

REUNION

a one-act play by
Peter M. Floyd

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CAST OF CHARACTERS:

CAROLINE, 15
SHANE, 14
WILLIAM, 15
NESSA, 14
STEPH, 13
BRAD, 17
CATH, 11

Scene: CAROLINE's bedroom, containing a bed (obviously) and a couple of chairs (possibly beanbag chairs). There is also a bookcase on the wall, stuffed with books. CAROLINE sits up in her bed, reading some work of fantasy. After a moment, the door bursts open and SHANE bursts in, slamming the door behind her.

SHANE

I need to hide here for a moment!

CAROLINE (*very annoyed at being interrupted*)
Shane! Don't you knock?

SHANE turns and knocks on the door behind her.

CAROLINE

Funny. Not really.

SHANE

I just wanna stay here for ten minutes. Five minutes. That's all. Come on, Caroline, please! I just have to get away from Cath for a bit, or else I swear I'll commit sister-cide.

CAROLINE

Actually, the word would be "sororicide." (*SHANE looks at her.*) Never mind. What's Cath doing?

SHANE

She's being Cath! She's telling everybody all these stupid stories of every embarrassing thing I ever did, and they're all just laughing. I swear, I'm going to put her in a box and mail her to the Amazon Jungle if she keeps this up. What are you reading?

CAROLINE (*a bit thrown by the change in topic*)
This? Oh, it's, um...

SHANE
Is that something like Harry Potter?

CAROLINE
No, it's not like Harry Potter! It's for adults.

SHANE
Oh, like "Game of Thrones" then. My parents don't let me watch it, but I saw about twenty minutes of it once when I was at my girlfriend's house. It was awesome, but *totally* gross.

CAROLINE
It's not like "Game of Thrones." It's about this--

SHANE
It's great for you that this reunion thing is happening at your place. Whenever you get sick of everything, you can just come back to your room and chill and have some me time.

CAROLINE
Yes, that would be nice.

SHANE (*sitting on one of the chairs*)
Me, I'm stuck here until Mom and Dad decide to go back to the hotel. I'm so bored! All the adults are talking about things they did a million years ago when they were kids and it's just so snore-worthy. "Hey, remember when we used to sit around and watch paint dry?" I don't want to hear it. Talk about putting the "dull" in "adult."

CAROLINE
I know exactly how you feel.

SHANE (*taking out her phone and starting to text*)
Do you think we'll be like that when we're that old?
Totally boring and just rattling on about stuff?

CAROLINE
Probablhy.

SHANE

Then just shoot me know. I don't want to grow old. (*She puts away her phone.*) I just told Nessa to meet us up here.

CAROLINE

You did *what*?

SHANE

I could tell she was getting bored, too, so I figured I'd let her know where all the cool people were. Don't worry, I told her not to tell Cath.

CAROLINE

Look, no offense, but I came to my room so I could read by myself.

SHANE

Hey, don't worry about it. You can go ahead and read; we won't mind.

There is a knock on the door.

SHANE (*calling out*)

Come on in!

WILLIAM enters.

SHANE

Hey, you're supposed to be your sister.

WILLIAM

...I really don't know how to respond that.

SHANE

Where's Nessa?

WILLIAM

Vanessa? I don't know. Somewhere.

CAROLINE

Hey, William.

WILLIAM

Hey, Caroline.

SHANE

What are you doing here? This is supposed to be a girls-only hangout.

CAROLINE

No, it's not.

SHANE

Well, how can we talk behind people's backs if they're right here?

WILLIAM

You were going to talk about me behind your back?

SHANE

Well, sure. But not in a bad way. We could be saying, "That William, he's a great guy. We're glad he's our cousin." So, you know, good stuff, but just stuff you wouldn't want to hear.

WILLIAM

If you were talking about how great a guy I was, I'd want to hear that.

SHANE

Oh, grr! You are so missing the point.

CAROLINE

Did you want something, William?

WILLIAM

Oh, yeah. I actually just finished the book I was reading. Whenever I go somewhere, I usually try to bring along enough books to get me through, but this time, nope. Anyway, I figured that, since you're pretty much the only other one of us who reads books that you might have something I could borrow.

SHANE

Hey! I read books.

WILLIAM

For fun? Not just for school?

SHANE

Sure. I mean, kind of. Does *Seventeen* count?

CAROLINE

No. (to WILLIAM) What are you looking for? I've got fantasy, I've got classics, I've got teen angst...

WILLIAM (*perusing the books on the shelf*)
Do you have any science fiction? Like, hard science fiction.

CAROLINE
I've got *A Wrinkle in Time*.

WILLIAM
That is *not* science fiction.

CAROLINE
It is! It has space travel and alien races and such.

WILLIAM
Yeah, but there's no science behind any of that.

SHANE
Sorry to interrupt, but can you two have a discussion that's actually interesting to human beings? I might as well be back downstairs with the adults.

The door swings open, and NESSA walks in.

NESSA
Hey, Shane! What's going on here?

CAROLINE
Doesn't anybody knock?

WILLIAM
I knocked.

SHANE
Ignore them. What's happening?

NESSA (*sitting in the empty chair*)
It's a total crapfest, actually. My dad and your dad are having some kind of political argument. It's a mess. I had to get out of there before I started to hate both of them.

SHANE
Why do adults argue about things that are toatally meaningless? What about Cath, what's she up to?

NESSA

Saying stuff about you. She somehow managed to hack the contacts list on your phone, and was reading out the names of every boy you have on there.

SHANE

Oh, my God! Really?

NESSA

No, just kidding. Last I saw of her, she was trying to see how many Mallomars she could cram into her mouth.

SHANE

Jeez, Nessa, don't do that to me!

WILLIAM

Vanessa can be totally evil when she's in a mood.

NESSA

I am *not* evil. And it's not Vanessa, it's Nessa. I've cut out the "Va."

WILLIAM

"Nessa" is dumb.

NESSA

It is not. It's what I want to be called. Should I start calling you "Billy Boy"?

WILLIAM

No, because my actual name is William, just like your actual name is Vanessa.

SHANE

Hey, she should be called whatever she wants to be called.

CAROLINE

I'd have to agree with that.

WILLIAM

Things should be called what they are. Like, things that are fantasy should be called fantasy, not science fiction.

CAROLINE

Well, then this room happens to be called "Caroline's room," and Caroline is the only one who should be here.

NESSA

Why are you acting all upset? You're the one who invited me in here.

CAROLINE

No, I didn't. Shane did.

NESSA

Oh, I thought she was just passing along a general invite. That's what I told Steph.

CAROLINE

Wait. Did you tell Steph to come here, too?

NESSA

I may have.

There is another knock on the door, and before anyone can answer Steph walks in.

STEPH

Hey, you all! What do you know, Caroline's room is where the party is.

CAROLINE

It's *not* a party.

SHANE

Sorry, Caroline, but it totally is.

WILLIAM

If people start dancing, I'm going to leave.

SHANE

What's amazing is that no one noticed that all of us kids have disappeared.

STEPH

Some of them have. Mom asked me, "Do you know where that sister of yours has gotten to?"

SHANE

Oh, my God, you didn't tell her, did you?

STEPH

I just told her that you and Nessa were off sticking up a bank or committing arson or something like that.

SHANE

Ooh, there's an idea.

WILLIAM

I'm not 100% convinced you're joking.

CAROLINE

Will it get you out of my room? Then I'm for it.

SHANE

Caroline's making us feel unwelcome. I think that's rude.

STEPH

Don't worry, Caroline, we won't get up your nose too much. Mind if I sit? *(She sits on the bed, causing CAROLINE to have to move her feet.)*

BRAD (OS)

Knock, knock!

SHANE

Who's that? Tell me it's not Cath.

BRAD (OS)

I'm not Cath.

SHANE

Oh, thank God.

SHANE goes to the door and opens it. BRAD and CATH enter.

BRAD

Of course, I'm here *with* Cath, but you didn't ask me that. She kinda followed me up here.

CATH

Ha! Got you, Shane. You should see your face. No, you shouldn't see it, 'cause it's so big and ugly.

SHANE

Okay, now it's scissor-cide time.

CAROLINE

Sororicide.

SHANE

Close enough.

CAROLINE

Brad, why are you here?

BRAD

Mom and Aunt Wendy were wondering where the rest of you were, so they sent us to find out. And my name isn't Brad anymore, I told you.

NESSA

It's not?

CAROLINE

No, just like you, Vanessa, he's decided to change his name.

NESSA

That's absolutely your right, Brad. Or, not Brad. What's your name now?

BRAD

Vermin.

NESSA

...What?

BRAD

Call me Vermin.

NESSA

Oookay.

WILLIAM

You have to do it, Vanessa, 'cause that's what he wants to be called. Put your money where your mouth is.

CAROLINE

It's like his heavy metal name, because he's totally into metal now.

FOR FULL SCRIPT, CONTACT PMFLOYD01@GMAIL.COM