

JAKE AND BEEBEE

PLAY: The Bright Blue Mailbox
Suicide Note

GENRE: Drama

TIME: 3:20

DESCRIPTION

Jake has learned that his best friend Ken tried to commit suicide and he's having trouble dealing with the information. He goes to a crisis centre for some help and is surprised to see Beebee working there. In their circle of friends, Beebee is the flaky space cadet. Here she seems like a different person.

ACTING HINTS

Neither Jake nor Beebee is happy to see the other. Explore the shock of the moment when they see each other for the first time.

It's easier to understand Jake's reaction because he's always known Beebee to be flighty. But why is Beebee upset? Why does she want to keep her job a secret? Why does she present herself to her friends as a space cadet?

Jake is frustrated in this scene. He's dealing with his guilt over not helping his friend, and Beebee won't give him any answers.

JAKE enters the crisis centre. He approaches the back of a girl, who is dealing with a client.

JAKE: Excuse me. Is this the crisis centre?

BEEBEE turns.

BEEBEE: Jake?

JAKE: Beebee?

BEEBEE: *(to client)* Mr. Arscott, why don't you go into the lounge? The group's waiting for you. *(she watches the man go)*

JAKE: What are you doing here?

BEEBEE: I work here. *(There is a pause as JAKE stares at BEEBEE.)* What do you want, Jake? I'm busy.

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Scenes for One Man and One Woman

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JAKE: You work at a crisis centre.

BEEBEE: Don't sound so surprised.

JAKE: I'm not surprised... it's just that...

BEEBEE: I'm too flaky to stop people from committing suicide.

JAKE: I didn't say that.

BEEBEE: You don't have to. Don't worry; I'm only the receptionist. I make coffee. I answer phones. I type. And, on rare occasions, I read tarot cards.

JAKE: Really?

BEEBEE: The clients want to know if everything is going to be all right. *(she turns to talk to a doctor)* Yes Dr. Mott? Not yet, I'll let you know as soon as she comes in.

JAKE: Beebee, why didn't you tell anyone you work here?

BEEBEE: Because.

JAKE: I mean, you sound so normal... I didn't mean that you're usually not normal... Oh for God's sake Beebee! You're the weirdest person I know! You talk to spirits in the walls, your hair changes colour every second day, you're a vegetarian - what am I supposed to think?

BEEBEE: Ken knows.

JAKE: What?

BEEBEE: Ken knows I work here.

JAKE: How come he never said anything... Oh. I guess he wouldn't.

BEEBEE: Don't worry. He was as surprised as you the first time he walked in here.

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JAKE: You should have told me he was feeling... that he was...

BEEBEE: He didn't want you to know.

JAKE: Did he talk to you?

BEEBEE: A bit.

JAKE: Why did he come here? What did he say?

BEEBEE: I can't tell you.

JAKE: But I'm his friend.

BEEBEE: It's not my place to...

JAKE: I'm his friend, not you. Why do you get to know and I don't?

BEEBEE: Because I am not here for you. This room holds a lot of secrets and it's part of my job not to spread them around. If there are things you think you have a right to know, well, that's between you and Ken. I won't tell his secrets. Not to you. Not to anyone.

JAKE: I'm not a bad person, Beebee. But nothing is the way it used to be. It's all slipping through my fingers... Two summers ago, we were at his parents' cottage. It was dark, we had just watched the sun go down. Ken was really moody. You know how he gets... And I always left him alone. It was the best. I thought it was the best way to deal with it. We're sitting in the dark and he says out of the blue, "Have you ever thought about killing yourself?" I think I made a joke - "Are you going to hang yourself over that babe at the bait shop, Ken?" He laughed and never mentioned it again. I never knew he was serious. I didn't know. If I had known...

BEEBEE: Why did you come here, Jake?

JAKE: I don't know. I wanted somebody, professional...

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BEEBEE: Do you want to talk to someone... I can...

JAKE: No. No, I don't know why I came. Thanks anyway.

BEEBEE: Jake. He doesn't blame you, he blames himself. Don't forget that.

JAKE: But he's the greatest guy! Why would he want...

BEEBEE: You better go. Don't tell anyone you saw me here, ok?

BEEBEE exits, leaving JAKE alone on stage.

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SHELLEY AND BEN

PLAY: Deck the Stages

GENRE: Seriocomic

TIME: 5:00

DESCRIPTION

The scene is the kitchen in the home of Shelley Langford. It is just before Christmas. She and Ben have been working on a project together.

ACTING HINTS

Ben is a non-stop talker while Shelley is practically silent. In the course of the play we learn the reason. Why does Shelley feel she cannot accept the present? Does she feel she doesn't deserve any happiness that can't be shared with her mom?

What does Ben like about Shelley? Does he love her? Has he ever bought a gift for a girl before? What did he imagine would happen when he gave her the present?

SHELLEY and BEN sit at a table. BEN reaches under the table, pulls out a small present, and puts it on the table.

SHELLEY: What's that?

BEN: What?

SHELLEY: That.

BEN: Oh that. I believe it's called a Christmas present.

SHELLEY: I know what it is. What's it doing on the table?

BEN: Ok, you caught me. I thought 'tis the season and we've been working on this project and after next week it'll be all over and I just wanted to give you a little something, a little present, a Christmas thing. Merry Christmas!

SHELLEY: I didn't get you anything.

BEN: I didn't expect anything.

SHELLEY continues to stare at the package.