

Lights rise on a dark apartment: odd furnishings, a record player, a kitchen door and an outside door.

In the center is a ratty sofa with pillows.

Outside -- a scuttle, laughter, the jangle of keys.

Enter TARA -- early 20s, attractive, wearing a party hat and clenching a party horn in between her lips. She works her way across the room..

Behind is another girl, shorter and younger -- HOLLY.

A young man enters last, TROY.

TARA

Hold on; hold on...I've almost got it.

HOLLY

It's freezing.

TARA

(Joking)

Close the goddamn door!

TROY shuts it. The wind dies. TARA trips towards the lamp and knocks it. HOLLY brushes snow from TROY's coat.

HOLLY

Happy New Year!

TARA blows her party horn.

HOLLY wriggles out of her coat and tosses it, then kicks off her shoes.

HOLLY

It's too dark.

TARA
Too cold, too dark. Whiner.

TARA switches on the lamp.

TARA
Happy New Year, Troy.

TROY
It's not midnight.

HOLLY
Warmth! Brrr.

TARA
(To TROY)
Coat.

TROY takes off his coat.

TROY
Closet?

TARA
Anywhere.

TROY drops the coat on the back of
the sofa.

TROY
Do you have roommates?

TARA
It's okay. We're alone.

HOLLY slinks onto the sofa and rests
her head.

TARA
Music!

HOLLY
Something quiet.

TARA
Don't fucking fall asleep.

HOLLY
(Distant)
I won't.

TARA digs through records.

TARA
I'm serious. I want you awake. Troy might be dangerous.
Any requests?

TROY
Whatever.

TARA
(Making fun)
Whatever.

TROY
You have records.

TARA
They sound better. They're my dad's. He's dead.

TROY
Sorry--

TARA
Ah! Perfect.

TARA's found a record.

TARA (Continued)
It's not *Auld Lang Syne*, but it suits me.

She drops the needle. It's a
strange track.

HOLLY
Ewww.

TARA
It's like breathing.
(To TROY)
Can I get you a drink?

TROY
Sure.

TARA
Ooo, I have champagne. I was going to celebrate.

TARA exits to kitchen.

TROY
That makes se--

TARA
(From afar)
I'm a traditionalist.

TROY
Do you need help with the cork?

TARA, at the door, with bottle.

TARA
Are you help with the cork?

TROY
I could try.

TARA exits again.

TARA
Try not. Do. I got it. Twist the bottle not the cork,
that's the secret.

TROY sits on the sofa next to HOLLY.

TROY

So that's the secret.

HOLLY rubs his leg with her feet.
She's fading.

TARA enters with two glasses filled.

TROY (Continued)

What about hers?

TARA

This glass is for her. I'll drink from the bottle. Cheers.
Now don't throw up.

HOLLY holds her glass, but not well.
It's slipping. As it fades, TARA
snatches it. She laughs. She sits
on the floor and looks up at TROY.

TARA

You've got the face of a baby.

TROY

I'm nineteen.

TARA

Twenty-three.

TROY

I know. We've had this conversation. At the club.

TARA

Did you use a fake ID?

TROY

Sure.

HOLLY

So did I.

TARA

She's lying. I let a bouncer touch my boob. She doesn't have a fake ID.

TROY

I don't think that plan would have worked for me. Want to see it?

TARA

I'll show you mine if you show me yours.

TROY

My ID.

He hands it over to her disappointed face.

TARA

Pleased to meet you, Mr. Ravi Patel.

TROY

It's not perfect, but it works. Must be hard to be twenty-three with underage friends. That's a lot of bouncers to please.

TARA

I was friends with Holly's sister. Then we starting hanging out, all of a sudden. What are your friends like?

TROY

Not as wild as you.

TARA

You think I'm wild? That's sweet.

TROY

You forget. I saw you dance.

TARA

Voyeur.

TROY

I like your apartment. Better than mine.

TARA

You have other sexy boys under your roof?

TROY

Two. Well, boys anyway. I don't know sexy. But they just moved out on me.

TARA

Poor baby.

TROY

I'm kinda broke. Could use someone to split the rent.

TARA

I go to business school. I study money.

TROY

Then you'll do well. I can tell... You're smart. Both of you.

HOLLY

How can you tell anything? We're both drunk.

TARA

Open your eyes, Holly. You eavesdropper.

HOLLY

Can't.

TARA

Don't pee your pants.

HOLLY

I'm just resting my eyes. That music creeps me out.

TARA

Holly...Holly, honey...if you fall asleep, I'll have Troy here touch you under your clothes...

HOLLY

(Faded)

Okay.

TARA

Holly!

HOLLY

(Hushed)

I'm awake I'm awake. Make out or something. God.

TROY
Never been invited back with two girls before.

TARA
Nervous?

TROY
I'm not nervous.

TARA
Are you a virgin?

TROY
I'm just saying it's a first having two girls interested.

TARA
I think she's asleep. Do you want to touch her?

TROY
Isn't that, like, rape?

TARA
I won't tell.

TROY
Maybe later.

TARA
Holly. Hol-leeeee. HOLLY!

TROY
She's out. Yeah. Holly! Wake up. Really out.

TARA
Kiss me.

TROY
Okay.

They kiss.

TROY
You sure can kiss.

TARA

I'm not giving you any more of them.

TROY

(Confused)

Okay.

TARA

At least not until you do something for me.

TROY

Sure.

TARA

Do you like Holly?

TROY

I barely know her.

TARA

She's sleeping with my boyfriend.

TROY

You have a--

TARA

I do. I did. She encouraged me to pick up a boy at the bar. She would probably have slept with you, too, just to keep me off the scent. But it's true that she's a slut for my boyfriend. I saw them in his car one time.

TROY

Wow. I'm sorry. Aren't you worried she's listening to us?

TARA

Holly! No, I'm not worried. She's not much of a drinker. I had the bartender blend her drinks with Tequila, just enough that she wouldn't recognize the taste.

TARA

Do you want her?

TROY

Here?

TARA

Secret. I know you like the idea. Passed out pretty girl. Look at her: there on the sofa. She's ripe for picking.

TROY

Kiss me again.

TARA

Do something for me first. Then you can have everything.

TROY

Look, I'm kind of drunk, too, I--

TARA

Don't worry. I didn't do anything to your drinks, sweetie. I need you relatively straight. And this favor isn't something light. It's important.

TROY

I'd like to help.

TARA

Did you know I can tap dance?

TROY

T-tap dance?

TARA

Eight years ago, I had an Italian teacher. He ran a school. My father signed me up to get me out of the house. I don't think dad liked me around so much. I went to this teacher for two years before he tried anything. One time, during a private lesson, he ripped my clothes and locked the door, then fucked me in front of the mirrors. He said if I told my father anything, he would kill me.

TROY

That's awful.

TARA

I told him I was in love with him. I let him have me every lesson for six months. I got him addicted to it. I was only fifteen and he was nearly fifty. Then, I told my father I didn't want to dance anymore and we stopped going. He started coming by my house at night. I'd tease him from the window. One night he came by and it was his wife in the window. He killed himself.

TROY

Jesus. Did you know he was going to do it?

TARA

I knew he'd be dead. Somehow. I've got a pretty simple creed. Do you know what a creed is?

TROY

A motto or something?

TARA

Here is mine: kill your enemies. Kill. Your. Enemies.

TROY

Do you have a beer? This champagne--

TARA exits to kitchen.

TARA

(Far away)

That's it, baby boy. I want you nice and relaxed. You know what's going to happen.

TROY

I don't.

TARA returns with a beer. Opens it slowly.

TARA

You're going to kill Holly.

TROY

I don't think so.

TARA

You're going to smother her with that pillow and then you're going to have me and then I'm going to give you two thousand dollars that I've been saving.

TROY

I can't kill her.

TARA
Can't?

TROY
I don't want to.

TARA kisses him. Slowly.

TARA
She's sleeping with my boyfriend. She can't do that to me. You take care of Holly. I've got other plans for my boyfriend. I want to see him suffer for a few months. Then he'll get his. You'll have me (I'll say you forced yourself on Holly and when I tried to stop you, you accidentally killed her with a pillow, then left.) I won't be very good at describing you. And neither will anyone else at the club. You'll just be a random person. And if they ever get close, I'll keep these lips sealed. I'll never give you away. No one will ever know a thing.

TROY
So that's why we left through the alley.

TARA
That's right. The only evidence in this case will be my testimony, which will be worthless.

TROY
Worthless.

TARA
So...what do you say, Troy? Up for a little adventure.

TROY
I'm not drunk enough. I mean, look at her.

TARA
She STOLE my boyfriend!

TROY
Well, it happens, sometimes and--

TARA
Do you think she's prettier than me?

TROY
I don't think anything, I--

TARA
To have this slut live. After what she did.

TROY stands.

TROY
I-I've got to go.

TARA
No!

TROY
This is a joke or something. She's going to wake up. Holly!
Wake up. Come on!

TARA
Don't shake her.

TROY
Come on, it's a joke. Who would kill their friend?

TARA
She's not my FRIEND!

TROY
I'm leaving.

TARA
You leave and you're dead.

TROY
She's not your goddamn dance teacher.

TARA
It wasn't just him. I've had LOTS of enemies.

TROY
There's something wrong with you.

TROY makes it to the door; she's
holding him.

TARA

You leave and I'll kill her myself!

TROY

They'll know it was you.

TROY opens the door to the wind and flees.

TARA

(Shouting)

You are now my enemy, Troy! Don't you forget it! You are my enemy! YOU. ARE. MY. ENEMY!

She slams the door, turns.

Holly on the sofa.

Troy's left his coat.

Tar lifts it. She wraps it tight.
She approaches the sleeping Holly...

Fadeout.

CURTAIN.