

“SWITCH” by Alexander Lee-Rekers (StageMilk, 2024)

A, B, a and b are interviewed in tandem. Dialogue should be performed quickly, with minimal gaps unless instructed. Genders/pronouns should reflect the casting, and not the other way round.

A: It was just an idea

B: A folly really

a: A silly thing for boredom

b: Hypothetical

A: First she brought it up

B: As a joke

a: I didn't realise that she was serious

b: Until I gave him a look

a: The look said it's all right

b: And so we talked about it

A: We'd never talked about it

B: Except sometimes as a joke

A: This time it was different because I could tell she wasn't joking

B: I used my words I told him that it might be fun

A: It might be what we needed

B: It couldn't hurt to try

A: She agreed I do remember that

B: I was trying to be more agreeable

a: We knew we wanted to ask them

b: We didn't have a plan

a: Except we did cook dinner and invited them around

b: Entree white main red dessert white cheese gin Monopoly gin

A: And the conversation turned

B: And they looked at us and smiled

A: And we smiled back

B: Three bottles worth and gin

a: A hanging silence.

Pause.

b: I refreshed the drinks

A: And I was nervous

B: But I was feeling bold and so I asked

a: What's next she said and the way she said it

b: Was electrifying we both agreed later

A: There was no agreement

B: More an understanding

a: A switch.

Pause.

A: I hadn't thought about her

b: I'd entertained the notion

a: We'd spoken about them both

B: I wasn't interested in anything too new

A: We took the bedroom

b: Throwing pillows on the floor

a: I thought the living room was fine

B: But I requested privacy too many pictures on the wall.

Pause.

a: We debriefed in the living room with the rest of the gin

b: I thought that it might bother me to hear but i found it all

a: Electrifying yes

b: We showered and retired

a: We reached out

b: They enjoyed themselves

a: So they said

b: But we didn't see them again

a: Not for a long time and even so just in passing at a party

b: Last Christmas.

Pause.

A: We didn't talk about it

B: Not at first

A: It helped somewhat

B: Things did feel rejuvenated

A: But the switch was there.

Pause.

a: Sometimes yes sometimes I think it causes friction

b: It wasn't insignificant

a: But I love her

b: I love you

a: I love you too

b: I think it's strengthened us

a: I think so too.

Pause.

A: It was too much.

B: He told me he was hurt.

A: I told her I was hurt not that she hurt me.

B: But I could feel his blame.

A: She resented me.

B: I hated her for that.

A: We ran into each other at a party.

B: Last Christmas.

A: They were there as well.

B: Which seemed I don't really know something I suppose.

Pause.

A: We pretended we were there together.

B: Just for them.

A: I don't know why we did that.

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