

Reflections in Vinyl

by

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### Cast of Characters

Alex: Male or female, middle-aged, a fair whistler.

George: Young male, a dancer, not quite real. In love with Lillian.

Lillian: Young female, a dancer, not quite real. In love with George.

### Scene

An attic or otherwise misused room. Note: The song should be at once romantic, nostalgic and a little haunting. Something like: Glenn Miller: Moonlight Serenade (1939); Chet Baker: Autumn in New York (1959); Horace Silver: Peace (1959).

### Time

Present day, with scenes of an earlier time, perhaps during the second World War.

The stage is empty except for a table and a chair. Lights up to warm and bright as ALEX enters, carrying a record player with a single record. ALEX is whistling a song, the same as on the record.

ALEX sets down the record and player, and moves the chair away from the table, carefully setting it so that he will have a good view of the floor surrounding the table.

ALEX returns to the record player, plugs it in, and takes the record from the sleeve. He examines it in the light and blows a little dust off the vinyl before placing it on the turntable. ALEX stops whistling, and hesitates a moment before placing the needle and letting the record play.

The record begins with static, perhaps a sound that might be a woman laughing, as ALEX heads to the chair--at the sound of the almost laughter, he pauses, before resuming his journey. Lights change from warm to cool, perhaps dim a little to indicate something otherworldly happening.

At the moment ALEX sits down, LILLIAN enters, dressed formally, as though going to a very classy ball-type event. She moves briefly around the room, looking for someone while ALEX looks on. She appears a little nervous that GEORGE won't show up.

The music comes on, LILLIAN turns to find GEORGE standing to the side, watching her, and smiling. He too is dressed formally, perhaps in a military dress uniform, and has a formal haircut to match the era of the music. She laughs (sotto voce) and runs to him, hugging him tightly, before stepping away.

GEORGE grabs LILLIAN and they begin to dance slowly, holding each other close, and moving to the music.

After a time, they separate and walk slowly, holding hands, talking (sotto voce) and laughing (also sotto voce). ALEX remains entranced, perhaps beginning to sway with the music, or to have tears in his eyes.

The suggestion of the sound of an air raid siren is heard beneath the music and GEORGE and LILLIAN stop suddenly and look up. GEORGE puts his arm protectively around LILLIAN and they begin to move offstage. ALEX rises to follow.

After a moment, GEORGE stops, LILLIAN turns to face him, and he kisses her. She is surprised, but after a moment, warms and returns the kiss.

They dance for a few moments more before the sound of the air raid siren rises again, more obviously this time. GEORGE and LILLIAN stop dancing and stand there, holding each other before they break away, and begin to head in opposite directions.

As LILLIAN begins to leave the stage, she turns back to look at the record playing. ALEX walks towards her, and puts his hand out as though to touch her shoulder. LILLIAN smiles and leaves, leaving ALEX alone. Lights gradually come back to warm.

ALEX holds the pose through the end of the music, and the sound of static once more. Sighing again, ALEX heads back to the record player, pausing at the sound of what might be LILLIAN laughter under the static again. He shakes his head, and packs up the record and record player.

ALEX exits the same way LILLIAN did, whistling once more. He pauses at the entrance to look back at the place he first saw LILLIAN. He smiles, looks at the record player and leaves.