

Space Ex

A Dramedy in Ten Pages

by

Samuel Shoemaker-Trejo

Samuel Shoemaker-Trejo
7515 Vernon Square Dr
Apt 101
Alexandria, VA 22306
(505)274-9216
samuelshoemakertrejo@gmail.com

Space Ex

CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
Damon	Astronaut.	25	Male
Marsha	Janitor.	27	Female

SCENE ONE.

DAMON sits in the astronaut beach house, where astronauts go to spend time with their families before launch.

MARSHA enters, dressed in janitorial clothing.

DAMON

Oh, hello. They let me come in early today. I'll try to stay out of your way.

MARSHA

That's quite alright. Actually, I knew you would be here. They let us know yesterday.

DAMON

Perfect. Well then, I don't mind the company.

MARSHA

Actually, I had a question for you.

DAMON

Ask away.

MARSHA

Will you marry me?

DAMON

(*Beat.*) Excuse me?

MARSHA

Will you marry me? It's a simple enough kind of a question.

DAMON

Actually, I wouldn't say that it is.

MARSHA

Really? Yes or no questions are the simplest kind, I find.

DAMON

Never mind that! Did you really just ask me to marry you?

MARSHA

Yes.

DAMON

...AND!?!?

MARSHA

And what?

DAMON

Well... clearly there's more to it than that, I mean... I don't even know your name, ma'am.

MARSHA

I am twenty-seven years old, "Mr." Damon Joshua Pierce. I am not a "ma'am." My name is Marsha. Marsha Hibbet.

DAMON

Oh, well pardon me for assuming "Ms." Hibbet!

MARSHA

I'll excuse it.

DAMON

We're deviating from the subject.

MARSHA

Yes, we were. Is it a yes or a no?

DAMON

Hold on a minute. I have so many questions.

MARSHA

I'm not exactly flush with time. What do you want to know?

DAMON

Why, for one? Why me?

MARSHA

Simple. I decided I wanted to marry you, specifically. You happened to be in the right place at the right time. Same as anyone who happens to ask someone to marry them.

DAMON

That's very unspecific.

MARSHA

How's this then: The particular moment I decided you were the one was during the interview on the launch pad. They asked each one of the others what they thought their chances of survival were, and they all gave some bullshit answer. You were the only one who said "terrible." Then when they asked you why you were going if that was so, you said--

DAMON

Because it has to be done.

MARSHA

Exactly. You had a sense of duty. You were willing to die for something most people see as pointless because you saw value in it. That's not something just anyone can do. And so I decided to ask you to marry me.

DAMON

Usually there's a bit more of a lead up than that!

MARSHA

Ah. Is that why you're having trouble deciding? Well, I respect your feelings if you're a traditionalist, but I believe in love at first sight.

DAMON

Well I don't, in particular. I literally have no idea who you are, and I'm not going to get much of a chance to find out. You realize that, right?

MARSHA

I'm perfectly aware, yes. And yet, here I am.

DAMON

Ok, ok. Look. Aside from my not knowing you, can you really just look over that fact that I'm probably never going to see you in person again after today?

MARSHA

Not at all. I have no intention of just looking over it. In fact, I fully intend to face that challenge head on.

DAMON

You've been thinking about this for a while now, haven't you?

MARSHA

Not really, no. I knew that you were one of the Mars astronauts, but that was it. *(Pause.)* Are you satisfied now? I'd really like to get an answer soon. After all, the priest will be here in twenty minutes or so.

(Beat.)

DAMON

The *PRIEST!*?

MARSHA

Well, we're going to need someone to officiate if we're tying the knot here.

DAMON

Incredible.

MARSHA

Hm?

DAMON

...You really see nothing crazy about this? Nothing at all?

MARSHA

I am perfectly sane, thank you very much.

DAMON

And yet you called a priest all the way out to Cape Canaveral when you didn't even know if I would say yes!

MARSHA

Like you said, I haven't got a lot of time. It wouldn't be prudent of me to wait, now would it?

DAMON

I can't tell which I'm more scared of: how forthright you are about all this, or how rational you believe this is.

MARSHA

Thank you, I think.

DAMON

I'm not at all sure that's a compliment!

MARSHA

Well there's no need to be rude about it.

DAMON

I mean, did you not have a moment's hesitation about walking in and asking a total stranger to marry you!? I mean, what if I was some sort of a psycho?

MARSHA

Like the kind who would attempt to colonize Mars?

DAMON

That doesn't make me crazy.

MARSHA

Well then, I don't have much to worry about, do I? (*Pause.*) Of course I hesitated. Anyone who wants to take a stab at romance does. I just did my hesitating in the car.

(*Beat.*)

DAMON

...Isn't there anyone else? A sense of personal duty can't be *that* uncommon.

MARSHA

No. Like I said: right place, right time. Ever since I first saw you on the base, I liked the look of you. Something about you spoke to me. You, specifically. That's all. Now I would ask you not to assume that I'd go for just anyone. I don't like jealousy in a man. We'll work on that.

(*Beat.*)

DAMON

There.

MARSHA

There?

DAMON

That's that part that gets me. "We'll work on it?" The whole time, you seem to have been *assuming* that I'll say yes.

MARSHA

Well I wouldn't have come here if I thought that you would only say no. That would be a waste of time.

DAMON

I don't think presumptuousness is the key to a fruitful relationship.

MARSHA

Rationality. There's a big difference.

DAMON

Call it what you will, I feel like you're placing an unrealistic expectation.

MARSHA

So you're saying no?

DAMON

Would it really be so much of a shock if I was!?

MARSHA

Well, not really. Naturally, I came prepared to convince you.

DAMON

Didn't you just say you came because you thought I would say yes?

MARSHA

Not at all. I said that I wouldn't have come if I didn't think I had a chance. It would be stupid not to acknowledge the possibility that you might refuse. I just came prepared in the case that you did.

DAMON

What, did you put together a whole presentation?

MARSHA

You're not an investor, and I'm not trying to conduct some sort of business with you. I don't like your derisive tone, and I'd appreciate it if you took me seriously. In fact, you still haven't given me a definitive answer yet.

DAMON

Well let me do that: No! I couldn't even if I wanted to.

MARSHA

Ok. Well then, why?

DAMON

I really should be getting ready soon.

MARSHA

You've been preparing for this day for years. You can't weasel out of answering me that easily. Why?

DAMON

You really want to know?

MARSHA

Did I stutter?

DAMON

I'm married.

(Beat.)

MARSHA

Oh.

DAMON

Yeah. It's not a well-known fact.

MARSHA

You were married the whole time, and you didn't start with that!?

DAMON

Well, you came on pretty strong, to be fair.

MARSHA

...

DAMON

Look. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to waste your time--

MARSHA

So you could still say yes.

DAMON

Excuse me?

MARSHA

There's still a chance, the way I see it.

DAMON

I don't follow.

MARSHA

I'm saying that being married doesn't necessarily preclude saying yes to me.

DAMON

Um... last I checked, we live in the US, and I'm not interested in polygamy.

MARSHA

Divorce her.

DAMON

What?

MARSHA

Divorce her. Then you can marry me.

DAMON

That's your solution!?

MARSHA

Absolutely. There's still plenty of time. I'd have liked to have had a wedding in person, but signatures can be electronic, and the courts can still operate based on your US citizenship--

DAMON

Whoa, whoa, whoa! None of that is happening! I am married. *Married*. Does that mean nothing to you.

MARSHA

Of course it does.

DAMON

Then why are you still trying to get me to marry you!? I took vows. And you just assume I'm going to break them like that?

(Damon snaps his fingers.)

MARSHA

I came here to get you to marry me. It wouldn't be very rational of me to give up if there was still a chance--

DAMON

Oh yes, rational, rational, rational. Everything about you is oh so rational. Did it ever occur to you that asking a married man to divorce his wife so that he can marry you, a woman he just met, is the height of irrationality!?

MARSHA

No, I--

DAMON

Of course it didn't, because, like the rest of this, you only considered what would be rational for *you*, not for anyone else. That's your problem.

MARSHA

I didn't have time. You're leaving to Mars today. I have to operate on what I have--

DAMON

I don't need to hear it.

MARSHA

But there's still time--

DAMON

No. There isn't. Now please leave.

MARSHA

Damon, please; try to understand me. If I leave, I'll never get to try again. This is the last time. --

DAMON

I don't remember us being on a first name basis. Go, Ms. Hibbet. Before I call security.

Marsha begins to head for the door. But stops.

(Beat.)

MARSHA

Where is she?

DAMON

I'm dialing them now.

MARSHA

Your wife. Where is she?

Damon stops dialing.

DAMON

She's running late.

MARSHA

On the day you take off? She would have been here yesterday. She would have spent the night.

DAMON

I don't need to listen to--

MARSHA

Where is she, Damon?

DAMON
 (Pause.) She isn't coming.

MARSHA
 Why?

DAMON
 ...

MARSHA
 Why!?

DAMON
 Because she's trying to divorce me, alright! Are you happy? There! There's your big chance! I never signed the papers, and she's fighting it. She doesn't want to be married to some fucking Martian man half a solar system away when she could be raising her kids with someone who isn't going to leave.

(Beat.)

MARSHA
 You have kids?

DAMON
 Yeah. (Pause.) Dealbreaker, isn't it?

MARSHA
 Why would it be?

DAMON
 Really? You still haven't given up on this?

MARSHA
 Not once.

DAMON
 ...I still don't get it. You still think you can make your case, even after all that? Why?

MARSHA
 Why what? What are you asking me to tell you? Why I fell in love with you? Why I'm so determined? Why I'm being so selfish? (Beat.) There isn't an answer. It happened. I'm here. This is all I've really got: I'm here, and she's not. And I'm not planning on leaving.

DAMON
 And that's supposed to be enough?

MARSHA
 Isn't it?

DAMON

I'm not like you. I don't believe in love at first sight.

MARSHA

You don't have to.

DAMON

Then why should I say yes?

MARSHA

Because you have a choice. Now. That you will *never* have again. You can either fly off to the stars with a heavy heart in a relationship you're holding hostage, and never get to move forward. Or, you can marry me. Here. Today. And spend the time before launch with your wife, who loves you and is committed to making it all work. Even if you don't really believe it yet.

(Long silence. Beat.)

DAMON

You realize how ridiculous this all is, right?

MARSHA

I'm dead serious.

DAMON

I know.

MARSHA

But... Yes. I do.

DAMON

...I could still call security.

MARSHA

You could. But I don't think you will.

FADE TO BLACK.