

## **“HOME LATE” by Alexander Lee-Rekers (StageMilk, 2024)**

*MARCUS and KATHY have been experiencing difficulties in their marriage since an incident at a party challenged their mutual trust. Sitting home alone late one night, MARCUS hears the sound of KATHY pulling up in their driveway. He does his best to position himself in the kitchen so as not to alarm her. KATHY enters and gets a jolt.*

**KATHY:** You scared me.

**MARCUS:** Sorry. Didn't mean to.

**KATHY:** It's late. You didn't have to wait up for me.

**MARCUS:** I don't mind. Are you hungry? I could make an omelette or something.

**KATHY:** I already ate.

**MARCUS:** How was work?

**KATHY:** Long. As you might've guessed.

**MARCUS:** And that is where you were?

**KATHY:** Tonight?

**MARCUS:** You were at work?

**KATHY:** *(Shrugging.)* Where else would I be?

**MARCUS:** This late?

*KATHY sighs.*

**KATHY:** Marcus: do you really want to know? Is that what you need right now? I can tell you, if that's what you really want. But I don't think it would matter either way, if I'm being really honest with you.

**MARCUS:** "If I'm being really honest."

**KATHY:** Ask me again, otherwise let's go to bed.

*Long pause.*

**MARCUS:** I'll set the downstairs alarm.