

"Girl, Reflected"

by

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CHARACTERS

ACTOR 1: Ayn Rand, Father, Florence  
Nightingale, Gymnastics Teacher,  
Expectant Mother.

ACTOR 2: Girl

ACTOR 3: Boy

AYN RAND

The Fountainhead.

GIRL

What?

AYN RAND

Read it and you will understand.

GIRL

Understand what?

FATHER

We must give all of our money to the cause.

GIRL

Yes, absolutely. The cause is the most important thing there  
is.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Wrap the bandage taut but not tight. There is a difference.  
Taut, not tight.

GIRL

I will wrap the bandage taut, as I was taught to do.

GYMNASTICS TEACHER

That's the ugliest handstand I've ever seen! Point your  
toes and squeeze your butt!

GIRL

Yes, I'm squeezing my butt and pointing my toes. I'm  
imagining myself to be a straight unbreakable line.

AYN RAND

Just open the book.

GIRL

I don't want to!

EXPECTANT MOTHER

Pink or blue honey? What do you think? Honey? Honey! Pink  
or blue?

Pink or blue? GIRL

(Almost simultaneously)

Pink or blue? BOY

GIRL turns to BOY. She studies him.

That's funny. I said- GIRL

That's funny. I said- BOY

Who are you? GIRL

Who are you? BOY

Can you stop talking? GIRL

Can you stop talking? BOY

I'm talking. GIRL

I'm talking. BOY

This is annoying. GIRL

This is annoying. BOY

This is really annoying. GIRL

This is really annoying. BOY

I said stop it! GIRL

I said stop it! BOY

Stop copying me! GIRL

BOY  
Stop copying me!

Silence.

GIRL  
(carefully)  
Oh, I see. You're my reflection.

BOY  
Oh, I see. You're my reflection.

GIRL  
Well just stop for a moment.

BOY  
Well just stop for a moment.

(As fast as she can)

GIRL  
Everyone wants something from me and I'm scared of letting everyone down and what if I let them down how are they going to look at me differently and better yet how am I going to look at myself and oh my god if you don't stop it I am going to hit you in the face and break your cheekbone and bruise your eye until you cry heavy tomato tears that sting and burn now just answer my question pink or blue? Pink or blue pink or blue pink or blue pink or blue?

BOY  
(Simultaneously)  
Everyone wants something from me and I'm scared of letting everyone down and what if I let them down how are they going to look at me differently and better yet how am I going to look at myself and oh my god if you don't stop it...

BOY trails off as GIRL catches her breath.

GIRL  
Wow. I did it. I broke away from my reflection.  
(checking her surroundings)  
The world hasn't exploded yet. Do you know what that means? This was meant to be. Why don't you talk to me? Come on. You can do it. You don't have to copy me anymore. Just say something.

BOY  
You're pretty.

GIRL  
Really? Thanks.

BOY  
You're ugly.

GIRL  
That's not nice.

BOY  
You're fat.

GIRL  
Hey!

BOY  
You're skinny. You're tall. You're short.

GIRL  
Stop it.

BOY  
Pink or blue. Pink or blue pink or blue pink or blue? Do you dream?

GIRL  
Funny you should ask.

GIRL turns away from her reflection.  
Reflection turns away from her.

GIRL  
I had a dream about Ayn Rand early this morning and she told me to read her book The Fountainhead. I thought it was odd that she would, you know, try to pawn her book off on me. I told her it was a really long book and that I didn't think I would have time to read it. She said...

AYN RAND  
But you are dreaming. And in dreams, time bends to your will.

GIRL  
(to Ayn)  
But I have to take my tabby cat to the vet and I have dirty dishes piling up in the sink and I need to clean out my fridge because the salad I bought is rotting and this was like the fifth time I bought salad and left it to rot in the fridge. So if you could maybe just give me the gist of it.

AYN RAND  
Ok, fine. I'll tell you.

GIRL  
Thank you thank you thank you thank you.

AYN RAND  
You can be selfish.

GIRL  
What?

AYN RAND  
It is ok to be selfish.

GIRL  
(Cautiously)  
Hmm. Ok. Thanks Ayn. You're a good friend. Will I ever see you again?

AYN RAND  
Probably not.

She addresses her reflection. Her reflection is still turned away from her.

GIRL  
And she was right. I never saw her again. I didn't really understand what she was trying to tell me. But I woke up and felt different somehow. I went to work and to parties and to church and everywhere I went I ran into people eager to tell me THIS should be THAT way, and THAT should be THIS way, but I ignored them. And I started to like it. Then I blinked my eyes and I was a very old woman. I don't even remember the last time I looked in the mirror until now. Now I realize what Ayn was trying to teach me in my dream so long ago.

BOY  
You could not please everyone.

GIRL  
So I chose to please none.  
(Beat)  
You know what? I think I like blue.

END OF PLAY