

CHARACTERS:

THOMAS: A Shadow. Long black coat that curls up at bottom. Huge wide brimmed hat. White eye holes

JOHN: 20-30 year old male. Any race. THOMAS' body.

ALICE: 20-30 year old woman. Any race. JOHN's love interest. Nurse.

SOPHIA: 20-30 year old woman. Any race. JOHN's roommate. ALBERTO's Girlfriend.

ALBERTO: 20-30 year old male. Any race. JOHN's roommate. SOPHIA's boyfriend.

ANDY: 20-30 year old male. Any race. JOHN's childhood friend.

MADDIE: 20-30 year old female. Any race. JOHN's coworker. Mother.

SETTING:

An office, an apartment, a restaurant.

TIME:

Over a period of two days. Friday and Saturday.

ACT 1 Scene 1

Lights up center stage. A large screen fills the space with a small, office desk at the foot where JOHN sits. On it is a massive calendar. Every day, except the weekends, says work. Each except today, Friday, has an x through it. Saturday after that says Lunch with Andy, circled. In the stage right corner of the screen is THOMAS, a shadow. He is an odd shadow. A massive wide primed hat, bright white eyes, and a long coat that curls up at the bottom. THOMAS stares at the calendar. Sound of ticking clock heard. Lights up stage right. MADDIE sits at her cubical, much more personalized than the one at calendar. She lets out a loud sigh. THOMAS looks over at her, JOHN turns to look at her as well.

THOMAS

Is something wrong Maddie?

MADDIE

No. It's just...

THOMAS

Just what?

MADDIE

Do you think I work too much?

THOMAS

What do you mean? Like work too hard?

MADDIE

No I mean putting too many hours in.

THOMAS

Not sure. Why do you ask?

MADDIE

My husband says I don't spend enough time at home with the my kids

THOMAS

Do you think that you work too much?

MADDIE

Maybe, I know I've been pulling a lot of late hours lately but we're coming in on the third quarter and I need to be on top of things.

THOMAS

Have you talked to your husband about that?

MADDIE

Yes but he still thinks that I should come home earlier. That I'm not spending enough time with them. You work pretty late, how much time do you spend with your family?

THOMAS

Not that many. I don't see them that often.

MADDIE

Maybe I should see them? I don't know.

THOMAS

Have you tried doing some work at home?

MADDIE

I would but I get distracted at home when I should be spending time with my kids.

THOMAS

Why do you work so much?

MADDIE

I have to. I'm the provider and I have to work my ass off to make sure my family is taken care of. Every day it feels like I'm failing as a provider because I'm not working as hard as I should to give my kids the best life possible. So I keep pushing myself harder and harder. Putting in more time and more effort but then I feel like I'm failing at being a mother because I don't give my kids the emotional attention they need. I'm not sure what to do.

THOMAS looks at her. He reaches into his coat with a long hand and pulls out a rose that he gives to MADDIE. MADDIE takes it and puts it inside her coat.

That's very kind of you to say. Thank you. I think I'll go home early today. Do you have any plans for the weekend?

THOMAS

(looks back at calendar)
I'm supposed to have lunch with Andy.

Lights down. End scene.

ACT 1 Scene 2

Lights up center stage. The screen now has a large social media platform on it with pictures of friends and people off doing things and having fun. At the foot is a small table with one set of utensils and a small dinner at one chair occupied by JOHN, even though there are three. THOMAS is stage left on the screen. His shadow is weaker. He stares at the screen. Lights up stage left. A bedroom. SOPHIA is in her room throws her cell phone out the door and it goes across the stage, she is holding back tears. THOMAS looks at it then at SOPHIA. JOHN rises and walks to her.

Is something wrong Sophia?

THOMAS

My brother is being an asshole.

SOPHIA

What did he do?

THOMAS

He said he would come and have lunch with me and he canceled it half way through because his girlfriend wanted him to come home early.

SOPHIA

Why did she want him to come home early?

THOMAS

She said something about their dog acting weird.

SOPHIA

Was it sick?

THOMAS

No. I called him a just now to ask and he said the dog was fine. So I asked him why he left and he said because his girlfriend wasn't sure. They didn't even take it to the vet. Like she couldn't take the dog to the vet herself.

SOPHIA

That's weird.

THOMAS

SOPHIA

It's bullshit is what it is. I told him that she's way too controlling and he lets her just walk all over him.

THOMAS

What did he say to that?

SOPHIA

He said I'm his younger sister and don't understand because I'm not in a relationship. I told him that he's full of shit and he said... he said I was being selfish and acting like our father. I hate him!

SOPHIA begins crying.

I haven't seen him in months since he moved in with his girlfriend. Am I really being so selfish that I want to see my fucking brother? Piece of shit dad is already gone, I don't want to lose my brother too. I miss him. I don't want to push him away, but more than that I don't want to be anything like our dad. Do you think I'm being selfish?

THOMAS looks at her then reaches into his coat and pulls out a rose that he hands to SOPHIA who takes it and puts it in her sweater.

Thanks. That makes me feel better. Do you and your brother have problems like this?

THOMAS

We're not very close.

SOPHIA

Well I'll see you later, I have to go to work. Bye.

Lights stage left on room goes out. Lights stage right come up. ALBERTO is in his bedroom doorway looking across the stage at JOHN. JOHN looks back at him. ALBERTO looks nervous.

THOMAS

Is something wrong Alberto?

ALBERTO

Nah I'm just... is Sophia ok?

THOMAS

She'll be fine. She just needs to be alone for a bit. How are things between you two?

ALBERTO

Pretty good. I've been thinking though we've been together for a while and well I'm not sure where to go from here.

THOMAS

What are you thinking?

ALBERTO

Well you know... it, that thing you know.

THOMAS

What thing?

ALBERTO

You know... *that* thing.

THOMAS

You are talking about marriage right?

ALBERTO

Yeah. Why, what did you think I was talking about?

THOMAS

Nothing, forget I brought it up. That's great man.

ALBERTO

Yeah it is.

THOMAS

You sound really excited.

ALBERTO

Yeah. I'm just a little... unsure. I mean it's a big step.

THOMAS

Huge step.

ALBERTO

Massive step. We're talking fucking big.

THOMAS

I know.

ALBERTO

I'm just worried about rushing things. Ruining what we have going.

THOMAS

Well you have been together for three years. And you lived together with me for two.

ALBERTO

I know I know, it's just... uhhh. I mean you heard what she was saying about her brother and dad. She hasn't exactly had the best experience with men in her life and I don't want to fuck things up.

THOMAS

Well do you love her?

ALBERTO

More than anything in the world. I think about her all the time. I think about her when I go to sleep. I'm always thinking about how much I would like to be with her. Every time I think about the future I can't think about it without her being there. Do you know what that is like?

THOMAS

A little.

ALBERTO

It's going to sound weird but one night we were up really late talking. I asked her what her greatest fear was. She said it was being alone on her death bed. So I told her that if we were together I hopped she died first so I could stay with her until she was ready. And when she asked me what I was most afraid of, I told her it was dying first, and leaving her alone without me there to tell her how much I love her.

THOMAS

I think you should do it.

ALBERTO

I don't know man. What if I can't be the husband she deserves? I mean I was adopted and my mom was a prostitute so who knows what kind of a deadbeat dad my biological father was. And my past relationships haven't worked out to well either. Most girls left because I loved them more than they loved me, or vagina more than they loved me. What if that happens again? What if I'm not marriage material? What if I can't support us? What if-

THOMAS reaches into his coat and pulls out a rose, giving it to ALBERTO.

You know what, you're right man. I'm gonna do it. Thanks for the advice. I'm gonna take her out to dinner tomorrow and do it. I can ask my step brother to help me plan the proposal, he can be my best man too. I'll call him and ask. Tomorrows going to be great. What do *you* have planned on Saturday?

THOMAS

I'm supposed to have lunch with Andy.

Lights down. End Scene.