACEY

Griffin.

GRIFFIN

You ruin more of my past every time I see you.  
That destruction is fucking up my present.  
To save my future, I'm leaving town.

KACEY

Been working on that bit for a while?

GRIFFIN

All I do is think.  
You broke up with me and bam, Covid.  
I'm alone all the time.  
So fuck you, there's a lot of time to think in solitary.  
And in all that time, I still have no idea why you left me.

KACEY

When my grandmother died, that's when I realized we'd never work.  
For once, it was me that needed you, and you made everything a joke.

GRIFFIN

I tried.

KACEY

You weren't going to change anything about yourself.  
You weren't going to grow with me, I just had to accept everything  
You joked about trying.  
It's not the same thing.

GRIFFIN

You broke me of that habit.  
I don't joke about anything anymore.

KACEY

Oh my God, I took away your laughter.  
You poor fucking baby.  
"I'll never laugh again," you are so full of shit.

GRIFFIN

And this is where we find ourselves.  
You accusing me of a felony.

KACEY

Pete Rose.  
That's the card you were excited about.

GRIFFIN

Yeah, that's right.  
The best switch-hitting batter there will ever be, won more games than any player in history and had more hits than anyone else, but because he wanted to bet on his own team, wanted to bet on himself to win, he never gets to be in the Hall of Fame.

KACEY

Yeah, I figured out later that you were talking about the liar guy.

GRIFFIN

It's great how people get reduced to a one damning phrase.

KACEY

I googled him.  
He stares straight into the camera and lies.

GRIFFIN

He explained that.

KACEY

By lying again.  
Straight into the camera.  
He was convinced himself.  
Did you have anything to do with the fire?

GRIFFIN

I've told you I didn't.

KACEY

Okay.

Fine.

*She goes to the door.*

GRIFFIN

This isn't going to be a recurring thing is it?

You coming over to accuse me of butchering the butcher, being a sex trafficker?

This is goodbye?

KACEY

This is goodbye.

GRIFFIN

Great.

KACEY

Last chance.

GRIFFIN

What?

KACEY

Did you start the fire?

*He stares at her.*

GRIFFIN

NO.

*She pulls out a baggie with something burnt in it and tosses it at his feet.*

KACEY

Okay.

I just had to be sure that you'd lie.

I found this in the ashes.

Turns out you never know what's gonna blow to safety in a random gust.

*She goes out the front door and comes back with a large plastic gas can.  
She opens it and spills it around the room.  
Griffin is frozen.*

KACEY cont.

Duane's not into baseball cards.  
He's definitely not into Pete Rose.  
You still won't admit it, will you?  
You're a liar guy, too, just like Charlie Hustle.  
I wasn't sure what to do when I saw the card.  
It's just such a weird thing to do.  
I guess the act had symbolic value to you?  
Was that it, was it cleansing for you somehow?  
I wondered if you took all your clothes off, like a real psychopath.  
You probably just tossed it in and muttered something to yourself about closure.  
Like a loser.  
You're selling the other ones.  
I'm sure nobody else has thought of selling their baseball card collection during Covid.  
Guess it's moot now, huh?

*She pulls out matches.*

I'm hoping that's gratitude I'm seeing behind your blank stare.  
I don't think jail would do you any good.  
You'd just keep on lying.

*She lights a match, tosses it in, and leaves.  
Lights turn red then fade as Griffin stares.  
End of play.*