

**GOODNIGHT DESDEMONA
(GOOD MORNING JULIET)**

by Ann-Marie MacDonald

Constance, an assistant professor of Renaissance drama, 20-30
Setting: Queens University, the present
Serio-Comic

For years, Constance has devoted herself to the selfish Professor Night. She is shocked when he announces that he is: A.) marrying a young student; B.) taking the position that Constance desired for herself at Oxford, and C.) getting her a job at an isolated college on the Canadian prairie.

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CONSTANCE: Regina. I hate the prairies. They're flat. It's an absolute nightmare landscape of absolutes and I'm a relativist, I'll go mad. Diamonds are a girl's best friend. Diamonds are harder than a bed of nails. I can't feel anything. I'm perfectly fine. I'll call the Dean and resign. I'll go back to my apartment and watch the plants die and the cats copulate freely. I'll order in groceries. Eventually I'll be evicted. I'll smell really bad and swear at people on the subway. Five years later I run into Professor Night and Roman: they don't recognize me. I'm selling pencils. They buy one. Suddenly, I drop dead. They discover my true identity. I'm awarded a doctorate posthumously. Professor Night dedicates his complete works to me and lays roses on my grave every day. My stone bears a simple epithet: 'Oh what a noble mind is here o'erthrown.' . . . There's no time to lose! I have to start right now if I'm going to sink that low in five years. *(Grabs the phone, dials.)*