

## **ATHENA AND POSH VIV AUDITION PIECE**

ATHENA opens the door to reveal POSH  
VIV dressed in a floaty gown and lots of silk  
scarves.

ATHENA

Come on in, Viv. Good day at the gallery?

POSH VIV

Art is such a mysterious beast, isn't it?

ATHENA

If you say so.

POSH VIV

We're exhibiting a "negative space" installation for Halloween. The artist has created a dozen or so casts of the open air surrounding everyday furniture. It really does offer fresh perspective on what we don't see. What we don't open our minds to. You should come!

ATHENA

Plaster casts of thin air?

POSH VIV takes a seat on the high stool  
that ATHENA is gesturing to. ATHENA  
plucks her top away from her chest.

ATHENA

Sorry, hot flush! How come nobody ever tells you about all the shitty stuff that hits you during perimenopause?

POSH VIV

Perimenopause didn't exist back in my day. You were either menopausal or not. None of this peri stuff.

ATHENA

Usual chignon with a couple of loose bits to frame your face then?

POSH VIV nods.

POSH VIV

Of course we're all desperate to see what you produce next. Your last set of oil paintings were exquisite, but that was a while ago now.

ATHENA

I just don't have the time to paint at the minute, Viv.

POSH VIV

Does anybody?

Athena pulls a face. Like it's that easy!

Has Aidan gone trick or treating too?

ATHENA

He's down the bookies... He's doing my head in, Viv. I keep trying to get him back to work, but he won't have a bar of it. Four interviews he's turned down now. Four interviews and two informal chats...

POSH VIV

Oh dear.

ATHENA

And then there's his disappearing in the middle of the night nonsense.

POSH VIV

I'm not following.

ATHENA

Quite often, I wake up in the middle of the night and he's not there. I don't know where he goes or what he does, but come six in the morning he's always asleep next to me...

POSH VIV

And he's not just going to the bathroom?

ATHENA

No. I've looked... I never thought I'd degrade myself like this, but I've gone through his pockets, I've smelled his clothes, I've been through his phone... I mean what self-respecting woman goes through her husband's phone?

POSH VIV

Did you find anything?

ATHENA

Nothing.