
Scenes & Monologues For Zoom

online classes, rehearsals, performances



By Larry Silverberg

Scenes / Monologues for Zoom:
Online Classes, Rehearsals, Performances.

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A True Acting Institute Book

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Introduction



Scenes & Monologues for Zoom

When the world started to make the transition to online classes, I began to write scenes and monologues that happen between two people who are separated because of the virus. I wanted to embrace the reality of two people sitting in front of a webcam, using Zoom, rather than creating scenes that were supposed to happen with two people who are actually supposed to be together in a specific location.

As I worked with students on the scripts I had written, meeting on Zoom, the work got more and more exciting and the possibility of working this way blossomed beautifully. The students enjoyed the work and, as I recorded their final performances, the results were compelling.

Here are 16 monologues and 10 scenes. Many can be done by any gender. The monologues are all appropriate for high school and college students. The scenes are a mix of ages. I invite you to change any of the names in the monologues and scenes to make them work for any particular situation.

This book comes with permission, for teachers, to send copies of the content to your students, to work on and to video tape and post online. Please send me your feedback and, if you do post any videos, please share them with me! You can reach me at:

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The Monologues

Monologue 1

Male or Female

He or She talks to Mom who is still in the hospital.

Mama, When you come home tomorrow, you're gonna see a true spic and span kitchen, my room's like award winning, Dad says I'm like all transformed, like I finally saw the light but I wasn't lookin' for compliments or nothing just that when they had you laying in your belly on the breathing machine I had a long talk with God, like a real hard talk, and he took these curtains offa' my eyes, like curtains been pulled down over my eyes all these years, couldn't see what meant anything in this world to me and of course number one was you Mama, never said it to you before, I know now, clear as day, I gotta say it more... Still want you to hold my hand, I know it's silly, but I do, when you get your energy back, just wanna go to the park with you and you holdin' my hand... That's all I want, that's all I want right now.

Monologue 2

Male or Female

He or She talks to Grandmother who is not up to speed on the whole Zoom thing...

Nana, Nana can you hear me? Nana, turn up your hearing aid, turn it up, Nana, and try to sit still, can you sit still? And just look at the camera okay? Okay? Can you hear me now? Nana... Nana... can you hear me now? Nana, Nana look in the camera, the camera, do you see the little green light at the top of the screen? Nana... Nana... Say something so I know you can hear me... No come back, come back... You still there? Do you hear me? I can't see you Nana, come back by the computer... Ok, look at the camera... If you can hear me Nana, give me a thumbs up, if you can hear me give me a thumbs up, a thumbs up, Ok, that's good, Nana, just wanted to make sure you remember me, Ok? Please stay in the house and we can talk right here, all day long if you want, K? I don't have nothing to do, nothing that really needs my attention and we can just sit here and I will talk with you and if you want, you can take the laptop and put it right next to the couch and you lay down and I will sing to you and you can rest your eyes a little and I will sing to you like this (sings a lullabye) Remember Nana? Remember how you sang that to me? (sings it again)...

Monologue 3

Male or Female

He or She talks to a best friend...

Crystal, I talked to my mom and she said no way is she letting you in the house, not now, not next month, not until they get the vaccine and she won't let me out of here right now, she won't even let me in the backyard right now cause the guy next door's sick and she says just him breathing can send his germs on the airwaves over our way, so she's been spraying the whole house down in here with that Lysol, can hardly see through the clouds of that Lysol in here, she's got so many cans, I know she'll be spraying until they get that vaccine, and she's been mopping these floors every ten minutes and that crap smells worse than the Lysol, which means I'm going to be breathing in all this stuff until, could be two years. Probably will kill me, yeah, I'll be the first casualty from the cleaning supplies, Crystal. Get me outta' here would ya?

Monologue 4

Male or Female

He or She talks to a best friend...

I'm so lonely, I'm so lonely... My dad's been sleeping all day, don't get dressed don't cook, eat's a few pretzels... Think he's lost a bunch of weight, goes to the bathroom and back to his room and he doesn't say word and Emmy's hanging on me all day long and we've been eating frozen waffles, but there's only three left and I'm afraid that Dad's never going to get to Publix, so I might have to just take his credit card and me and Emmy'll have to walk there ourselves. I don't mean to be complaining so much, really sorry, don't want to sound so stupid, not now.

Monologue 5

Male or Female

He or She talks to a best friend...

Man this whole thing is a big scam, Tim, it's a scam. I mean they get the professional wrestlers back to work, they got the tests going to the movie stars, the whole task force man, they all got stock in that malaria drug and I know for sure they want to get rid of all the old people, just wipe out all the old people including my grandma, your grandma and your grandpa, get rid of all of them so they don't have to pay the Social Security. It's a scam man and as long as they can play golf go drinking on their party boats... Believe me Tim, somebody up there on the Hill knows what this is, where it comes from and why they want us all sick and jobless. Someone knows, not you and not me, but somebody does.

Monologue 6

Male or Female

He or She talks to a best friend...

Feeling really bad right now, mom was stressing out about grandpa, I mean I was stressing too but when she pulled me back in the door, I just screamed at her, didn't mean to, just was suddenly screaming and she started crying and she ran up to her room and I went out and I got the mail and I wiped down every envelope for her and then I made us a banana shake and went and knocked on her door but she won't open it and she's not answering, so I came down and drank it alone. I hope grandpa's going to be okay I mean he's not sick yet, not that we know, but his heart sure wouldn't hold up and that's what's making her so upset all day long 'cause he won't stay in his house, doesn't think this thing is real, says he's been through worse and if it's his time, it's his time.

Monologue 7

Male or Female

He or She talks to a best friend...

Look Frank it's a flu, it is a flu, you understand? I'm ignoring the whole thing. I've been to the store four times and I'm not wearing a mask, I don't care about those dirty looks I get, I'm not wearing no gloves, I'm not staying six feet away from nobody, come on man it's a flu, you get a flu shot? Huh? I never get a flu shot, I ain't never ever getting a flu shot, what, putting that crap into your bloodstream, for what? I ain't doing no testing, I ain't going to be all nervous and scared, I'm working my shifts, it's curbside pickup only now, you believe that? Busier than ever! I'm shaking hands with whoever wants to shake me back. I'm strong, I'm healthy, I am giving into none of this propaganda bull man, no way, no how, no way.

Monologue 8

Female

She talks to her boyfriend...

I love you, I love you, I love you! I think you're even cuter on zoom! Makes you look like a movie star, really you belong in Hollywood, you got the perfect movie star look, your teeth, your nose is just classic, look like a Greek statue . When you smile, you got that movie star set of teeth, I'd bet you never even got a cavity. God sure made a perfect specimen when he made you, can't wait to get my arms around you, won't be too long now I'm thinking. We'll be back in school walking down the hall holding hands and everyone looking at me with envy, can't wait for that day, can't wait.

Monologue 9

Male or Female

He or She talks to a best friend...

Crashed my bike into a brick wall last night. I went over to the neighbors house and I stood at his door, that creep who made my little sister cry, mean son of a you know what and I started coughing on purpose real loud until he came to the door and when he opened it, I just stood their coughing, spraying my germs all over him and he picked up a stick and starts chasing me, so I took off on my bike and he's chasing me down Hewlett Avenue and then I look back and he's getting real close, grabbing onto my seat, so I pedal extra hard I look back again and he fell and his face is all bloody and then wham I hit that wall and I totaled my bike man, lucky I didn't crack my skull, guess I'll have to walk from now on.

Monologue 10

Male or Female

He or She talks to a best friend...

Tell me a secret that you never told anyone in your whole life, tell me one when you think about it, you start shaking inside if anyone ever found out, tell me a secret wish, something you're afraid might never come true, something that if it never happens would mean your whole life was one big waste of air... Come on, you tell me one and then i'll share one with you, I'll tell you mine, I will tell you my secret wish, because I got one, yeah I got one so big, it's so big Marianne, it's going to shake this earth off its axis.

Monologue 11

Female

She talks to a best friend...

So I just wake up and I hear something outside my window like a scratching noise and first, I thought it was a dream, I mean I'm having this dream and I see Billy scratching my window with his fingernails and I get up and I open the window and he climbs in and we sit down on the floor and he's shuffling a deck of cards then he starts making this house of cards and he tells me to hold my breath so I don't blow the cards over and he's got like five levels high and he looks over at me and me I'm still holding my breath and then he leans over right over the top of those cards, and they're all swaying in the breeze, and he comes real close and he gives me the most gentle little kiss on my cheek, on this cheek, he kisses me right here and then I wake up and I hear the scratching and I go to the window and the cutest little squirrel is sitting there... yeah the cutest little squirrel sitting there eating this Corn on the cob, do you believe that? A Corn on the cob.

Monologue 12

Male

He talks to a best friend...

Look man, listen, what are you complaining about? I'm sick of listening to it. This virus, it's the best thing ever happen to me. It has become clear to me, man, that the best time to be an entrepreneur is when people are desperate. I made over \$3000 in just the past five days, you hearing me? \$3280! What you want, huh? What you want, I'll buy it for you, I'll buy it for you! It's sick man, sick, I got over 200 houses in the surrounding five blocks occupied by old farts who need what huh, what? They need toilet paper, they are terrified they might sit down to do their business and they realize suddenly that they are down to the last roll. One old lady had a heart attack, they had to shock her back to life and what do you think is the first thing she says when she opens her eyes, huh? What is the first thing she says? "Harold! Did they get any toilet paper in today, Harold? Did they?" Well, Harold's paying me \$50 a roll, they all are, \$50 a roll, they leave the cash on the porch, I leave a roll of that sweet paper waiting for them. Almost \$4000 Tim, in five days! By the way, I got one role was defective, yeah, it was defective, you used it one time and it gets a funny smell. You get it? Use it one time it gets a funny smell. That's a joke Tim, it's funny. You don't get it? You use it one time, it got a funny smell, it's a joke.

Monologue 13

Male or Female

He or She talks to a best friend...

See I've been feeling down for two weeks straight but the one thing I kept doing to clear my head been going to the park every day, breathing that clean air into my lungs. So I go today and I see this big old gopher turtle, I've seen her before, watch her mowing the grass, sitting in her hole, and this time she saw me and instead of running back to her hole she comes in my direction, so I sit down on the grass, she comes over real close and I'm all excited inside and she sets herself down right in front of me, raises her head, she's got this little piece of grass hanging out of her mouth and she looks up at me, looks right in my eyes, and she smiles this big smile. I don't mean that she's got a mouth that looks like it's smiling, I mean she actually smiles this big wide grin and I start laughing and then she starts laughing and then we're laughing together out loud, together, yeah her and me, and then she puts her fat little foot right in my hand and she gets real close and she says "Don't worry", she says "Don't worry" to me and suddenly I'm crying, I don't know, crying tears of joy, and then she starts crying with me and she's gripping my finger and she says it one more time "Don't you worry Mildred, you don't have to worry no more." and then she walks away, just walks away, goes down in her hole. I told mom, I told her, and she says it's my fever, she says my fever is still high and that I didn't even go to the park today. Well I may be sick but you see, I been sneaking out every day, mom don't know, I just been sneaking out. I was at the park today alright, I was there.

Monologue 14

Male or Female

He or She talks to a best friend...

Where is God, where is God, you keep asking me where is God, look throughout history there been big problems, people dying by the millions, war, hate, evil, sadness, grief, resentment, hunger, suffering, and everyone says, "So where is God?" You got to stop pinning this on God, Hillary, you got to look deep inside yourself and ask yourself how are you living like a virus? How are you making other kids feel bad about their lives? How are you bringing any goodness and relief to all these people in your world, and I don't mean your world like the whole spinning planet we inhabit, I mean your world like me, like me for instance. When are you going to see right over here and ask yourself how are your criticisms and your judgments of my relationship with God, to see how that brings more suffering into my life? You don't see that do you? See, you are God's agent here on earth and you can either stay in the dark or you can see the light, but either way I have to protect myself from you. So don't zoom me anymore okay? Don't call or text. This is me signing off from you Hillary, over and out.

Monologue 15

Female

She talks to her boyfriend...

Marvin Close your eyes, come on, close them. I want to tell you, no keep them closed, come on keep them closed. Okay? Keep them closed until I finish what I'm going to say to you, okay just like that, alright... So I've been sitting here for three weeks now and for the first time having the time to calmly consider the basis of our relationship, I mean, what it actually is that keeps us together, you know, not convenience, not that my mom really likes you, not my fear that if I left you, I'll never have another boyfriend, not that you are the only one ever bought me flowers when I cracked my tooth last year, not any of that. What I have come to see Marvin is that the basis of our relationship is money. You have a lot of money. Your dad has a lot of money and so you have a lot of money and that's the way I like it. I like the expensive chocolates, I like driving in your Jaguar with the top-down, I like the 80 inch 4K TV you got for my room, I like that when we get to phase 3 you're going to take me to Paris, I like that, I like all of that. Okay you can open your eyes now Marvin, you can open your eyes now... Marvin...Open your eyes... Marvin wake up Marvin, wake up...

Monologue 16

Male or Female

He or She talks to a best friend...

Grandpa moved in right when they called for the lockdown, I had to give him my room, don't know why, he sits in that old rocker, watches Fox News all day and all night, he sits there and sleeps through most of it, wakes up every now and then and all he keeps saying is how this ain't so bad, how he's seen worse, calls mom for a grilled cheese, for more coffee and then he falls back asleep, and we gotta stay real quiet so as not to wake him cause you wake him he's going to bite your head off. Last night I snuck up to him, got real close to his ear and I start chanting my meditation chant, you know this one, "sarvesham svastir bhavatu, sarvesham svastir bhavatu. sarvesham svastir bhavatu", suddenly he smiles, yeah in his sleep he gets this big grin on his face like he's dreaming some real sweet dream, first time I seen him smile can't remember when, so I guess I did something good.

The Scenes

Scene 1

Kara and Mama

Mother and Daughter

(This scene can also be done with a mother and son.)

Mama: So?

Kara: There's nothing to say.

M: Come on now, tell me the good points.

K: Oh mama, I sat here like a lump.

M: First dates are always awkward, especially doing it online like you did.

K: My face was frozen, my right eye kept twitching.

M: Oh honey, that's a terrible feeling, but don't you fret the second time's a lot easier.

K: I couldn't think of a single thing to say. I had absolutely nothing to talk about. What do people talk about?

M: Chit chat mostly.

K: I don't know how to do that, that chit chat.

M: You can always ask the boy a question, ask him about him, what he likes to do, does he like sports? Cars? You know, any hobbies? Things like that.

K: I did ask him one question.

M: Well that's good, what did you ask?

K: Is he afraid of dying.

M: Oh.

K: I asked if he was afraid of letting go of his physical form and missing all the pleasures of the body when they finally put his body underground and all those little bugs eat it up and there's nothing left but a skull and a bunch of bones...

M: Now Kara.

M: ...and if he was going to be buried or if he would have his body cremated and what he wanted his family to do with his dust, put it in the ocean or off the top of a mountain...

M: Kara you promised me...

K: ...and where he thought his soul would go if there is a soul and if there is a soul does it go back home, where it came from before it inhabited his body when the sperm met the egg.

M: I thought that train of thought was all off limits now, honey.

K: Yeah.

M: Off limits now.

K: Yeah.

M: Well, what did the boy say?

K: He said he had to be up early and he got off line, he left me sitting here.

M: Well it was all off limits and you know that.

K: Mama?

M: Yes honey.

K: You still haven't told me, you gonna be cremated or what?

M: Now Kara, you have to switch your thoughts around. Didn't Dr. Simpson tell you what to do when your trouble thoughts come sneakin' back in?

K: Yeah.

M: So?

K: It doesn't work, makes it worse.

M: You have to try.

K: It doesn't work at all.

M: You said you found relief in the group you were in.

K: Just tell me, you gonna be cremated? Have you decided? Or you gonna go underground with the bugs?

M: That's enough Kara, please, I'm begging you, you have to stop. I can not do this again, I can not do it. You do what Dr. Simpson told you, you start trying harder to do what they taught you in that group and all the goodness you felt 'cause I can not go through all this again with you, I'm begging you honey. Ok? Ok?

K: Yeah.

M: Ok?

K: Yeah, ok.

M: I'm gonna go honey, gotta get to Publix by 10am, no TP after 10am just no way and I am down to a roll'a paper towels and they're a little rough on my bottom, I'll Zoom you back tonight and we'll plan a fun little outing for when the virus's all gone, when the virus's all gone honey, we'll go to the park and feed the ducks and maybe we'll see bubbles again, bubbles the duck, just like a little person, my word, bubbles the duck, 'K honey, gotta go before they run out this time... (goes off line, Kara stares at her webcam.)

Scene 2

Harry and Susan

Father and Daughter

susan: Daddy, can you hear me ok?

harry: My jarlsberg is gone.

s: Would you sit a minute?

h: I had a package of jarlsberg, Publix finally got some in, everyone's hoarding the jarlsburg and I finally snagged a package.

s: Daddy.

h: It was in my drawer, the cheese drawer i had it labeled, your mother hates the jarlsberg so that leaves you know who.

s: Well he's probably still asleep would you keep your voice down

h: This is my castle you hear me this is my castle if I want to be loud I'll be loud get up in there, get up it's the damn afternoon for goodness sake!

s: daddy

h: You listen to me, you Zoom with him, you send him to Publix to see if he can get me a pack of jarlsberg you tell him to stay the hell out of my cheese

drawer. That's my fridge, you hear me that's my fridge, that's my cheese drawer. From now on he keeps the hell out.

s: You are not listening to me.

h: I got a mole, I got a damn mole.

s: You got mold?

h: A mole, a mole, I got a mole in my house it's burrowed itself in, I can't get rid of it.

s: A mole?

h: A mole, a mole, that boyfriend's yours, he's burrowed himself in. Eating my food, peeing on my toilet, leaving his garbage everywhere. I didn't work all these years for no mole eats a pound of my jarlsberg!

s: You use his name daddy, you use his name.

h: Damn mole.

s: Say his name daddy, Jake, say it!

h: I'm sayin' it like it is, damn mole in my house.

s: Jake, Jake, you say his name, Jake, you start using his name or I am gonna stay here in Peru and you will never see me again, you hear me? I will stay here in Peru and... and... I can't feel my arms, I can't feel my arms, the room is spinning, I can't feel my arms, I can't feel my arms...

h: What the hell...

s: Daddy, daddy, I can't feel my arms, I can't feel my arms...

h: Hey, breathe, breathe, try to calm down and breathe.

s: Cold and sweaty, oh god, I can't feel my arms, oh god, I'm scared daddy, I'm scared.

h: Sweetheart, just you sit, your arms'll come back, just sit there and breathe and wait a minute they'll come back.

s: Daddy, I'm scared.

h: I know sweetheart, you just calm yourself, try to stay calm. That's it, that's it, better darling?

s: Little bit.

h: You just stay calm, 'K? You feeling your arms now?

s: Yeah... Yeah, starting to feel them.

h: Good, that's good.

s: Yeah.

h: Geez...

s: Thank you daddy.

h: Geez.

s: Thank you daddy.

h: Ok now sweetheart?

s: Yeah, feeling better now.

h: Geez.

s: Daddy?

h: Yeah, what is it my love?

s: It's about Jake and me.

h: You better talk to your mother. Esther, come out here! I got Hannah on Zoom, Esther!

s: No, she knows, she told me I had to tell you myself.

h: Oh god, what now?

s: I want you to stay calm daddy, please don't freak out when I tell you 'k ? Please don't freak out on me.

h: Oh god, would you please work it out with your mother? I'm gonna go make my coffee sweetheart, you just work all that out with your mother.

s: Daddy, mom said I have to tell you and I need you to know.

h: Oh geez, what now?

s: It's about Jake and me.

h: Oh geez, the mole, the mole.

s: Daddy, please use his name.

h: What's his name?

s: Don't be funny.

h: So what already? What's up with you and Jake?

s: Well we went and we did it.

h: Oh geez, tell your mother, would you please?

s: Daddy we got married last week, right before I left for the retreat, we went to the courthouse and we got married.

h: You got what?

s: You heard me, we got married.

h: Married? Married? You got married?

s: I asked you not to freak out on me daddy.

h: The mole? The mole? You married the mole?

s: Daddy please.

h: Gonna have little moles running around my house eating my cheese!
Bunch'a little moles eating all of my cheese!

s: Stop it! Stop it daddy!

h: Little moles peeing all over my toilet eating my cheese! My arms! My arms! I can't feel my arms! Esther! Esther! She married the mole! They're eating my cheese! Esther! She married the mole!

Scene 3

Barney and Mona

Best Friends

(This scene appeared in my book, Great Scenes, and it is adapted here for the Zoom experience.)

Barney: Hey.

Mona: Hey.

B: You shop?

M: Yeah, got in with the second group, they still had eggs and my Mom needed the half and half. The chicken was all gone but they had the frozen turkey burgers and a few bags of frozen string beans.

B: That's cool.

M: Uh huh. Did you upload my illustration?

B: Yeah, yeah, I got it in

M: Great, I didn't think the electricity would come on this quick, had a bunch of ice in the coolers all ready, but I was able to put it all in the fridge anyway, but either way, we were down to next to nothing so I had to go...

B: Yeah, you forgot to put your name on the drawing so I added it for you.

M. Oh, thanks.

B. And I loved the perspective...

M: Really?

B: Yeah, but the shading was a little heavy handed I think.

M: Yeah? Maybe you're right.

B: Yeah, did a little touching up for you.

M. You what

B. Just a bit of erasing on the right side

M: What the hell!

B: No, no, just made it a bit lighter is all.

M: Wait let me see... (she opens up Google Drive and looks,) what the hell!

B: No, just needed a bit of...

M: No! I can't hand this in now, Barney, what the hell...

B: It's ok, it's ok, I hardly touched it.

M: Don't you get it, it has to be all mine, how many times I have to tell you.

B: I know that but...

M: How many times do I have to tell you?

B: I was just trying to...

M: I can't use it now, I can't use it, why'd you go and do that?

B: 'Cause I'm nervous is why, ok, I'm nervous.

M: It's no excuse.

B: It's cause I'm very nervous.

M: So you erase my drawing?

B: I can't sleep, can't eat, walking around in a daze bumping into doors, tripping over my own feet, losing my wallet...

M: You don't just go and erase my drawing like that, you don't even know what you're erasing.

B: But you're not asking me why, Mona, you know, why I am nervous, you're not asking me.

M: I am pissed off Barney, don't you get that I am very angry with you?

B: Yeah, I get that, so ask me why for once.

M: Ok, so why, why Barney, why, what is your problem? Well? Spit it out, spit it out Barney.

B: It's 'cause I want to kiss you.

M: You what?

B: I want to kiss you Mona, I want to kiss you real bad.

M: You want to kiss me?

B: Since we were ten.

M: You want to kiss me?

B: You fell through the ice, I run to Samuel's, they come to pull you out, I'm screaming don't let her die the whole time I'm running, I'm holding on to you in Samuel's truck all the way to emergency, they can't pull me off, not even on the stretcher, I'm laying down with you all the way, wouldn't let you go I love you so much.

M: Oh.

B: Yeah.

M: Oh. Well... when this is all over, you can, you can kiss me.

B: I can't.

M: Why not?

B: If I do and you don't like it, you'll never talk to me again.

M: Who says I wouldn't like it.

B: Promise you'll talk to me.

M: I am, I'm telling you that you can kiss me.

B: Promise you decide you don't like it, you'll still talk to me after.

M: How in the world can I know anything about after when you're not kissing me yet, How can I think about something that hasn't even happened?

B: I do, that's all I do, since we were ten, thinking about what would happen if I were to kiss you.

M: Well, when this is all over you can do it for goodness sake and find out.

B: I can't..

M: Don't you want to find out?

B: You can't guarantee me the other side of the kiss I'm not taking that chance, Mona.

M: I opened my eyes, the first thing I see is your hair, feel your warm cheek on my ear, feel your breath on my neck, hear you whispering my name...

B: I wouldn't let go, not even on the stretcher, the whole way in, I wouldn't let go of you. You still mad at me, for your picture?

M: Yeah.

B. Oh.

M. Close your eyes. Close 'em and i'll close mine. Now, imagine you're kissing me. You kissing me?

B. Yeah.

M. I'm kissing you back.

B. Yeah, I feel it.

M. Me too.

B: Was it ok?

M: Yeah.

B: Yeah? It was ok?

M: Yeah, I liked that.

B: Ok. Ok, good.

Scene 4

Mark and Louise

Father and Daughter

Mark: Hi Sweetheart

Louise: Hi Daddy, got your coffee?

M: Yes, honey, right here.

L: Me too, see?

M: Mmm Hmm...

L: Daddy, I'm so lonely.

M: Me too, I miss you, miss you so much.

L: Good to see your face, thank goodness they finally got me back online over here, campus is basically deserted now, but they got the internet going again.

M: Good to see your beautiful face.

L: You're biased.

M: Come on, it's true. it's true you little pumpkin you.

L: You're just biased. Daddy?

M: Yeah.

L: Been thinking about Mama, like a lot right now. Wishing about her, dreaming about her too.

M: She loved you dearly.

L: Wish she could have seen me.

M: All she could talk about was how she imagined you'd be.

L: Wish she could have seen me.

M: Me too.

L: Been keeping this photo of her in my purse, studying it, looking at it. Seems to me, I am missing her now more than I ever did...

M: (sips coffee) Louise?

L: Yeah.

M: Louise, I need to tell you something.

L: When you say you have to tell me something again, I got this big alarm bell going off in my head.

M: No sweetie, just have to tell you now, just that this virus has me very, very nervous and I'm thinking it's really gotta be right now...

L: Daddy, please, now you got me shaking inside, what is it, what's wrong?

M: Just let me get these words outta my mouth, Lew...

L: Well, go 'head.

M: See... I was married previously.

L: You what?

M: Yeah, I was married before I met your Mama and...

L: You were married?

M: Yes, please, yes, just let me get this over with honey, see, I was with this girl, she was 16, I was dumb and scared, a pipsqueak, she got pregnant and...

L: You had a kid?

M: Yes.

L: You had a kid before me?

M: Yes, yes I did.

L: Well, what kind of a kid?

M: A little boy.

L: A boy?

M: Yes.

L: Well, where is he?

M: Well...

L: Where is he Daddy?

M: He died.

L: Oh.

M: Yes.

L: Oh... Daddy?

M: Yes?

L: What was his name?

M: Charles, Charlie.

L: And where's the Mom?

M: Don't know.

L: You don't know?

M: No.

L: Oh.

M: Lew?

L: Yes?

M: I want you to see this. You see this?

L: Yes. Looks like an old stick.

M: It is, it's a stick, honey, I saved it, hid it away all these years, see, this girl I was with, Bonnie, she had a temper, a mean streak and one day she just picked this up, this stick and she hit my little Charlie on the head, she didn't know I was watching from the porch window, but I was, I saw her do it, she didn't say anything 'bout it to me, but Charlie didn't look good and Bonnie was passed out on crack and I took Charlie to the emergency room and well, he didn't make it, and when I

got home, Bonnie was gone, learned later it wasn't her real name so the marriage was no good anyway and I was scared cause her daddy had guns and so I never said anything to nobody... Until right now. But see honey, today, this morning, I got all scared that if I got sick over here, being all alone like I am, and you being over there, I got real scared that if I go and disappear from this earth, that you would find this stick in my closet and be wondering for the rest of your life what in the world was up with your poor old Daddy.

L: Daddy

M: Yes.

L: I'm sorry.

M: I know.

L: Daddy

M: Yes, honey.

L: Did Mama know?

M: Never told her. Never told no one what Bonnie did to my little Charlie. There was no funeral or nothin', my mom and dad already gone and grandma in the home and all.

L: Daddy.

M: Yes.

L: I'm sorry.

M: Honey, a little dizzy, think I need to go lay down for a bit.

L: Oh, ok.

M: Zoom you tomorrow sweetheart, gonna lay down for a bit.

L: Ok...

Scene 5

Hannah and Jake

Girlfriend and Boyfriend

j: (he eats his sandwich) Hannah, Hannah listen carefully listen very carefully now, are you with me?

h: Yes, honey.

j: No, I mean are you fully with me Hannah?

h: Yes, honey.

j: You're not thinking about other matters? You're not distracted, thinking about your hair or how much weight you gained, you're actually with me now?

h: I am sweetie. I am with you 100%.

j: I mean right now.

h: Yes I am.

j: Right now?

h: Yes, right now.

j: Because I've had a new opening and it's big Hannah, it's so big that it actually made me shake inside, it made me actually shake because as I sat inside this opening, it all suddenly made sense.

h: Wow honey, wow.

j: ...and there is a responsibility that comes along with being given the ultimate clarity, there is a profound responsibility and I know I have to protect the gift and I have to protect myself.

h: Yes you do, you must protect yourself.

j: No, I don't think you understand the magnitude of the responsibility.

h: Oh honey, I do, I do, of course I do.

j: What? You think I am Tony Robbins? You think I am just another Tony robbins?

h: Oh no, honey, you are not just another Tony Robbins.

j: He's a packager, Hannah, he's a packager, re-packaging what? What? I'm asking...

h: Well, he's got charisma I guess.

j: You see? That's exactly it. He puts you in a trance, he puts you in a trance while he's running your credit card. Don't you see? I have been given the ultimate clarity, finally, my life work makes sense, my life work. You can't possibly understand but as I sat there basking in the glow of the light I have been given I knew that my life would be in danger - is the world ready, can they open their eyes... of course not, of course not, of course not, which makes me what? It makes me a what?

h: Well, it makes you very smart that's for sure.

j: No Hana, no, of course I'm smart, of course I am, but that's a given, that's just more of the game - god this would taste so much better if there was some cheese in it - see, when you actually show people the game, they get mad, they get very mad, Hannah, and who do you think they will be mad at? Who?

h: Well, I know Joni is mad honey, she's real mad because right before we had to cancel all the yoga sessions, right before, in our very first class, we were all breathing and chanting and this woman who came from Arizona started to chant so loud that Joni had to pick up her mat and move to the back of the studio and she tripped over this other woman's leg and she fell on her left hand and she broke her pinky!

j: Why are you telling me this?

h: Well, it's an example see, she was real angry, she started swearing and yelling "F" this, "MF" that, and Yolara, the teacher, had to hold her real tight and put his hand over her mouth and then she starts hitting him and she hit him so hard she broke his nose, blood everywhere, and we had to cancel class!

j: Why are you telling me this, Hannah?

h: Well, it's about anger, like you said.

j: No, no, see? You see? You're not with me, you're not with me! Come back, Hannah, come back. Be with me 100%. Be with me right now.

h: I am honey, I am.

j: No, no, I need you 100%.

h: I am 100%. Stop saying that, please sweetie, please stop saying that. I am here one hundred percent, one hundred percent!

j: So you're going to get all upset now? You're going to contaminate this whole conversation with your emotions? Typical, typical. I want you here with me 100%. I want you to give me yourself right now 100%. I want you to actually hear

me. I want cheese in my sandwich, I want cheese. I want to be lifted from this responsibility. I didn't ask for it. I didn't ask for any of it. Why? Why? Why was I chosen? Don't you see? Don't you see? I am in danger. My life is in danger. The world will be angry with me, they will hate me when I open their eyes, they will hate me, I will be hunted down, I will be attacked ruthlessly, relentlessly.

h: Oh honey, oh honey, you are scaring me, I don't want you to be hated, I don't want you to be hunted, it's not fair, it's not fair.

j: No. No, it's not fair. It's not fair and I am in danger.

h: Oh, honey.

j: I am in danger and that's why I bought a gun.

h: You what?

j: I bought a gun.

Scene 6

Harry and Barry

Brothers (40's to 50's)

Harry. Okay so, I see you, you see me? You seeing me?

Barry. Yeah, yeah I see you.

Harry. You owe me.

Barry. I sent you a check.

Harry. That was six months ago.

Barry. Time is a construct, it's an agreement, I don't believe in time, you ever know a dog who was late?

Harry. You see this?

Barry. Yeah I see it.

Harry. I wear a watch cause it tells me the time, I need to know the time so I can live in reality Barry, so I can live in the real world.

Barry. You're a puppet, Harry ,another puppet sleepwalking. You're a sleepwalker. One more battery to the machine.

Harry. Yeah, that's right, you're right, I'm a battery, I am a battery and this battery needs a recharge, I need to recharge and that's where you come in. You needed it, I lent you, I lent you big, you made what, two payments, each one late and now you are six months behind, you are in arrears and I want my money you little jerk.

Barry. Who charges a brother rent?

Harry. Don't start that.

Barry. No, I'm asking, who charges a brother rent?

Harry. You don't screw with my livelihood.

Barry. If she died first the house would have been mine.

Harry. That's the way the cookie crumbles.

Barry. If mom died first this house would have been mine.

Harry. It's the way the cookie crumbles.

Barry. What cookie?

Harry. We took out Chinese last week, they left it on the curb, it was a satisfying meal, they gave us only one fortune cookie and Esther doesn't like them, I crack open this cookie and what do you think the fortune says?

Barry. So?

Harry. I'm asking, what do you think the fortune says?

Barry. I'm listening already.

Harry. Nothing, it says nothing, it's blank, there's no fortune, it says nothing.

Barry. Yeah so, you got a blank, it happens.

Harry. No you don't understand, it's my fortune and it says nothing, for whatever reason, it's blank and I'm sitting there, Esther's got Anderson Cooper and Sanjay, the town halls on and I am looking at this blank little piece of paper, I'm suddenly frozen in fear, I break out in a sweat, and then I start crying, can't explain it, was it my childhood, have I just triggered some old scab I'm pulling off again? (Get's very upset, falls apart) Did someone do something to me at that Chinese place mom used to take us to every Sunday when dad was in the hospital all those months? So Sonjay's saying to spray the food when you get home and I'm sitting there sobbing. I am sobbing like a little kid and Esther comes over to me she puts her arms around me, she says it's okay little Harry, it will all be okay...

Barry. Yeah, yeah, well look, look Harry, I gotta go, have to zoom with Annie in two minutes and I want to go brush my teeth.

Harry. Okay. Okay.

Barry. Yeah, you be good big brother, Zoom you next week.

Harry. Yeah, yeah, okay, okay.

Scene 7

Ralph and Lou

Best Friends (30's)

Ralph: You're two hours late, I waited, sitting here playing solitaire...

Lou: We're back buddy boy, sweet god in heaven, we are back.

Ralph: You're in a state, I see...

L: I'm moving' that mountain, move mountain move

R: You laughing or crying?

L: Strap yourself in, hold on tight, we're lifting off buddy boy!

R: Keep it down Lou, you'll crack my speakers.

L: (Sings and dances) We're in the money, we're in the money, da da da da da da la la la la la la...

R: Lou, Lou, keep it down, what the hell's going on here?

L: Lenny gave us the loan, he gave us the loan, we're back in the game!

R: Loan, loan, what loan?

L: Two grand buddy boy is what loan, Ralphie boy, we're back in the game!

R: I told you Lou...

L: We are back in the mother loving game!

R: I told you Lou the game is over, I'm not in no game, I don't want no loan, no more griddles, I'm done with the waffles you hear me? No griddles, no waffles, you leave me out of this.

L: Who's talking waffles?

R: Sat here two hours waiting and I am tired Lou, I'm going to bed.

L: Who can sleep, who can sleep, listen to what I'm saying.

R: You got five minutes, I'm going to bed.

L: Lenny read my plan, (holds a check up to the webcam) he wrote this check, look at this Ralphie, two sweet thousand dollars just to kick the whole thing off.

R: Read my lips, I don't want back in, my GE, my Ford, all my stock, every penny to fund the waffles Lou and I'm tired, you hearing this, I am tired and I am broke.

L: So we lost a bundle, that's life, let it go. Repeat after me, "Guber"

R: I'm too tired for games Lou.

L: Repeat after me, "Guber!"

R: Who the heck's Guber?

L: Ralphie,, Guber, Guber, rhymes with what do you think?

R: I'm going to bed.

L: It rhymes with Uber and what is the basis of Uber, it's simple, like a taxi but for real people driving their cars, billions of dollars, real people making real money, billions of dollars with their own damn cars.

R: Good for the real people.

L: Say "Guber" Ralph.

R: I'm not interested Lou.

L: Say it Ralph, say "Guber", come on say "Guber", say it like this, "Gooooober!"

R: Guber, Guber, you satisfied?

L: Who does everyone in the world trust and love?

R: Michelle Obama.

L: Yeah, very true, but I'm talking love like you love your own mother?

R: Tom Hanks?

L: C'mon Ralph, who gives you candy behind your mommies back and fifty dollars in your birthday card? Who does every loving person just want to hug and kiss and...

R: I can't play guessing games all night here, Lou.

L: Your Grandpa, Ralph, your sweet old grandpa. It came to me last night, up all night writing my plan for Lenny, we do an Uber but who's gonna drive the car? Huh Ralph, who do you think is gonna drive the car?

R: Who already?

L: Grandpa! You get it? Who doesn't want to drive with Grandpa to the Walmart, to the bank, to the deli for a hot pastrami, who doesn't want to get into a car with a grandpa behind the wheel.

R: This is your what, a new kind if Uber?

L: It's Guber, Ralph, Guber, Uber with a "G" for Grandpa. I promise you, tips will double for a sweet old Grandpa driving his sweet old Buick.

R: Who's old Buick.

L: Your Grandpa's old Buick, Ralph, that old Buick in the shed. Sid is the prototype, we kick the whole shebang off with Sid!

R: Are you nuts, he doesn't get his license back for three years.

L: Who's gonna tell, you gonna tell?

R: He's too nervous to drive, you know this, if he hits someone else they'll put him away for good.

L: It was an accident Ralph, he didn't do it on purpose.

R: He could've killed the guy.

L: Did he kill him?

R: The guy was in a coma for three months.

L: Did he kill him?

R: The guy has permanent hearing loss, walks with a cane, he can't remember the names of any fruits or vegetables.

L: But did Sid kill him?

R: He's 82 Lou.

L: A young 82.

R: He's got cataracts.

L: I'll get him better glasses.

R: That Buick is an old piece of garbage.

L: It's a classic.

R: It's all rusted out.

L: I take one thousand, give it a paint job, lube the brakes, a set of new tires, we're in business.

R: He has no drivers license, no insurance, he almost killed the guy...

L: Such pessimism, such a doubter... you gonna sit there and eat Spam the rest of your life, huh, you wanna eat that crap the rest of your life Ralph ? Look, we put an ad in the Pennysaver, we do a tweetie, a facechat, and we're in business, I'll take care of the car, you get some sleep we got a big day tomorrow, can't sleep, I'm meeting Shirley at the outdoor diner, see, got my face mask, I'm going. Guber, Ralphie boy, Guber! Now get to bed!

Scene 8

Nell and Ernie

Any gender, Any Age

Sometime in the future

Nell: Do you know how to play hopscotch?

Ernie: Don't remember.

n: Me neither. What about Simon says?

e: That where you close your eyes and make a wish to the big Simon?

n: I have the name in here but don't remember how to play it.

e: Yeah, I got duck duck goose on the brain, how'd that one go?

n: I think you got to run around the chairs until the music stops.

e: You're thinking of red light green light I think. How old are you anyway?

n: Think i just had a birthday, not sure 'cause no one served any cake.

e: Is that a cookie you're eating?.

n: Yeah, someone dropped it by the dock. When's your birthday?

e: Can't remember.

n: Did you hold on to your name?

e: No, they gave me two-two-ten-four-a.

n: Don't that bother you none?

e: Naaaah, it's ok really, no one uses it anymore anyway.

n: I want mine back, I do, I want it back really. Couldn't stop thinking about it last night, cried for a while, just want it back.

e: You cried?

n: For a while.

e: How long?

n: I don't know, could a been all night, didn't sleep, just crying and crying.

e: You wanna cry now?

n: I guess I do.

e: Can I watch?

n: Sure.

e: Well, go ahead.

n: I don't know, can't seem to do it with you watchin', maybe if you close your eyes?

e: (closes his eyes) Ok, go ahead. Well? (waits, then opens his eyes) I don't hear nothing.

n: Maybe if you turn around and close your eyes.

e: (he turns his back to his webcam) How's this?

n: Ok, I guess.

e: Let me know when you got a tear or two.

n: I will.

e: Nothing yet?

n: Unsettled, too quiet, maybe you should make some noise, sing a song or something.

e: A song?

n: Yeah, a song, you know, like music or something like that.

e: Don't remember no songs I guess. Hey, I know a story.

n: Ok, try that.

e:: I will. See if I can still remember. (He thinks real hard. She waits.) My mother was looking for me. One day she looked real hard but couldn't find me so she cried. She looked and called out but I didn't answer. I couldn't hear her was the problem. She thought I should hear her but it was just no good 'cause I had my ears closed to her. That's all. It made her sad. It made me sad. That's all. Well you crying?

n: Naaah, guess it don't work this way, you can turn around now.

e: Hey, wanna hear a joke kind of story?

n: A joke?

e: Yeah, you know, a story to be happy, a joke.

n: Oh yeah, ok, yeah, I would, that would be ok I guess.

e: Ok.

n: Well?

e: Trying to get it back, just had it but can't remember now.

n: Try harder.

e: (he does) No, no, guess it's gone.

n. Too bad.

e: Yeah.

n: Must be getting late, I guess.

e: Yeah.

n: Gonna be no sun soon.

e: yeah, I gotta get back.

n: yeah.

e: see you next time.

n: Yeah.

e: Why you looking at me like that.

n: Don't know. Just felt like crying again.

e: Oh.

n: yeah. (She cries) I'm crying.

e: Yeah, you're crying now.

n: Yeah, you gonna watch me?

e: Yeah, just a minute I guess.

(he watches her cry. She stops crying)

e: I guess you're done crying.

n: I guess so.

e: bye.

n Nell.

e. Nell?

n: Think that's my name . Nell, just come to me. Funny, huh? Just like that, it come to me, my name.

e: Bye.

(he leaves)

n: bye.

Scene 9

Brenda and Kirk

Young Married Couple

Kirk: Hey, hi Bren, hello, wow, wow.

Brenda: Hi Kirk.

K: You look real good, wow.

B: You got new clothes.

K: Oh, yeah, no more holes in my knees, you should see my closet, full of actual grown up clothes.

B: That's real good, Kirk.

K: Well, ok, hey, thank you for agreeing to see me.

B: I'm doing this for me, Kirk, so you know.

K: Yeah, that's ok, that's ok.

B: I'm doing this 'cause I needed to for me.

K: I understand, no pressure, I'm just happy you agreed to see me. You know, 2 years today, 2 years exactly today since we talked. I thought a lot about how I was Bren, how I acted and how I...

B: I don't want to hear any of that...

K: No, I know, I'm just saying, I understand now, you know all of it.

B: Just have a few minutes and...

K: Oh, yeah, well, ok, well, what I mean is, oh honey. Well, anyway, did you get that package? It said it was delivered yesterday.

B. Yeah but...

K: You have it?

B: Yeah, right here.

K: Oh, cool, cool...

B: I really have to go, Kirk...

K: No, Bren, please, please don't go, please sit back down, please, please...

B: I only have a few minutes.

K: Yeah, that's right but anyway, I sent you that, please, please open it, please just take a quick look. I'm asking, just take a quick look, please Bren.

B: (opens large envelope, inside is a jigsaw puzzle box) What the hell, Kirk.

K: No look honey, give it a shake, just shake it a little.

B: Gotta go now...

K: Please! Just give it a shake. (she does) You hear anything. Look, Look, open it, open it!

B: (she does, the puzzle box is empty.) is this a joke?

K: You see? You see?

B: Don't want to play any more games, Kirk...

K: No, you see? I threw them all out, you see? I got rid of every last piece, that's what I'm trying to tell you, I threw 'em all out. Looked real hard at myself, Bren, real hard, you were right, about all of it, I was stupid and selfish and really stupid, Bren. I threw 'em all out, I threw 'em all out, you see, you see what I'm saying?

B: Yeah.

K: Yeah. And see, I got one more thing, one more thing for you. It's in the package, it's for you, Bren. (She takes out an envelope from the larger one.)

B: What is it?

K: Open it, go ahead, open it.

B: (she opens envelope and takes out a check) I don't under...

K: For the little girl, for our little girl, it's for her, for, you know, for her future and all.

B: Damn it, damn it, this isn't funny, Kirk.

K: No, honey, no, no, it's for real, it's for real, won the power ball, you believe it? Crazy huh? Won the power ball, was driving through New Jersey, gassing up on the freeway, bought a ticket, you believe it?

B: This isn't funny.

K: Honey, it's for the little girl and there's plenty more, you don't have to worry about that, plenty more...

B: I'm gonna be sick...

K: I just don't want you to worry anymore, about anything Bren, about anything, you just don't have to worry anymore, ok? Can I see her Bren, can I see her? Social distant, I mean, you know, with my mask, with my mask on, I really want to see my little girl.

B: Her name is Emily, you didn't even ask...

K: I want to see her...

B: When we talked, you didn't even ask her name...

K: Don't cry, please don't cry, I was scared and stupid and selfish and when you left I thought I was going to die, I got in my car and just started driving, left the apartment, left everything, wanted to crash the car but I couldn't do it...

B: You didn't even ask her name.

K: Please forgive me, Bren, I beg you, please forgive me, please I'm begging you, please forgive me.

B: (she can not speak)

K: You don't have to cry, I'm with you now, I'm with you now.

Scene 10

Sam and Hal

Friends

Sam: You went?

Hal: What else should I do, gotta eat.

S: I'm sayin' you went that's all. They have the salami?

H: Yeah.

S: You gonna eat some right now?

H: I didn't buy any.

S: You been complaining all week that they don't get the salami.

H: It is my prerogative to change my mind.

S; Who said it's not.

H: It is my prerogative to buy the shaved turkey instead.

S; I'm not arguing with you.

H: Just get off my back about the salami, salami, like that's all life is about?

S: Now you're stressing me out.

H: Like salami is king of the mountain?

S: Now you're making things difficult for me.

H: The problem is not salami, the problem is, the real problem if you would be honest with yourself is that your life is a small story.

S: My life's a what?

H: You heard me.

S: Say it one more time 'cause i'm focusing in here so I shouldn't be distracted.

H: I'm gonna go eat.

S: Wait a moment, my life's a what?

H: Yeah, it came to me last night, your life's a small story.

S: And that's what, no good for you?

H: ...No drama, no intrigue... You married? You got any kids? You got any money in the bank? You own a car? Sam, you got two sets'a clothes, the grey pants, the red shirt, the old jeans, the brown sweater, No girlfriend, no toaster oven, this is what we call a small story. And you know why it turned out this way?

S: You've got my attention.

H: Cause you wrote that letter to LeBron James and he don't reply and you give up on life.

S: That's none'a your business.

H: He don't reply, he don't write back and you just give up.

S: I told you not to bring that up ever,

H: You see, LeBron, he's got what we call a big story and you want a piece and it's like a rat smellin' cheese and he sees you a mile away.

S: I'm going out.

H: You're living a small story and why you think a guy like LeBron's gonna reply to you is still a mystery to me.

S: And what kind of story you got Hal? Huh? I'm asking.

H: We were on the topic of you.

S: I'm asking, what kind of story you livin'?

H: I got the story I want.

S: Borrowing my food stamps for salami...

H: I didn't buy the salami.

S: ...I give you the stamps and so, the truth is, you're eating my butter, drinking my coffee, my chewing gum, my laundry soap...

H: I recognize you're a generous guy but that don't change the facts, a small story is a small story and that's your life.

S: Now I could take this personal and get all upset, screamin' and hollerin', but I put a muffler on my anger button and what I know is that what used to be an attack, I now see as just your misguided attempt to be closer with me. So, you and I will remain best friends through thick and thin and what I'm gonna do see, is go over to hillside myself and get me some of that salami since your news is they got some in and what do you know, I am in the mood for some of that salami myself.

So, I'll buy a pound and bring it back and I'm gonna have a little lunch 'cause the truth is I am hungry. Just noticed that I am very hungry. Zoom you later. (he leaves)

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