

**YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE ME**

Written by

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Scene One

Bedroom set. Bed is center stage. Lights on RICHARD walks on stage and gets in bed. He throws his work clothes on the floor as he walks. MARYLEN walks in on the opposite side of the stage. She looks at Richard.

MARYLEN

Really, Richard? It's only ten.

RICHARD

I'm tired.

MARYLEN

OK, hon. Sleep well.

*(Marylen scoffs mumbling while she picks up Richard's clothes off the floor and throws them in the hamper.)*

Baby is heard crying off stage.

MARYLEN

Don't worry honey I'll get it.

Marylen walks off stage and grabs a crying baby. She goes to sit in the rocking chair rocking BRANDON back and forth.

MARYLEN (CON'T)

It's OK. Shhhhh. Hush my little baby don't say a word mamas going to buy you a mockingbird.

*(Marylen begins to cry softly.)*

LIGHTS SLOWLY FADE OFF. SOUNDS OF BIRDS ARE HEARD AS LIGHT GOES BACK ON THIS TIME TO A WARM SUNNY LIGHT. MARYLEN AND RICHARD ARE BOTH IN BED. RICHARD'S ALARM GOES OFF. HE GETS UP AND STOPS THE ALARM.

RICHARD

I'm sorry.

Richard steps closer to Marylen.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

I love you. I wish I could be better for you. I've got to go now. Sleep well, Marylen.

Richard kisses Marylen's forehead and walks off stage. Marylen opens her eyes and sits up.

MARYLEN

Gone again, huh? I'm sorry that I can't be a good wife or mother. It's so hard, Richard. I love you but- well it's too late now.

Brandon is heard cooing. Marylen walks off stage and brings a bassinet with Brandon inside on stage.

MARYLEN

Good morning handsome.

Marylen softly touches Brandon's face.

MARYLEN (CON'T)

Daddy left for work so it's just us today.. as usual. Well I guess you must be hungry. Eating must be so easy for you. I wonder when eating becomes hard.

Marylen reaches in the bassinet and picks Brandon up.

MARYLEN (CON'T)

Well... let's get you fed.

*(Marylen sniffs)*

And get you a new diaper. Wow, that's so gross.

*(Marylen giggles to herself)*

Marylen walks off stage. Lights off.

### Scene Two

Spotlight backstage center. Soft piano music is played. Richard is standing in the spotlight.

RICHARD

Blue collar worker doesn't mean much to Marylen. I do construction, have been since I was a kid.. that was a long time ago. Time goes by quickly, I guess. I miss my family. I miss Marylen, Brandon. We married for love. That special love you feel when you see the girl of your dreams walk by you, totally unaware of everyone else. Just your average guy working on a site like every other day. I appreciated the work, my family didn't have enough money and they needed my help. It was an honor. That day Marylen was going to her first day of work at the coffee shop across the street. Her hair was just sitting perfectly.. everything about her was just heavenly. I watched as she walked to work each morning for weeks, trying to

gain some confidence. I was young. Finally it happened, all my dreams came true and I was able to buy us a perfect two bedroom house for our family to grow. We got married and had a baby. Marylen is still just... perfect. How she doesn't age, I don't know. Maybe she uses that cream stuff I saw on TV, or maybe I'm just in love with her.

Brandon is heard crying.

MARYLEN

I'm coming, Brandon! Give me one second sweet boy.

RICHARD LOOKS BACK INTO THE DARKNESS. SPOTLIGHT OFF. RICHARD EXITS STAGE. LIVING ROOM, BATHROOM, KITCHEN, AND LAUNDRY ROOM SET.

MARYLEN (CON'T)

Mama's here, mama's here.

Marylen goes to grab Brandon's pacifier and puts it in his mouth. Brandon stops crying.

MARYLEN (CON'T)

Alright back to work.

Lights off except the spotlight on the laundry room. Marylen shoves clothes in the washer . Spotlight off on the laundry room. Spotlight on in the kitchen. Marylen is humming to herself as she washes a mound of dishes up to the ceiling. Spotlight off in the kitchen. Spotlight on the living room. Marylen goes up to Brandon on the baby swing.

MARYLEN (CON'T)

Oh! You have a full diaper.

Marylen goes to change Brandon's diaper on the floor. She opens the diaper and there's poop everywhere.

MARYLEN (CON'T)

Oh my gosh. Oh my gosh. It's OK. No-no don't put your hands in it. No Brandon, keep your hands up. Oh my, it's on me. That's OK. It's OK.

Marylen successfully changes his diaper and leaves him on the floor as she gets up to face the audience and there's poop all over her. Marylen walks to the trash and throws the diaper away.

She strips her outer layer of clothes off and goes back to grab Brandon.

MARYLEN (CON'T)

Wow. That was a lot huh? You got it all out, that's good.

Marylen puts Brandon back in the baby swing. Picks up her dirty clothes. Lights off in the living room. Lights on in the laundry room. Marylen puts her dirty clothes in the washing machine. She goes to look for clean clothes in the hamper.

MARYLEN (CON'T)

I guess I forgot to wash my clothes. OK. Uhm, dirty clothes are better than pooped on clothes.

Marylen pulls the dirty clothes out and puts them on. Lights off in the laundry room. Lights on in the bathroom. The bathroom is a complete mess.

MARYLEN (CON'T)

UGH RICHARD! Always leaving crap everywhere. Just put your toilet paper in the trash! Close your toothpaste! God Richard, how hard is it? I don't ask for much do I? So why is it so hard?

Lights on in the living room. Front door opens. Richard enters stage through the door.

RICHARD

Hey, honey.

MARYLEN

Hello. How was work?

As Marylen talks she walks into the living room. Lights off in the bathroom. Marylen picks up Brandon and sits on the couch while feeding him.

RICHARD

The same as always.

MARYLEN

That's better than a bad day, right?

RICHARD

Sure. How's Brandon?

MARYLEN

The same as always.

RICHARD

OK. Well, what did you make for dinner?

MARYLEN

Meatloaf.

RICHARD

Nice, Thank you. Did you guys already eat?

MARYLEN

Brandon is eating now.

RICHARD

And you?

MARYLEN

I'll eat later. I'm not hungry right now.

RICHARD

Are you sure?

MARYLEN

Yes.

RICHARD

Alrighty, I'm going to go wash up and eat.

Richard exits stage.

MARYLEN

Do you want to spend some time with your son?

RICHARD

Later honey.

Lights off. Spotlight on backstage left. Cello plays music to tell a story.

### Scene Three

Bedroom set. Soft moody lights on. Marylen is sitting with Brandon sleeping in the rocking chair. Richard enters the bedroom walking across the stage to Marylen.

RICHARD  
How's my favorite people?

Richard leans in to kiss Marylen and Brandon.

MARYLEN  
Just pleasant.  
*(Marylen smiles)*

RICHARD  
You look beautiful.

MARYLEN  
Very funny, Richard.  
*(Marylen laughs)*

RICHARD  
I mean it.

MARYLEN  
Well, thank you.

Richard touches Marylen's face and turns to go to his side of the bed.

MARYLEN  
Sleeping already?

RICHARD  
Honey, it was-

MARYLEN  
-it was a long day. I know, it's OK. I love you.

RICHARD  
I love you too.

Richard gets in bed and falls asleep.

MARYLEN  
It's time for you, mister, to go to your bed.

Marylen exits stage and can be heard talking to Brandon. Marylen re-enters the stage. Marylen gets into bed sitting up. Spotlight on Marylen.

MARYLEN (CON'T)

Every single day is the same. I live in a prison, Richard. Do you know the envy I feel as you get to leave this house and be around actual adults, I am here talking to a baby. I'm losing my mind. I'm losing my sense of self. I hate every day I have to wake up.

Marylen looks to sleeping Richard gently touching him.

MARYLEN (CON'T)

It's not like I don't appreciate what you've done for us, but this isn't what I thought my life would feel like. I love you, I love Brandon, and I love this house you built for us. You truly have done so much for me, for us, yet here I am being selfish. Richard I-I don't want to live like this anymore. When was the last time we had a real conversation? Like a genuine, amusing, stimulating, conversation. I can't remember. It must have been at least a year ago. Even before we had Brandon. You just became so busy. Too busy. I'm happy we have money... I just wish I had you.

Marylen lays her head on the pillow facing Richard.

MARYLEN (CON'T)

How is it so easy for you to sleep? Do you not feel my soul screaming? Why can't you see me? Please, please, please, please see me Richard.

Lights slowly fade off as the cello is being played.

Scene Four

Spotlight on cello. Dinner table set. Lights on. Richard and Marylen are sitting opposite each other. Brandon is in his high chair with his bottle and baby snacks.

MARYLEN

You got back from work early.

RICHARD

Yes.

MARYLEN

Why?

RICHARD

Do you not want me to be home?



MARYLEN

No, no of course I'm glad you're home.

RICHARD

OK, then?

MARYLEN

Nothing, I was just asking.

RICHARD

I came home early because I missed my family.

MARYLEN

Well, we missed you more.  
*(Marylen smiles)*

They continue to eat dinner in silence.

RICHARD

You're not eating. Do you not like it?

MARYLEN

No, I'm just not hungry right now.

RICHARD

When are you hungry?

MARYLEN

When are you not?

RICHARD

I'm heading to bed.

MARYLEN

Already? Why are you always sleeping and eating? Do you not even care?

RICHARD

I work Marylen.

MARYLEN

I work too.

RICHARD

You stay at home, you're living my dream.

*Pause*

MARYLEN

You're living mine.

Richard leans over the table and grabs her hand, she pulls away.

RICHARD

Mary, honey. I-I didn't know.

MARYLEN

Like hell.

RICHARD

Marylen... I hate my job. I can't do it anymore. I hate being away. I hate it.

MARYLEN

Really?

Marylen reaches over to grab his hand. Richard looks down.

MARYLEN (CON'T)

How long have we been living like this?

RICHARD

Too long.

MARYLEN

I am so- Richard.

Marylen gets out of the chair and Richard looks up. Marylen goes to hug him.

RICHARD

Marylen, how did we get here?

Richard stands up with Marylen still in his arms, he hugs her tighter.

MARYLEN

I don't know, I don't know, Richard. Life I guess.

RICHARD

Life, huh?

*(They both laugh. Marylen begins to cry and so does Richard.)*

Lights slowly fade off to Black out.

THE END



*Cultish* by Maya Harron