

THE LAST HAND

Written by

Henry Tjernlund

henry.tjernlund@gmail.com
724-495-0352

FADE IN

EXT. APARTMENT HOUSE - DUSK

A cozy multi-apartment duplex is separated from the street by a lawn. Only the living room lights are on.

EVA (O.S.)
Last hand, then movie?

AL (O.S.)
Sounds good.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM

Sitting cross legged on the floor with a coffee table between them, AL (male) and EVA (female) (college students, 20s) play cards. Al is in boxer shorts only. Eva is in panties and a shirt over a bra.

At one end of the coffee table are piled the rest of Al's clothes. At the other end of the table are Eva's clothes.

Also on the table is a disc movie box beside an open laptop.

In Al's hand are an ace, two jacks, and two nines.

AL
Quote -- "The unexamined life is
not worth living."

EVA
So-Crates.

Eva pencils a mark on a sheet of paper. She then lays down two queens of hearts along with a queen of diamonds.

Al narrows his eyes at the cards.

AL
Hmm.

EVA
Fundamental theorem of calculus.

AL
Easy-peazy. The derivative and
integral are opposites.

Eva puts down another mark on the sheet of paper. She discards a ten.

EVA
Saw a great pair of shoes
yesterday.

AL
Heels?

EVA
Oh yeah. Twelve-point-seven
centimeters.

AL
How much?

Eva scrunches her lips into a frown.

Al picks up the ten and slides it into his hand.

EVA
Collecting tens, huh?

AL
Yeah, like you.

Eva gives him a wry look.

Al discards a nine.

AL (CONT'D)
(German accent)
You vill now tell me Heisenberg's
Uncertainty Principle, FRAULEIN.

Eva picks up a card from the deck and adds it to her others.

EVA
(French accent)
Oui, Maitriser Interrogateur. The
product of position and momentum is
greater than or equal to Planck's
constant over four Pi.

She discards.

LATER

Al takes a card from the deck.

EVA
So... what was the last item of
clothing you bought?

He hooks his thumb under the waistband of his boxers, and snaps it.

AL

You?

She does the same with her bra shoulder strap.

AL (CONT'D)

I guess we both wanted clean undies for tonight.

EVA

Or I just wanted a reason to buy something new.

Al picks up a card from the deck, tucks it into his hand and discards.

EVA (CONT'D)

Here's one. Betcha don't know Noether's Theorem.

AL

Never even heard of it.

EVA

Not surprised.

AL

Is it anything important?

EVA

Just proof that invariance in space leads to conservation of momentum.

AL

Really? Wow.

EVA

And invariance in time leads to conservation of energy.

AL

Huh, "Noether." How come I haven't heard of him?

EVA

Because he's a she. Emmy Noether. That's why. Smart as Isaac Newton. She did other groundbreaking mathematical work too.

Eva lays down her entire hand in groups.

EVA (CONT'D)

Gin.

Al lays down three aces and two tens.

AL

Poker.

Eva chuckles as she work the laptop.

EVA

Let's see, applying the
transformation matrix tensor from
gin-space to poker-space, gives...

She watches the screen.

EVA (CONT'D)

... me an equivalent poker hand of
a full house, aces and kings.

Eva smiles at Al.

EVA (CONT'D)

Ready to lose those skivvies?

Al shakes his head.

AL

Pinnacle rules. Tens over kings.

Eva's smile drops.

Al smiles eyeing her shirt.

Eva ponders. Then in striptease fashion she slips one bra
strap off her shoulder.

Al is mesmerized.

Then she runs her hand and arm through the strap loop. She
does the same with the other.

Al watches with cautious curiosity.

Standing, Eva reaches under her shirt. She works her still
fastened bra down to her waist, over her hips, down her legs,
and steps out of it.

Her shirt still on, she tosses the bra on her pile of other
clothes.

Al frowns.

AL (CONT'D)
Hey, outside clothes first,
remember?

EVA
I changed neither the topology of
my bra, nor shirt. Thus
technically...

EVA AND AL
(together)
The bra was never INSIDE the shirt.

AL
(imitating a villain)
Very clever Miss Bond.

Eva smiles triumphantly.

EVA
Speaking of "Bond." Movie?

Al perks back up.

AL
Movie.

MINUTES LATER

Under dimmed light, Eva and Al cuddle under a blanket as spy
movie opening music plays from the television.

EVA
You know, my transformation matrix
wasn't made for a pinacple deck.
Just sayn'.

AL
Saying you might have one?

EVA
Maybe.

Al moves around under the blanket.

On the coffee table lands his boxer shorts.

AL
There, you win.

Next on the coffee table lands Eva's shirt and panties.

EVA
Naw. Non-zero-sum game?

EXT. APARTMENT HOUSE - NIGHT

AL (O.S.)
Hey. What're you doing?

EVA (O.S.)
Nothing.

AL (O.S.)
Just watch the movie.

EVA (O.S.)
Next time let's use a regular deck
of cards.

FADE OUT