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TA340 Directing II
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One Act Analysis

- Name of play and the significance of that title:

The title “Games for Lovers” really encapsulates what the play is all about. It is about dating in our current society and how it all feels like a series of games. Each scene in the play is labeled as a different “game” that the “lovers” partake in. The games the characters play with each other in the name of love goes deeper than just typical games, but extends to putting on personas, lying and manipulating others in order to keep a significant other, and embarrassing displays in an attempt to garner the attention of another.

- Title for the scene and the significance of that title

The scene is titled “Game 12 - After Dinner Secrets.” As I mentioned, each scene of the play is titled to articulate what particular game the characters are or seem to be playing with each other. This scene is referring to an actual game. This scene could be a standalone short play of its own: the scene contains such a complete storyline of these friends playing a secret revealing game, filled with discoveries and reversals. In the actual play, this scene is where the most important discoveries are realized and it sets up for the climax of the show.

- Location & Time of the play

It is set in modern day London. The play was written and first performed in 2019, so it is just about as current as it gets. The season is unspecified, but since there is no mention of coats or the like in the script nor characters being uncomfortably hot I would assume that it is set in early fall.

- Location & Time for the scene

This scene takes place at Logan and Jenny’s home after dinner.

- Discuss the place or location of the play and the scene

The location tells a lot about the predicament of the characters' lives. Four young people in a large metropolitan area like London are going to have different experiences in their dating lives than those from less populated or more rural areas. For this scene, the dinner at Logan and Jenny's home is an uncomfortable one since this location was chosen out of spite between Logan and Darren. Logan is a PE teacher and Jenny is a website designer, plus Jenny only just moved in so the flat would have to be one that a PE teacher could afford on his salary alone. As I just said, Jenny just moved in and the decor seems very split between her and Logan, with it being obvious what items are Jenny's and which ones are Logan's. Jenny has an eclectic aesthetic; one of her most prominent decorations is a falling apart horror movie-esque doll. Logan seems more basic, with his aesthetic being almost bland with its mundaneness. The flat is a one bedroom - since it has a living room with furniture for this scene to take place it can't be a studio.

- Discuss the time of the play and the scene

This scene takes place towards the end of the play (which is surprising considering how much information is only just discovered in this scene). Martha and Darren have moved in together as have Logan and Jenny. The situation is tense as over the past month or so a rivalry has been slowly building between Logan and Darren over Martha, albeit unconsciously. The group has just finished dinner and is attempting to liven up the "party" by incorporating a game.

- Write a "Character Dossier" for each character in your scene

- Darren

- Super Objective: Convince the world he is a positive, confident man
- Objective(s) for this scene: Lighten the mood, entertain
- Relationships: He and Logan were good friends at university. Darren has a sense of loathing for Logan under the surface though since Logan has always been the alpha and almost a bully at times in the friendship. Martha is his new flatmate who he falls in love with. He is indifferent towards Jenny as his only connection with her is that she is Logan's girlfriend.
- Decorum: Darren is eccentric. He dresses in a way he calls "peacocking," wearing items that will make him stand out in a crowd or use as conversation pieces. He has a confident swagger about him, though he uses it all to hide his more vulnerable interior.
- Three descriptive words: eccentric, extroverted, empathetic

- Martha

- Super Objective: Fulfill the world's expectations of her
- Objective(s) for this scene: Be honest without destroying her relationships, discover if Logan would be happier with her
- Relationships: She has been best friends with Logan since they were kids. She is also secretly in love with Logan and has been her whole life. She is newly flatmates with Darren and has become close friends with him. She has even begun to develop feelings for Darren. She wants to be friends with Jenny because she wants to be supportive of Logan, but she is also jealous of Jenny which makes for a kind of "frenemy" relationship.
- Decorum: She dresses in a way that makes her blend in: head to toe h&m. She is feisty and self-assured, but you wouldn't be able to tell from her demeanor as she has a slight awkwardness about her and a tendency to blend in or become invisible because she doesn't do anything to break the norm.
- Three descriptive words: introverted, witty, desperate

- Logan

- Super Objective: To live a normal life
- Objective(s) for this scene: Keep his two worlds from destroying each other, Prove his superiority to Darren
- Relationships: Logan has been best friends with Martha since they were kids. He is too thick to realize it but he also has feelings for Martha (though they are slightly selfish feelings). Jenny is his live-in girlfriend, though the relationship is not going too well. They do not connect sexually or emotionally most of the time and argue constantly. He has been friends with Logan since college and they have a sense of rivalry beneath the surface friendship, and a need to prove who is more of an alpha (Logan is).
- Decorum: Logan is a PE teacher and dresses accordingly. He is tough, but also really loving. He is an alpha male who sometimes doesn't know when to back off and can be hurtful when he is trying to be funny. He is unhappy in his life but would do anything to have a normal relationship.
- Three descriptive words: Depressed, aggressive, desperate

