

Adventure Cabaret

Who Wants to Change?

SCENE: Jen's Apartment

Jen is alone in her apartment. She is a bit agitated, and is pacing. She stops occasionally and sighs. She sits down, gets up, paces some more. She sits down again, smacks her hands on her knees nervously, looks around. She reaches for her phone and calls someone.

Jen: Hi Sally. It's Jen. How are you doing? Great, great. Listen, could I come over and talk with you about something? No, it's not urgent. I just want to talk. Thanks. I'll be there in a bit.

Jen exits, indicating a change of scene. Robin enters from the other side, and sits down. Jen enters.

Sally: Hi Jen! Come on in.

Jen: Hi! Thanks.

Sally: Hey, have a seat. You look kind of agitated. What's going on?

Jen: Let me just sit down and...breathe for a minute.

She sits.

Sally: Wow, you're making me nervous. What's going on?

Jen: I just want to talk about something.

Sally: Ok.

Jen: Well...

Sally: Yes?

Jen: I'm not sure how to say this.

Sally: Yikes.

Jen: Sally, don't make fun. This isn't funny.

Sally: Ok.

Pause. Jen looks around nervously.

Jen: Sally, I want to change. I don't want to be who I am anymore. I'm sick of my own limitations, sick of being who I've always been, sick of all my stupid patterns that hold me back. I want to find out who I could be, so far beyond what I am now. It's such a huge, wonderfully diverse world out there, and I am just...me. I can't stand it anymore.

Sally: Why would you want to change? You're wonderful just as you are.

Jen: No, I am not. I'm unacceptably small and undeveloped, and if I don't find a way to bust out of this, I'll stay this way forever, a walking nothing who never bothered to really find out who she could be. If I don't have the courage to explore who I could become, I will live in shame for the rest of my life.

Sally: Um..ok.

Jen picks up energy, becoming more forceful.

Jen: I so desperately want to change, I can't even say how, but the thing is...I don't want to be alone when I am changing. It's going to be hard, and I just don't think I can do it if I'm all by myself, with no one to talk to about what I'm going through, what I'm trying to do, what I'm trying to become.

Sally: Jen, you're too hard on yourself. You should learn to appreciate yourself more.

Jen: I appreciate myself *plenty*, but it's just *not enough*. I want to be bigger, I want to grow, I want to expand, to learn deeply, to have profound insights and also...I want to suffer. I haven't suffered enough, and I know that a lot of growth just can't be achieved without suffering.

Sally: So is there something you want from me? You know I'm your friend.

Jen: Yes! I want you to be my *change* friend! I want us to change together, to share everything about the ways we are changing, and trying to change. I want us to go through everything together, always talking with each other, always sharing the experience of changing.

Sally: Ok. Well, this is quite an experience in itself, I must say.

Jen: Sally, would you be my *change* friend? Can we be each other's *change* friends?

Sally: Let me think about it, ok?

Jen: Sure. I know this was all kind of sudden, and I dumped a lot on you.

Sally: It's ok. I'm a big girl, I can take it. Let's talk soon, ok?

Jen: Ok! I look forward to it.

They hug, and Jen exits. Sally sits down.

Sally: Yikes.

Sally exits.

SCENE: Jen's apartment

Jen enters, and sits, thrumming her fingers on her knees, looking around. She reaches for her phone.

Jen: Sally, I've left you several messages now, and you haven't called me back...for weeks. I do know what this means. I do understand that you've dumped me as a friend. I don't understand why you would do that to me, just because I want to change. I'm not angry, but I am deeply hurt, and I guess I'm just calling...to say goodbye.

She hangs up the phone. Pause. She begins to break down, then sobs.

Pause.

She reaches for her phone again, and dials a number.

Jen: Hi Becky. It's Jen. Do you have a minute? I'd like to get together and talk with you about something important, and also a bit unusual. Are you free now? Ok, I'll be over in a bit. See you soon.

SCENE: Becky's Apartment

Lights are down.

Jen: I so desperately want to change, I can't even say how, but the thing is...I don't want to be alone when I am changing. It's going to be hard, and I just don't think I can do it if I'm all by myself, with no one to talk to about what I'm going through, what I'm trying to do, what I'm trying to become.

Lights come up. Jen and Becky are sitting. Jen is just finishing describing again what she wants.

Jen: Becky, would you be my *change* friend? I want us to change together, to share everything about the ways we are changing, and trying to change. I want us to go through *everything* together, always talking with each other, always sharing the experience of changing.

Becky listens intently, then stares ahead. She puts her head down. Pause. She stands up, moves across the room, and leans against the wall, her hands behind her. Pause.

Becky: Ok, I'm having an interesting experience here. I'm terrified, and also thrilled. It's as though you opened a door to a room inside me that I didn't even know was there. I think I hid that room from myself my whole life, out of fear. And now here I am in that room, right here in my conscious mind, with you, and I love being in this beautiful room with you, bathed in sunlight.

Pause. Becky walks toward Jen, who is still sitting.

Becky: Jen, I want this. The truth that was hidden within me is that I've *always* wanted this, with someone. Just no one ever asked, and I wasn't going to ask anyone. I had no idea it would be you—but it is you, right here, right now.

Becky reaches for Jen's hand.

Becky: Jen, let's do this. Let's be courageous partners in change. Let's go through all of it together, as true friends.

Jen begins to cry.

Jen: Oh my god. I can barely believe it. You actually *are* my friend. We actually are going to do this together.

Becky: Yes, I am your friend.

Jen stands. They embrace.

Jen: I love you so much.

Becky: Yes, we love each other.

They link pinkies, and turn toward the audience.

Jen: Onward!

Becky: Onward...together!

They smile at each other, then turn back to look again into the unknown distance.