

IT'S TOO COLD FOR YOU HERE

A Play in One Act

Cast of Characters

<u>Woman:</u>	Black woman in her early 20s to mid 30s
<u>Woman's Shadow:</u>	Matches the Woman
<u>Man:</u>	Black man in his early 20s to mid 30s
<u>Dark Shadow:</u>	Tall, faceless man

Scene

Various locations in the Woman's mind

Time

The present that I hope soon becomes the past.

The stage is black.

Silence.

After a moment we hear distance sounds of yelling.

Sirens.

Yelling.

A gavel.

The yelling grows and grows, sounding like it's coming from one side of the stage.

The darkness on stage is disrupted by a thick layer of red light bursting through, revealing an opening door.

The yelling echoes.

The sound of a gavel crashing down on hardwood drowns out all the other sounds.

WOMAN (OFF STAGE)

No! No! Let me save him! Let me go!

The WOMAN is pushed onto the stage through the door. We see that she has blood stained on her clothes.

She stumbles to catch her balance. When she's gained control of her feet, she runs back to the door, but it slams shut.

The stage is back to black, but we can still hear the WOMAN banging on the door and yelling.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Please! Let me out! Let me out! Give me one more chance! Please!

A dim light reveals the WOMAN crumbled on the floor. Her fight is weak.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

I don't want to do this again. I don't want to be here anymore.

From the other side of the stage we see a figure in black appear from the shadows. The figure's face is covered, but they physically resemble the WOMAN. This figure is the WOMAN'S SHADOW.

The SHADOW walks over to the WOMAN to comfort her. The WOMAN'S SHADOW holds the WOMAN from behind.

They now move as one. Every movement is legato and effortless. First, they extend one arm to the side, then the other, like an angel extending their wings.

They stand together with the WOMAN'S SHADOW following the WOMAN to the bed. The SHADOW helps the WOMAN lay down.

The SHADOW holds the WOMAN and hums to lull her to sleep.

They lay there peacefully asleep.

1. IT'S NOT REAL

The two hold each other and time passes.

It passes.

It passes.

The WOMAN begins to toss and turn, with her SHADOW following her every move. The movements vary between flowing and sharp.

Then from one side of the stage a cool blue light begins to slip into the room.

The SHADOW wakes up with a chill. The SHADOW notices the light, but continues following the WOMAN's movements.

From the other side of the stage creeps in a heavy red light.

The SHADOW becomes panicked, trying to find a way to warn the WOMAN, but she cannot make a sound.

The lights inch closer and closer to the bed.

Deep in the corner of the stage we can see movement.

A flash of something.

The SHADOW becomes panicked. She begins fighting against the WOMAN's movements.

After a time of struggle, the SHADOW becomes the leader of the two.

Without touching her, the SHADOW sits the WOMAN up and pulls her out of bed.

The WOMAN is limp as she follows her SHADOW's lead. The SHADOW's movements are heavy, carrying the entire weight of the WOMAN.

Again, we see a flash of something in white dart from one corner to the next.

The SHADOW can sense the new presence in the room.

She quickly props the WOMAN in a standing position.

The lights become more intense, trapping the two of them in the room with an unknown being.

We notice deep in the corner the new figure. A WHITE SHADOW.

It starts to walk out to fully reveal itself, but retreats when the WOMAN awakes with a gasp.

Instantly a large clock appears above the stage. The ticking sound echoes throughout the room.

The WOMAN looks around confused how she's standing. The SHADOW settles the WOMAN and then lets her lead again.

WOMAN

(Trying to catch air)

No. No. No. I don't want to be here anymore. I don't want this. I want him.

The WOMAN tries to retreat back to the bed, but her SHADOW stops her.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

I just want to lay down. Let me lay down.

The SHADOW takes off the WOMAN's bloody clothes and gives her clean new ones. The WOMAN changes, and the SHADOW lets her back into the bed. However, this time the SHADOW stands guarding the bed.

The WOMAN sits in bed, scanning the room for something, anything familiar. She examines the bed she's in, noticing the empty side next to her.

It's cold.

She strokes the empty side of the bed, missing something... Someone.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

(Weakly)

Baby? Baby?

There's no answer.

Baby? Baby!

Still no answer.

The SHADOW goes to comfort her.

Make him come back. Bring him back. Please.

The SHADOW tries to rock her.

I want to hear his voice.

She pushes the SHADOW away.

Where's my phone? I just want to hear him again.

Panicking, the WOMAN grabs her phone from the bed stand.

She dials a number.

With every ring her heart sinks further and further.

The phone rings

Rings

Rings

Finally she finds some relief from someone on other side of the phone.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

I just... I just wanted to hear your voice... No that's a lie. Your voice isn't enough. It's just a piece of you. **This isn't real.** I can't do this without you. I need you here. I woke up and you weren't here, and... I've been awake for not even five minutes and I already miss you. I... I don't know... I just...

A man walks into the room with two large cups of coffee.

We just now realize the ticking sound of the clock has disappeared.

MAN

Ooh! Looks like I'm right on time. You were snoring all loud and stuff I thought the earth would have to shake to wake you up.

The WOMAN is in shock. She looks to her SHADOW for confirmation that this is real, but the SHADOW is gone.

The MAN notices the WOMAN's upset and places the coffee mugs down.

MAN (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

The WOMAN rushes to him. She holds him tightly, as if he may disappear or fade away if she lets go.

MAN (CONT'D)

Baby are you okay?

WOMAN

Don't leave again.

MAN

I was gone for two seconds.

WOMAN

Don't. Leave.

MAN

Man I throw a ring on it and then you get all clingy.

The WOMAN finally lets go. It's still clear she's lost, unsure of what world she woke up in. She looks down at her hand.

WOMAN

Where's my wedding band?

MAN

Wedding band?

WOMAN

(Searching)

I would sleep with it on. This is just the engagement ring.

Frantically, she looks through her drawers. The MAN watches confused.

MAN

Just an engagement ring? That was months of my salary that went into "just an engagement ring"

Without looking up, the WOMAN continues looking through the drawers and even under the bed.

MAN (CONT'D)

Correct me if I'm wrong.

WOMAN
(Without looking up)

I always do.

MAN
Don't you usually get the wedding band at the wedding.

WOMAN
Yeah that's usually how it works.

MAN
Babe we haven't even set a date yet.

The WOMAN stops.

WOMAN
April 12th.

MAN
Well that was quick.

WOMAN
No it's April 12th. Our wedding was on April 12th. We've been married since April 12th of...

In this moment her memory is fading. The MAN examines her.

MAN
Did you hit your head?

WOMAN
But it's been three years... No ten. It's been ten?

MAN
(Holding up fingers)
Ten? How many fingers am I holding up?

WOMAN
No it can't be ten. How many kids do we have?

MAN

Kids?! Baby let's go to the doctor.

WOMAN

No. No. I'm fine. I just need water... I...

MAN

Let me go get it.

*The MAN starts to walk away, but the WOMAN
grabs him.*

WOMAN

Please don't go.

MAN

I'm coming right back.

WOMAN

Are you?

(She pulls him in)

I don't know what's outside these walls. Please stay. We're safe in here.

MAN

Baby, I'm just going to the kitchen.

WOMAN

There's something I'm supposed to remember.

MAN

What?

WOMAN

I can't let you go.

MAN

I'll just be twenty feet away.

WOMAN

(She thinks)

Whistle.

MAN

What?

WOMAN

Whistle so I know you're still there.

MAN

Do all women do this after a proposal?

She doesn't find it funny.

MAN (CONT'D)

(Giving in)

What do you want me to whistle?

WOMAN

Our song.

MAN

Oh I can't just whistle that.

The MAN starts to belt out an old school song with soul. He has a nice voice, but it's clear he doesn't know the words to the song.

WOMAN

It's been how long and you still don't know the words?

MAN

I'm just singing what's on my heart.

The MAN continues singing.

MAN (CONT'D)

I knew I was going to marry you when I saw you walk down your folk's steps in your purple and black prom dress.

The WOMAN smiles.

They stay in this moment for awhile. This is pure, beautiful, unwavering love.

WOMAN

When did you propose?

MAN

(Concerned)

Yesterday... Are you sure we don't need to go to the doctor?

WOMAN

No I remember now. I know where I am. We left off here.

Still confused, the MAN kisses her and then leaves.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

(Calling after him)

Whistle please!

He begins to whistle, which turns into him singing the wrong words again. His voice underscores the WOMAN's monologue.

The WOMAN's hands are shaking. She smiles listening to the MAN's voice.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

(To the audience)

He's back. Like Jesus I wept and brought back someone I loved. I have time running through me. Ahead of me. I can now... I can... I...

Her memory starts to fade. The world around her remains unfamiliar.

Have we been here before? Every day is different. It's new. We're new. But it also repeats.

The hands on the floating clock disappear.

I have the same dream every night. And it's one of those dreams where you almost have control because you know you're dreaming.

A cool blue light fills the room. The MAN's voice becomes muffled and distorted.

We see the WHITE SHADOW move quickly in the background.

But you can't actually redirect the dream. You can stall... Procrastinate all you want. But no matter how hard you try, you can't stop what's going to happen.

Insidiously, a heated red light begins to cover the stage. The WHITE SHADOW quickly passes behind the WOMAN.

And it feels so real. I'm supposed to remember.

She thinks a moment.

I've never felt a dream so real. The rain on my skin. The chill of his words. The fear in his voice. The red stains on my clothes.

(Beat)

Have I told you this already? You would stop me if I did right?

She waits for a response.

Okay. Then I'll keep going.