

OUTSIDE

BY SHAURYA SINGH

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OUTSIDE

Short Play by Shaurya Singh

We open with five people Jim, Tina, Samuel, Claire and Edgar on stage.

Jim: we have to get out of here!

Tina: yes we have to... but how?

Jim: I know there is a way.

Samuel: If we just do what He wants us to do...

Claire: And then he'll let us go?

Samuel: yeah I'm sure he will

Jim: yes, that's why we have been put here

Tina: maybe you are right

Edgar: that's bullshit... who is this He? Who has put us here? Don't be ridiculous

Jim: Listen Edgar... if you have some bright ideas, lets here them, don't just go on being negative just for the sake of it.

Samuel: please don't fight... what if He hears us?

Edgar: Stop being so scared Samuel... there is nobody... there is no reason, no purpose to this

Claire: That doesn't make sense, there has got to be a reason

Jim: there is... we have been put here to do something

Tina: I'm feeling trapped

Samuel: yes... we are trapped

Claire: so what are we supposed to do Jim?

Jim: I don't know

Tina: I hope it's not something perverted

Jim: I don't know... maybe we are supposed to say something

Claire: or sing it?

Jim: no no... we have to say something... the right thing

Samuel: we are all going to die

Edgar: hahaha... Samuel! That's first intelligent thing you've said

Tina: I don't want to die

Jim: Tina... we are not gonna die...

Claire: but what... what are we gonna do?

Jim: Edgar... I know you don't believe us... but we need you

Edgar: hmmm... in what way?

Jim: just pretend... pretend you are HIM...

Edgar: so there is the imaginary person... and I have to be him?

Jim: Yes... and then think like him... if you were him what would you want us to do

Edgar: Hmmm... okay...

Samuel: I feel ... you know... we are being watched

Claire: I feel it too... why are we being watched? Maybe he just likes to watch?

Tina: Just watch? That can't be... there had got to be something we can do to get out of here.

Jim: Tina! Edgar will tell us what to do

Tina: how do you know my name Jim?

Jim: aren't we together?

Tina: Together? What like a couple?

Jim: Perhaps...

Tina: I hope he is not expecting us to have sex here

Jim: No Tina... that's ridiculous... let's focus now.... Edgar tell us

Edgar: Tell me what you think and I'll tell you if it makes sense

Claire: okay, I'll go first... I think he wants us to make some music... to sing and dance

Edgar: Hmm.. I don't know... Sam, what do you think?

Samuel: I think he will torture us and kill us all

Edgar: Samuel relax

Samuel: I don't understand how you are so calm? Can't you see that something really bad has happened...

Claire: something bad?

Samuel: Yes Claire... something really really bad... and something even worse is about to happen

Jim: Don't listen to him Claire... we are gonna get out of this... lets figure it out

Tina: I think He wants us to tell jokes... make him laugh

Jim: you mean some stand up comedy? Edgar, is that right?

Edgar: If I was him I'd be laughing at you already, I don't need you to tell jokes!

Samuel: how dare you? You put us here and laugh at our misery??

Edgar: hey bro.. chill... I'm just pretending to be Him remember?

Jim: Yes... he is pretending... so tell us what do you want us to do?

Edgar: Hmmmm... I want you to confess your deepest... darkest... your...

Jim: that's right... let me go first...

Samuel: This whole world is too loosely constructed... its gonna fall apart any moment

Claire: Shut up Samuel... let Jim talk

Edgar: What I want to see is a striptease, an emotional striptease... get naked, get vulnerable

Tina: I'm not doing that... I don't like this idea

Claire: so you wanna be stuck here? Like this? We all have to do it... there is no other option

Samuel: I'm tired of being scared... its exhausting... can someone else play me?

Edgar: Samuel! Wow! That was great... that's the kind of realism we need... but I'll get to you... I want Jim to start this exercise..

Jim: Sure ... hmmm... okay... Steve was a colleague of mine... we both started off in the company together, even gave our interviews together... but he was dumb... not like stupid, you know, but not smart enough... I did call him stupid Steve though...

Edgar: So you took advantage of him? Made him do all the work and took all the credit...

Jim: Yeah, and finally when he realized what I was doing, I framed him for stealing and got him fired... but that's not what this is about... I saw him a year later with his wife, they looked so madly in love... I wish I would have loved someone like that... like Stupid Steve

Tina: we a group of six girls... close as sisters... we did everything together, school, university... once we were at a party... and we found a guy... very cute... his name was Max, I think he was from Russia ... so cute he was... much younger than us of course, we were almost done with university by then, he must have been someone's younger brother...

Samuel: I like where this story is going... did you do naughty things with him in a room?

Tina: Shut up Samuel... that's not what this is about... and yes we did... we were very drunk... but after that night we never spoke to each other again... I lost my best friends that night... I wish I could meet them...

Samuel: It was raining that night... He came home staggering and stumbling like he did each day... it wasn't new... maybe, he had a few more drinks than usual... I was watching TV... some cartoon... and he pulled me by hair and threw me on the floor... then he kicked me.... Three times...

Tina: Your father? That's horrible... what an evil man...

Samuel: But that's not what this is about Tina... I have never expressed emotions... something inside me died, I became numb, terrified, but numb... I wish I had expressed what I felt...

Claire: I was 13 years old, one evening nobody was home, and found the keys to our old car that nobody really used anymore, they were planning to sell it off... I got into the drivers seat and put the gear in neutral, the driveway was sloping and before I knew it the car backed up and crashed into the gate... Dad was so angry with me "you are not my daughter", you cant be." he said

Jim: Did he punish you?

Claire: He did, he locked me up in the bathroom for a whole day... but that's not what this is about... I wanted to be a singer, and ever since that day, I gave up that dream ... like a penance, because I knew he didn't like it... I wish I could sing...

Edgar: All I ever wanted was to be successful... we were three partners and we had just found an amazing scientist who had invented a solution for traffic management in urban cities... it would bring down congestion by 27% and even reduce pollution levels by 12%... it was brilliant. And we were all marketing guys, we could make this the next big thing.

Claire: Did you make it big?

Edgar: Yes... the money was pouring in... but that's not what this is about... is it? I lost 14 years on this project, only to see that it's not the big things that give happiness, it's the little things... the sound of my daughter laughing, the anecdotes my dad loved to tell at every gathering, the aroma of my mother's cooking, the thrill in my wife's eyes when I came home to her, the smell of the first rain, the feeling of

accomplishment on growing a plant, playing with my dog Lucas, watching a play that touched me, reading a poem from ancient times... I wish I had focused on those little things!

A man dressed in robe enters the stage.

Claire: Hmm... do you think it's worked? Is this Him?

Terminator: I'm not Him... Enough... stop now... time is up... time to go back inside...

Samuel: So we are free to go?

Terminator: free to go? I said go back inside... you know you can come out again tomorrow. For now time is up.

Edgar: We did well right? Will He see us now?

Terminator: I don't know ... Everyone is waiting to see Him.