

Excerpt from...

“FIVE TABLES”  
By Bruce Kane

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“FIVE TABLES”  
By Bruce Kane

TIME: Now

SETTING: On stage there are five tables with two chairs at each table. They will represent five different locations over five different time periods.

*(The character of Lois remains constant throughout. To show the progress in time she should make subtle changes in her wardrobe as she moves from table to table.)*

*(LIGHTS UP on TABLE NUMBER ONE. LOIS is seated opposite MASON)*

LOIS: Of course, I love you Mason. You're kind and gentle. You're steady... Reliable... Dependable... I know a life with you would be steady.... reliable... dependable.

MASON: I'd always look after you, Lois You know that.

LOIS: You'd never give me reason to worry, would you?

MASON: I'd see to it that you never had a trouble in the world.

LOIS: I know that you're not the kind of man who'd ever cheat on me.

MASON: You have my solemn word.

LOIS: Robert was always leaving me alone.

MASON: I'd be with you night and day.

LOIS: Robert would be gone for days without telling where he was going.

MASON: I'd report to you hourly. You'd know where I was night and day.

LOIS: I never knew who he was with. Although I eventually learned about... the women.

MASON: You're the only woman I need, Lois.

LOIS: That's when he started sending me flowers... Every time he strayed he'd send me flowers... Endless bouquets of flowers. Peace offerings. *(The following list is spoken with rising emotions)* Mums, roses, carnations, lilies, birds of paradise, begonias, asters, impatiens, pansies... He filled every room in the house with them.

MASON: Appalling.

LOIS: *(orgasmic)* The scent was intoxicating.

**BLACKOUT**

*(LIGHTS BACK UP on TABLE NUMBER TWO. It is sometime later. Lois now sits opposite ROBERT)*

LOIS: Robert would never do the things I wanted to do.

ZEKE: I'd see to it we did only the things you wanted to do.

LOIS: I always wanted to see Tahiti.

ZEKE: We'll honeymoon in Tahiti.

LOIS: Instead we went to New Zealand because Robert has a sheep ranch there.

ZEKE: You name it and we'll do it.

LOIS: The Greek Isles.

ZEKE: I'll book a cruise.

LOIS: The closest we got was Kenya.

ZEKE: Better yet, I'll charter a yacht.

LOIS: Robert wanted to see elephants.

ZEKE: You draw up the list. I'll make the reservations.

LOIS: Robert never listened to me. He never listened to anyone. He always did what he damn well wanted to do.

ZEKE: Sounds like a selfish bastard, if you ask me.

LOIS: (*pridefully*) Robert never took crap from anybody.

**BLACKOUT**

(LIGHTS BACK UP on TABLE NUMBER THREE. Lois now sits opposite JOHN)

LOIS: There were other men, John.

JOHN: I understand... A woman alone.

LOIS: While I was married, I mean.

JOHN: From what you told me about your ex...

LOIS: Many other men.

JOHN: We all get lonely.

LOIS: Dozens of other men.

JOHN: Despair does strange things to people.

LOIS: I couldn't get enough.

JOHN: I've experienced my own share of desperation.

LOIS: Young men... Old men... Tall men... Short men... Bald men... Great hairy men... Rich men... Poor men...

JOHN: Human companionship, even just for a night, is a need we all...

LOIS: Taxi drivers... Delivery boys... Upholsterers.

JOHN: Some feel the need more strongly than others.

LOIS: Men of all races, creeds and colors... Sometimes two and three at a time.

JOHN: You were crying out in the wilderness.

LOIS: My indiscretions don't bother you?

JOHN: No. Of course not.

LOIS: (*really pissed*) Robert didn't give a damn either.

(The play continues...)

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