



Darkness in the Night

A One Act Farce for Teenagers
by
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Overview

Darkness in the night is a one act farce in 9 scenes for four actors; two male and two female. It is suitable for adolescent older teenagers or younger adults. The play has been designed for a minimum of stage dressing and requires only two stage areas: a darkened stage, and a darkened stage with a door.

Synopsis

Dave and his friend Bob venture into an abandoned house in the middle of the night in order to gain entry to the underworld to bring Dave's recently deceased ex-girlfriend back to life. When they meet the girls they assume they have succeeded, little realising that Dave's ex-girlfriend is not dead and it isn't the underworld.

Cast

| | |
|------|---|
| Dave | A metal head adolescent who believes he has arcane powers. |
| Bob | Dave's best friend and sceptical unwitting sacrifice. |
| Lily | Dave's supposedly deceased ex-girlfriend and ex kleptomaniac. |
| Kate | Lily's best friend and loser in love. |

Scene 1

A darkened empty room. Dave enters through an offstage window, falling heavily to the floor. He hops noisily about the floor making strangled noises of pain whilst holding his knee.

BOB (Offstage, shouting) Are you alright?

Dave stops hopping about.

DAVE Do I sound alright?

BOB (Offstage, shouting) What?

DAVE I said, do I sound alright? And stop shouting will you, we have to be quiet.

BOB (Offstage, shouting) Only it sounded like you hurt something.

DAVE Stop shouting. It's my knee okay? I just fell on it getting in and-

BOB (Offstage, shouting) What?

DAVE I said, it was my knee-

BOB (Offstage, shouting) What do you need?

DAVE No, no my- look, it doesn't matter, just be quiet will you?

BOB (Offstage, shouting) Do you need a plaster?

DAVE No! And will you please stop shouting!

BOB (Offstage, shouting) I think I've got one somewhere.

DAVE (Shouting) I'm fine. I don't need a plaster! Okay?

BOB (Offstage) Oh. Okay.

DAVE Okay.

BOB (Offstage) No need to shout.

DAVE Just get up here will you?

BOB (Offstage) Okay, give me a hand up.

Bob enters through the window. He carries a small bag with him. He slowly surveys his surroundings.

So, this is the place huh?

DAVE Yes. This is the place.

BOB Bit dark isn't it.

DAVE It's a deserted house, in the middle of nowhere, at night. Yes, it's a bit dark.

BOB Just saying. What are we here for anyway?

DAVE I can't tell you.

BOB Right. Right. So why are we here?

DAVE I just told you I can't tell you.

BOB How?

DAVE You asked and I told you I couldn't.

BOB Well how did you do that?

DAVE What?

BOB Tell me you couldn't if you couldn't.

DAVE Because I can't and that's why I couldn't and I told you that when I didn't tell you.

BOB But you can't tell me.

DAVE Exactly.

BOB Well you didn't tell me then.

DAVE Yes I did.

BOB But you couldn't when you did so you didn't because you couldn't when you did.

DAVE But I did when I didn't.

BOB And so you didn't when you did.

DAVE No! I did when I didn't.

BOB But you didn't.

DAVE Did.

BOB Did you?

DAVE No.

BOB Well that's my point.

DAVE That's my point. I told you already when I didn't tell you that I didn't tell you when I told you I didn't tell you because I did tell you I didn't so I did.

Bob slowly works it out.

BOB You didn't.

DAVE Right, right. Fine, I was trying to protect you from the dread truth of the situation but no, you want to know why we're here? Okay, here it is. Within these walls, there is a door.

BOB Probably more than one.

DAVE A special door, a door that is more than a door.

BOB Like, two doors then?

DAVE No. Not like that at all. This is a door of dark import. A door of arcane intangibility that exists at the the threshold of madness and reason.

BOB Oh. That sort.

DAVE The stars are right, the moon is full and you and I my friend, have been drawn here, drawn here like twilight ambassadors of doom, drawn by dark and dire forces of darkness.

BOB Uh huh.

DAVE Dark forces that permeate the very night in inky blackness and pull us toward the door of the twilight shore of the plutonian void beyond the velvet heart of lightlessness.

BOB Okay.

DAVE And beyond that door, that obsidian portal into dusk, lies our fate, bound in unbreakable ebon bonds of black, carved in shadow and veiled in the charcoal depths of the Stygian, fathomless night.

BOB Oh well, yeah, I thought it might be something like that.

DAVE Really? You did?

BOB Yeah. I said it was a bit dark.

DAVE *(Pointing the way)* After you.

Exit Dave and Bob

Scene 2

A darkened room with a door. Enter Kate and Lily

LILY Well?

KATE It's a bit dark isn't it?

LILY Deserted house. Middle of nowhere. At night. Of course it's a bit dark. That's why we are here.

KATE Because of the dark?

LILY Because of the not being seen. Dark is good for not being seen. It makes you harder to see.

KATE Hmm. And why are we not being seen? Not that you have to tell me. You're my friend. I trust you. Whatever reason you've got for dragging me out to a cruddy old ruin in the middle of the night is good with me. But, you know, middle of the night, cruddy old ruin, the not being seen. Sort of adds up. Badly.

LILY Okay I'll tell you.

KATE Good.

LILY But you have to promise not to get mad.

KATE Not good. This wouldn't have anything to do with your dark past would it?

LILY Maybe.

KATE Okay, and is this the dark past where you steal stuff or the dark past where you keep setting me up with useless dates?

LILY The first one.

KATE Oh well, that's a relief. I thought for a moment there this was going to be some sort of weird double blind date thing.

LILY God no. Nothing like that. This is just about stealing stuff and rampant kleptomania.

KATE That's okay then. Carry on.

LILY Well, you know how I used to steal stuff and have rampant kleptomania?

KATE Rampant kleptomania which you are now completely over and is completely in the past.

LILY Yes. That one. Well, even though it is completely in the past and I'm totally over it, I sort of, kind of, hung on to a few bits. And pieces. And things.

KATE Sort of hung on?

LILY A bit.

KATE Where?

Both girls look at the door. Kate glares back accusingly. She opens the door slowly and looks inside. She closes the door quickly.

LILY A bit!?

LILY Don't judge me!

KATE Lily!

Kate opens the door again and walks in.

There's tons in here!

LILY It's just a few things! Important things! I couldn't just throw them away. And I said don't judge me.

Kate picks up items and shows them to us, her hand reaching past the door.

KATE *(Brandishing item)* How is this important?

LILY The first thing I ever stole. Couldn't let it go could I. Memories and stuff.

KATE *(Brandishing second item)* And this?

LILY The second thing I ever stole?

KATE *(Brandishing third item)* This?

LILY Memories?

KATE *(Brandishing fourth item)*

LILY Stuff?

Kate walks out of closet holding a pair of ridiculous boots.

KATE You're not over any of this are you? I mean, look at these!

LILY I know what you're thinking, but they're actually really important. The guy I was dating lost his job over them. Couldn't just throw them away could I? They're what give his sacrifice meaning.

KATE You're talking about Dave the metal head moron?

LILY And ex- assistant salesman in Boot-O-rama.

KATE So you got the boots and he got the blame?

LILY Made going out with him really awkward. One of the many reasons I dumped him.

KATE Wow. You're just adorable aren't you.

LILY Well I tried to make it up to him, got him out here pretending this was my old family home and I was going to tell him what I'd done but he just got the idea I was proposing marriage or something and just sort of freaked out and ran off.

KATE Yeah. Great plan, I met him. Kept gushing about your future together and didn't seem to know he was dumped at all. But don't worry, I put him straight.

LILY What did you say?

KATE Just a little white lie to the effect that you weren't around any more. That's all.

LILY And he believed it?

KATE I sort of dressed it up a bit so he'd want to believe it.

LILY Dressed it up?

KATE Don't worry, I know what I'm doing. After all the practice I've had rejecting the string of losers you threw at me I've got pretty convincing.

LILY I was only trying to help you. And they weren't all losers.

KATE The prosecution brings up Steve.

LILY Steve was not intentional. He was an accident. Accidents happen.

KATE Mike.

LILY Perfectly nice guy. Didn't know about the curry till later. What were the chances?

KATE Phil?

LILY Technically not my fault.

KATE Simon? Greg? John? Heathcliff?

LILY Ah come on! What was I supposed to do? The guy was called Heathcliff for crying out loud! And you're Kate! I mean, you have to give it a shot don't you?

KATE No you don't! I don't want a Heathcliff or a Mike or Steve or any of those guys. I want someone like me that likes me, even if I'm sober. Someone with enough brain to think about things outside of his own stomach and who actually cares about his friends and family the way I do, and when I meet him I'll know it, and he'll know me and he won't be some moron loser friend of a friend of a friend.

LILY Yeah okay relax will you? I only asked you to help with the stuff. That's all.

KATE Well okay then, fine, but I honestly thought you'd dragged me out here tonight to set me up with some retard. Got to say I'm actually relieved that it's just to help you get over your kleptomania and throw all this stuff away.

LILY Well yes... But we're not actually throwing it away.

KATE We're not? There's a garbage skip right outside.

LILY We're more just sort of moving it in case someone finds it and puts two and two together and gets me into trouble.

KATE You mean Dave?

LILY It'd be the perfect revenge.

KATE So get rid of it!

LILY I can't!

KATE I can!

LILY No! Don't!

The girls tussle over the boots.

KATE Stop holding on to the past!

LILY Stop holding onto my boots!

KATE I can't! I'm being supportive here!

LILY Then let go of the boots!

KATE No! I'm too caring!

LILY I don't care about your caring! I want my stuff!

KATE It's not your stuff!

LILY It is! I stole it fair and square!

KATE What! that's stupid!

LILY Well you're stupid!

KATE You're the one being stupid!

LILY No you are.

KATE Shut up!

LILY You shut up!

KATE You shut up!

LILY You shut up!

KATE You shut up!

LILY You shut up!

Kate successfully wrangles the boots off Lily.

KATE All this stuff has to go Lily. All of it. You can't get a life till you let it go!

LILY I've got a life! You're holding it right there in your hand and it's all I got! Don't you get it? It's the only thing that made me live and if you throw it away I'll be dead! I can't let it go! It's all I've got!

Lily grabs the boots again.

KATE Did you hear shouting?

Kate and Lily both stop fighting.

LILY Okay I'm sorry. I'm just a little strung out right now. I didn't mean to shout.

KATE No, Not us, shouting. From over there.

LILY You mean outside?

KATE Sounded like voices.

LILY We better check it out.

KATE We?

LILY If you like you can stay here, with the evidence.

Lily throws the boots back in the closet.

KATE We it is.

Lily and Kate exit

Scene 3

A Darkened room with A door. Enter Bob and Dave

BOB That's it?

DAVE Yes.

BOB That's the porthole into the nether regions?

DAVE Portal of night beyond the twilight void of the plutonian abyss if you don't mind.

Bob is clearly disappointed.

What?

BOB Well, it's just a bit..

DAVE A bit what?

BOB Well, you know, I mean. You hear dark portal of the twilight abyss and..

DAVE And?

BOB Well, you expect a bit more don't you?

DAVE That's because you're not enlightened. You don't wot of the arcane mysteries like me.

BOB I don't what?

DAVE No. You don't.

BOB Well yeah, fair play, you tell me it opens to a platonic world of stigious dark beyond the shores of night and I'll believe you.

DAVE Good.

BOB But it could just as easily be my Gran's knitting circle.

DAVE No it couldn't! This door doesn't open to a world of interesting things to do with wool on a rainy day. This is our ticket to the underworld, the land of the dead okay? I know this stuff. I am versed in the dark arts, steeped in the ancient lore of forgotten masters of arcane knowing. I've listened to every track on every album that Death Trash and Rotting Tramp ever made! Seven times. Backwards!

BOB Sorry Dave. But you got to admit, it doesn't look anything like it does on the album covers. It's a lot less fiery and not raining blood for one thing.

DAVE That's because you're not seeing it in it's true form. Once my power has unlocked its dark pin code and we pass through to the other side, you'll see fire, you'll see rain. You'll see-

BOB Sunny days that I thought would never-

Dave is not amused.

End. Maybe not.

DAVE You're not taking this seriously are you.

BOB Sorry Dave.

DAVE This matters to me Bob. This is important. The most important thing I have ever done in my life.

Bob It is? Really?

DAVE You remember that girl I was going out with?

BOB You went out with her once.

DAVE Twice actually okay? And time is immaterial here Bob. Our souls connected. We were as one. And we will be again. This house is her old ancestral family home. She brought me out to see it, talked about us and our lives together and all the things we were going to do. I remember that day. I was happy Bob, happy as I never had been before or since, I rushed out to embrace the world and all in it. And then I found out..

BOB She had died hadn't she?

DAVE In a tragic explosion at the lingerie factory where she worked. Someone had overloaded the lace making machine and she just walked in and...well..

BOB What a way to go.

DAVE With her last dying strength she gathered up the tattered remnants of the burnt bra straps about her, and spelt out one word. "Dave."

Bob hugs Dave manfully.

BOB I'm here for you mate. Hang in there.

DAVE Her spirit led me to that door Bob, the door of lost souls she called it. She was reaching out to me Bob, showing me how to save her, how to get her back, and that's what I'm doing. We're getting her back.

BOB Solid.

DAVE We're going to the world of the dead and I'm going to make her live again.

BOB Sounds good. What do we have to do?

DAVE First, we have to transcend mundane consciousness and journey to the other side by attuning our minds to the dark forces.

BOB How do we do that? Booze? Drugs? Sex? (*worried*) Not sex?!

DAVE No! no. Nothing like that. You got those players?

Bob looks in the bag and hands two mp3 players and earphones to Dave.

DAVE There's only one way to make yourself at one with the void.

Dave Hands a player and earphones to Bob.

BOB Oh...right.

Bob and Dave both don the music players and earphones. They strike a pose as if holding imaginary guitars.

DAVE On a count of three. One two.-

Bob and Dave "rock out" with a manic air guitar dance. Enter Lily and Kate. They see the boys headbanging. Kate gesticulates accusingly at Lily who gesticulates wildly back. The boys carry on oblivious to their presence. After some time the girls pull back. Lily watches the boys intently.

KATE I knew it! I knew this was something to do with boys!

LILY No-ones supposed to be here! I didn't know they'd be here! Oh my god....

KATE Ha! Like I'm supposed to believe that! That's that Dave isn't it? Metal head moron Dave and his idiot friend!

LILY They're right by the closet!

KATE You're trying to get back together with him aren't you? I can't believe it! Why would you do something like that?

LILY We've got to get them away from there!

KATE This isn't some kind of weird double date is it?