

Scars  
Gabrielle Christie

CAST OF CHARACTERS

CHARLENE:

27 years old, a prostitute.

DEREK:

29 years old, lawyer, and friend of Charlene's from college .

LACEY:

27 years old, works at the district attorney's office, and fiancé of Derek.

PENNY:

27 years old, works with Lacey and is her best friend.

CARLOS:

45 years old, Charlene's pimp and drug dealer.

PLACE

Chicago, Illinois

TIME

Christmas Time

STAGE

The stage will be divided up into three rooms, the first part on the left is a street corner where Charlene works. The middle part is Lacey and Derek's apartment. The last part is on the right and that is the District Attorney's office.

ACT 1  
Scene 1

Setting: The street corner where Charlene works that will have a street corner sign and a bench next to a bus stop.

At Rise: The street lamp will be on. Charlene will be leaning against the bus stop sign gazing people as they walk by and smoking a cigarette. Derek will be walking by her carrying his briefcase.

CHARLENE

Hey there big boy, you looking for a good time tonight?

DEREK

(Stops in his tracks.)

Excuse me?

CHARLENE

(Blows cigarette smoke in his face.)

It seems like you being a big hotshot businessman need to take a break to relax, and have a good time. I can give you a night you will never forget. All for a good price of course. By the looks of you it seems like you can more than handle my fee.

DEREK

No I am not even close to interested and by the way I'm a lawyer and I have friends in big places that could arrest you for prostitution....

(Walks closer to her)

Char?

CHARLENE

(Looks away.)

No, my name is Star.

DEREK

Char it's me, Derek.

CHARLENE

(Drops her cigarette.)

Derek from college?  
(Laughs.)

CHARLENE

My, oh my have you changed from playing on the football team and now look at you Mr. Lawyer.

DEREK

I haven't seen you since...  
(Beat.)

CHARLENE

Since the night that I was raped. You can say it there is no need to neither hide it nor be ashamed.

DEREK

Yeah....Look I never got to say that I'm so....

CHARLENE

Sorry? Is that what you were about to say, because there is no way I want to hear it.

DEREK

I know... When it happened, I didn't know what to say.

CHARLENE

You could have been there for me but you weren't.  
(She looks away)

DEREK

I am sorry for the way I acted. I can't take back what I have done or how I reacted to what happened... I just didn't know what to do.

CHARLENE

Well it's too late for sorry.  
(Beat.)

So how's life now being this hotshot lawyer?

DEREK

Are you really trying to change the subject?

CHARLENE

What else is there to talk about?

DEREK

How about how long this prostitution life is going to continue before you realize you are better than this?

CHARLENE

How about you either help me out by giving me some money and I will give you a good time or you can keep walking. Just pretend you didn't see me like you have all these years.

DEREK

Don't talk to me like that.

CHARLENE

What are you talking about? You are just another potential client on the street.

DEREK

That is bullshit and you know it.

CHARLENE

(Laughs.)

Silly Derek. You think that by us having this "reunion" you could be my knight and shining armor and save me from the big bad world. Well guess what sweetheart, I am not the same girl from college so get over it. I will ask you again do you want a good time with me or not?

DEREK

No. I'm engaged.

CHARLENE

Wow. Congrats I guess is in order. I guess she must be some big bad lawyer to meet your standards. Now why didn't you just say that in the first place? You aren't on trial you know.

DEREK

Well I guess you will find that out sooner how good of a lawyer I am if you keep going down this path. Let me help you out while I can.

CHARLENE

You never listen. I don't want your help. Leave me alone. Now either you let me do my job here or I will find another corner. All I know is I got work to do and I can't risk not doing my job or else....

DEREK

Or else what? Is someone forcing you into this life?

CHARLENE

No, of course not. This was my own choice. I am my own woman. I just have a boyfriend and he cares that I do my job so I will always have money for us.

DEREK

Boyfriend?

CHARLENE

Yes. Did you not hear me the first time?

DEREK

And he approves of this lifestyle that you have?

(Steps closer to her.)

CHARLENE

(Backs away from him.)

Yes, and I'm very happy with him.

(Beat.)

Not that this hasn't been oh so wonderful, but I must be going. So much to do so little time, if you know what I mean.

(Winks at him and laughs.)

(Begins to walk away from him towards the left of the stage.)

DEREK

Wait.

CHARLENE

(Stops.)

What?

DEREK

(Pulls out a card and hands it to her.)

Here is my number if you ever need to talk or anything. It doesn't matter what time or day, call me if you need me.

CHARLENE

(Takes his card and puts it in her cleavage.)

Doubt I will need your help. Goodbye Derek.

(Derek sits on the bench and she walks off stage. Lights fade.)

END SCENE

ACT 1

Scene 2

Setting: Derek and Lacey apartment and there is a living room with a modern look to it. A white couch is placed in the center, a black chair to the right side of the couch and a lamp on a side table to the left of the couch.

At Rise: The room is dark and Lacey is sitting in the chair with a glass of wine in hand. Derek walks in quietly thinking she is asleep.

DEREK

(Walks in slowly)

LACEY

Where have you been?

DEREK

(Jumps in shock.)

Jesus. Lacey, baby you scared the shit out of me. What are you doing in the dark?

LACEY

I think the real question is where have you been?

DEREK

I was coming back from meeting with a client and I ran into an old friend and I lost track of time. I'm sorry baby I should have called you.

LACEY

So this old friend...was it a woman?

DEREK

Why do you assume that it's a woman?

LACEY

You didn't exactly say it wasn't a woman.

DEREK

Look, I'm just really tired and I just want to go to bed. Let's just talk about this in the morning.

LACEY

We could do that. Or you could tell me who she is.

DEREK

I am begging you to let this go and let me sleep. I promise, I will answer all of this in the morning.

LACEY

Derek, we don't have secrets between each other.

DEREK

I am not keeping anything from you. I am just deciding that now is not the time to talk about it.

LACEY

(Beat.)

Really? So you think I'm going to go to bed with you when you are lying and you are probably cheating on me.

DEREK

Hold up. Are you serious? I am not cheating on you. You are taking this way out of proportion. I told you I ran into an old friend and yes it was a woman. Are you happy?

LACEY

Not even close.

DEREK

How about I just sleep on the couch so we can both get sleep and talk about this in the morning.

LACEY

Fine. Don't think for a second that we won't talk about this Derek.

DEREK

I know you will make sure of that.

(Beat.)

I'm sorry I didn't mean for it to come out that way. It's been a long day and I don't want to end it with us fighting.

LACEY

Well you shouldn't have come in here and lied to me.

DEREK

I am not lying. Lacey please can we just sleep.

(Walks over to her to kiss her goodnight.)

LACEY

(Turns her face away from him.)

Tell me more about her.

DEREK

So clearly we are talking about this now.

LACEY

Yes. I don't want to go to bed with so many questions in my head.

DEREK

Charlene and I were friends back in college. We were close until our senior year when something happened. She and I grew apart and went our separate ways. Ever since then I never knew what became of her until now.

LACEY

What happened to her?

DEREK

It was homecoming week and there was this huge party off campus owned by one of the fraternities. I was supposed to go but I had an exam the following week and stayed at the library most of the weekend. She said she would stay with me but I told her to go and have fun... How dumb I was to let her go alone.

LACEY

Something happened to her at that party...

DEREK

She had a few too many drinks and a frat boy offered her to stay in her room and take her back to her dorm later. Little did she know that not only was her drink laced but that within the hour not only one but four frat boys came back into that room. She was too weak to fend them off, they were monsters having no hearts and treating her like she was a piece of meat. One of them video taped the whole thing and put it online. He was anonymous so it was hard to trace it back to them. Within 24 hours everyone saw it and...I tried to talk to her but...I didn't know what to say...I kept my head in the books and that was the end of that.

LACEY

So you feel guilty because you haven't talked to her since then? I don't see why you had to put up such a fight about it with me.

DEREK

You don't get it. She is a prostitute now. I could have been there for her and maybe she would have never become the person she is today...So cold...She used to be so vibrant...she had a dream to be a nurse and help people. I want to help her.

LACEY

Are you serious? This girl just walks back into your life for a second and now you want to bring her in and help her? I doubt she even wants the help.

DEREK

You don't know that. You don't know her like I do.

LACEY

You don't know her at all! I know there is a history but people change Derek.

DEREK

Everyone deserves a second chance and she needs my help. I just know if I can talk to her again maybe she can stay here for a bit until I figure out what to do next...

LACEY

No! Our apartment isn't a halfway house for a whore off the street. I am trying to understand where you are coming from but this is too much. You are acting irrational.

DEREK

You are acting heartless.

LACEY

You are acting like I have offended you in some way. I was only speaking unkindly about her. This shouldn't even affect you. You just saw her for the first time in years. I am done talking about this and you are right, I think you should sleep on the couch tonight.

DEREK

I couldn't agree more. It's like I'm seeing you for the first time Lacey, and I don't like it.

LACEY

I'm not the stranger tonight.....You are.  
(Lights fades to black.)

END SCENE

ACT 1  
Scene 3

Setting: District Attorney's office. There are two large desks facing each other. One of the desks has a computer with a bunch of papers covering the desk. The second desk has a laptop and it is very organized. There is a clock on the back wall that is set at 9 a.m.

At Rise: Lacey is sitting at the desk drinking coffee at the desk that has the laptop. She is looking at her laptop and reviewing a case. Penny is sitting at her messy desk trying to find her case work.

PENNY

(Groans in frustration.)

I can't find this case! I have to go to a meeting in an hour. I am so screwed.

LACEY

(Laughs.)

That is because your desk is so messy girl please let me organize it.

PENNY

I know, I know. I will get to it just as soon as this case is over.

LACEY

I will believe that when I see it.

PENNY

Alright enough with judging me. What happened last night with you and Derek?  
After that call that I got from you, I was afraid something bad happened to him last night.

LACEY

(Sighs.)

No everything is fine. He just got back late last night and went to bed.

PENNY

Why do I have a feeling you are holding back?

LACEY

I just had a really rough night and morning with him. Penny it was awful.  
He wouldn't tell me what happened until this morning.

PENNY

Well, where was he?

LACEY

He said he was walking back from work and he ran into an old friend named Charlene.  
Apparently they were good friends back in college and now she is a whore.

PENNY

He called her that?

LACEY

No of course not. He called her a prostitute but that's the same thing.

(Laughs with anger.)

She had the nerve to ask him if she wanted his services.

PENNY

I can't believe this...after all these years....

LACEY

I know that bitch...wait what are you talking about after all these years? Do you know her?

PENNY

Yes, I knew her. Not anymore. She doesn't sound like the girl I knew in college.

LACEY

Well she needs to stay away from Derek. I don't care who she was back then he is mine now. The way he was talking about her this morning. How can he care about that whore?

PENNY

They were close friends Lacey before everything happened....

LACEY

I already know about the rape. I don't see why you both are so sensitive.

(Rolls eyes.)

I mean look at what she does for a living.

PENNY

I just think that Derek took it hard because he shut her out after it.

LACEY

I think he did the right thing. He had to focus on his studies to become a lawyer.

PENNY

Of course you see it that way because you don't know her for what she was. Only now.

LACEY

Why are you trying to defend her?

PENNY

You are judging her not because of who she is but who she was to Derek.

LACEY

I am trying to keep a whore away from my future husband is that a crime?

PENNY

Look, I'm glad he got home safe.

(Finds her case.)

I'm sorry you had a rough night but don't let the past get in the way of your future with him.

(Stands up.)

I'm going to get ready and go to my meeting. Do you want to go to lunch with me after?

LACEY

No, thanks.

PENNY

(Walks away and picks up her phone calling Derek.)

Hello, Derek I heard that you saw Char last night Lacey told me.

(Looks around nervously and listens to him.)

I know, we need to talk about this in person. Meet me downstairs in two hours.

(Hangs up phone.)

(Lights fade.)

END SCENE

ACT 2

Scene 1

Setting: Charlene street corner where she usually works. The street lamp is flickering. No one is in site as she lights her cigarette and leans against the lamp post.

At Rise: Carlos walks in from stage left and see's her standing there looking away from her. He sneaks up on her and tries to scare her.

CARLOS

BOO!

CHARLENE

Carlos! What is wrong with you! You can't sneak up on me like that.

CARLOS

Relax it was just a joke...I missed you last night you weren't here. Where were you?

CHARLENE

I had to move to another corner because I ran into someone from my past.

CARLOS

Do you need me to take care of it?

(Lifts up shirt to show his gun.)

CHARLENE

No! God no calm down.

CARLOS

What did this bitch want?

CHARLENE

(Whispers.)

It wasn't a girl.

CARLOS

(Looks at her.)

What did you say?

CHARLENE

He was just a guy I was friends with in college. That is all.

CARLOS

Oh really?

(Grabs her by the hair.)

Bitch I know you're lying. Who is he to you? TELL ME NOW.

CHARLENE

(Screams in pain.)

Carlos let go! You are hurting me. He is nothing to me I promise. I'm sorry I moved corners.

It won't happen again. Please let go of me.

CARLOS

Don't tell me what to do. I own you. You are mine. Maybe I just need to remind you....

(Pulls her down the street by the hair.)

I give you a place to live, I give you a job, I give you drugs and this is what I get.

(Pushes her down on the ground and kicks her.)

I'm all you need and you are going to learn your lesson.

(Drags her and heads off stage.)

(Lights fade.)

END SCENE

ACT 2  
Scene 2

Setting: Charlene street corner in the early morning. The sound of people walking, talking, and cars honking is heard in the background. The street lamp is turned off and the bench is at the center of the stage.

At Rise: Charlene is sleeping on the bench shivering. Penny is walking by and sees her on the bench.

PENNY

Charlene...is that you?

CHARLENE

(Groans in pain.)

Penny?

PENNY

What happened to you?

CHARLENE

Long time no see.

PENNY

You have bruises all over you... and you are shivering.

CHARLENE

Now that you have stated the obvious, is there something that you need Penny?  
Need a little pick me up?

PENNY

Cut the shit Char. I know when you are covering something up.

CHARLENE

Wow. You and Derek seem to know me pretty well don't you?

PENNY

Why can't you just let me help you? I won't ask any more questions just let me get you out of here.

CHARLENE

If I wanted your help or anyone's help I would have asked. Now just let me be.

PENNY

No.

CHARLENE

No?

PENNY

You have always been so stubborn. I am not taking no for an answer.

CHARLENE

No one has helped me all this time... it has been me against the world. Why would I want the help now?

PENNY

Char... I was there for you through everything! I was the one who stood by you! I know that it has been a while but you shut me out. You disappeared! I thought something... terrible had happened to you. I don't understand why are you like this?

CHARLENE

I am who I am. You don't have to like it. Just keep on walking.

PENNY

I'm not giving up on you.

CHARLENE

What did you just say?

PENNY

I am not giving up on you. You need me now more than ever and whether you will say it or not you need Derek too.

CHARLENE

Like hell I do.

PENNY

You know he has always cared he just...

CHARLENE

He hid himself in his studies! He wouldn't even look at me like I had a fatal disease.

PENNY

He regrets his actions and you know it.

CHARLENE

It doesn't make up for it. After all of the pain that I went through I needed him. He left me to crumble and...now I have these walls... These walls that keep me from feeling and just becoming numb. That is how I survive in this life. I am always numb.

PENNY

The numbness will eventually fade away and the feelings will be there but you don't have to face them alone. We can be there for you. You had a dream to become a nurse and help others. We are your nurses let us help you.

CHARLENE

(Takes a deep breath.)

His name is Carlos.

PENNY

Is he the one who did this to you?

CHARLENE

He takes care of me.

PENNY

Is he the one who got you into this life?

CHARLENE

He says he loves me...the lies that come out of his mouth are words of venom...and yet I stay because I had no where else to go.

PENNY

What about your family?

CHARLENE

My parents and my siblings haven't talked to me in two years after I came home high one night. They packed my bags and kicked me out. Ha. Didn't even try to check me into rehab they just gave up just like that. It's funny isn't it. Family is supposed to be there through it all even if they don't like who you have become and they try to make things better. I guess they figured I was too fucked up to ever be fixed. Never fixed. Always broken.

PENNY

I won't leave you. We are family.

CHARLENE

Family is no longer part of my vocabulary...but the thought is much appreciated. Thanks, Penny.

(Phone rings.)

Hello? Yes, I'm still on the bench. No sir. I haven't left. I won't leave...

(Whispers in the phone.)

Don't yell at me...I'm sorry, I won't talk back to you again...I know what happened last time...I learned my lesson... See you soon.

Penny...you have to go.

PENNY

He's coming back for you isn't he?

CHARLENE

I will be fine, don't worry about me. I can handle him. It's you that I worry for if he finds you.

PENNY

I promised I wouldn't leave you.

CHARLENE

You aren't leaving me. I am protecting you from the life that I am part of. I will contact you soon I promise. You need to go! Hurry.

PENNY

You don't even have my number.

CHARLENE

I have Derek's number. Now go!

PENNY

Be safe.

(Runs off stage.)

CHARLENE

Goodbye Penny. Thank you for being my nurse.

(Lights fade. A gun shot goes off.)

END OF THE PLAY

