

# ***THE BEAR***

*by*

*Joseph Arnone*

Copyright © 2018

[www.MonologueBlogger.com](http://www.MonologueBlogger.com)

All rights reserved. No part of this ePlay may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or any other storage and retrieval system, without the written permission of the author or publisher.

Cast of Characters

<u>TIFFANY:</u>	19
<u>MR. VANCE:</u>	62

Place  
Classroom

Time  
Day

2.

Setting: A college classroom that is decorated with everything space science.

At Rise: TIFFANY sits beside her teacher MR. VANCE and they discuss the problems she has been having in her work.

MR. VANCE: Yes, yes, I've noticed you've been different. You have a certain spark in your eyes that seem to have gone dim...I was wondering about you.

TIFFANY: You were?

MR. VANCE: I wonder about all my students. (he smiles warmly)

TIFFANY: That's why I wanted to talk to you and I appreciate you putting some time aside.

MR. VANCE: That's what I'm here for.

TIFFANY: I feel as though I keep short circuiting myself, if that makes sense.

MR. VANCE: Like a car that won't start?

TIFFANY: Exactly!

MR. VANCE: Tell me more.

TIFFANY: I want to care less about caring so much...I think that's been my biggest---well, one of my problems, anyway...there have been times in my life when I have been lucky to 'let go' completely and I'm flying but flying in such a way where it feels as though something greater than me is carrying me afloat; a connection to something higher, wider. Does that sound corny? (beat) It's different. I want that all the time, more rooted naturally within my inner self, if that makes any sense, without all the fuss and mental shit that clogs me up, getting in the way. The battles are exhausting. Sometimes, I get the bear and other times, the bear gets me...

MR. VANCE: You have to be willing to take risks.

TIFFANY: I take risks. I work so hard but something always gets in my way. Some dark energy keeps trying to hold me back from my dreams.

MR. VANCE: No. Don't give it that much credit. Only you have the power to punch through. You need to allow failure to become part of your success.

TIFFANY: I'm too self-conscious. I always wonder what other people will think and I hate myself for it.

MR. VANCE: Hate's a strong word.

TIFFANY: But I do, I hate myself!

MR. VANCE: Tiffany, you shouldn't torture yourself this way. You need to take your anger and use it to propel yourself forward. You understand? Let it empower you, motivate you. Get so angry that you don't have time to think about fear, because you are so angry inside, you will burst right on through any dark force that tries to stand in your way.

TIFFANY: Sometimes I feel like giving up. Sometimes this ongoing battle with myself becomes comical, like it doesn't even feel that it matters. Sometimes I think I'm better off living on a farm somewhere.

MR. VANCE: A farm?

TIFFANY: Yeah.

MR. VANCE: What the hell are you talking about?

TIFFANY: Oh, I don't know. I'm just fed up.

MR. VANCE: A farm...what would you do on a farm? Milk cows?

TIFFANY: Probably. (*chuckles*) I just don't want to keep feeling this way. I don't want to feel that all my efforts have to be so intense. I just want to be able to do my work without getting in my own way. I'm tired of all this thinking. It's driving me insane.

MR. VANCE: The work that we do is not for the meek. If I didn't think this was right for you, I would have told you so a long time ago.

TIFFANY: Really?

MR. VANCE: I think you have a chance to do good work, but that all depends on you. You see, if you stay the course, if it matters that much to you, there can never be anything that will stop you because it matters too damn much. No matter the hard knocks, the struggles, there will always be that flame burning inside of you. No wind, no rain can ever put it out. It's within your control. Always. You can choose to go as far as you wish on this journey. No one is twisting your arm, outside of yourself. (*he smiles warmly*) And that's okay. It's good to care about the work that you do. (*beat*) Can you recall what made you want to think about the stars?

TIFFANY: It's the mystery of the unknown. There's this sense of so many things yet to be discovered. Plus, growing up on every science fiction TV show and movie I can find may have also played a role.

MR. VANCE: Is it possible to point to a single episode from your life that made you realize that exploring the great unknown was what you imagined yourself doing?

TIFFANY: Hmmm, I don't know...my father played a big part in my life when it comes to space...he would always give me books to read by Ray Bradbury, Asimov, Phillip K. Dick or Arthur C. Clarke...the list goes on and I would read all of them. I'd get these cheap comic books at the local 7-Eleven and I'd imagine myself playing a part in the story. It must have been an accumulation of everything all together, like it just became my existence...no, I can't put my finger on any one thing that happened, all I could say is that I kind of just grew up with science fiction and Quantum Physics all around me.

MR. VANCE: Quantum Physics?

TIFFANY: Oh yeah, my dad always had books like that lying around the apartment.

MR. VANCE: What does your father do?

TIFFANY: My father was a sanitation worker. He died. Was killed on the job...hit by a car and, well, the insurance policy is what allows me to come to this school to study.

MR. VANCE: I'm sorry to hear about your father. He sounds like a wonderful human being.

TIFFANY: Yeah, he was great, I miss him.

MR. VANCE: I must say that motivation doesn't seem to be your problem. You have enough motivation to get to mars.

(TIFFANY laughs)

I think your problem is that you think too much, which is a great problem to have, so long as you are thinking more on your work, rather than yourself.

TIFFANY: It means everything to me, which is why I don't want to fail.

MR. VANCE: Failure is part of the process, Tiffany.

TIFFANY: Yeah?

MR. VANCE: I cannot convince you one way or the other because that would not be fair. It must come from you. This is your life, but please note that failure is part of success. Yo need to accept that failure is what we specialize in, because without it, we will never make such fantastic discoveries. It's the probing, the curiosity, the experiments...they all lead to possibility.

TIFFANY: What if I fail my whole life? What if I never get to where I want to be?

MR. VANCE: That's success.

TIFFANY: I don't think so.

MR. VANCE: Why not?

TIFFANY: Because it has to amount to something. I have to amount to something at some point, don't I?

MR. VANCE: You will, be patient.

TIFFANY: But how can you be sure?

MR. VANCE: I believe in you.

TIFFANY: Thank you for saying that.

MR. VANCE: Let the cards fall where they need to...the journey is what matters most, nothing more because from that discoveries shall be made. Trust in that.

TIFFANY: Right. I need to stop worrying about the bullshit and just do what I love.

MR. VANCE: Sounds good to me.

TIFFANY: Okay, I really appreciate your time.

MR. VANCE: No time at all. I'm happy to help and hope that I have given you room for thought.

TIFFANY: You have.

MR. VANCE: Well done. I'll see you in class.

END OF PLAY