

(Mini StagePlay: Drama)

Ānanda

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Death makes life harder.

Sample Script

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INT. THERAPISTS OFFICE - DAY

THERAPIST; woman, professional ~35
sits in chair, eyes closed -
meditating; sighs, smiles, opens eyes,
gets up, goes to door, opens door.

THERAPIST

Hello, Dr. Thomas, come in please.

DR. THOMAS, ~55 man, kind looking,
enters. He sits on the sofa. The
therapist then sits in her chair.

THERAPIST (CONT'D)

How was your week?

DR. THOMAS

Ahh yes, the question: How was my week. Well, about the
same, not the greatest. You know, about the same as last
week, but a little worse; which is kinda like the week
before. It's not getting better, I wish it was, really, but
it's not.

THERAPIST

That's too bad. What's been happening?

DR. THOMAS

Well, the same old thing. I don't know if you can tell, but
I've been putting a few more streaks in my hair. I bought
some more shoes. I've also started painting tiny cartoons
on my nails, with polish. But real small; you really need a
magnifying glass to see them. Oh yeah, I've also been
thinking about painting on my scalp, under the hair, you
know, so noone can see.

(beat)

Also, I started chuckling a little bit when I had to tell
this Polish couple that their daughter would probably be
infertile due to a burn she received.

THERAPIST

Let's talk about that...

DR. THOMAS

Well, it's the same thing, I guess. Trying to deal with the
emotions, escaping the brutality of the situation. It's
just...

THERAPIST

Yes?

DR. THOMAS

Well, these two, the parents, when they went to hold each other they kinda bumped their heads real hard, and then the old guy gave out this Polish curse, I guess, and it sounded like "cunt". And then I started thinking about the girls genitalia being like an oven, or a toaster, with the toast burning and her... god, do I have to go on?

THERAPIST

What do you think these feelings are trying to tell you?

DR. THOMAS

I need a holiday?

THERAPIST

Yes, of course.

DR. THOMAS

Yes, fine. The hospital is working on giving me next summer off. Until then we better fix this problem of mine. The holidays don't seem to help that much anyway.

THERAPIST

Are you taking the prozac?

DR. THOMAS

Yes.

THERAPIST

But no change in the condition?

DR. THOMAS

No, I even had a minor break down last Tuesday with this patient. He was afraid that he may have contracted spinal meningitis, but the lab results were negative.

THERAPIST

Lucky him!

DR. THOMAS

Yes, but when I told him I saw that he was quite scared for a while. He looked like he was on the verge of tears. And he was, in a way, reaching out to me; asking me about religion and what religion I was.

THERAPIST

Yes.

DR. THOMAS

But after I told him he was clear, he kind of went rigid, like he was ashamed of himself. I was that and as soon as he left I broke down and cried. Later I painted a little picture of a Buddha touching his chest on my big toe nail.

THERAPIST

This need you have to help people with pain, do you see it as something not within your control?

DR. THOMAS

Yes, yes. It's just that sometimes I see that the hospital environment is so devoid of life. Devoid of color, you know? All the rooms are the same, all the floors, everybody starts to look the same.

THERAPIST

Yes.

DR. THOMAS

We don't give life there, we just try to kill death. Sometimes I really fell a need to liven it up. Even if it means hiding it from everyone else.

THERAPIST

I'm afraid that I have some bad news for you.

DR. THOMAS

What is it?

THERAPIST

It seems that I will not be able to council you past the end of this month. They've discovered a tumor deep in my cerebellum. I don't have too much time left and I thought that I'd go visit my mother.