

# ***Exit Door***

*by*

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Cast of Characters

JANICE:

18

SORA:

18

Place

Park

Time

Day

2.

Setting: The play takes place outside at the park. There are four swings making up a set and Janice and Sora sit inside the two center swings.

At Rise: The play opens with Janice and Sora sharing a coffee between them, each sitting on a swing.

JANICE: I don't know how everyone keeps it together.

SORA: Yeah.

JANICE: I don't get how some people seem to have it all figured out. I have absolutely nothing figured out. You know what I do have? A stack of rejection letters from schools I've applied to; makes sense cause my grades suck. No shocker there. Even if one of them did take me on I have no idea what my interests are anyway. Totally lost. Everything feels pointless to me. (sighs) It's not like I come from a family with money regardless, so...even if I did, what difference would it make going to college? Besides, I've never been the school type. Lucky I'm even graduating...but, what comes after?

...You ever look at the way people move in this world? What goes through everyone's mind...you ever stop to wonder? Why does it matter?

We just accept things, don't we? We accept being born into our family and making the friends we make and growing up where we grow up and we accept having to get a job and pay bills and date and whatever else is put in front of us. We go with the flow, don't we?

...I want to know the undiscovered. There has to be something else. There has to be a way out of all this common crap. Don't you think? Don't you ever want to...I don't know...exist differently?

SORA: I feel the same way.

JANICE: Do you?

SORA: You know I do.

JANICE: My mother is (growls) so much to handle lately.

SORA: (chuckles)

JANICE: She complains about every little thing. Just the other day I was watching TV and afterwards I left the remote on the couch and she goes off on me about putting the remote control back in it's rightful place. I was like, "But it's more convenient for you if you sit down and the remote is right beside you." She wasn't having it.

SORA: Your Mom gets intense.

JANICE: Wicked intense. Like, sometimes I think she's possessed by a demon.

SORA: No.

JANICE: Dude, my Mom is ten times worse than whatever you've seen.

SORA: Damn.

JANICE: My two brothers I'd like to punch in their faces. One day. One day we are going to war. Todd thinks he's cute, always going into my room and rearranging my things just to piss me off and Brian is always teasing me.

SORA: That's what brothers do.

JANICE: Wish I was an only child.

SORA: I am.

JANICE: Wish I was you.

SORA: No, you don't.

JANICE: Peace and quiet.

SORA: It's too quiet. My parents are never home.

JANICE: Amazing.

SORA: Sometimes it would be nice to hear something else other than the TV or music.

JANICE: You have a whole house to yourself.

SORA: I do.

JANICE: Aww man, I'd love that.

SORA: I feel like I have too much time on my hands.

JANICE: I'd trade places with you in a heartbeat.

SORA: I didn't tell you but I'm going to Pace.

JANICE: Pace University?

SORA: Yeah.

JANICE: Are you for real?

SORA: I found out this morning.

JANICE: What? That's amazing! So happy for you!

SORA: They offered me a scholarship.

JANICE: No way!

SORA: I think I'm going to take it.

JANICE: Dude, you'll be in the city.

SORA: Yeah.

JANICE: I'm totally visiting you.

SORA: Oh yeah, I want you to crash on the weekends. It'll be dope.

JANICE: Wow. You were always smart though. Homework and tests were always easy for you.

SORA: I worked hard at it. I hated it like you, but I...I don't know.

JANICE: What? Say it.

SORA: I knew it would be my way out...

JANICE: ...Right...yeah...I get it. I should have paid my dues, right?

SORA: I'm not saying--

JANICE: But you are saying, aren't you? Here I am moaning about my life and you're breaking out because you weren't as dumb as me.

SORA: I'm not saying you're dumb. I would never--

JANICE: I am. I should have done what you did. That's what you were saying to me. I caught your vibe.

SORA: I actually feel bad.

JANICE: That's even worse, Sora. I don't need your pity.

SORA: Will you just chill? You're taking your anger out on me and I did nothing to you.

JANICE: ...I'm happy for you.

SORA: School isn't for everybody.

JANICE: Yeah.

SORA: It isn't. That's okay.

JANICE: You have your out, what about me? Where's my exit door?

SORA: You have to create your own.

JANICE: How do I do that?

SORA: Find a passion.

JANICE: Don't give me that bullshit.

SORA: Find something, anything that you find interesting and go for it or else you will find yourself stuck here for another ten years doing nothing with your life.

JANICE: I keep feeling like you're coming at me or something.

SORA: Will you stop? I'm trying to help you.

JANICE: Now? Where were you when my grades mattered?

SORA: I always offered to study with you. You never took my offer.

JANICE: Studying sucks.

SORA: And? What do you expect?

JANICE: I expect to be happy.

SORA: Now you're just dreaming.

JANICE: What?!

SORA: You have to get into reality Janice. Wishing for something to happen is a dream but working hard at something makes a dream possible. I always wanted to study in the city and I worked hard to make that a reality. It wasn't luck. I busted my ass even though I hated it like you, but I did it. Sometimes in life we have to do things we don't wish to do because we know it will be good for us later on. It's sacrifice.

JANICE: You make me feel small.

SORA: Please, I'm not trying to make you feel small. I'm not bigger than you. I'm trying to make you feel the opposite because you have a world of potential inside of you and it's just a matter of figuring out your path and you'll be fine.

JANICE: Everybody is leaving to go off to college. I'm the only one left behind.

SORA: But that's nobody's fault but your own.

JANICE: I don't want to go to school!

SORA: Okay! Stop shouting at me!

(pause.)

JANICE: I don't feel well. I'm going home.

SORA: Janice, don't leave like that.

JANICE: Nah, I got some things I need to...see you later.

SORA: Janice.

JANICE: Fuck off.

SORA: Hey, we're sisters.

JANICE: Are we?

SORA: Yeah man. What's your deal?

JANICE: You know my deal.

SORA: Is it something else?

JANICE: I'm a loser.

SORA: No, your not.

JANICE: I am. I'm a loser...

SORA: Who-did someone say that to you?

JANICE: My mom. My brothers. Even my Grandmother hinted at it the other day over dinner. They all want to judge me but no one wants to help me. Nobody..I don't know who I am, what I want, where I'm going. Each day I wake up and it's the same thing over and over again. I don't know how to break free. All I want is to be my own person and break free. Come and go as I please, but I can't. I'm not like you, I don't know how to be like you. I can't concentrate on things I don't care about.

SORA: Jan, listen to me...you have to be patient. You don't have to have your entire life figured out at eighteen.

JANICE: You do.

SORA: No, actually I don't. I know I want to be in business but that's so general and I need to zero in on something specific but I have no idea what.

JANICE: But at least you have direction. I have nothing.

SORA: But we can find you direction.

JANICE: I'm going to be trapped here until I'm an old lady.

SORA: You're going overboard now.

JANICE: It's true. I saw a wrinkle on my face.

SORA: What? Where?

JANICE: (pointing to her forehead) Here...there...look...see it?

SORA: That's a zit.

JANICE: Is it?

SORA: Yeah man, that's not a wrinkle.

JANICE: Oh. Okay. Thank God.

SORA: You just need to pursue your interests. Find things you like and go in that direction. Feel it out and if by taking steps closer to your interests intensifies your interests, then that could be what I mentioned earlier, PASSION. And when you have passion, you are unstoppable.

JANICE: Find my passion?

SORA: Yes, and take your time. Feel things out and life's doors will open themselves up to you.

JANICE: Dude, when did you get so smart? You sound like one of those motivational videos or something.

SORA: Before my father passed...he was always motivating me and hyping me up...I was very lucky to have a father like the one I had...he was my biggest fan, so...

JANICE: Hey, thanks for talking to me. I like your advice even though it isn't easy to process, it's coming from you and I know you have my back.

SORA: Damn straight.

JANICE: If you don't mind it, I'd like to hear more about some of the things your pops told you about motivation and stuff; maybe that will help give me some guidance, I don't know.

SORA: Of course I will. I'd love that.

JANICE: Yeah?

SORA: Definitely.

**END OF PLAY**