

EXTRACT

THE SILENCE

Raimondo Cortese

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HAKIM, MARA and SIMON are sitting on a couch. They wear neat, casual clothes. The space is non-representational.

SIMON You hungry?

HAKIM Not really.

SIMON You sure?

HAKIM Yep.

Silence.

MARA Can I give you a kiss?

HAKIM I don't know.

Silence.

MARA I feel like a treat.

HAKIM Yeah?

MARA But I just don't know what. *(Silence)* Something fun.

HAKIM Yes I know what you mean.

Silence.

MARA If I was going to buy a cigar... what would be a good one?

HAKIM I don't know... maybe a Romeo y Julietta.

MARA Are they any good?

HAKIM I like them. *(Silence)* You don't have many things.

MARA No.

SIMON We've been meaning to get some pot plants though haven't we?

MARA Yeah.

SIMON Just to brighten things up a bit.

Silence.

SIMON I saw this Chinese mask down the road. That would probably look quite good on the wall.

HAKIM Yeah.

SIMON They were asking a lot for it. It was only made from papier-mâché... it wasn't made from something special... but they want quite a lot for it.

HAKIM How much?

MARA Then again when a place is empty it makes it look bigger.

SIMON You've seen the mask I'm talking about haven't you?

MARA Yeah.

SIMON It's not worth what they're asking.

MARA I don't know. I made a piggy bank at school once and that took me god knows how long. I painted it with spots. And it had a little tuft of hair and paws. It took me forever.

SIMON And then you just smashed it.

MARA Hmm... with my fists.

Silence.

SIMON How much money did you have in there?

MARA A lot. I had a lot of money when I was a kid.

Silence.

HAKIM How long have you been here?

MARA Simon.

SIMON I don't know... a long time.

HAKIM Have you ever thought of moving?

MARA Simon.

SIMON He's speaking to you too.

MARA No... I don't want to move.

SIMON What about you Hakim?

HAKIM I move quite a lot.

SIMON Is that hard?

HAKIM Not really. I don't have too many possessions.

SIMON Have you got a few mates that can help you?

HAKIM What with?

SIMON With moving..? if you need a hand?

HAKIM Yeah sure.

SIMON That's a bonus. I reckon moving house is one of the worst things in the world.

HAKIM I don't have much furniture.

SIMON That's what's hard... getting tables and dressers through the doorways.

Silence.

MARA I've gone back to study.

HAKIM Yeah?

MARA Hmm.

Silence.

HAKIM What are you studying?

MARA I don't know how to describe it. Painting. A form of painting.

HAKIM Oh yeah.

MARA I'm not very good.

HAKIM Why do you say that?

MARA You should see what I come up with.

HAKIM I bet you're very good... you just don't realise it.

MARA How would you know?

SIMON You're much better than what you say Mara.

MARA It's annoying when people make things up like that. *(Silence)* It's something I enjoy. That's all. That's why I do it. I just like the idea. It's like... walking the plank.

HAKIM Right OK.

MARA But it's a bloody expensive business. I usually get covered in paint. Top to bottom.

SIMON You're a mess.

MARA Splotches everywhere.

SIMON It's great.

MARA I'm going to have an exhibition.

HAKIM Whereabouts?

MARA I'm not at that point yet. *(Silence)* Where do you live Hakim?

HAKIM At the moment?

MARA Yeah.

HAKIM Just staying with friends.

SIMON You looking for somewhere?

HAKIM Yeah.

MARA How long are you going to do that for?

HAKIM Until they kick me out probably.

SIMON Is that likely?

HAKIM Dunno. We don't really talk about it.

MARA I suppose you can always tell can't you..? when it's time to move on?

HAKIM I think so.

MARA When you have that chat. The whole mood sort of changes.

HAKIM Yes.

MARA We've travelled around a lot... especially in Europe... so we know what it's like.

SIMON We weren't exactly crashing out on people's couches though.

HAKIM No?

SIMON No it was pretty comfortable.

MARA What about Barcelona?

SIMON We went to see Durruti's grave.

HAKIM Yeah.

SIMON The anarchist leader.

HAKIM OK.

SIMON An amazing man.

HAKIM He's dead is he?

MARA It was raining the whole day.

SIMON That's right... we went to the cathedral instead.



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