

The Blind Spot

A Play in One Act

By Steven Stack

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DEDICATION

To all my students, past and present.

"Your ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of inestimable value." -- Desmond Tutu

STORY OF THE PLAY

This drama tells the story of the last days of high school student Luke's life, and the repercussions felt by those who play a role in what happens to him: his teacher, the bully, the most popular girl in school, and his best friend. Luke finds himself overwhelmed by years of not feeling good enough, a feeling that finally reaches a breaking point. The decision Luke makes will have repercussions for everyone around him for the rest of their lives. This story, though, isn't just about Luke: it's about all of them, all of us, and the struggles that we all carry with us that no one else can see. It takes a frank look at many of the difficult issues facing teenagers today: anxiety, self-harm, divorce, bullying, sexual orientation, depression, and suicide. At its heart, the story is about what it means to be a teenager and the need to connect with one another, recognize that we are more than just our "damages," seek out help, be accepting of our truths, and know that we are not alone. About 30-40 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

This show premiered on April 30th, 2018 in Forte Studios, Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin, with the follow cast:

LUKE: Carter Coon

KATIE: Gracie Hamburg

GRACE: Grace Haroldson

TODD: Xander Strube

LYDIA: Camille Ginther

MARK: Benji Nicholson

WILL: Alex Stram

MR. RAINOR: Delaney Mertz

ADDITIONAL STUDENTS: Sami Frank, Laney Evans, Tess Postle, Olivia Elinchev, Brett Fredrickson

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 m, 3 w, 1 flexible, extras)

LUKE: A normal 15-year-old with a rather sharp wit and a need to help.

KATIE: Also 15 and Luke's best friend. Has had a hard time adjusting to high school and dealing with her parents' pending divorce.

GRACE: 16, the most popular girl in the school, a title she probably doesn't want but now craves for validation.

LYDIA: 15, Grace's best friend and someone who craves the attention that comes with being best friends with the most popular girl in school.

TODD: 16, Luke's former friend and now bully... but all is not what it seems. His family is ultra-religious, his struggles with school affect him more than he lets on, and his recent discoveries about himself have led to issues with his father.

MARK: 15, one of Todd's friends who tries to live up to the bully role because he was bullied in middle school himself.

WILL: 16, another one of Todd's friends and though he comes from the perfect family, he relishes hurting others.

MR. RAINOR: A teacher in the school who is feeling the stress of his workload. This can easily be changed to Ms. Rainor.

EXTRAS: additional students.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Set: The stage is to remain empty, except for an optional gravestone.

Props:

Backpack for Luke with photo, and later, a note

Note from "Secret Admirer"

Grace's book

Luke's books

Paper towels

Trashcan and trash

Water bucket

Rose

Stack of papers

Lunch bag

Cell phones

Note

Rose

Stuffed bear

Coffee table with family photos

Note

Lights: Basic stage lighting with optional use of spotlight-like effects.

SFX: A school bell.

Note on Grave Scenes: The grave scenes can be performed onstage or off, with or without a gravestone. It depends on your performance space, budget, and personal preference.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: LIGHTS up on the school hallway. STUDENTS enter, chatting loudly while moving at a rather frantic pace. We see LUKE, a boy of 15, vaguely in the center. He's constantly getting lost in the picture. KATIE enters, and Luke crosses to her.)

LUKE: *(Mock seriousness.)* Hello, Katie.

KATIE: *(Mock seriousness as well.)* Hello, person who apparently decided that arriving to school on time was for suckers.

LUKE: My friends simply call me Luke. And Sophie lost Ms. Bear, and since Mom was already at work, it fell to me to make sure those two were reunited before school.

KATIE: Always the loyal brother.

LUKE: Of course. Hey, do you have a second to talk?

KATIE: I would have if someone weren't five hours late. Although, since the reason for being late was finding a missing stuffed bear for your adorable six-year-old sister, I do have a second.

LUKE: *(Smiles.)* You still coming over today?

KATIE: Um, I don't think I can. I've got ... stuff.

LUKE: Very specific. By the way, it's like the seventh time you canceled in a row.

KATIE: What? Are you keeping count now?

LUKE: Um ... no. *(HE smiles.)*

KATIE: I know I've canceled a lot recently – but things keep coming up.

LUKE: Things like sitting in your room and listening to that angsty rock you're into these days?

KATIE: Maybe. Or maybe I have big plans with a bunch of super cool people.

(LUKE looks at HER and then smiles.)

KATIE: *(Cont'd.)* It's the first one.

LUKE: Right. I understand. Cool.

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(KATIE notices a subtle change in LUKE, a distant look.)

KATIE: Are you okay? You seem off somehow.

LUKE: I have no idea what you mean.

KATIE: Maybe it's me.

LUKE: Probably is. As for me, I'm good. Always am, right?

And even if I weren't, I'd never let you know.

KATIE: That's comforting.

LUKE: But probably true. Maybe we could grab some food later this week. And talk.

(KATIE nods and smiles.)

LUKE: *(Cont'd.)* How are *you* doing, really?

KATIE: Besides the struggles to try and fit into this crap hole of a school and the utter destruction of my family, I'm good.

LUKE: Your parents are still going through with it then, I take it?

KATIE: Yep. Papers signed. No turning back now. Denial has become my best friend, no offense, and it seems to be working well. Not really.

LUKE: You don't have to go through it alone, you know.

KATIE: Says the person who just moments ago said that if there were something wrong with them, they wouldn't tell their best friend.

LUKE: Uh, I don't recall that. Besides, like I said, I'm good. You're the one who has stuff now, and I know you have your seriously depressing music but if you ever get tired of that and need someone to talk to, I'm here.

KATIE: I don't think you can help this time.

(That comment stings LUKE for a moment, but he quickly pushes it away.)

LUKE: I'd like to test that theory.

(KATIE smiles.)

End of Freeview

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