

**CONTEXTUAL NOTE:**

*This play consists of dozens of moments – narratively unrelated scenes – separated into three sections. This 10-page sample occurs in the third section, and ends just before the final moment of the play occurs.*

**STRAY CAT**

- How do you think she  
What do you think happened?
- I think she just died.
- But how?  
She didn't seem old.  
She didn't seem sick.
- I'm not like a cat expert.
- She didn't seem wounded or anything.
- Yeah, I don't know.  
I think she just died.
- She just died.
- Yeah.
- That's sad.
- I guess.
- It is! It's sad.
- Sure.
- What?
- Nothing.  
Just.  
It's a little funny.
- What?
- Just that we're going through all this  
Like, this is a lot of work for an animal we didn't know.
- We knew her.
- We didn't know her.

- We knew her. She was basically our cat.  
If you think about it.
- That's a  
That's an insane thing to say about this cat.
- But if you think about it.
- We didn't know this cat.
- We did so!
- She was a stranger cat.  
She was a gross, dirty stray.
- Yeah, but she was *our* gross, dirty stray.
- Okay.
- Come on, we talked about her all the time.  
Didn't we talk about her all the time?
- Yeah. We said things like, "I wanna kill that goddamn cat."
- Okay, well
- "If that goddamn cat doesn't shut up, I'm going to
- Well, that was  
Okay, but she like,  
Yowled  
All night. It was
- It was awful.
- And I get up for work at like
- I know.
- But that doesn't mean  
I wouldn't have
- I'm just saying we're very good people for doing this.
- What else would we  
She was all alone.
- I know.

- She had, like no one.  
No one to love her. Or care about her.
- I know.
- We're not monsters.  
We're not just gonna  
This is the right thing to do.
- You're right. Of course, you're right.  
I'm just saying it's a lot of work that we're doing for this Thing that we had no connection to,  
and I think a lot of people wouldn't do the work that we're doing, and I think we're good people  
for doing it.
- Oh.  
Yeah.  
We are. We're really good people.
- That's all I'm saying.
- ...
- ...
- No one digs graves anymore.
- What do you  
People dig graves.
- No, they don't.  
No one digs graves anymore.
- Well, they have those whatever. The machines.
- That's not what I  
Those are strangers. And those are machines.  
I mean, like people. Loved ones.
- What are you talking about.
- I dunno.  
The funeral industrial complex.
- Okay.
- It just feels too  
Easy.
- It's not easy. It's not easy to mourn.

- No, I know. I know.  
What I'm saying is maybe this is why.
- ...
- When you die, I'm going to dig the hole.  
The grave.  
With a shovel.  
I'll say something nice, too.

## HOSPITAL

- She's so...  
Small.
- Yeah.
- I never thought of her as  
She was always this
- Yeah.
- Is she in there?  
Do you think?
- No.  
There's no
- I know, but  
I don't know.  
What if she can hear us?
- She can't.
- But what if she can?
- I dunno.  
What if? So what?
- ...
- ...
- I think  
I dunno.  
...  
Hello?  
Are you in there?  
Can you hear me?

If you can hear me...  
I dunno, twitch your eyelid or something.  
...

- I don't think she can
- No, me neither.
- ...
- ...
- Do you wanna
- Fuck you.
- ...
- Fuck you!
- Okay
- Fuck you, fucker!
- ...
- I'm glad you're sick.  
I'm glad I'm here and you're there.  
Fuck you.  
Fuck you.  
You fucking narcissist.
- ...
- ...
- Feel better?
- I dunno.  
Yeah.  
I think so.

## **TRYING NOT TO CRY**

*There is a Powerpoint projected on a screen. The graphics are very impressive. There is a person giving a presentation. They are trying not to cry.*

*Periodically, the person's phone rings in their pocket.*

- Well.  
Okay.

First of all, I just want to thank you all for allowing me to be here and to give this presentation today. It's a distinct honor and thank you for letting me have this

Privilege.

Our focus today is on integrating our team members with the associates and managerial level staff members across all regional locations through an integrated platform with instant communication, shared calendars, and various live-updating data management that will increase productivity and communication while reducing redundancies and miscommunication.

Excuse me.

Our intent is to roll this out in a few, targeted locations and scale the project upward as unforeseen roadblocks are encountered and ironed out.

The solution addresses a lot of problems that we face

That we face and have been facing across all departments. Over the last year, our regional locations have lost an average of one team member every three months. With a mandate of four team members per location, this kind of turnover can be devastating to cohesion and unity among

...

...

*There is a pause.*

I'm sorry.  
I

*The person exits.*

## **GRAVESTONE**

- I don't think  
Something's wrong here.
- It's beautiful.  
They did a beautiful job.
- This isn't right.
- It looks great.

- No, it looks great but
- What?
- Jesus.  
This is unbelievable.
- What?
- This is absolutely  
This isn't where she was buried.
- What?  
No.
- Look.  
Aunt Sharon is over there.
- Yeah?
- And Grandma Ruth is over there.
- Yeah?
- So?  
Remember the funeral? We were
- Oh my god.
- She's right here.
- Wait.
- Not over there.
- Oh my god.
- Right?
- You're right.  
Oh my god.
- Unbelievable.
- How does this  
You'd think with all the money we're spending to maintain
- Just unbelievable.

- Is this what perpetual care means?  
Is this what
- Such a simple thing to get right, you'd think.
- You know what?  
When I die, do me a favor and don't bury me in a cemetery.
- Seriously.
- I mean, they have one job.
- Tell me about it.
- ...
- ...
- Still, the stone looks really
- Yeah, they did a very nice job.

## **END OF THE WORLD**

- Wow.
- So this is how it ends, huh?
- I guess so.
- This is not how I was expecting it to go down.
- How did you expect it to go down?
- I always thought it'd be um  
I dunno.  
Fast?  
Unexpected.
- Nuclear?
- Yeah.  
Or meteor.  
Something catastrophic.
- Yeah.  
I dunno, this feels fitting.
- How so?

- I dunno.  
I think most big things that happen in life...  
A lot of them don't feel big at the time.  
A lot of them just feel like things, and we don't feel the impact until
- Right right.
- Like if you think about it,  
This moment  
This ending  
The seeds of this were planted like
- Oh yeah, totally.
- Way back.  
This was inevitable.  
And we didn't even
- We had no idea.
- Until it was too late.
- Yeah.
- Yeah.
- ...
- ...
- You sad?
- Um.  
Sure.
- Scared?
- Of course.
- You seem
- Well.  
No use being hysterical at this point, right?
- I guess not.

## **THE NEWS IS RUINING AMERICA**

*Someone is watching television in the dark.*

*It is a news report from whatever the most recent mass shooting in the U.S. was.*

*They watch and watch and watch.*

## INTERLUDE THREE

*There is music, preferably live.*

*The following moments can happen in any order.*

*They can be broken up.*

*They can be stretched out.*

*They can be collaged together.*

*They can overlap.*

*Many can (and should) occur multiple times in using different configurations.*

*The idea is that we see a tapestry of emotional qualities and contexts within similar constructs.*

*How long you spend in each moment – and in this interlude as a whole – is up to you.*

### MOMENTS:

- a) A hospital room.
  - Steady beeps of a heart monitor.
  - There is at least one person in the bed, unresponsive.
  - There is nobody else there.
  - Or there is one person there.
  - A family member.
  - Or a friend.
  - Maybe there are two people.
  - No more than three.
  - They have been here many times before.
  - This is part of a routine.
  - Or this is their first time.
  - This is new.
  - They have been here for a long time.
  - Or they have just arrived.
  - It is day.
  - Or it is night.

*This interlude ends with nothing but the sustained tone of a heart monitor telling us that someone has slipped away.*