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LAURA from The Arcata Promise by David Mercer

Act 2

LAURA: I came to live with you because I loved you. I stayed because I loved you.

*(Pause.)*

I endured you because I couldn't imagine life without you.

*(Pause.)*

I feel *battered*. Ignored. Belittled.

*(Pause.)*

I didn't care for you because you're a famous actor. You remember talking about that party where we met? Well, when *you* came over and talked to *me* – I thought I'd never seen a man so haunted. So defensive and uptight.

*(Pause.)*

I never thought you'd find me attractive. I never thought you'd see me again.

*(Pause.)*

When you asked me to, I said yes for *you*. Not because I was impressed, or flattered, or anything like that. I almost didn't *dare* to think you'd have any serious interest in me.

*(Pause.)*

But you did.

*(Pause.)*

Girls at school used to laugh at me because I said I wouldn't go to bed until it was somebody I loved. *Very* old-fashioned, or whatever. At my school you were considered freaky if you were still a virgin after sixteen.

*(Pause.)*

And because of you – I was *glad*. I was happy I'd never been with anyone else. *(Pause.)*

I've been happy with you – but too sad as well. Too humiliated.

*(Pause.)*

Too hurt.

*(Pause.)*

I never thought it mattered at all your being so much older. Now I can see it does. Not the years. Not the difference in experience.

*(Pause.)*

It's that you'll go on being exactly the same.

*(Her voice rising.)*

And I'm *changing*.

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