

Excerpt from the play

RUT

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NB! The characters do not see or hear David's presence and comments in any of the scenes. He can be both – constantly visible or only audible, or even vary both options, but he does not interfere in the lives of characters. He only comments on what is happening and watches with real interest, although we often see - he predicts further actions better than the characters themselves.

PROLOGUE

David: The rites of the rut are as ancient as life on the planet Earth. The ancient Roman poet Ovid, even before our era, wrote a poetry collection, "The Art of Love," which describes where Roman men should search their brides, how to conquer their hearts, how to disarm their minds from doubt and ultimately how to hide one lover from another. All these universal tips have travelled through the ages and still today are discussed between both – certified anthropologists and self-proclaimed life coaches. No matter how civilization develops, the desire of people to find a partner for themselves, remains the same. However, even after thousands of years, these searches are still difficult. Why do we keep facing so many obstacles? What are the universal signs on which the potential for a successful relationship is based, and do they exist at all? We will look at the characteristics of several individuals in relationships and together we will try to find answers to these issues.

My name is David and this is "Rut".

1. SCENE

Bank branch. Late evening. Paul and Marta's night shift at customer service centre. The two sit in silence for a while, dealing with their things on the computer or phone.

David: Office romance. It is the term that is most often associated with short-term and frivolous relationships. However, today's anthropomorphic worlds' peculiarity – workaholicism, have led to the fact that most individuals spend most of their lives in the workplace. As a result, partners are often selected in a professional environment and office romances often result in serious long-term liabilities.

Paul: Looks like there's no danger of burnout here.

David: This is Paul's first night on duty at his new job.

Marta: Believe me, around two everyone will start buzzing.

David: Whereas, Martas last one.

Paul: Why around two?

Marta: Everyone begins to realise that their cards have been stolen

Paul: Aa, a stage where you don't remember the pin anymore?

Marta: Exactly.

David: Most mammalian species spend their nights in their sleep. But In the anthropomorphic world, only three types of people love darkness – astronomers, criminals and couples in love.

Paul yawns.

Marta: Falling asleep already?

Paul: First wave.

David: Paula and Marta's on-call duty started two hours ago, but will continue until six in the morning. So far, communication between the two has been limited to technical work things, whereas just now we were able to observe the first breezes of personal contact. As can be seen, after this brief dialogue, Marta has straightened up her back and forwarded her chest, which demonstrates her interest. Also Paul is not left indifferent after the first word exchange. We can see that he has moved away from the computer screen and now stares through the window. But, looking more closely, we see that his gaze is actually focused on Marta's reflection in the glass, not the landscape outside.

Paul: Cool view.

Marta: Yes, enjoy. Everyone quickly gets used to it and no longer notices.

Paul: Wellll... don't know though. How long have you been working here?

Marta: This is the fifth year.

Paul: Wow. Long. Why are you leaving?

Marta: I'll ask you that in a couple of years.

Paul: I won't be here for that long.

Marta: I've already heard this phrase.

David: Male sharks bite females heavily during copulation, but thanks to their thick skin, they do not feel anything. This situation could be treated in a similar way. Although comments, heard from a distance, could be misunderstood and held to be restrained, in fact they work opposite. Coolness, sarcasm and irony can often be a sign of

sympathies. Sharp remarks often serve as a way to check the potential partner's openness to communication, as well as overall compatibility.

Paul: And what do you do here all night?

Marta: Depends on night. Weekdays are the most excruciating. Then really no one calls, in addition, you're alone in the whole house. Well except for the guard of course, but he never comes higher than the second floor.

Paul: So what are you doing? Sleep?

Marta: Sleeping is not allowed.

Paul: I'm not asking if it's allowed, I'm asking are you sleeping?

Marta: Of course. Everyone does. Most of us after the shift goes to school or a second job, or looks after children. Anyways, it is not a magic tool, sleep is intermittent and anxious, but you know... two, three hours in a horizontal position helps.

Paul: Then that's what awaits me too.

Marta: Are you studying? Working? Looking after children?

David: First counter-questions from Marta. Even more important – quite personal– this is a positive sign for the direction of communication between the two.

Paul: University. Management studies. Masters.

Marta: On which course?

Paul: Second. You?

Marta: Also masters.

Paul: What are you studying?

Marta: Cultural management and creative industries.

Paul: Where?

Marta: Academy of Culture.

Paul: Oh, you're an artist.

Marta: What? Why?

Paul: Aren't you all at that school artists?

Marta: Absolutely not.

Paul: I generally feel like all humanitarian people are artists.

- Marta: Some kind of stereotypical notion. What do you mean by - "humanitarian people"?
- Paul: Well, those who aren't studying exact sciences.
- Marta: You think "exact people" (*she emphasises the definition clearly smirking about it*) couldn't be artists?
- Paul: The percentage is definitely lower.
- Marta: Nonsense.
- David: Paul doesn't belong to the group of men who retreats from their words. If he has an opinion, he will defend it even if he realises that he is wrong. However, it can be seen that in this situation the need of defending his opinion is not as essential as leaving a positive impression on Marta.
- Paul: Okay, okay, I'm just keeping the conversation going.
- David: Noticing a mismatch of opinions, Paul is afraid to touch on topics, which could lead to a gap in the communication between the two, since they have not yet found solid foundations on which to base mutual understanding. Through this action, it is proved that Paul's sympathies develop in ascending progression and in Paul's eyes, the importance of Marta's opinion rises.

The two sit in silence, but look at each other every now and then. If glances meet, they immediately turn away.