

KRAV MAGA!

By Brandy N. Carie

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Characters

Monica—F. Late 20s-30s-ish. Talks too much and too fast. Worries too much. Researches heavily. Prefers to avoid physical contact. Single since forever.

Cece—F. Same age as Monica. Monica’s best friend since birth practically. Always the prettiest person in the room, but still likable somehow. Tough love is the only kind of love that she gives. Why can’t everyone just have a good time?

Dan—M. Slightly younger than Cece. Muscles like The Rock. Smile like that guy you had a crush on in High School. Not brilliant, not dumb. Kind but in a fierce, teach-you-to-fend-for-yourself sort of way.

Bryan—M. Slightly older than Monica. A true optimist. Likes for people to know that he’s really smart. The kind of guy that reads only nonfiction and watches only prestige dramas. Not too sweet.

Bianca—F. 20s-30s. will kick your ass and never say sorry.

Waitress!!—F. 20s-30s. Doing her job like she gets paid adequately.

Bianca and Waitress!! should be played by the same actress.

On Krav Maga

Esh—rhymes with “fresh”

Kida—pronounced like “key”-”dah”

This play calls for Monica, Dan, Bianca, and occasionally Cece to do physically demanding things. It is important to cast an actress with plenty of stamina to play Monica, and to cast strong, athletic people to play Dan and Bianca. I recommend asking actors to punch something as hard and fast as they can for two straight minutes, timed, in auditions. Look for people with the willpower to not give up and not slow down. Bonus if they remember to breathe during this. Trust me, it’s really hard.

On Format

- Lines formatted like this:

—uh yes thank you for your calls, I also had a [good time]—

indicate interruption. Bracketed words may or may not be spoken aloud.

- Lines formatted like this:

I shouldn’t miss it, you know, oral /hygiene is so important—

indicate that characters are talking over one another. The slash is where the next line should begin.

- Underline and *italics* are emphatic; *ALL CAPS* and ALL CAPS are yelling.

1.

Monica is all alone. She is driving to the bar. She is all dressed up. She doesn't need to be sitting.

MONICA

Nothing's wrong. There's nothing wrong. Everything's fine.

No one will tell you to be different. The things that make you feel bad are small and trivial things compared to the things that make you feel good. You will not allow the small and trivial things to outweigh the big and meaningful things.

You will be certain and you will be strong.

You will smile at people who will smile back. You will speak clearly on important topics and be understood and taken seriously. You will carry yourself with dignity and power. You will live a lifestyle full of action.

You will tell interesting anecdotes at parties and limit yourself to two glasses of wine. Or three glasses of wine. You will be able to easily tolerate three glasses of wine. You will learn how to be strong.

Even if you have drunk three glasses of wine you will be strong.

Even if you have drunk three glasses of wine at a party and you're walking home alone and some man says "Hey, Baby" and tries to touch your inner elbow, in that soft spot, you will confidently tell him "NO" and you will punch his lights out and kick him in the knees and he will crumple to the ground and you will think:

"I always knew I had this well of strength inside me."

And you will walk home unmolested.

And the next day you will tell people about it, like it's no big deal, and they will think "wow."

"Wow."

2.

This bar is not as loud as Monica feels it is.

CECE

And I was like no you can't put it in my ass you weirdo we just met fifteen minutes ago! Like, I need a little more trust between us before you stretch out my poop chute ok?

MONICA

That's truly disgusting.

CECE

Whatever he was pretty good with his hands I'll probably let him next time?

MONICA

Uh, sure. If that's like...the reasonable next step.

CECE

Oh my god you crack me up!

MONICA

Haha

CECE

You are so funny!

MONICA

Yeah, I try!

CECE

I know, sweetie.

MONICA

OK That's not nice.

CECE

You know I love you, Custard.

MONICA

...I know Strawberry Pie.

CECE

Are *you* seeing anybody?

MONICA

Oh...not really.

CECE

Its always "oh, not really"

MONICA

I mean, it just seems like...what's the point? It never goes anywhere, or they always want to just...have sex, like, right away. No one wants a real, you know, connection or whatever.

CECE

What about that one guy? Rob? Roger? What's his name?

MONICA

Who?

CECE

The *guy*? With the ponytail?

MONICA

Oh, Bryan.

CECE

Ok. O'Bryan.

MONICA

Bryan.

CECE

Yeah. Did he make a move right away?

MONICA

Well no. But we just did one date.

Well coffee and then one real date, I guess.

CECE

Coffee's a real date!

MONICA

Oh, I don't count it. It's too informal, it seems more like a test-date.

CECE

There's no such thing as a test-date. A date is already a test, you can't have a test for a test.

MONICA

Sure you can. Didn't you take the practice ACT?

CECE

These things are not similar!

MONICA

...

CECE

OK, whatever, you win! Just, you know. Will there be more dates?

MONICA

I don't know.

I don't think so.

The date was two weeks ago. It didn't seem like he was really that interested.

CECE

Did he call you?

MONICA

Um

CECE

He did.

MONICA

He only called twice so I wasn't sure if I should call him back right away. I mean. He clearly wasn't trying that hard right?

CECE

What? He called twice!

Called on the phone! More than once!

That's the first step to marriage.

MONICA

What?

CECE

Not that you should marry ponytail guy, he seems a little weird for you. Like. Alternative. But you could for sure fuck him. I mean, you totally need to relax.

MONICA

I'm very relaxed.

CECE

--

MONICA

I practice meditation.

Or well. I'm thinking of...trying that.

CECE

You're the most uptight person I know.

MONICA

Well I don't want to just...*have sex*. I don't think having random sex with a pony-tailed man is going to help me relax.

CECE

You won't know until you try! When's the last time you *had sex*?

MONICA

I mean...you know.

CECE

No I don't.

MONICA

Yeah, there was that one guy...

CECE

In *college*?

MONICA

And it was really terrible, you know, we just rushed right into it, I'm not doing that again

CECE

Monica. You have *got* to get fucked. It has been way too long!

MONICA

There's not some kind of time limit on sex, I don't *have* to have sex, honestly—

CECE

Your vagina is going to permanently close up

MONICA

That does not happen.

CECE

It does!

It does happen!

I read it.

MONICA

You read...?

CECE

Now *that* is not nice.

MONICA

Sorry.

CECE

I read teen vogue every week.

MONICA

Oh my god.

CECE

Shut up. You only read the instructions on boxes of brownie mix.

MONICA

I mean...OK yeah, maybe, I don't know, I bought a book but then—

CECE

I don't care. Call Bryan and say "hey, I really need to get fucked, can you help me out?"

MONICA

No!

CECE

OK, call him and say, "hi, I'm looking for honest and lasting fucking intimacy, can you help me out?"

MONICA

No one says yes to that.

CECE

You don't know that.

MONICA

I think I do actually.

CECE

Call him.

MONICA

Don't you think it's loud in here? I really feel like it's loud in here.

CECE

It's a bar on a Tuesday. So no. Call him!

MONICA

Ok, maybe, I'll think about it.

CECE

Do it now!

MONICA

What?

CECE

Right this second!

MONICA

It's much too loud in here for a phone call!

CECE

No! It's not! You got this!

MONICA

I don't know what to say to him.

CECE

Say you're glad he called and you'd like to get together again.

MONICA

But what if he asks why I didn't call him back for three weeks?

CECE

Three weeks?! Oh my god! Monica!

MONICA

What?

CECE

Just...Tell him you...had to travel for work.

MONICA

Uhm...

Cece shoves the phone at her.

Monica scrolls slowly through the phone until she finds the number.

She puts the phone to her ear and immediately:

MONICA

He's not picking up. He's probably busy. It's a work night.

CECE

Let it ring!

MONICA

He probably doesn't want to talk to me—oh hey Bryan!

CECE *ejects a hissing whisper of triumph!*
See!

MONICA
Oh, yes, it has been a few weeks—
—uh yes thank you for your calls, I also had a [good time]—
—uh mmm hmm, I was very busy, traveling for work and I definitely planned to call you back
but-
—oh I—well it was, uhm, it was actually very exciting because I...was...in Japan!

CECE *lets out a hissing whisper of exasperation.*
Japan?

MONICA
—Yes the reception is not great there. I mean, no, it's not—
—No well I didn't mention it at our date because I—well it came up very suddenly, and I just
jumped at the opportunity! To go to Japan! And...yes it was so beautiful with the, uh, the rice
paddies and temples....
—of course I was busy working so I didn't [see as much] —
—right of course I'm sure you're very busy—
—you...oh you, sure dinner this Friday would definitely, um...
—yes why don't you go ahead and—Oh, texting is um...could you email me?

Cece is having many reactions to this conversation and they are all irritation and ridicule.

MONICA
—Well that's just how I like to keep my, uh...my schedule—
—you know, sure, no it's fine to just call again...
—I'm, sure, ok, I like sushi—
—Well of course, no it won't be as good as Japan but I'm sure I can appreciate a variety of. Uh.
Raw fish and other... um... .. Foods from Japan.
Pause.
—oh, no well, I wasn't necessarily expecting you to wait for that whole sentence to be finished.

Pause.

CECE
Get off the phone.

Pause.

MONICA

Oh, that's...not what I meant at all, it was just, you know, the whole conversation was very uh, peppy and rapid-paced—

CECE (*throughout Monica's next line*)

Off the phone! Off the phone! Off the phone! Off the phone!

MONICA

so I was just, uhm...feeling that energy and didn't uh...feel the shift to a more measured, uh...way of

—Right, right, that's exactly...uhm. What I meant.

—Of course, I'm, um, really looking forward to dinner! Can't wait! Yup! Ok! Goodbye! Yep! Bye!

Pause.

CECE

So that went... well?

MONICA

I think he was offended a little.

CECE

You mean when you said he interrupts you constantly? That part?

MONICA

Well he does kind of

CECE

So Japan though.

MONICA

I just...panicked!

CECE

Sushi.

MONICA

I-