

See Me as a Stranger

by

Joseph Arnone

Copyright © 2022

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.

1.

Cast of Characters

<u>GORDY:</u>	19
<u>TAMMY:</u>	18
<u>GERTRUDE:</u>	50's
<u>RACHEL:</u>	Baby

Place
Apartment

Time
Evening

2.

Setting: The play takes place in two locations. The first location is outside on a concrete sidewalk in front of an industrial building. The second location takes place inside a rundown apartment.

At Rise: The play opens with Tammy pacing, having a cigarette, waiting for Gordy to arrive, when he finally does.

GORDY: Yeah, I'm just tryin' to find my way.

TAMMY: Been waiting over an hour! Only reason why I'm still standin' here like an asshole is cause I'm dependent on you.

GORDY: Yeah, I'm sorry.

TAMMY: When the hell aren't you sorry, Gordy?

GORDY: I know - I know but I got caught up.

TAMMY: Doin' what? NOTHIN', as usual.

GORDY: I was...I don't know..I was lost.

TAMMY: Obviously.

GORDY: NO, not lost but really lost.

TAMMY: ...What?!

GORDY: I got confused. I was walkin' along the tracks and all of a sudden I blanked out, like, I didn't know who I was, where I was, I didn't know what I was doin', where I was goin' or comin' from...I just was and I somewhat recognized the houses, when I looked at them I felt familiar with the rooftops and chimneys, but I couldn't place it in my mind. This lasted for a few minutes, I think...I searched my pockets but all I found was some bumble gum wrappers and there was this large broken mirror on the side of a dumpster and I stared into it and all I saw was some dude with a dirty sweater and jeans on...I didn't see myself and I screamed out, "Where am I?!" "WHERE AM I?!" And some homeless guy screamed back at me that I was in hell and that made me remember everything. Everything made sense to me again in a flash but now I'm left thinking that I was better off not knowing my life, that I wish I could erase it all...

TAMMY: Did you bring the baby formula?

GORDY: What?? OH, shit, I forgot, oh I'm so sorry -

TAMMY: I knew you was gonna forget man!

GORDY: It's not like that, really, I just told you my story Tam! -

TAMMY: Fuck your story! How'm I gonna feed Rachel now?!

GORDY: Don't you breastfeed like other mother's?

Tammy hits Gordy on the shoulder.

TAMMY: You know I can't breastfeed you ungrateful son of a bitch!

GORDY: Hey, take it easy. It was a joke. I'll go to a nearby shop.

TAMMY: There ain't no nearby shops for baby food. That's the whole point of you showing up!

GORDY: I'll leave now and come back.

TAMMY: When? Tomorrow? She'll be dead by then God forbid.

GORDY: Don't say that!

TAMMY: I said, God forbid.

GORDY: That's my daughter. Don't you dare talk like that about my daughter.

TAMMY: We need baby formula.

GORDY: It's just baby formula.

TAMMY: That she needs in order to stay alive you dumb fuck.

GORDY: Things can be happy, okay? To me! But you keep shoutin' my mind's about to explode!

TAMMY: I wish you would explode like a grenade. Explode into a trillion pieces spread out across this whole shitty sidewalk so all the bums can trample over your unimportant body.

GORDY: Tammy, Tammy, Tammy, Tammy.

TAMMY: WHAT?!

GORDY: Look what I have. (*Gordy takes baby formula out from his schoolbag*) I didn't forget. (*he cackles*)

Tammy punches Gordy on the shoulder.

Stop hitting me! It was just a joke. I was only foolin' girl.

TAMMY: I hate you.

GORDY: Gonna be all bruised up now. You don't know how to take a joke.

TAMMY: You playin' with life and death.

GORDY: It was...forget it...I don't need this shit.

Gordy walks off. He stops. Takes a Teddy Bear out of his schoolbag. Turns back.

GORDY: Give this to Rachel for me.

TAMMY: What..is..that..thing?

GORDY: It's a Teddy Bear.

*The Teddy Bear looks as if it was dipped
in tar and ran over by a train repeatedly.*

TAMMY: That's a Teddy Bear?

GORDY: Yeah.

TAMMY: Where'd you find it?

GORDY: Found it when I was lost.

TAMMY: So let me ask ya somethin'...if you was lost, why'd you have enough sense to pick up that disgusting doll?

GORDY: I wanted to give it to someone. I didn't know who but there was this feelin' that come up in me and so I picked it up.

TAMMY: You still makin' jokes with me cause I will kill you.

GORDY: I'm not fuckin' with you.

Tammy takes the Teddy Bear.

TAMMY: This is gotta be the ugliest Goddamn Teddy Bear I've ever seen in all my life.

GORDY: You think Rachel will still like it?

TAMMY: Of course she will. She's a baby, her brain isn't fully developed yet.

GORDY: Oh.

TAMMY: Neither is yours.

GORDY: Can I give it to her then?

TAMMY: This thing carry disease?

GORDY: I don't know.

TAMMY: (*sniffs the Teddy Bear*) Smells like tar.

GORDY: But it ain't sticky at all.

Tammy hands the Teddy Bear back to Gordy.

(lights out)

(lights up)

Tammy and Gordy enter one of the worst imaginable apartments. A throwback to the 1970's with holes in the sheetrock walls and ceiling. Planked style wooden floor boards that are obviously lopsided. The place has a grayish metallic color tone to it with lightbulbs that hang from long wires for ambience.

Gertrude rises from the single sofa as Tammy and Gordy enter. She holds her ground until Tammy and Gordy make eye contact with her... then she mobilizes.

GERTRUDE (to Tammy): Where the fuck have you been?

TAMMY: Sorry Ma -

GERTRUDE: Sorry don't cut the mustard...neither does he.

GORDY: Hi, Gert.

GERTRUDE: Fuck off.

Gertrude gathers her pocketbook on the kitchen table and makes her way to the front door.

TAMMY: Thanks for watching -

Gertrude exits and slams the door.

GORDY: She seems to be the same.

TAMMY: (sighs)

Gordy approaches Rachel, who is sleeping sound on a single cot.

TAMMY: Don't wake her up. Be non-existent.

GORDY: Alright. Just wanna...

TAMMY: Shh!!!

GORDY: (whispering) Okay, alright, alright...

Gordy inches his way over to Rachel as quietly as he possibly can. He reaches Rachel and ever so gently rests the Teddy Bear beside her.

Gordy attempts to give Rachel a kiss but refrains for fear of waking her.

TAMMY: Don't! She's a light sleeper you ass. You clumsy ass, you will wake her!

Gordy tenderly looks over his daughter and smiles softly. He quietly inches his way away from her.

GORDY: She's beautiful, isn't she?

TAMMY: Uh-huh.

Tammy sticks out her hand.

Gordy acknowledges her gesture.

Gordy pokes around inside his schoolbag and takes out cash. He hands the cash to Tammy.

Tammy aggressively counts the money.

TAMMY: Where's the rest?

GORDY: I'm a little short this week.

TAMMY: You're short every week.

GORDY: I know.

Tammy places the money in a nearby sugar canister.

TAMMY: You can go now.

GORDY: ...What do you think that was?

TAMMY: What thing?

GORDY: That thing that happened to me earlier?

TAMMY: Go to a doctor, I don't know.

GORDY: I'm glad it happened.

TAMMY: Why's that?

GORDY: Cause it did somethin' to me...

TAMMY: Yeah?

GORDY: Made me see me as a stranger and I thought real bad about the guy I saw reflected in that broken mirror. I didn't have a good feelin' about him. I never knew I wouldn't like my own self if I wasn't me.

TAMMY: Nobody likes you Gordy.

GORDY: Rachel likes me. She smiles at me all the time. Even when she sleeps. She knows I'm around.

TAMMY: She smiles at everybody.

GORDY: Yeah, but when she smiles at me it's different.

TAMMY: Why's it different, Gordy?

GORDY: ...I'm her Daddy.

Tammy looks at Gordy and Gordy stands proudly.

Gordy grabs his schoolbag and exits without looking at Tammy.

Tammy smiles to herself and looks over at Rachel.

Lights slowly fade out.

END OF PLAY