

GRAVEL

By Lila Whelan

28 Plays Later – Play 10

*B rides up on a motorbike.*

*He pulls off his helmet and turns the engine off.*

*As he does so, A pushes through the swing door and stands out on her porch. She looks at him.*

*They don't say anything for a moment.*

B: Hey

A: Hey

B: You busy?

A: For you? Always.

B: Come on babe

A: Don't call me that

B: Just for a minute. I haven't seen you in a long time.

A: Whose fault is that?

B: You look good

A: I put on weight

B: Suits you

A: I'm happy. You look like shit

B: (laughs) I've missed that.

A: And you stink

B: I been riding this hog a long time.

*Pause*

A: One beer

B: You're an angel

*They go inside*

*A's kitchen*

B: Nice. You been keeping yourself busy?

A: I don't wanna small talk

B: OK. No small talk. I miss you

A: Fuck off

B: I made a mistake

A: Two mistakes

B: I made a lot of mistakes

A: You're a cheat

B: Yeah

A: A liar

B: Yeah

A: An untrustworthy son of a bitch

B: I know

A: You made me feel like shit. I fucking packed up my life, left my friends, family everyone and everything behind. For you.

B: I abandoned you. I'm a complete scumbag, I know. But I've changed. I have. I been on my own a while, figuring shit out. I stopped drinking

A: Drinking wasn't the problem

B: I'll never hurt you again

A: You can't promise that

B: I'm promising you. Right here, right now. Never again. God as my witness.

A: You don't believe in God. You made a big deal outta that at my dad's funeral

B: Don't bring that up again...

A: But you did it

B: I was in a bad place. Being there. Being reminded of my own dad

A: And you never got to say goodbye, yeah. I know.

B: Listen, I fucked up. But I'm different. I want to be different. I need you.

A: You don't need anybody

B: I need you. I wanna make it up to you, everything. Look at me. I love you.

*Gently he kisses her. She resists for a moment, relaxes for a moment, then pushes him away*

B: Don't say anything. Come for a ride. You can keep your hands warm in my pockets like you used too and we'll ride out to California with your arms around my chest and/

A: /And I'll pretend that this is real cos this is what I like best...

B: What?

A: Alright, maybe you can keep me from ever being happy, but you're not gonna stop me from having fun.

B: I love you.

A: Stop talking...let's go before I change my mind/

B: /I love you.

A: /I'll leave the luggage of all your lives behind. Because I'm bigger than everything that came before.

*They exit*