

My Life – Socially Distanced

One-act plays for in-person or virtual classroom work and performance

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ABOUT THIS COLLECTION

2020 was an unprecedented year for all of us and teens are still processing our new reality. This collection of four plays-- heartfelt, silly, absurd, and dramatic - cover a range of emotions and are perfect for virtual or in-person classroom, competition, or stage. So dive in, get creative, and keep acting! The scenes on reproducible pages may be produced in class royalty free, but a reasonable royalty fee is due when performed in front of an audience. See www.histage.com for details.

Ask Me Anything!

By Steven Stack

(1 m, 1 w)

Parker passed on going out to dinner for his birthday at his favorite restaurant. He said he didn't feel well and simply wanted to play his new game. The truth, though, was that he was hoping someone would keep her word about never missing his birthday, and, despite all odds, she did keep her word. Like she said she would.

Waiting for Mr. G.

By Dale Lisa Flint

(1 m, 1 w, 3 flexible; the casting is gender flexible)

An existential, absurdist comedy/drama based on the real-life frustrations, struggles, loneliness, and absurdity of distance learning, told from the point of view of two high school students waiting for their online class to begin. A parody of *Waiting for Godot*.

The Explosion at Party Poppers

By Steve Flowers

(5 characters; the casting is gender flexible)

There has been a huge explosion reported at Party Poppers, a local party supply store, which was fortunately closed for the day. The Channel 4 News team is in the studio and on the scene to describe the hilarious aftermath as it unfolds.

McCalister and Broom

By Jon Jory

(1 m, 2 w)

When COVID hits too close to home, a teen meets her neighbor and finds an unexpected friendship and possibly more.

Ask Me Anything!

By Steven Stack

Synopsis:

Parker passed on going out to dinner for his birthday at his favorite restaurant. He said he didn't feel well and simply wanted to play his new game. The truth, though, was that he was hoping someone would keep her word about never missing his birthday, and, despite all odds, she did keep her word. Like she said she would.

Cast:

(1 m, 1 w)

PARKER: Celebrating his 17th birthday alone because he passed on going out to dinner with family. Is Cam's best friend.

CAM: Recently went away. She has never missed her best friend Parker's birthday. Has a secret.

Original Production:

The show premiered on February 12 and 13, 2021 in Forte Studios, Mount Horeb, WI. The original cast was as follows:

CAM: Laney Evans

PARKER: Cedric Marty

Ask Me Anything!

(AT RISE: PARKER is sitting at his computer staring into his screen, perhaps playing a game. He suddenly gets a notification that someone has joined his Zoom meeting. He seems a little shocked by it. He takes a moment, then decides to let the person come into the meeting. He waits for a moment, and then CAM enters. Parker seems taken aback by her. She smiles at him, but neither speaks for a moment.)

CAM: Happy birthday, Parker! I would sing but, as you well know, I have a terrible voice.

PARKER: Thanks, and it's okay. And as you know, people singing to me makes me uncomfortable.

(SHE smiles at HIM. Silence. Both seem unsure of what to say. Cam, sensing how uncomfortable Parker is, decides to play their favorite game.)

CAM: Okay, there's only one thing I know that will help this awkwardness. A round of "Ask Me Anything!" You first.

(PARKER stares at HER, smiles, and then begins considering what to ask.)

PARKER: Okay. How are you here?

CAM: *(Shrugs.)* No idea. My turn. Why are you spending your birthday alone in front of your computer instead of, I don't know, anything else?

PARKER: Well, technically I'm not alone because you're here. And my parents did make reservations at Groucho's, but I told them I didn't feel like going. So, they took Kayla, and they all went out for my birthday.

CAM: But you love Groucho's.

PARKER: I do but, I ...

CAM: Did you miss it for this?

PARKER: Yeah. And I always would. *(Silence.)* Plus, you said you would never miss one of my birthdays, so I took a chance.

CAM: Looks like it paid off. *(Smiles. Silence.)* I was surprised you kept the link going. I figured you would have...

PARKER: *(Shakes his head.)* No. *(Silence.)*

CAM: Just so you know, I didn't have a chance to get you a present.

PARKER: That's okay. You gave me enough awesome presents to last a lifetime. Besides, all my presents for you have been terrible.

CAM: That's not true.

PARKER: Seriously?

CAM: Okay. They always were pretty awful, but they were from you. Plus, I kept every one.

PARKER: You did?

CAM: Yep. Every one. I used to look at them when I was sad because, no matter what, they always made me laugh.

PARKER: *(Smiles.)* About how terrible they were?

CAM: Yeah.

(THEY laugh. Silence.)

CAM: *(Cont'd.)* I miss laughing with you.

PARKER: Me too.

(Silence.)

CAM: How have you been?

PARKER: I don't know. Typical teenage angst multiplied by a lot. You? *(CAM doesn't answer, but PARKER understands.)* I'm sorry. *(CAM smiles. Searching for something to say.)* I have Mr. Hart again.

CAM: Seriously? *(PARKER nods.)* Did you fail geometry? For a second time?

PARKER: *(Nods yes.)* You would think they would've given me a sympathy pass but no. But what do you expect? I lost the one person who kept me from failing everything since fourth grade.

CAM: I guess I expected you to spread your wings.

PARKER: Well, I did end up with a C minus in art. Not that I'm bragging.

CAM: Probably shouldn't since everyone who shows up to art gets at least a C minus.

PARKER: Really? *(CAM nods.)* Humph. Consider my wings un-spread. If you were still here, I bet I would be a solid B minus student. *(CAM smiles.)* And a lot less pathetic.

CAM: You are not pathetic.

PARKER: *(Shakes his head.)* No, I totally am. I'm not the same without you around. *(PARKER avoids eye contact with CAM.)* Nothing is.

CAM: *(Taken aback somewhat by his honesty.)* Oh. *(Silence as Cam seems about to break down.)* Hey, I've been meaning to tell you something. For years, actually.

PARKER: What about?

CAM: The first time we met.

PARKER: Ah, yes. That glorious day where I cost my team the soccer championship by kicking the ball into our goal. It was a nice touch for the entire team to yell at me as I cried in the center of the field.

CAM: And your stupid coach didn't stop them. That's why I did.

PARKER: Instead of celebrating with your team. I've never seen a grown man run away from a nine-year-old.

CAM: I was a scary nine-year-old.

PARKER: You were. *(HE smiles. Silence.)* You know, I get why you scared them away, but why did you stay afterward and sit with a crying me, when it was something that clearly made you uncomfortable.

CAM: I don't know. You were alone and sad. *(Silence.)* Mainly, though, it was because you did the same thing for me first.

PARKER: What are you talking about?

CAM: What I wanted to tell you about. About the first time we met. It wasn't at the soccer game.

PARKER: Yeah, it was.

CAM: Nope. It was two years earlier. On my first Halloween in St. Claire.

PARKER: I don't—

CAM: You had no idea it was me.

PARKER: Hold on. Seriously?

CAM: *(Nods.)* Yeah. You were the ostrich without a mask.

PARKER: Ah, the year of the ostrich. I wanted to be a dinosaur, but they were all out, so my mom made me be an ostrich because ... she hated me? No idea. *(Silence.)* I didn't wear the mask because it was made of real ostrich feathers and made me sneeze. A lot.

CAM: You were really cute.

PARKER: Half human, half ostriches are always cute. *(Laughter.)* What were you?

CAM: I was the ice cream cone who spent the entire night falling because my costume, which I could not take off, was too big, and Kate, my dear older sister, left me to hang with friends. So...

PARKER: Wait, you were the strawberry ice cream cone that...

CAM: Was sitting alone in tears that no one could see because someone had stolen all her candy after she fell for the 50th time. And you came up and gave me all your candy without saying a word.

PARKER: And I tried to sit down with you...

CAM: But I sent you away angrily.

PARKER: *(Smiles.)* You did. *(Silence.)*

CAM: It meant the world to me though. What seven-year-old gives up all his Halloween candy to someone they don't even know?

PARKER: I did keep a Starburst. Yellow.

CAM: Well, I take it all back then. *(THEY laugh.)* No one had ever done something that nice for me. *(Silence.)* After that, every time I saw you at school, I wanted to talk to you and say thank you, but I couldn't make myself.

PARKER: Why?

CAM: My issues with people being kind to me started at a very early age, and I also didn't want you to feel sorry for me because, after that night, I knew we would be best friends. Don't know how, I just knew. And, in my seven-year-old mind, best friends had to start on equal footing. So...

PARKER: The soccer game.

CAM: Yeah. To be clear, it wasn't the main reason I sat by you that day, but it was a big part. I know it doesn't make sense, but...

PARKER: It doesn't have to make sense to me. It makes sense to you, so that's all that matters. *(Silence.)* What if that opportunity never came up, though?

CAM: I was too stubborn to believe that it wouldn't. Knowing what I know now though, it makes me regret...

PARKER: But you were right. It happened.

CAM: Yeah, but wasted time is still wasted time.

PARKER: We didn't know then. *(Silence.)* All right, let's have another round of "Ask Me Anything!" I'm going first. Why, after we were on equal footing, did you still not tell me?

CAM: Oh, that's a good one. At first it was because I wasn't comfortable talking about it and then I figured that, at some point, the perfect time would come up to tell you. I almost told you on our last night together, but I didn't want to ruin the mood. I figured we would have many more days and nights that I could ruin by telling you.

End of Freeview

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