

Captive

APPLE is sitting in an empty room. A door opens and BANANA enters.

APPLE
What's going on?

BANANA
How should I know, I just got here?

APPLE
Oh. Right. Hi.

BANANA
Hi.

APPLE
Where did you come from?

BANANA
Outside.

APPLE
Yeah, I got that much.

BANANA
It's...kinda weird out there.

APPLE
I'll say.

BANANA
Have you been here long?

APPLE
I'm not sure. I was still half asleep when they brought me in. But I think it's been a while.

BANANA
They got you too, huh?

APPLE
Yup. I guess it was inevitable.

BANANA
What do you mean?

APPLE
That it was just a matter of time. Right?

BANANA

Have we met before? You seem familiar.

APPLE

I don't think so. My name's-

BANANA (*looking around the room nervously*)
Umm, I don't think we're supposed to. You know.

APPLE

Right. Sorry.

BANANA

No, it's okay. Just. (*Sighs*). I'm not sure what we do here.

APPLE

Well, having been here longer than you, I can confirm that what we do is sit. And wait. Which is frustrating.

BANANA sits.

BANANA

I mean, sittings not the worst.

APPLE

It would be better with a chair. Or a cushion

BANANA

Yeah, that's true.

APPLE

And, if you look at the research, sitting is actually really bad for you. They say it's like smoking.

BANANA

They?

APPLE

Not they, they (*indicating what's beyond the door to the room*). Scientists, they. Researchers.

APPLE stands up.

BANANA

Oh, you're done with sitting?

APPLE

There's got to be something in here. Some clue. Some information.

APPLE starts examining the room.

BANANA

There doesn't look like much to see.

APPLE

Maybe there's a false wall.

APPLE starts pounding on the walls, listening to the sound.

BANANA

You should stop. I don't think we're supposed to-

APPLE

Relax! It's fine.

Beat.

BANANA

You know, saying that seldom does.

APPLE

Does what?

BANANA

Get someone to relax. Telling them "relax" does, like, the opposite.

APPLE

Being told to relax makes you more tense? More tightly wound?

BANANA

Well it makes me angry. And irritated at the person who thinks saying relax will somehow calm me. As if I didn't know I was anxious.

APPLE

Maybe you don't. Maybe anxious is your default setting, and maybe a verbal cue is a good thing? To bring you awareness.

BANANA

Oh, I didn't realize you were a psychiatrist!

APPLE

Careful, remember, we're not supposed to.

APPLE mimes zipping their mouth shut.

APPLE

Besides, being angry and irritated isn't the same as being tense and anxious. So in a way, me telling you to relax did ease your tension.

BANANA

You think replacing mild anxiety with rage is a good trade?

APPLE

Rage, eh? I get you that riled up?

BANANA

Stop.

APPLE

Also, sorry to break it to you, but I don't think your anxiety can be described as mild. You're practically vibrating on the ground over there.

BANANA

Those are rage vibrations. Not anxiety.

APPLE

Sure thing, friend.

APPLE stops looking around the room and sits back down.

Beat.

BANANA

Thank you.

APPLE

Huh?

BANANA

For sitting down. For not poking around like we're *not* supposed to be doing.

APPLE

Oh. You're welcome. Although, in the spirit of full transparency, I sat down because there's clearly nothing in here.

BANANA

So it had nothing to do with me asking you not to?

APPLE

Well, not entirely.

Noises are heard from off stage. APPLE and BANANA react.

APPLE

Do you think? Was that because of us, of me, you know, poking around?

BANANA (*mimicking note*)

Relax! It's fine.

APPLE

Hey, you're right, that does suck.

BANANA

Told you.

APPLE

So, I was obviously still asleep when they grabbed me. What about you? Where were you?

BANANA

Should we be...?

APPLE

What are they gonna do, bang on the walls again?

BANANA

That's an awful lot of confidence considering how high you jumped when that banging started.

APPLE

I was startled. Now I'm composed again. It's cute, right?

BANANA

It's annoying.

APPLE

Yeah, it's cute.

BANANA

I was at work. When they showed up.

APPLE

You start work early?

BANANA

Yeah, I like to get there when it's quiet. I'm an early riser. Gets me out of the house. Although now I wish someone else had been there with me.

APPLE

Probably wouldn't have made a difference.

BANANA

No, probably not.

Beat.

APPLE
Hey, you agreed with me!

BANANA
Don't worry, I won't make it a habit.

Beat. BANANA is watching APPLE

APPLE
What?

BANANA
What?

APPLE
You're staring.

BANANA
I'm observing.

APPLE
No difference. *(Beat)* What are you observing?

BANANA
I'm trying to figure out why you're so familiar.

APPLE
And?

BANANA
Tyrone!

APPLE
What is this, Rumpelstiltskin? One guess down, darling. My name's not Tyrone.

BANANA
No, Tyrone is who you remind me of.

APPLE
I look like someone named Tyrone?

BANANA
Not look like, sound like. You sound like my cousin Tyrone!

APPLE
Really? I find that hard to believe.

BANANA

Not, like tonally. The quality of your voice is different, but your speech pattern. Your cadence. It's the same as his.

APPLE

Oh. Is this a good thing?

BANANA

Absolutely, Tyrone is easily my favourite cousin. Very intelligent. I'd love to sound like Tyrone.

APPLE

Well then. Good. I'd like to meet your aunt and uncle.

BANANA

Why?

APPLE

I want to meet the people who hold a tiny baby in their hands, look in his little face, and think, Tyrone. We will name this baby Tyrone.

BANANA

Come on, it's not that weird.

APPLE

Did he remind them of a silent-era movie star? Was he mustachioed at birth?

BANANA

He was kinda hairy.

A bright light flashes on APPLE and BANANA, and a voice is piped in.

VOICE

Stop talking.

APPLE and BANANA react. They are very still and quiet for a moment.

APPLE (*whispering*)

What was that?

BANANA

Shhhh.

APPLE

But where did that come from?

BANANA (*out the side of their mouth*)

We're not supposed to talk.

APPLE
I'm not talking.

BANANA
Shhhh!

APPLE
I'm not! I'm whispering. It's different.

BANANA giggles, then covers their mouth sharply.

APPLE
I heard that! Now who's being loud?

BANANA
Shhh!

BANANA tries to be serious, but begins laughing again.

APPLE
What?

BANANA
I mean, you're right.

APPLE
I am?

BANANA
Technically you're not talking.

APPLE
And this is funny because...?

BANANA
It's not, it's not. Just-

BANANA tries to keep it together, but dissolves into laughter again. APPLE smiles.

BANANA
Sorry, I'm a stress laugher.

APPLE
That's a thing?

BANANA
For me it is.

APPLE

It's nice. You have a nice laugh. Very musical.

BANANA

Thank you. And you have a nice smile.

APPLE

Nicer than Tyrone's?

BANANA

God no, his smile is gorgeous. All that mustache.

More loud banging from outside the room, but a different quality than the last banging, and getting louder.

APPLE

Oh god. What...what is happening out there?

BANANA

Right?

BANANA lets out another nervous laugh.

BANANA

Sorry, it's a flood gate. Once I start...

More banging, and BANANA'S laughter is sharp and short, with a bit of an edge.

APPLE

It's okay. It'll be okay.

BANANA

I know.

APPLE

You do? Because I don't. I was just being supportive.

BANANA

I know. Me too.

APPLE

So neither of us knows.

BANANA

No more than we ever do, I guess. Better to face the unknown with humour than without.

Beat. There is a sharp rapping on the door. BANANA jumps, looks at APPLE.

BANANA
Are you scared?

APPLE
No. You?

BANANA
No.

APPLE is watching BANANA. APPLE smiles, sincerely.

BANANA
What?

APPLE
It's just...turning out to be a good day.

BANANA
Seriously? With whatever is about to happen out there? It's a good day?

APPLE reaches for BANANA'S hand. They are still. They are together

APPLE
Could be worse.

BANANA
Could be better.

Doors open and light floods into the room.

APPLE
I guess we're about to find out.

Blackout.

THE END

A note about the ending:

The play can end as written, with a blackout and ambiguity about the situation. But the director can also choose to add a single line or sound effect to the ending, after APPLE'S final line, if desired, to give some context to the play, based on the decisions they have made surrounding the circumstances. They can add something to reinforce a sinister, supernatural, extra-terrestrial, or benign environment, as they see fit.