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Theater 100

Fall 2008

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YOU WIN SOME

by

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Cast of Characters

Gina: A woman in her early twenties. Involved in a relationship,
but the long time best friend of Bryan.

Bryan: Man in his early twenties. Long time best friend of Gina.

One: Pessimistic narrator

Two: Optimistic narrator

The play takes place in the present in Bryan's apartment.
The apartment may consist of a couch, chair, table, television
and other simple items including a door.

(Gina and Bryan start at center in Bryan's apartment. One and two stand frozen until they speak.)

GINA

You son of a...

ONE

Hello there. Sorry to interrupt this lovely scene. As you can see our two characters are in a bit of a squabble. Now, as I'm talking directly to you right now, I'm sure most of you have figured out that I'm a sort of narrator. Here to provide additional information. And technically I am, but don't count on it. You see, I think you guys are smart enough to figure it out. Let's not provide extra work for the playwright or lines for me to memorize. I can tell you're an intellectual group. So, instead, I'll be offering a sort of commentary. My opinions of the fools which these people, believe me, will soon reveal themselves to be. You'll figure out their story.

GINA

I can't believe you kissed her! Sarah's one of my best friends!

ONE

See, told you you could figure it out.

BRYAN

Why are you suddenly freaking out about this? How can you possibly be angry with me? It's not like we've ever been dating. Don't forget, you have a boyfriend you know.

ONE

Okay, you might not have seen that coming.

TWO

And that's why I'm here.

ONE

Oh no, not you.

TWO

Yes, me. Don't act like you didn't miss me.

ONE

I don't act. That's why I'm the narrator.

TWO

Don't listen to him. I'm the real narrator of this story , and don't worry about his cynicism. I would say he means well, but...

ONE

But I don't. I don't care about these people. They'll learn the worthlessness of their feelings eventually.

TWO

My apologies. Listen, I'll try to help you out. Explain to you the magical connection that's going to occur. Our two characters here are in love.

ONE

With themselves

TWO

With each other, and they'll figure it out eventually. They just haven't been able to work it out.

ONE

You know they're just like any other young (Does air quotes) "couple" selfish, lustful, and completely in it for themselves.

BRYAN

(To Narrators)

Hey, we can hear you.

GINA

Yeah, we are standing right here.

ONE

Woah, woah, what are you doing?

TWO

(flustered) Yeah, not to be rude, but you're...you're breaking the fourth wall.

ONE

Yeah, could you not talk to the audience please? That's our job. Go bicker.

BRYAN

So we can't even defend ourselves?

ONE

No, leave that to us.

GINA

But you hate us...

TWO

Don't worry, I'll help. I believe in you two.

GINA

(To Bryan)

Well I'm glad somebody does, because one half of this relationship has given up

BRYAN

This is not your relationship. Your relationship is with that sissy dork that you refuse to leave. In fact, isn't it about time you guys go shopping for his new man bag or something? You wouldn't want to be late. *Turns from her*

GINA

Bryan...

BRYAN

Look, I don't understand why this is such a big deal right now. (Softening) I'm sorry it makes you uncomfortable. You know I don't like seeing you with him either, but that's not how we are. That's not what we do. That's not...us.

TWO

Okay, I understand this can be rather confusing. I'll tell you that when he says us. He means their friendship that's full of craziness, love affairs, caring,

ONE

Lust, lying, fooling themselves to no end. Never believe what he says.

GINA

Look, I know you're right. I couldn't agree with you more. I'm aware that's not how our friendship works. You're just so important to me and our history, some of it unresolved, it makes things complicated sometimes.

BRYAN

Yeah, unfortunately, it does. But that's one thing I've always loved about our friendship. That we can be such intimate friends, and tell each other everything, and never let that...that...part of our relationship get in the way. Never revisit our history.

TWO

When he speaks of their history, he's talking about a time when things between these two were simpler. Now, they were never together. In fact, these two have never even been on a real date. However, they couldn't hide their feelings. There were multiple times when they,

(searching for words)

they, physically manifested their love for each other.

ONE

Hooked up. Two best friends repeatedly had problems with keeping their hands off each other, and now they're dealing with the consequences.

TWO

The consequences are only those of their realization of their love for each other.

ONE

And, has that happened yet?

TWO

There's still time. There must be at least six pages of dialogue left you'll see.

ONE

(Sarcastically)

Sure I will.

GINA

I know, it really is great to know I can come to you and receive advice or completely break down and cry to you without things being awkward or having to worry about messy feelings. To my surprise, you've become the person I come to for everything. That goofy "Hey babe" I hear after waiting for you to pick up gives me instant comfort. I know that you're there waiting to give advice, or just listen to my confusion about me and Mark, or anything else in my life. But sometimes, sometimes, when I just think about you. I, I think...

TWO

She wants to tell him she feels more.

GINA

I think...

(realizing she's not ready to have this conversation)

BRYAN

(Nervously)

What?

(Trying to lighten the mood)

Dang I'm lucky to have such a hot best friend.

(Poses)

GINA

Oh shut up. (chuckles) You don't ever think that, do you? Well, I mean, I know you don't think that when I wear these "goofy looking" leggings.

(They both laugh)

But really...

BRYAN

Listen, you know that I think you're amazing. The past has shown that there's something about you that I just can't quite define. That something, yes, makes me attracted to you. Sometimes it makes me do things that cross the line of just friendship. And I'm sorry for some of the things I say or the way I act sometimes...

GINA

Hey, I'm just as guilty as you. I know I have no right to be restrictive of you. I guess it's just some crazy desire to protect each other, to keep our best friend from getting hurt.

BRYAN

Exactly. Seeing you hurt is the last thing I want. I wish it didn't happen so often. Mark, mark, just doesn't understand how much he upsets. It's not right that every night when I hear that ridiculous ringtone you picked out, I know that I'm going to hear you crying when I answer. It's not okay at all. That just shouldn't happen.

GINA

Okay. Look sorry. You've made it obvious over the past few months that you don't think he and I should still be together, but I didn't think I was being such a hassle. I guess I'll stop bothering you.

(Turns to leave)

BRYAN

Gina, wait! That's not what I meant. I meant you shouldn't be crying all the time. Every time you do it kills me. It makes me hate him more and more. The fact that we have to hide that we even talk to each other. Just me knowing that if he called right now, I'd have to stop talking. You'd tell him you were at your grandma's and pray to God he doesn't drive there to make sure. I see his face in every tear you cry, because I know it's his fault.

(Pause. Realizing he's upset her)

But don't think I don't love helping you with your problems. There's never a time I'm too tired or too busy to listen to you and talk you through anything with him. It's just...sometimes I wish it wasn't him. I wish I could talk to you about...

ONE

He wants to say himself. He wants to say the word us.

BRYAN

About...

(Suddenly realizes he's not ready to
have this discussion)

GINA

(Lightening the mood)

About what? How ridiculous you always look in that hat?
(Steal hat from him)

BRYAN

(Laughs)

Give it back! You know if I wash it the luck goes away!

(They freeze)

ONE

Of course, legitimate conversation turns in to awkward
playful banter. Yeah, these guys are really going places.
Didn't I tell you this would fail? They're too cowardly to
face up to their real feelings. Not that those feelings
would last more than a day.

TWO

That's not true. It's cute they're nervous around each
other. *To the audience* Look, there's no need to worry my
friends. Today was a big step, and we all know it can't be
the end of the story. Give it time.

(During the next line Gina and Bryan
exit.)

ONE

Time? Alright I'll give you time. I'll give you a few weeks. That's the time we're leaving out. The lazy playwright left me with the responsibility of telling you what happened instead of actually writing it out.

TWO

My apologies for him, I'll help to tell you what happened. That is our responsibility as narrators.

ONE

Overachiever. Anyway, Gina went back to her apartment in Atlanta.

TWO

Bryan stayed in Birmingham, and things remained the same. Best friends.

ONE

Until one day on a whim, Gina hopped in her Honda civic, filled up the tank and drove to see Bryan. And to think, with gas prices what they are.

TWO

She wanted to surprise him. She didn't know what she was feeling, but she knew she needed to see him right away.

ONE

Anyway, she was almost to his apartment when she felt the hum of her vibrating cell phone and heard the cheesy 80s love song.

GINA

(Answers phone)

Bryan, hey.

(As Bryan enters his apartment, but fails to close the door)

(Gina slowly makes her way to the door from the opposite side of the stage throughout next few lines)

BRYAN

Hey babe. What's up?

GINA

Well I...

BRYAN

Hold on it's hard to hear with all this damn construction going on outside.

(He places his other hand over his other ear so he can hear better)

I know the kids need a place to play, but the noise is ridiculous. (Chuckles)

GINA

Bryan I..

BRYAN

Wait, Gina, listen, sorry about the jokes. I called you for a reason. I need to tell you something real quick that I've been attempting to say in every conversation we've had for the past few weeks. Look, I feel bad about the way I acted when you were here. I know you had something more serious to talk about. I did too. And I know now that, I can't

believe I'm actually saying this, no matter how hard we try, there have always been feelings involved.

ONE

Oh here he goes again with these feelings.

TWO

Seriously, cynicism, keep it in check please?

ONE

But you know that...

TWO

Shhhh! They're talking

BRYAN

I know I have so much I need to say to you, but I can't figure out. I've never been good at that kind of stuff. You know that. You edited enough of my high school papers to know I'm not good with words. And I know you want to hear apologies and explanations, and I'm sure you have stuff to say but I just...

GINA

Listen Bryan, just listen. There's a lot I've neglected to say. I guess I should just come out and tell the truth.

BRYAN

Gina, I...

GINA

Shhh, I have to say this while I have the courage. Bryan I decided a long time ago that we were friends. Best friends, and that's all. I always knew there was something about you that I was attracted to, that I wanted, that I needed in my life. Still, I always knew there was something bigger about us that would never work. I've spent years trying to figure out and pinpoint what that thing is. I have theories, ideas, mostly lies I've fabricated for myself on why we shouldn't be together. Why we shouldn't even try. Why everything I felt during those kisses is just an over exaggeration of my memory.

(She reaches the open door and stands in the frame)

But the truth is, I have no reason. Nothing. Now I only have a wish. A wish that there was some small chance that the man who has listened to all my complaints, who has helped me through all my problems with my Mark or any other boy for that matter...I have a wish that he could be that person I can say I'm dating. That we could try. That we could have a legitimate chance

(long pause)

BRYAN

It's a good thing you aren't here right now cause I know I'd do something stupid.

GINA

(Steps forward)

What would you do?

BRYAN

It's you and me. What stupid thing do you think I would do?

GINA

Bry...tell me...

(Steps forward)

BRYAN

I'm not...

GINA

Bryan, I need to know exactly, word for word what you're thinking. Precisely what you would do if I was right here in this room with you.

BRYAN

(Slowly at first, then more powerful)

I'd grab your face and I'd kiss you as hard as I could. Not in the haphazardly, taken for granted way that I always have. But I'd kiss you like there's no tomorrow. With all the love and passion I have in me, for as long as I can. I'd hold you as tight as possible, until you pulled away because I'd know that when you did...It would be for the last time...that you'd be off to him.

GINA

(After long pause)

And what if I never pulled away?

BRYAN

Well then, I guess we'd be together forever.

(She grabs his shoulder and turns him to see her. They embrace and then freeze)

TWO

Well, what do you have to say for yourself?

ONE

Don't ask me, (Fake crying) I'm, I'm speechless. (Laughs)

TWO

Oh gosh. After being a witness to everything that just happened. After watching people pour their hearts out, you still can't accept that maybe, just maybe, there's something about these two that makes their souls eternally made for each other?

ONE

Eh, you win some, you lose some. Remember that friends. It's just another cliché that, roughly translated, means get used to disappointment. Well, thanks for donating a few minutes of your life to listen to my opinions, even if you didn't want to. Hopefully, I've convinced you of something. And if not, then, like I said, you win some, you lose some.

(Exits)

TWO

I really am sorry. Please, I beg you to forget anything he's said. And even if you forget my input as well, please remember the story. Remember two people who cared for each other. Let this be a lesson my friends. Good timing, bad timing, far apart, or always together, emotionally broken, or completely put together...True love, it'll make it.