

Burnout PLAY

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Characters:

Noll Prex – fashion textile designer.

Patty Leeds

Burglar

Mr Charming – police officer

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Scene 1.

Loft.

Noll sits on the queen size bed with mirror headboard in golden frame. Noll wears black lace top, black jeans and enormous quantity of pearls strings on her neck and wrists.

Few black closed notebooks are on the floor, empty glass table have two holders full of sharpened pencils.

Scene 2.

Enters Patty, petite curvy woman in green costume and red stilettos. Big white hat almost on her eyes.

PATTY: Noll, I used own key, because you didn't answer to phone and wasn't at studio for whole week.

NOLL: I said, only in case of emergency, Patty.

PATTY: I decided not to call police. What is it?

NOLL: What?

PATTY: What are you wearing?

NOLL: I try to channel my inner Chanel.

Patty makes few steps to the table, looks at the empty dustbin.

PATTY: And it didn't work.

NOLL: I don't know, I try only second day.

PATTY: You were in all town's museums during last month.

NOLL: I like to see art.

PATTY: You as addict, who can't solve their problem and you search for new dose.

Without it...

NOLL: Probably you are right.

PATTY: It's such bad.

NOLL: Why you ask?

PATTY: You agree with my opinion.

NOLL: And?

PATTY: You could accept that some other human being, not you, could have opinion and you didn't argue about that.

NOLL: I am tired of arguing.

PATTY: It was your creative fuel as you convinced all of us on next day after you fired everyone. Usually it's once a week rite.

NOLL: It was emotions and I could be wrong.

PATTY: You say that could be wrong?

NOLL: Yes. What I say not all the time is right.

PATTY: I need to call an emergency, you feel horrible.

NOLL: No. I just need idea. But you know I have lots of ideas.

PATTY: If you have lot of ideas why you need an idea.

NOLL: They are not strong enough.

PATTY: Potent for new collection?

NOLL: Powerful to be enough interesting, that I could start to work on them.

PATTY: I see.

NOLL: I am tired. And I am really tired and if idea will be forceful enough it will help.

PATTY: Help in what?

NOLL: You know, they say that crisis it's when blank page.

PATTY: And you?

NOLL: I have such amount of ideas that my head is heavy of them. And all of them are good enough. But they didn't work hard. I am too tired to realise them.

PATTY: Maybe you should think not with your head. You know when I don't know what to choose...

NOLL: I know, as was with car. You can't choose and had affairs with owners of every models which were interesting to you.

PATTY: Person who use car daily could tell different stories than seller.

NOLL: With sales everything is fine?

PATTY: Yes, but you didn't ask.

NOLL: I wasn't, as you said, I wasn't in studio for a week and you didn't visit me earlier.

PATTY: Yes. Everything is fine, you are tired.

NOLL: I am tired, everything is not fine.

PATTY: We have in the studio new delivery of skeins.

NOLL: I am tired. I don't know where are my needles. It is difficult to create something original with needles which you used to brainstorming few previous collections.

PATTY: There is also a new needle collection, if it's such important for you.

NOLL: No.

PATTY: Do you want to look at everything in art studio?

NOLL: No.

PATTY: What do you want?

NOLL: Big undivided nothing.

Noll lays on the floor among notebooks.

PATTY: What does it mean?

NOLL: They looks like dead flowers, without smell, they should bring joy.

PATTY: Did you talk about notebooks?

NOLL: Yes. They are tired, as me. They are tired of colours, flipping pages, scribbles and attempts to make something new. They didn't deserve it, they were tries with leaves...

PATTY: Stop here. You use only reused paper. It's your rule.

NOLL: Fine. But before they were reused, they were trees with leaves, strong, free...

PATTY: Free? Did you ever hear that trees have roots, so they are not free, they rare change own place.

NOLL: Fresh breeze plays with their leaves.

PATTY: Turn off air conditioning and open window, you could try it.

NOLL: I am tired.

PATTY: Fine. I could open window for you.

NOLL: It's your wish to open window, not mine.

PATTY: And what do you wish?

NOLL: Nothing.

Noll sits on the floor.

PATTY: Two days you channel Chanel?

NOLL: Yes. I told you.

PATTY: And may I ask, did you change your clothes since yesterday?

NOLL: I wasn't dirty.

PATTY: And your gym at 5a.m. What is with it?

NOLL: I have no idea. Do you need my pass?

PATTY: Noll, I need you.

NOLL: You always have me.

PATTY: At work. I need that you yelled at everyone. All team miss you.

NOLL: Show them my foto, Patty.

Loud sound of police sirens.

PATTY: You don't want to look at window and see why came police?

NOLL: I don't think that's about me, even if I didn't visit my office regularly.

PATTY: Fine. You have writer's block.

NOLL: I am not a writer. I am textile designer.

PATTY: Superb. Than you have a burnout, I read about it in magazine.

NOLL: Burnout, much better. Now you could return to work. I heard you are still chef of sales department.

PATTY: I will come tomorrow.

NOLL: You have a key.

Noll again lays on the floor.

PATTY: Your ladder and door to the roof are open. You didn't try, did you?

NOLL: Oh no, I am not in mood of making plans, even about my own suicide.

Police sirens and loud voices, what they say it's unclear.

PATTY: I better go. Hope you feel better.

NOLL: Hope it's good activity, Patty.

PATTY: I won't close the door, will be draft and you have to stand up from the floor.

NOLL: Cruel methods.

PATTY: What else I could do with you?

NOLL: Take away box with skeins and needles.

PATTY: I put it on the floor and you will need to took it yourself.

Patty exits from the room.

NOLL: And didn't close the door.

PATTY (*offstage*): I hear you.

NOLL: I know.

Scene 3.

From wing where left Patty flies big brown box and almost fells on the Noll.

NOLL: What the hell, Patty?

Sits on the floor.

Enters man in balaclava on the face, he wears costume of repair master, in his one hand is big bag, in other what resembles stun gun.

BURGLAR: Don't move!

NOLL: Why?

BURGLAR: I closed the door, now you are my hostage.

NOLL: Did you close the door?

BURGLAR: Yes. I told you.

NOLL: Good, Patty forget about it.

BURGLAR: Patty, Patty who?

NOLL: Patty Leeds, in case you met her before.

BURGLAR: I didn't meet her. Is she still here?

NOLL: Who?

BURGLAR: Patty.

NOLL: What Patty?

BURGLAR: Patty Leeds.

NOLL: No. She already left. Are you disappointed that not met her?

BURGLAR: When?

NOLL: Now or in whole life.

BURGLAR: Don't move!

NOLL: As you say.

Noll lays on the floor.

BURGLAR: What are you doing?

NOLL: Don't move. You say so.

BURGLAR: Yes. And that's all?

Noll sits on the floor.

NOLL: Do you want something to drink, to breath?

BURGLAR: To breath?

NOLL: Based on the form of your nose, you put under balaclava not stocking, but something stronger above 100 den. I think it's such pain for you.

BURGLAR: Yes, I thought it will be faster, whole thing.

NOLL: You could use mask.

BURGLAR: Mask?

NOLL: Yes. Put it on face.

BURGLAR: Where I find a mask?

NOLL: Second door from entrance's door, I think third shelf. I buy them in Venice.

They are lovely, but...

BURGLAR: But?

NOLL: They are for women.

BURGLAR: I don't care, I need to breath.

NOLL: Second door.

BURGLAR: Don't move.

NOLL: I didn't want.

Burglar exits his face to Noll, stumbles on the box and moves forward.

BURGLAR (*offstage*): Don't try to see my face.

NOLL: No. In my bag near mirror, there is moisturiser.

BURGLAR (*offstage*): What for?

NOLL: You need make something with your face after this.

Burglar returns, on his head now is mask of moon-woman with long red veil on the back.

BURGLAR: I could breath.

NOLL: You should do it from beginning.

Buzz sound.

BURGLAR: Did you hear it?

NOLL: What?

BURGLAR: This buzz sound.

NOLL: Yes.

BURGLAR: Any ideas what it could be?

NOLL: Any ideas at all.

BURGLAR: It could be drone.

NOLL: Why?

BURGLAR: You know who I am.

NOLL: Never had a pleasure of formal introduction.

BURGLAR: Why I am here?

NOLL: I don't know.

BURGLAR: Sit on the floor.

NOLL: Why?

BURGLAR: I order to you here.

NOLL: Blah, blah, blah.

Noll sits on the floor.

NOLL: This mask is much better looks on you. Keep it, as a gift. I thought about throwing it out.

BURGLAR: You are very generous.

NOLL: Why I should sit on the floor?

BURGLAR: It's police's drone.

NOLL: How do you know?

BURGLAR: They look at us through window.

NOLL: Why? It's my flat.

BURGLAR: I robbed bank out there.

NOLL: Alone?

BURGLAR: No. But I have this. In this bag.

NOLL: Really.

BURGLAR: I won't show you.

NOLL: I didn't ask. Why I should sit?

BURGLAR: Police will find out that I have hostage, if you lay on the floor, they will think that you are dead and will assault this place.

NOLL: How?

BURGLAR: Through window.

NOLL: It's closed.

BURGLAR: They will smash it.

NOLL: No. No. No.

Noll stands up and walks to the window.

BURGLAR: What are you doing?

NOLL: If they broke window will be lot of glass everywhere. I don't like this prospect.

BURGLAR: Don't come to the window!

NOLL: And how police will find out that hostage is alive?

BURGLAR: Fine. Maybe you are right.

Noll opens window and waves to the drone.

NOLL: Hi!

MAN'S VOICE (*offstage*): Madam are you all right? Is there any hostage, not counting you.

NOLL: Drone could talk?

BURGLAR: It's police. They use drone. And talk to you.

NOLL: It's not you first time.

BURGLAR: I watch TV.

NOLL: And what you think?

BURGLAR: About?

NOLL: Is it worth spending so much time looking at the not real life of others?

BURGLAR: Answer to police's question.

NOLL: We are two here.

MAN'S VOICE (*offstage*): Who is second hostage?

NOLL: I am alone.

BURGLAR: Second is me.

NOLL: Yes, he is second. Mr Burglar. Can you see us?

MAN'S VOICE (*offstage*): Yes, but be very careful in what you are saying, you as hostage at first is in danger.

NOLL: Look at Mr Burglar. Don't you think this mask is just made for him? I, stupid, wanted to throw it away.

BURGLAR: Don't stay near window.

NOLL: Agree. By the way, I am Noll. Noll Prex – textile designer.

MAN'S VOICE (*offstage*): Noll Prex? My sister slept whole night in front of your shop to buy a scarf on discount day.

NOLL: She has a taste.

BURGLAR: Move from window.

NOLL: Fine, I didn't like to talk with dron, you know, Mr Charming.

BURGLAR: Who is Mr Charming?

NOLL: Don't you think police officer has a charming voice.

MAN'S VOICE (*offstage*): Miss Prex, I heard everything.

BURGLAR: If you want to further talks, use phone. Remove drone from here.

MAN'S VOICE (*offstage*): What's your number Miss Prex?

NOLL: Mr Charming, I usually don't give to man my phone number such easy.

BURGLAR: Give him your damned phone.

NOLL: What?

BURGLAR: Noll, please.

NOLL: 987654321. I wait for your call, Mr Charming.

MAN'S VOICE (*offstage*): Thanks Miss Prex.

Blackout.

NOLL: Why helicopter?

BURGLAR: It's everyone choice.

NOLL: But there is driver of helicopter, he could be a policeman.

BURGLAR: They promised.

NOLL: And you are burglar.

BURGLAR: Mr Charming gave you a word and it wasn't necessary to ask him if he is in relationships.

NOLL: Patty said that I probably need fresh love interest to help me.

BURGLAR: Help you with what? Are you ill?

NOLL: Not exactly. It's burnout. I didn't want to do anything.

BURGLAR: It's writer's block.

NOLL: Everyone told me so. I am not a writer. It's burnout.

BURGLAR: Fine. Is there big dissimilarity?

NOLL: I don't want to know. Where you have strength to do it?

BURGLAR: What?

NOLL: Rob a bank. You have idea, plan.

BURGLAR: We prepared for few month.

NOLL: And it didn't work.

BURGLAR: It worked.

NOLL: You are here, I am hostage. It didn't worked.

BURGLAR: Almost. I always wanted to make it.

NOLL: What?

BURGLAR: Rob a bank.

NOLL: Why?

BURGLAR: To show that I am cool.

NOLL: Show to whom?

BURGLAR: There were always cool guys near my older sister. In reality she was my mother, but told everyone that our mother is dead and she is unselfish woman who takes care of her little brother.

NOLL: And you?

BURGLAR: I liked to read on the porch... When she wasn't alone.

NOLL: I see.

BURGLAR: And later, she said that I saddened her.

NOLL: When it was?

BURGLAR: When she found in my room drafts of my adventures novels. I wanted to write.

NOLL: Really? And how you motivated yourself, when everywhere are a lot of other designers, I mean writers.

BURGLAR: It was my unique story.

NOLL: And I think my burnout arise when I started to panic that never will create anything uncommon.

BURGLAR: How?

NOLL: I don't know. I was afraid.

BURGLAR: And what about now? You still want nothing.

NOLL: No. Yes, I am just curious, how looks like Mr Charming.

BURGLAR: At least something.

NOLL: Don't be envious. I would like to see how you look like, but I think I shouldn't testify against you.

BURGLAR: Thank you. Nice pearls.

NOLL: Thank you. What is next?

BURGLAR: I will escape.

NOLL: And after it whole life live in fear.

BURGLAR: You have other suggestion.

NOLL: Yes.

BURGLAR: What?

NOLL: Voluntary surrender.

BURGLAR: After hostage.

NOLL: You aren't open to new ideas.

BURGLAR: Listen.

NOLL: You will return all that, what is in the bag. Spend some time in the jail. Return to writing. Became famous, publishing houses love people with such stories.

BURGLAR: You are serious?

NOLL: Absolutely.

Sound of helicopter.

NOLL: Now or never.

BURGLAR: Call to your Mr Charming.

Noll takes phone.

NOLL: Mr Charming, we have change of plans.

Loud sound of helicopter.

Blackout.

Scene 4.

Noll sits near her working desk, works.

Patt takes from floor one sketch after another.

PATT: Idea of inner prison is such fresh, such unique in your sketches.

NOLL: You think so?

PATT: You know that you are genius. You always was.

NOLL: Probably. I will edit this sketches later.

PATT: It will be amazing collection. Gold, silver, Venetian's mask. You are phenomenal.

NOLL: I think after burnout I found more fire in ashes.

PATT: Don't you think it's too early?

NOLL: What?

PATT: To introduce me to your Mister Charming.

NOLL: You help me with sketches. You are here accidentally, remember it.

Phone message.

PATT: He is here.

NOLL: Accidentally!

Blackout.

Scene 5.

*Mr Charming taller than Noll, wears jeans and T-shirt (which underlines his frame)
with symbol of police.*

PATT: You like to be imperceptible.

NOLL: Patt!

PATT: I am helping you with sketches.

MR CHARMING: Noll if you need to work, you could tell me.

PATT: She needs fresh air.

NOLL: Patt, you finish here with everything?

PATT: Yes and will close your door. It was my fault.

NOLL: You saved me from burnout.

PATT: In this case, any time.

NOLL: Bye.

Noll and Mr Charming exit.

Sound of police sirens.

Patt comes to window.

PATT: Police this time works at other place. I see it from window. Do they need a hostage? I mean, I just want to see work of police.

Patt quickly takes her handbag and exits from stage.

CURTAIN.

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