

Yell, Kick and Scream

by

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Cast of Characters

GALLAGHER :

Any

ORION :

Any

Place

Any

Time

Any

2.

Setting: The play takes place anywhere.

At Rise: The play opens with Gallagher and Orion sitting across from one another at a picnic styled table.

GALLAGHER: Did you tell him?

ORION: I can't tell him.

GALLAGHER: Why not?

ORION: 'Cause I can't.

GALLAGHER: Why not?

ORION: If I tell him, it will change things.

GALLAGHER: Oh, come on.

ORION: It will.

GALLAGHER: No, it won't.

ORION: How would you know?

GALLAGHER: Because I know him.

ORION: Not as well as me.

GALLAGHER: Just as well as you.

ORION: ...I won't tell him and that's it. Do you realize what could happen? Do you have any idea what could potentially happen?

GALLAGHER: It won't.

ORION: Then you tell him.

GALLAGHER: I can't tell him.

ORION: Why not?

GALLAGHER: 'Cause I can't.

ORION: Why not?

GALLAGHER: If I tell him...

ORION: Yeah?

GALLAGHER: If I tell him...

ORION: Go ahead.

GALLAGHER: It's better if you tell him.

ORION: I don't wish to hurt him in that way. He's the jealous type. If I let him know exactly what we were up to, there is no doubt in my mind that he will become depressed. The man is at an age now where the smallest detail about anything positive or anything remotely good, can have terrible repercussions. It's a snowball effect, one flake tumbling down a snow covered mountain, what will you have at the bottom? A fuckin' avalanche, alright? I'm not going to spark that fuse. He's a decent guy. I wished for him to get involved, I wanted him to, he would've grabbed the chance, he would've been our top man...but now? How's that possible now? He's not around anymore, couldn't stay around. Lives on the other side of the country now. He's out the game! He'll have a whole new life out there, it's over for him and he don't even know it, sad. Makes me sad.

GALLAGHER: Yeah, it's nuts.

ORION: He's nuts.

GALLAGHER: It's the Covid. Everybody's nuts since Covid.

ORION: We've all been nuts, long before Covid, there's always been more out than in. But psychologically, things have opened up more. All that restriction, the masks, distance, lockdowns, has brought out everything that we've been trying to keep suppressed. But we can only hold on for so long, you see? We need an outlet, we need release. I'm not saying it's gotta be violence. I despise violence. I'm saddened by violence. I'm talking more about - the feeling, to get this feeling OUT in order to function more calmly again. And then, maybe after, we'll retract into some new normal, maybe even a normal where things can start making more sense to us again. Things haven't really made sense lately, right? You notice? It's in the air, this sense of uncertainty. *(Beat.)* Maybe join a meditation group or something..*(Laughs.)* Maybe it's no use trying to regulate the pulse of our...our existence. I imagine we all wish to connect to one another and be free from the boxes we put ourselves in. We need each other to survive, don't we?

GALLAGHER: Are you alright, man?

ORION: Huh? Oh, I just have a lot on my mind lately.

GALLAGHER: Do you?

ORION: I'm fine.

GALLAGHER: Maybe doing this next job isn't the best thing for you.

ORION: No, I'm good. I'm fine.

GALLAGHER: Everything alright at home?

ORION: I'm just talking, you don't need to judge.

GALLAGHER: I wasn't judging.

ORION: You see that's the problem. Can't say shit in today's world about anything anymore without being crucified.

GALLAGHER: You – I was only asking if you are okay.

ORION: Were you?

GALLAGHER: No need to get defensive.

ORION: I don't want to be defensive! I just want to be heard!

GALLAGHER: I was listening to you the entire time.

ORION: There's a difference between listening and caring and listening and judging. You were judging. I felt you judging.

GALLAGHER: Are we going to debate this now?

ORION: Were you or weren't you?

GALLAGHER: What?

ORION: Judging.

GALLAGHER: I wasn't...I mean, I wasn't trying to judge you but I can't help but think if you – cause you don't sound like yourself to me.

ORION: What were you thinking...tell me.

GALLAGHER: Forget it, let's stop this.

ORION: What were you thinking when I was talking to you just then?

GALLAGHER: You sounded stressed.

ORION: Can't anybody be fucking honest anymore?

GALLAGHER: WHAT? I'm being honest.

ORION: If a person really feels what they feel, does that make them nuts?

GALLAGHER: It's just feelings.

ORION: Feelings are never just feelings.

GALLAGHER: I don't even know what the hell we are talking about. I'm lost.

ORION: Let's drop the whole thing. You wanna drop the whole thing?

GALLAGHER: Yeah.

ORION: Dropped.

Long pause.

GALLAGHER: ...Still think you should tell him.

ORION: Why?

GALLAGHER: Because the asshole could be a backup.

ORION: Eh?

GALLAGHER: A backup. The asshole.

ORION: But we got our guy.

GALLAGHER: But if the other asshole bails, then what?

ORION: We find someone else.

GALLAGHER: Why?

ORION: Because I think it's best we get another backup that's local. Then we gotta deal with the flights and bullshit arrangements and really, who wants to deal with that?

GALLAGHER: But he gets the job done.

ORION: Yeah.

GALLAGHER: Right?

ORION: Yeah.

GALLAGHER: So? We know he doesn't make mistakes. We know he's good at what he does, so it's quality. We know he's dependable and he's on it, so...makes sense.

ORION: He's more money.

GALLAGHER: Is he?

ORION: Do the math.

GALLAGHER: A few extra bucks and we wouldn't have to worry as much.

ORION: I don't know.

GALLAGHER: I get the whole local thing but it's a crap shoot. With him, we know what we're getting.

ORION: Yeah. I guess.

GALLAGHER: We still have time.

ORION: We have time, but not that much time.

GALLAGHER: I agree with you.

ORION: You do?

GALLAGHER: About what you were saying before.

ORION: What was I saying?

GALLAGHER: I've felt it, too. Pressure. There. You're not alone.

ORION: I thought so.

GALLAGHER: Yeah.

ORION: It's not just me, I know.

GALLAGHER: It's not.

ORION: How long?

GALLAGHER: How long, what?

ORION: The pressure.

GALLAGHER: I've always felt it, but like you said, things have gone haywire and I'm worse. Can't sleep. Wake up during the middle of the night in a pool of sweat. Drenched. Head to toe. I sleep with a gallon next to my bed now. Hydrate. Feel like I'm dying all the time, but the water keeps me safe. By morning, nearly eighty percent of the water is gone. I wake up throughout the night. Takes me at least an hour to fall back asleep again. One time I got up to urinate, kept myself in a somewhat odd sleep state and just as I was about to finish, I passed out, fell back into the shower curtain, down into the tub. My head. Bulge. Felt like my eye shifted to my nose. Took a week to get over it, emotionally. Scared. I've just been so scared lately. I've never had such pressure. Go for these walks, long walks, hour walks. Pond, by my house. Same shit. Relaxes. Somewhat. The ducks...ya know. So yeah, overall, I'm drowning in mud but something's telling me that if I stay the course, right, I'll push past it. So, I'm just trying to push past it. Hopefully.

ORION: You know, you've always been a prick. Like a real hardcore prick, but I see you different now.

GALLAGHER: I lost my prick status with you?

ORION: You're still a prick, but you...what made you tell me all that?

GALLAGHER: How am I supposed to know?

ORION: You take tablets?

GALLAGHER: Don't do shit.

ORION: Whiskey.

GALLAGHER: Nada.

ORION: Hmm. Exercise. Tire yourself out.

GALLAGHER: I'll drop dead completely.

ORION: Right, right.

GALLAGHER: You gonna reach out to asshole then?

ORION: ...Alright. I'll do it, I'll do it.

GALLAGHER: Smart move.

ORION: Alright, alright.

GALLAGHER: We can still find a backup local, but having him onboard puts us in the power seat, no?

ORION: I'll tell him.

GALLAGHER: You'll tell him?

ORION: I'll tell him.

END OF PLAY