

Mind Trick

by

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Cast of Characters

M/F: (male/female)

Teens

SAHARA:

Teens

Place

High School Field

Time

Afternoon

2.

Setting: The play takes place in a suburb where houses are miles apart from one another and the homes are large.

At Rise: M/F sits on the bleachers by themselves when approached by Sahara.

Sahara: Why do I always see you hanging out on these bleachers by yourself?

M/F: I like to do my own thing.

Sahara: And what thing is that exactly?

M/F: Sitting down, watching, waiting...

Sahara: Waiting for what exactly?

M/F: Something real to happen.

Sahara: ...Can I sit with you?

(M/F shrugs)

(pause.)

M/F: ...Sometimes I feel like I'm not normal...what is normal anyway, right? I guess, like everyone else. I get stupid thoughts sometimes. I keep them to myself because I don't want anyone thinking I'm a weirdo. I wonder if everyone gets strange thoughts but just don't want to admit it. I think we all get strange thoughts. You want to know what kind of thoughts I get? *(beat)* Well, I can't tell you cause, it's too embarrassing. It is. I just can't. I mean, you ever have a thought where your mind just wanders off into some unknown world and it captivates you for a minute or two and suddenly you snap out of it because you realize that it's a messed up thought?

(Sahara nods)

That's as far as I want to go with it, with what I'm telling you cause it makes me feel funny discussing this but do you, honestly; do you ever---does your mind ever play tricks on you?

Sahara: I think all of us have these problems but no one ever admits it.

M/F: I'm not so sure about that.

Sahara: I am. I get strange thoughts. Thoughts that are bad, like, for example...my imagination and how sometimes it has a mind of its own.

Sahara (cont'd): I imagine things that I wish I could turn off. It's why I listen to music so much.

M/F: What music do you listen to?

Sahara: I was born after my time. All the music I listen to is from the 90's...Pearl Jam, Incubus, Nirvana, Oasis and dozens more.

M/F: Me too.

Sahara: What?

M/F: I listen to the 90's too and the 70's. By two favorite decades of music. I hate the crap they come out with nowadays...there's some new hard stuff that's pretty good but I don't know if it's gonna stick.

Sahara: I need to delve into the 70's music...any recommendations?

M/F: Rolling Stones for sure, Led Zeppelin, The Doors---

Sahara: You see?

M/F: See what?

Sahara: You're not a weirdo.

(beat)

M/F: Why'd you come here, you know, over by me?

Sahara: I wanted to see what life was like on this side of the field.

M/F: Oh.

Sahara: Can I tell you something?

(M/F nods)

Sahara (cont'd): I've been sent here as a spy. The others dared me to come over here and speak to you but I've been wanting to come over here on my own for a while now anyway and when they dared me I was glad because it gave me a reason.

M/F: In their eyes.

Sahara: Yeah but, I'm telling you because I just want to be honest because I like you. I mean, like you as a person, I think you're a cool person and I just, I don't know, I wanted things to be straight up with you from the start, if that makes any sense.

M/F: I believe you. (*beat*) You're an awkward kind of girl, aren't you?

Sahara: And you're shy.

M/F: Am I?

Sahara: Yeah. You should come back over with me and make some friends.

M/F: They all know me, they just don't bother with me and I don't bother with them.

Sahara: Who cares? Come back with me and chill.

M/F: What did they expect you to spy on and discover, anyway?

Sahara: There's rumors and stuff.

M/F: Rumors?

Sahara: Well, with all the school shootings making the news and---well, I think people are scared and you just seem really to yourself all the time and quiet and---

M/F: Oh, I get it now. You really don't care about knowing me at all, right? It's just to sort of scope me out to make sure that I'm not some psycho.

Sahara: No. I mean, I really do want to get to know you but there was some talk---

M/F: Talk? What kind of talk? Who said what?

Sahara: Just some talk that if something were to ever go down at our school that you would be the one to do it. Your name came up.

(beat)

M/F: Wow. My name came up. That's really horrible. You know, I had no idea any of you would think that about me just because I keep to myself...I've never given anyone a reason to feel that I was a threat of some kind. That's really messed up.

Sahara: ...I'm sorry. I didn't mean to judge you.

M/F: Well, you can tell all those assholes that I'm not interested in ruining their lives. Tell them they are safe to ruin their own lives. They don't need me or anyone else to do it for them.

(M/F gets up and walk off.)

Sahara: I really didn't mean to upset you.

(M/F gives the finger and continues walking away.)

END OF PLAY