

One Play:
The Death of Hayden Waverly, The Most Popular Person In The World

Lauren Wimmer

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The Death of Hayden Waverly, The Most Popular Person In The World

by
Lauren Wimmer

Lauren Wimmer
200 W. 88th Street
#4B
New York, NY 10024
414-588-1090
Laurenmwimmer@gmail.com

CHARACTERS:

NAOMI / CHORUS 1 - 27 years-old, Female

ELI / NEWSCASTER 1 / CHORUS 2 - 27 years-old, Male

NELSON / NEWSCASTER 2 / CHORUS 3 - 27 years-old, Male

LYLE / DEVIN / DOCTOR / ACTOR / CHORUS 4 - 30 years-old, Male

SETTING: Chestertown / Now

PRODUCTION NOTES:

There are three sections to the stage: on one side of the stage is Naomi's studio apartment, on the other side of the stage is Eli's office of his office/home, and in the center of the stage is Episcopal Marble Church's basement.

All the dancing in this play should not be choreographed.

All the characters pronounce Naomi's name Nay-Omi.

A "/" marks an overlap in dialogue.

NOTE ON TONE:

Let the humor come from a place of truthfulness.

SCENE 1

(Chorus 1 enters.)

CHORUS 1

Her name is Hayden Waverly
The Most Popular Person In The World
Or T.M.P.P.I.T.W.
Which means she has the most friends
And no enemies
Hayden's not bragging

(Chorus 2, 3, and 4 enter.)

FULL CHORUS

It's a simple fact

CHORUS 1

And Hayden Waverly wants us all to know

FULL CHORUS

That she will miss us when she's gone.

CHORUS 2

The prognosis of Hayden's illness is not looking good
As in, she may die today more than any other day

FULL CHORUS

It's that bad

CHORUS 3

But Hayden's not supposed to remind us of death

CHORUS 4

She's supposed to remind us of life

FULL CHORUS

So live

CHORUS 1

When Hayden dies she wants to hear cheers throughout the streets

(The Chorus cheers together.)

CHORUS 2

Hayden wants parties

CHORUS 3

Hayden wants people to scream shouts of joy
So loud they reverberate the earth below

(The Chorus stomps repeatedly on the floor.)

CHORUS 4

Because Hayden's life was one well-lived
With us by her side

CHORUS 1

The joy at Hayden Waverly's funeral should ring throughout all the world

(The Chorus breaks out into sounds of euphoric glee.)

CHORUS 2

Hayden Waverly told us to dance on her grave
'Cause she knows our intention is to celebrate her

CHORUS 3

'Cause she's not afraid

CHORUS 4

'Cause she has friends

FULL CHORUS

All the friends in the world

CHORUS 1

If you're still looking for a friend
Hayden Waverly's your woman

CHORUS 2

There are people out there no matter how many times Hayden Waverly invites them to
do stuff who will just say "no" or never reply at all

CHORUS 3

And to those people Hayden says

FULL CHORUS

Don't be a Solitary Citizen

CHORUS 4

Hash tag Don'tBeASolitaryCitizen

Befriend Hayden Waverly

FULL CHORUS

She is sick

CHORUS 1

But she still wants to hang out

CHORUS 2

Over coffee

CHORUS 3

To watch television

CHORUS 4

To play catch

CHORUS 1

To compete in an epic game of chess

CHORUS 2

To chat

CHORUS 3

Or not chat at all

CHORUS 4

We don't know how much longer Hayden Waverly has
But just know life is too short and too hard to go at it alone

CHORUS 1

SCENE 2

(The basement of Episcopal Marble Church. There is a long table with chips, veggies, and fruit punch. Nelson stands on a ladder, attaching a large poster that reads, "We'll Die Someday And That's A-Okay!" to the wall. He steps down from his ladder and places it to the side. Nelson checks his watch and walks over to the door and looks through it. He grabs a handful of chips and eats them. He straightens out the table cloth. Nelson checks his watch again. He grabs another handful of chips and stuffs them into his mouth. Eli enters.)

ELI

Is this The Terrified of Death Club?

NELSON

Yes! Welcome! Have some chips, punch, and fun!

ELI

Great. I have fun, but I don't really eat any of the things you describe.

NELSON

There's veggies!

ELI

Kinds?

NELSON

Celery and carrots.

ELI

That works.

(Eli walks over to the snack table and eats
some carrots and celery.)

I'm Eli.

(Eli extends a hand.)

NELSON

Nelson!

(Nelson shakes Eli's hand. Silence. Nelson walks over to
the punch bowl and takes a ladle full of punch.)

NELSON

Hahahaha. Punch?

ELI

Kind?

NELSON

Fruit?

ELI

Sure.

(Nelson fills up a cup of fruit punch for Eli and hands it
to him.)

NELSON

Hahahaha. So anyway, welcome! Anyone else with you?

ELI

Just me. My raccoon died.

NELSON

Oh, I'm so sorry.

ELI

Two years ago.

NELSON

Well, that's expected. People coming in with grief. That's going to happen so....

ELI

Just wanted to get that out in the open. Some background. So.....

NELSON

What do you do for a living?

ELI

He was murdered, but by a coyote. His name was Buddy which is kinda a dumb name for a pet, so dumb you probably thought I had little respect for him, but I had such respect for him that I apologized to my own raccoon, out loud, in public, for giving him such a basic pet name. I was just so excited to have a pet that I didn't want to waste any time naming him which would keep us from doing rad things together, which, in retrospect, is probably a good thing as he died tragically. By a coyote.

(Silence.)

ELI

I am head of the successful Chestertown Division of Temporary Friends Unlimited so I help people find friends so, yeah. You can rent them.

NELSON

Haha. That's nice. Having friends helped me overcome my fear of death.

ELI

Me too. Friends keep me company and are a great way not to think about the moment someday that I stop breathing so that's nice.

NELSON

That's what I'd say. Hahahaha. Sorry, I laugh when I'm nervous.

ELI

I tend to have that effect on people. I think it's 'cause I carry my grief around like a backpack.

(Silence.)

NELSON

Where is everybody? Hahahaha.

ELI

All my friends couldn't make it 'cause they have to travel the world and hang out with their famous friends and stuff. What do you do?

NELSON

This. Just this. I used to be a cool dancer. Now I'm just a cool support group leader for people scared of the end of life.

ELI

I'm also an actor. On sabbatical to help people find friends. I haven't quit. Just on a bit of a break. My choice.

NELSON

One of my friends is Hayden Waverly.

ELI

Mine too!

NELSON

She's The Most Popular Person In The World.

ELI

But we had, like, the best time together. "Pasta maker is my best friend."

NELSON

What?

ELI

You wouldn't get it. It's our little inside joke.

NELSON

We had one of those. "Yeah."

ELI

Yeah.

NELSON

"Yeah" was our inside joke. But you wouldn't know that.

ELI

Hayden Waverly helped me cope with Buddy's death.

NELSON

Hayden Waverly helped me get over my fear of impending doom.

ELI

She's everything.

NELSON

And she's dying.

(Silence.)

NELSON

But you know what? Life keeps chugging along and we'll be a-okay, right?

ELI

Right. I have so many friends to turn to during this time. So many.

NELSON

My best friend and I are getting pizza to emotionally eat over Hayden's prognosis.

ELI

Mine too. And we're getting frozen yogurt.

NELSON

I like that. I don't think anyone else is coming. Hahahahaha.

(Nelson closes the door to the basement
and grabs a pad of paper.)

But that's a-okay! So, let me see....

(Looks at pad of paper.)

Introductions. We did that so that's good!

And why we're afraid of death. Did that!

ELI

You're afraid of death?

NELSON

Nope! Not anymore. I just say, "we," because it makes people feel less alone, you know?

(Nelson looks down at his pad of paper.)

Okay. Ummmm. I thought there were going to be a ton of people, but that's okay. They're probably busy with big life things like births and stuff so that's probably why they're not here, but yeah! Hahahaha.

ELI

Probably.

NELSON

So, for our first exercise, this is better in a group, but we can do it as a pair. A person says an action and the person next to them will say, "But you'll die."

ELI

That's a terrifying exercise.

NELSON

And you have to maintain eye contact and you can't cry. Okay? We both can't cry. Not that I'd cry hahaha.

ELI

Okay.

NELSON

So, I'll start. Cleaning up the kitchen.

ELI

But you'll die.

(Silence.)

NELSON

You come up with an action. Hahahaha.

ELI

Okay. And it alternates?

NELSON

Yes. And don't think.

ELI

I used to be, I mean, I still am an actor so I'm really good at taking direction and improv!

NELSON

Good.

ELI
Okay.

NELSON
Name an action.

ELI
Watering the plants.

NELSON
But you'll die. Sewing a hole in your clothing.

ELI
But you'll die. Jumping.

NELSON
But you'll die. Watching football.

ELI
But you'll die. Eating potato salad.

NELSON
But you'll die. Hugging your girlfriend.

ELI
But you'll die. Petting your raccoon.

NELSON
But you'll die. Smelling her scent.

(Eli and Nelson start to get emotional, but hold it in. The following becomes increasingly more rapid fire.)

ELI
But you'll die. Getting raccoon hair on your hands.

NELSON
But you'll die. Being reminded of her every day.

ELI
But you'll die. Getting the frisbee and forgetting he's not there.

NELSON
But you'll die. Turning to the other side of the bed and there's emptiness.

ELI
But you'll die. Crying.

NELSON
But you'll die. Eating.

ELI
But you'll die. Breathing.

NELSON
But you'll die. Moving.

ELI
But you'll die. Continuing.

NELSON
But you'll die. Moving on.

ELI
But you'll die. Starting anew.

NELSON
But you'll die. Going backwards.

ELI
But you'll die. Feeling bad.

NELSON
But you'll die. Feeling nothing.

ELI
But you'll die. Missing.

(Silence. They are both on the edge of grief.)

NELSON
Good. That's good! Good job!

ELI
That exercise made me sad, but I liked it!

NELSON
You should tell your friends to come to this next week! And each week after that!

ELI
Did your girlfriend really die?

NELSON

Just part of the exercise. I think that's all for today! I was planning on more people so this is quite short.

ELI

Okay.

NELSON

It's just that I created exercises for large groups of people and we could keep going with just the two of us, if you want?

ELI

Oh, that might be awkward if the exercises were for bigger groups!

NELSON

That's what I'm saying. I'm glad you understand. Hahahahaha. So, I'll see you next week!

ELI

You too! I'll bring people, or a person. Probably people.

NELSON

Great! Bye now.

ELI

Can I take more celery?

NELSON

As many as you like.

ELI

The whole platter?

NELSON

Life's too short, right?

ELI

Right.

(Eli takes the platter full of veggies and walks to the door.)

NELSON

Have fun at frozen yogurt!

Have fun at pizza!

ELI

And with your friend.

NELSON

And yours!

ELI

Bye!

NELSON

See you!

ELI

See you too!

NELSON

(Eli exits. Piercingly loud cheers are heard, fireworks go off, honks of car horns, and the floor beneath Nelson's feet reverberates.)

SCENE 3

(Naomi's studio apartment. Naomi sits on a futon watching television. She wears sweatpants with rips in the knees and an oversized hoodie. Newscaster 1 and Newscaster 2 enter holding microphones. They have sunny dispositions.)

NEWSCASTER 1

The largest funeral for The Most Popular Person In The World, Hayden Waverly, is taking place right now here on Fox.

NEWSCASTER 2

We're on ABC.

NEWSCASTER 1

Darn it! Here on ABC. And it has been quite a funeral.

NEWSCASTER 2

Hayden Waverly managed in her 27 years to befriend the entire world population minus Solitary Citizens who she couldn't connect with. Later in the broadcast, we will go through the signs one may possess if they are indeed a Solitary Citizen.

NEWSCASTER 1

Just remember, anyone could be a Solitary Citizen, your friendly neighbor, the person who rings you up at the grocery store, even your own spouse could be a Solitary Citizen so make sure to stay tuned.

(Newscaster 1 and Newscaster 2 exit.)

NAOMI

(To the audience.)

Hey my name's Naomi
 I have, like, no idea why I'm talking to you right now
 'Cause I have, like, so many friends
 Like so many that I can't even count
 They're just busy
 So yeah
 I'm not talking to you 'cause I'm lonely
 Or lost
 Or in need of a hug
 My sister died
 We were two years apart in age
 I was seven, she was nine
 So yeah
 Why am I even talking to you right now?
 'Cause it's not like I'm fucking lonely
 I swear too
 So yeah

(The doorbell rings. Naomi rises from her futon and answers the door. It is Lyle, the pizza delivery man in a red shirt, black pants, red tennis shoes, and a red hat.)

LYLE

Hey! A MEDIUM PEPPERONI WITH EXTRA PEPPERONI! Sorry, that was a little jarring.
 Hello there. A medium pepperoni with extra pepperoni.

NAOMI

Yes! I've been waiting for you for forever!

(Naomi reaches into the pocket of her hoodie and pulls out the exact change and tip.)

LYLE

Watching the funeral, huh? She was one of my friends. We used to eat cinnamon rolls together and sit on my porch to watch the sunrise. It sucks I have to work during her funeral, but gotta make the bacon, you know what I mean? Make the bacon?

NAOMI

That's a common phrase so yes.

LYLE

Cool.

NAOMI

She was my friend too.

LYLE

Of course she was. Otherwise you'd be a Solitary Citizen. What must that be like? To be a Solitary Citizen? To have no friends?

NAOMI

I have no idea.

LYLE

I hate to ask this as I feel it's kinda weird, but have you watched my YouTube video yet?

NAOMI

No.

LYLE

Okay, that's, like, totally cool. But it's just really good. I do an acoustic version of Bohemian Rhapsody on guitar so it was a big undertaking, but I got two new views this week so now I'm up to the double digits in views so that keeps me going when the going gets rough. You know I made the video 'cause my goal this year was to make myself more visible to the world.

NAOMI

I'm just busy.

LYLE

How was your week?

NAOMI

Good. Yours?

LYLE

Good. Yeah. Weather's weird.

NAOMI

It's humid and it's October.

LYLE

Yeah. That's why it's weird. Cool, well, I'm listening to the live stream of the funeral and I'm gonna cry so I better run! But I'll see you a couple more times this week!

(Lyle exits. Newscaster 1 and Newscaster 2 enter with their microphones.)

NEWSCASTER 1

Some common signs your loved one is a Solitary Citizen. Does your loved one go to events alone? Do they do the majority of their tasks alone? Do they not have people over to their home? Do they not go to other homes? Do they own studio apartments and spend nights eating pizza and watching television? And most importantly, because friends serve as a distraction from this, are they afraid of death? That is the marker of a Solitary Citizen. Friends are a great way to forget we're all gonna die.

(Naomi ravenously eats through her pizza.)

NAOMI

(To the audience.)

I have friends, like, that one guy who I see everyday at the store

I have 732 Facebook friends

I have people I hang out with when I hang out with other people with friends

Not really

Not at all

I'm talking to all of you 'cause I'm lonely

No

I have friends

Like so many friends

Like I can't even name all the friends I have

So yeah

And pizza?

That's awfully specific

And I'm not afraid of death

Bring it on

Actually, don't

Don't bring it on

I live across from a cemetery

And I've seriously thought of moving 'cause of it

But I'm fine

I'm, like, super fine with death

It totally does not scare me at all

It does

It really does
Fuck

(Naomi screams.)

NEWSCASTER 2

And as you can see right behind me, the funeral service within the church has ended, but the hearse with Hayden Waverly's casket is on the way to the cemetery where we're located right now.

NEWSCASTER 1

Behind us is Hayden Waverly's plot. I repeat, Hayden Waverly's plot where she will be buried is right behind us. And what a location!

NEWSCASTER 2

Known as the The Most Popular Person In The World, Hayden Waverly was once a person who would go to sit-down restaurants by herself. She even watched a movie in a movie theatre all alone and, get this, she traveled to Brazil for one month without a friend. Can you believe it?

NEWSCASTER 1

I cannot. She truly was an inspiration. From Solitary Citizen to The Most Popular Person In The World.

NEWSCASTER 2

She overcame all odds and made friends, first with one person, and then another, and then another, until she befriended 95% of the planet.

NEWSCASTER 1

And she loved to throw parties so her last wish was to have her funeral be a giant party and it looks like it is.

NEWSCASTER 2

Look at that. People are dancing in the streets, there are fireworks all across the nation, and today has been proclaimed to be Hayden Waverly Day.

NEWSCASTER 1

It sure is. The leaders of all the nations united today in talks to erect a Hayden Waverly monument in each country.

NEWSCASTER 2

She sure brought world peace to a decaying universe, didn't she? And it looks like they are lowering her casket into the ground right now.

NEWSCASTER 1

Look at that form.

NEWSCASTER 2

I don't think that's what we're supposed to comment on.

NEWSCASTER 1

I'm so used to announcing for sports that I have absolutely no idea what I'm doing.

(Newscaster 1 and Newscaster 2 exit. The doorbell rings. Naomi answers the door. It is Lyle.)

LYLE

Did you just scream? I heard a scream.

NAOMI

No.

LYLE

Okay. This is weird then. I feel weird now. You must also feel weird. Have you watched my video yet?

NAOMI

Not yet.

LYLE

Well, I'll see you and remember, "Pizza Delivery Man Sings Bohemian Rhapsody (Acoustic)" and acoustic is in parentheses.

(Lyle exits and Naomi shuts the door.)

NAOMI

(To the audience.)

Lyle has been trying to be my friend for years

I think he has

Maybe not

This is a problem

How do I know when I'm friends with someone?

I'll figure it out

Hayden Waverly never reached out to me

How could I be Hayden Waverly's friend when she didn't even reach out to me?

I mean, she did

I just ignored it

I didn't know it was a thing

She asked me to a burrito joint to talk

But what was there to talk about?

(Newscaster 1 and Newscaster 2 enter holding their microphones.)

NEWSCASTER 2

And the burial is underway. You know, Hayden Waverly touched so many lives.

NEWSCASTER 1

She did.

NEWSCASTER 2

Like mine. You know ummmm.....

(Newscaster 2 starts crying ever so slightly.)

Two years ago, I was a drug addict, no one loved me, my dog couldn't even look at me anymore, and Hayden came into my life and really changed it. Got me into a rehab. And just last week I was eating ice cream with her and watching Dick Van Dyke. Nobody watches Dick Van Dyke anymore.

NEWSCASTER 1

That's beautiful. 2 months ago, I was dying. Taking my last breath and I was dead for a solid 2 minutes. Hayden Waverly came in, took my hand, and I was brought back from the dead. So.....

(Newscaster 1 gets emotional. Newscaster 1 and 2 sob together.)

NEWSCASTER 2

Even beyond the grave, Hayden Waverly is bringing people together. I love you, man.

NEWSCASTER 1

I love you too.

(Newscaster 1 and Newscaster 2 hug it out.)

NAOMI

(To the audience.)

*I'm gonna befriend the whole world's population
I'll go from being a Solitary Citizen to The Most Popular Person In The World
I'll be the person you eat pizza with
I'll be the person you exercise with
I'll be the person who comforts you over a break-up
I'll be the person who notifies you that you have food in your teeth
With a self-deprecating joke to make it less awkward for the both of us
I'm gonna be the bridesmaid at your wedding
The cool friend who hypes you up for an interview*

I'm probs gonna start out small
 But little by little I will have the most friends
 I won't even be afraid to die
 I am so ready

NEWSCASTER 1/NEWSCASTER 2

We couldn't broadcast Hayden Waverly's funeral if it weren't for our sponsor, Temporary Friends Unlimited. Are you a Solitary Citizen? Or do you just want another friend? Do you have friends, but they're not doing it for you anymore? Temporary Friends Unlimited has got the pal for you! You can rent them! Have fun with them! And as soon as they bring up that thing you agreed not to talk about

NEWSCASTER 2

Such as you cheating on your spouse

NEWSCASTER 1/NEWSCASTER 2

You can dump them for someone new! Through an advanced algorithm involving pen and paper, specialists match you with someone who is compatible. Call 1-800-FRIENDO today. That's 1-800-FRIENDO.
 TemporaryFriendsUnlimitedIsNotADatingServiceGoToMatchForThatSideEffectsFromHavingANewFriendIncludeExcessiveSmilingLotsOfLaughingAndDistractionFromPersonalProblems.

(Newscaster 1 and Newscaster 2 exit. Naomi takes out her cellphone and dials. She puts the phone to her ear.)

NAOMI

Hello?.....I'm looking to be a friend.....Great.....Chestertown.....Yes.....Great.....That sounds great. Thank you.....I have so many friends, a lot of friends and I think I'd make a good friend and it's, ummmm, it would mean the world to me.

It would mean my life

My soul

My everything

.....I'm available tomorrow at 9:30 in the morning that day. I think I can wait until then.....Great....Goodbye....And nice speaking with you.

(Naomi hangs up the cellphone.)

NAOMI

(To the audience.)

I'm gonna be The Most Popular Person In The Fucking World
 You ain't seen nothing yet, universe

SCENE 4

(Eli's office of his office home at Temporary Friends Unlimited. Devin and Eli eat leafy salads. Devin is an overeager try-hard wearing business casual. Eli stands at his standing desk. A stuffed head of a coyote hangs above him. Devin sits, content in his eating.)

DEVIN

Real good salad, Eli! Real good!

ELI

I try, Devin.

DEVIN

I hate salad. But I love this salad! I'm genuinely curious about what you're working on.

ELI

My raccoon's obituary. He died a couple years ago, but I never officially announced it.

DEVIN

I wish I could've met him. I can't believe we weren't friends two years ago. Wow.

ELI

Can I read it to you?

DEVIN

I would be honored.

ELI

"Buddy, the pet raccoon of Eli Kingsley Masterson, died two years ago after being murdered by a coyote. Buddy loved to take long walks, eat left over beef off of Eli Kingsley Masterson's plate, and play catch in the yard. He leaves his best friend, Eli, who wonders how he can go on in the face of death."

DEVIN

That. Is. Perfection.

ELI

You don't think it's too depressing?

DEVIN

It's poignant. Is that the coyote's head?

(Devin points to the coyote's head above Eli's desk.)

ELI

It is. I killed it. With a B.B. gun. I didn't mean to kill it. That's why I used a B.B. gun. And I still feel bad I killed a living thing, but I keep telling myself that I saved the other animals in the neighborhood from becoming prey.

DEVIN

Awwwwwww.

ELI

I don't think this is working. I want a new temporary friend. We've had fun. Having leafy salads in the office of my office home, but I think this might be the end. Thank you. You were great.

DEVIN

Have fun with your new friend. Whoever they are, they are lucky to be friends with a guy like you. A guy who can make a killer salad and write a masterful obituary.

ELI

Cool. Bye!

(Devin exits. Eli throws away his salad and wipes down his desk. Eli continues working. Naomi courtesy-knocks on the door. She has a sunny disposition.)

ELI

Welcome to Temporary Friends Unlimited! You must be Naomi?

NAOMI

Yes! That's me!

ELI

I'm Eli.

(Naomi and Eli shake hands.)

NAOMI

Nice to meet you!

ELI

Great. Have a seat. I have a standing desk. Some people don't like it, but I sure do.

NAOMI

I stand at my desk all the time. You know what? I feel weird sitting down, I will keep standing.

ELI
You said you're a freelancer.

NAOMI
Yes.

ELI
Freelance what?

NAOMI
Art.

ELI
I'm an artist too.

NAOMI
Really?

ELI
Yeah. I act. So, I know how that goes.

NAOMI
What are you in?

ELI
I'm auditioning, but even when you're auditioning you're acting. You're acting like you're not about to lose your mind hahahaha.

NAOMI
Hahahahaha.

ELI
Ha.

NAOMI
Ha.

ELI
That was a very natural joke. I could tell, because you laughed like a real person.

NAOMI
I thought it was the funniest joke I have heard in a long time.

ELI
I am funny, aren't I? I've always considered myself a more serious actor. Like playing the servant, Dominic, in Hamlet.

NAOMI

There's a servant named Dominic in Hamlet?

ELI

They added the part 'cause I was so good they didn't want me to not get cast. I don't mean to brag. You asked. But maybe I am funny? Huh. You never know.

(Naomi points to the coyote head above Eli's desk.)

NAOMI

Cool head!

ELI

You think so? One of my ex-friends doesn't like it. I mean, he said he did, but I could tell he probably didn't which is why we're not friends anymore. It's a coyote.

NAOMI

You must be strong!

ELI

I'm more strong physically than I am emotionally, but thanks. I didn't mean to kill the coyote. I am not an animal killer, but it's what I had to do to save Buddy.

NAOMI

Well, that's good you saved your budd—

ELI

Raccoon. My pet's a raccoon. You're right. I didn't end up saving my raccoon. Still died. I just keep it as a souvenir of, well, of my struggles so before I start crying, let me ask you, why do you wanna be a friend to rent?

NAOMI

'Cause I don't have any!

ELI

What?

NAOMI

I meant it jokingly. I have a ton of friends.

ELI

Self-deprecating humor. How many would you consider to be close friends?

NAOMI

Nine.

ELI

Names?

NAOMI

Sandra, Jason, Bill, Terri, Michelle, Michael, Michaela, Naomi, Michael.

ELI

Everything seems to check out so, now for the next round. I am going to play out a common conversation friends usually have between each other. I have drafted out what this friend went through, let's call him EliJohn, okay? I am EliJohn.

(Eli takes out a script from his desk with only his lines on it.)

ELI

And I worked really hard on this script, okay? I went to the top drama school in Idaho so get ready to have your mind blown. That sounded so conceited of me. Well, oh well. Here goes:
"Hello"

NAOMI

Hey.

ELI

I like that. That's laid-back. Uhhhhhhh.
"How are you?"

NAOMI

Good.

ELI

That's a little boring.

NAOMI

Bad.

ELI

That's depressing.

NAOMI

Uhhhhhhh....So rad.

ELI

I like that. Ummmm, sorry I shouldn't be commenting, but I know improvisation doesn't come as naturally for most people as it does for me.
"That's good."

How are you? NAOMI

"I got the promotion today!" ELI

That's awesome! NAOMI

"I know, right?" ELI

I knew you would. NAOMI

"I didn't think I would, but after I was super rad, I thought maybe I would, but who knows?" ELI

(Pause.)

Yeah. NAOMI

"What do you want for dinner? I heard this place has great shellfish." ELI

I'm allergic to shellfish. NAOMI

"That's okay. They have chicken." ELI

Great. NAOMI

"How was your childhood?" ELI

Good. NAOMI

"Mine was bad." ELI

NAOMI

Oh, I'm sorry.

ELI

"But that's okay 'cause now I'm hanging out with your ex-friend and they've been giving me great life advice. Oops."

NAOMI

Oh. Well, wow, I don't think that's, I don't know if we can be friends anymore.

ELI

"Oh. Well, you're the best."

NAOMI

Ummmmmm.

ELI

I think this is where you forgive them.

NAOMI

I forgive them?

ELI

Yes.

NAOMI

Oh. I forgive you.

ELI

"You're the best!"

And this is where you hug, but let's not do that right now.

NAOMI

Great.

ELI

"Now that we're friends again, can I have your Netflix password?"

NAOMI

Yes.

(Eli puts his script away.)

ELI

So, that's a typical conversation you will have with a friend.

I passed?

NAOMI

Yes.

ELI

Good.

NAOMI

But barely. I was good, right? Like I really killed it with that script?

ELI

Yeah. You seemed like a real friend.

NAOMI

I should go into writing plays. This is why you'll be a great friend. For the last part of the interview, I am going to ask a few questions. Answer "yes" or "no" the fastest you can. No thinking, okay?

ELI

Okay.

NAOMI

Like crowds?

ELI

No.

NAOMI

Dogs?

ELI

Yes.

NAOMI

Thank god. Like pie?

ELI

Yes.

NAOMI

What kind?

ELI

Aren't these yes, or no questions?

NAOMI

Nice catch. Like boats?	ELI
Yes.	NAOMI
Like your parents?	ELI
No.	NAOMI
Like people?	ELI
Yes.	NAOMI
Like bow ties?	ELI
No.	NAOMI
Like seltzer?	ELI
No.	NAOMI
Ponies?	ELI
Yes.	NAOMI
Tanning?	ELI
No.	NAOMI
Death?	ELI
	(Pause.)

No.	NAOMI
Things about death?	ELI
No.	NAOMI
Movies about death?	ELI
No.	NAOMI
Music about death?	ELI
No.	NAOMI
Plays about death?	ELI
No.	NAOMI
Dying death?	ELI
No.	NAOMI
Deadly death?	ELI
No.	NAOMI
Good. Now, you're hired as a temporary friend.	ELI
Great!	NAOMI

ELI

YouOnlyGetPaidForTheMinutesYouMeetTheFriendForSoThatMeansFiftyCentsPerMinute
SoKeepThoseConvosGoingAsLongAsPossibleButNotTooLongToThePointWhereTheRenter
WondersWhatElseTheyCouldBeDoingWithTheirLife. Are you free to meet with a friend
this week?

NAOMI

Yes!

ELI

I have found the perfect friend for you.

NAOMI

Got it. Where should I meet them?

ELI

The Episcopal Marble Church's basement. That sounds creepy, but believe me, it's not!
Hahahaha. Sorry. Saying it's not creepy followed by a nervous laugh makes it sound like
it is creepy, but it is not hahahaha. Stop that, Eli! Sorry. You're meeting there for the
Terrified of Death Club which is this underground thing. It's in the basement. It's an of-
the-people operation, because there are people out there who are not Solitary Citizens,
but like living so much, they're a little worried about what happens when all your
organs stop working. The guy who runs it is pretty experimental. Should be a fun time!
Are you in?

NAOMI

Yes! And I have a question?

ELI

Yep?

NAOMI

How many friends can rent me at one time?

ELI

Just one.

NAOMI

Oh.

ELI

Yeah. Because if everyone can rent the same friend at the same time then how are
they gonna feel special?

NAOMI

Isn't it called Unlimited?

ELI

Yeah, but that means that if the renter screws up there are still unlimited choices of friends to choose from. And smile. A lot.

NAOMI

I will.

(Naomi really smiles to the point it comes off as unnatural.)

ELI

Like a real, genuine smile. It looks like you're in pain right now, okay?

NAOMI

Great.

(Naomi exits. Eli looks at the coyote head.)

ELI

Oh, Buddy.

SCENE 5

(Nelson sits in a chair. He faces an empty chair across from him. He sits for awhile. Nelson checks his watch. The Doctor enters and shakes Nelson's hand.)

DOCTOR

Hello, Nelson. How are you?

NELSON

Good. How are you?

DOCTOR

Good.

(The Doctor takes a seat in the chair across from Nelson.)

DOCTOR

Good. Good. Good. Good. There's been some bad news. Your results came back.

NELSON

Oh. Hahahaha.

DOCTOR

Yes. I'm trying to find a better way to say this. A way that would be easier, or make it sound better, or make it seem like you should have hope, or at least word it in a way that you won't cry in my office, because people don't know this about doctors, but sometimes when you cry, we feel like we're gonna cry, but that's unprofessional so I am going to make this sound the best I can.

(Silence.)

DOCTOR

YouHaveATerminalDiseaseAndThereIsNoCure.

NELSON

What?

DOCTOR

You have a terminal disease and there is no cure. You know what Hayden Waverly had? I miss her so much, we used to drink mint juleps and watch monster trucks on television, anyway, she had the same disease you have. Right now.

NELSON

That's cool.

DOCTOR

All you can do is hope.

NELSON

That's cool. It's alright. So, this means hahahahahaha I'm gonna hahahahaha you know hahahahaha die, right? Hahahaha. This is, this is, this is, this is quite something. I'm in my twenties so this is hahahaha a big surprise, but why should it be, right? We live and die. Live and die. Live and hahahahaha. Hahahahahahaha hahahaha ha hahahahahah ha haha hahahahaha hahahaha haha ha hahaha Can I use your bathroom? And by "use your bathroom" I mean run to my car and drive away?

(The Doctor nods. Nelson exits.)

SCENE 6

(The basement of Episcopal Marble Church. There is a long table with chips, veggies, and fruit punch. A large poster that reads, "We'll Die Someday And That's A-Okay!" is attached to the wall. Naomi stands around the table of snacks.)

NAOMI

(To the audience.)

Everything is going according to plan
 Sure, it sucks that you can only have one friend at a time
 That's true
 That sucks
 But this is practice
 And who knows?
 Maybe this friend will have many other friends
 And those friends have friends
 And then those friends have friends and families and acquaintances
 And once they find out what a good friend I am, I'd take over the world
 World dominating friend
 And it will be so great, I will forget everything
 I will forget I'm alone
 I will forget that Hayden Waverly was never my friend
 I will forget that death is just waiting for me
 Just like it was for my sister
 When I meet with these renters, these "friends" in quotation marks, am I really being
 me?
 No, I'm not
 I'm being a better version of me
 A perfect version of me
 So no more so yeahs
 So yeah
 Damnit!
 The me I was always supposed to be
 Not the me who obsesses about her sister's death
 I'm aware
 I'm free
 I'm ready

(Eli enters.)

ELI

Hey.

NAOMI

Oh, hi. Is my new friend not coming?

ELI

I'm the renter. Don't worry. I'm not a Solitary Citizen, or anything. Just looked at my database and we were the most compatible! Don't worry. I'm not testing you, or anything.

NAOMI

That's good!

ELI

Because everyone can use our services. Not just Solitary Citizens, but normal people too.

NAOMI

My cousin was a Solitary Citizen and she ate pizza by herself in her studio apartment a few times a week. But don't worry, she's no longer a part of my life. I've closed that chapter!

ELI

I'd say. My cousin was also a Solitary Citizen as well. He would sit in his office which is also his home and read the newspaper every day. All day.

NAOMI

Wow.

ELI

Yes. Quite a world we live in. Were you friends with Hayden Waverly?

NAOMI

Friends? Besties!

ELI

Me too.

NAOMI

R.I.P., Right? I like your tie!

ELI

Thanks. I bought it.

(Silence.)

NAOMI

How did you get into Temporary Friends Unlimited?

ELI

It's a family business. My dad, Eli Senior, started the business and I just latched on from the womb so, yeah.

NAOMI

That's awesome!

ELI

But is it? Because the last time I checked, I wanted to be an actor, but life works in oblivious ways.

NAOMI

Mysterious ways.

ELI

No. I think it's "oblivious ways".

(Silence.)

ELI

I think being friends means you don't have to talk much. But I think of movies and television shows and of course from my own life that it takes time to get to that point and have it be comfortable, you know?

NAOMI

Yeah. From my past friendships that was kinda the deal.

ELI

Like you know when you have nicknames for each other, like, "Pal" and "Champ?"

NAOMI

And "Gorgeous" and "Weirdo."

ELI

Yeah. Totally. And like, my friends, they love it when we go to bars and eat chicken wings and play pool and take pictures of each other when we're drunk, but we take taxis home.

NAOMI

And then when you get home, you watch a bad movie from the eighties and make fun of it the whole time.

ELI

And you've watched it so many times you know the lines by heart.

NAOMI

And there's that moment when you're done laughing, but then you look at each other and start laughing again.

ELI

And then your friend falls asleep and drools and you stay up watching the movie and even though you're basically watching it by yourself you look over to your friend and realize you're not alone.

(Silence.)

ELI

You gotta meet Nelson. He's a genius.

NAOMI

Where is he?

ELI

Oh my God. You're so right. He could be dead.

NAOMI

Or late?

ELI

Or dead. Like maybe he'll never show.

NAOMI

He's maybe in the bathroom. I wouldn't worry about it.

(Eli looks up at the poster.)

ELI

That always helps me. That we'll be a-okay.

(Nelson enters slyly and turns off the lights. It is complete darkness.)

NELSON

The session has just begun.

Today we're gonna reflect on the after life.

Will your parents be there?

Your best friend?

Your first grade teacher?

That man you always pass on your way to work that looks like someone famous, but you can't put your finger on it?

That waitress at the diner you go to twice a week and has your order memorized, but since she passed you have a new waiter who doesn't know anything about you so you have to start the process of getting to know each other, but you feel like you're cheating on your old waitress with this new waiter, you know?

When you're seen, will people be able to run up to you?

Will they be able to touch you and really feel you like they once did?

Will there be furniture? A table? Chairs?

Will it be bare?

Will there be nature?

Maybe it can be anything you want it to be.

You can choose.
Like a.....

(Nelson takes out an iPod from his pocket
and turns on some techno music.)

A dance party.

(Nelson turns on the lights. Eli and Naomi clap along to the music, trying their best to seem like they're dancing, but really not. Nelson busts some sweet moves. He uninhibitedly dances throughout the following.)

NELSON

Dance!

Dance!

Dance!

Dance!

You can smile and dance!

You can cry and dance!

You can flirt and dance!

You can twiddle your thumbs and dance!

You can wake up in the morning and dance!

You can make coffee and dance!

You can feed the chickens and dance!

You can drive to the hospital and dance!

You can wait in the waiting room and dance!

You can go into the doctor's office and dance!

You can wait some more and dance!

You can check your watch and dance!

You can see the doctor coming and dance!

You can shake hands and dance!

You can ask, "how are you?" and dance!

You can hear, "There's been some bad news" and dance!

You can hear you have a terminal illness and there's no cure and dance!

You can feel the world turn in a different way and dance!

You can feel like you're in a dream and dance!

You can realize this is real life, your life, and dance!

You can run to the car and dance!

You can cry and dance!

You can drive over to The Terrified Death Club you're leading, but feel like now you could really use the help yourself and dance!

You can dance and dance!

And dance and dance and dance and dance and dance and dance and dance and dance and dance
and dance and dance and dance and dance and dance and dance and dance and dance and dance
and dance and dance and dance and dance and dance and dance and dance and dance and dance

(The music abruptly stops bringing Nelson back to reality. He stops dancing.)

NELSON

Sorry, my iPod ran out of battery.

(Nelson runs over to the lights and turns them off.)

NELSON

Maybe it's just black.
 Maybe it is full of candy.
 Maybe it is full of birds.
 And maybe your girlfriend's still there.
 And you can see her again.
 And she's just as you remembered her to be.
 And you can relive the best times.
 To become one again.
 To sense her again.
 And you have no idea why you were so fearful in the first place.
 And it's just like life but without pain.
 And who wouldn't want that?
 Or maybe it'll just be silence.
 And no one speaks.
 Just sits there.
 Maybe you'll be all alone.
 Maybe you never like that, but here it's peaceful.
 Maybe there's a field.
 And everyone's a blade of grass.
 Or maybe there's nothing.
 Think about what comes after this life.

(Silence. Nelson turns on the lights.)

ELI

Was that true?

NELSON

What?

ELI

Are you dying?

NELSON

No. I have a terminal illness with no cure, but I am not dying, I am living until I die just like you, okay? Okay.

ELI

Oh my God.

NELSON

What's your name?

NAOMI

I'm Naomi.

NELSON

Welcome! I am so excited to have you. I am Nelson, the head of the club. Help yourself to any snacks and have as much fun as you like which will probably be a lot so make sure you're ready for the ride hahahaha.

NAOMI

I am so sorry, Nelson.

NELSON

You shouldn't be sorry. Don't be thankful either. It's just how the world works. One day we're on it and the next we're not so that's how it is! Does anyone mind if I eat some chips? This is so unprofessional, but I just can't help myself.

(Nelson grabs a handful of chips and eats them.)

NELSON

I was always the most healthy. Watched my weight, never smoked a cigarette, abstained from drinking. And now look at me! I'm dying! I'm not. I'm being over the top. It's fine. It's not, like, a big deal, or anything. It's death so it's inevitable, you know? Maybe we can end this session early today. Will you excuse me?

(Eli and Naomi nod. Nelson exits and screams. He re-enters as though nothing happened.)

NELSON

So, what do you do in Chestertown?

NAOMI

I freelance art.

ELI

Are you okay?

NELSON

Never felt better! Sometimes it's just good if you feel like you're gonna cry in a public setting in front of people, people who look up to you, to leave the room and scream at the top of your lungs instead. I've done it so much today, and although my throat burns, I feel refreshed.

ELI

What type of illness is it?

NELSON

We don't have to go into details. 'Cause even though I barely know you, Eli, I know you enough to know that you'd google that shit as soon as I'd tell you. It's pretty aggressive. What's interesting is that there aren't many symptoms until you are just gone so even though I feel mostly fine, I have a slight headache from crying and screaming so much in such a short period of time, it could still hit at any moment. It's quite silent so, yeah. But who knows? I will probs die from it unless I get hit by a semi on the way home so....

ELI

That sounds serious.

NELSON

It is. It, like, really is, but enough about me. What about you guys?

ELI

You must be terrified.

NELSON

I'm not, thanks.

ELI

I'm terrified for you.

NELSON

You always have the right things to say, Eli.

ELI

Like I couldn't go on, I don't think.

NELSON

Just keep prodding.

ELI

But you never know.

NELSON

I know. Why don't we talk about something else?

NAOMI

Another exercise?

NELSON

I have to go to another doctor so I gotta cut this short.

ELI

Just like your life.

NELSON

Eli.

(Eli is about to cry.)

NELSON

Eli, if you're gonna cry on me, I'm gonna, I'm gonna cry too and you don't want me too.

ELI

I'm won't, I promise.

NELSON

Okay, we'll get through this. Right Naomi?

NAOMI

Right.

NELSON

You're one of those quiet people, aren't you?

NAOMI

What?

NELSON

You know, shy. Like a shy person?

NAOMI

I don't think so.

NELSON

Okay.

ELI

You should really see Naomi when she opens up. She's a hoot.

NAOMI

I am?

ELI

Yeah.

NELSON

This was fun, but I gotta go. I'll come back to pack this stuff up. If people steal it, why would it matter anyway? Oh, and for next time, you have an assignment, you should prepare your own version of what you think the after life will be like.

(Nelson exits.)

ELI

Oh my God.

NAOMI

When do you wanna meet next week?

ELI

I'm thinking about eating chips. I never eat chips, but I feel like eating chips so....But why am I telling you that? Hahahahaha.

NAOMI

Hahahahaha.

(Eli grabs a handful of chips and stuffs them into his mouth nearly choking on them in the process.)

ELI

Well, I'll arrange a time to hang out next week.

NAOMI

Great!

ELI

Great!

NAOMI

See you later!

ELI

But you never know.

NAOMI

That's true. Well, bye!

Bye!

ELI

(Eli exits.)

NAOMI

(To the audience.)

Shy?
I'm not shy
I said so much
I said so many words
And mouth sounds
With vowels and consonants and shit
Little does Eli know that I know his birthday
It's on Saturday
I will surprise him, the best way I know how
I need to make more moves

SCENE 7

(Eli's office. Eli reads the newspaper and drinks a cup of coffee at his standing desk. The coyote head hangs above him. There's a knock at the door. Eli answers the door. It is Naomi holding a confetti cannon and a birthday cake.)

NAOMI

Happy Birthday!

(Naomi shoots a confetti cannon.)

ELI

Oh no! I hate my birthday, messes, and surprises!

NAOMI

I can clean it up.

ELI

I have a particular method of how I like to clean.

NAOMI

I like your office.

ELI

Thanks.

It's clean. NAOMI

It was. ELI

(Eli cleans up the mess. He is incredibly meticulous in doing so with his own little rituals. Silence.)

I brought a cake! NAOMI

Great. ELI

Isn't it exciting you're 28? NAOMI

I guess. ELI

I bet you have plans. NAOMI

I do. I have tons of plans. You caught me in-between all my plans. ELI

What did you do this morning? NAOMI

I went places. ELI

That's great. Who was there? NAOMI

Friends. ELI

What friends? NAOMI

Why do you wanna know? ELI

NAOMI

I'm just asking.

ELI

I think this is over. I hate surprises. I hate messes. I hate birthdays. I never understood why people celebrate birthdays. I think it's 'cause you want to draw attention away from the fact that every birthday is just one step closer to death. So, I won't be tricked by your confetti cannon and your cake and your happy face. I know what's coming. Maybe you can be rented by someone else?

NAOMI

I don't wanna work for Temporary Friends Unlimited anymore. I wanna get friends the old-fashioned way. Like at a party with all my other friends, or on an airplane, or in a bar. I'm leaving the job. And, and, and, and I have so many friends that need me and want me and, and, and, and—

(Naomi gets emotional, but tries her best to stifle it.)

ELI

You look like you're gonna cry.

NAOMI

No! I'm not gonna cry. I just value friendship. If you don't, that's okay. And I'm leaving.

ELI

Great.

NAOMI

What did you say?

ELI

Great.

NAOMI

Oh, that's really nice. Really nice. Maybe, maybe, maybe the only reason your friends are friends with you is 'cause you are such a sad case. That's what I think!

ELI

Get out!

NAOMI

And they probably talk to each other about you behind your back about how sad you are.

ELI

Leave now!

NAOMI

I'm sorry. That sounded not harsh enough. You're probably a Solitary Citizen!

ELI

I will call the cops if you don't leave.

NAOMI

Fine! I'll leave, but first....

(Naomi throws a tiny piece of cake on the ground. She is surprised that she did this.)

NAOMI

I'm sorry. I've never done that before. Do you need help cleaning?

(Eli shakes his head. Naomi exits.)

SCENE 8

(The basement of Episcopal Marble Church. There is a long table with chips, veggies, and fruit punch. A large poster that reads, "We'll Die Someday And That's A-Okay!" is attached to the wall. Eli and Nelson stand across from each other. Eli looks terrified.)

ELI

What is the game called again?

NELSON

Death Tag.

ELI

Okay. That's alright.

NELSON

Here's how you play it. I am Death. That's who I'm playing.

ELI

And I'm Life.

NELSON

No, you're still Eli.

ELI

What?

NELSON
I am Death and you are Eli.

ELI
And I have to run away from you.

NELSON
Yes.

ELI
What happens if I get tagged?

NELSON
Then you fall to the ground.

ELI
And then I'm Death?

NELSON
No, you're still Eli.

ELI
Okay. Okay. This is totally okay. I'm ready. This will be, like, so fun.

NELSON
Stop stalling. Okay. Countdown from three.

(Nelson and Eli gear up to run.)

NELSON
Three—

ELI
I hung out with so many people yesterday.

NELSON
Can we save this for after?

ELI
Yes. Sorry.

NELSON
Three. Two—

ELI
How are you feeling? I haven't asked.

Fine. NELSON

Really? Fine? ELI

Eli. NELSON

Sorry. ELI

Three. Two. One. NELSON

(Nelson charges towards Eli. Eli runs, exiting through the door to the basement. Nelson peeks his head through the door.)

Eli! You can't exit the basement! NELSON

Whoops! ELI (OFF STAGE)

(Eli re-enters.)

I'm sorry. I don't know what got into me. ELI

You have to stay in the basement. NELSON

Sorry. ELI

Countdown from three. Three. Two. One. NELSON

(Nelson charges to Eli. In fear, Eli crouches down into a corner. Nelson tags him. Eli slumps down and lies on his back. Eli stands up.)

Now what? ELI

NELSON
Now we reset.

ELI
Am I Death now?

NELSON
No, you're still Eli. And I'm still Death.

ELI
But that's not fair.

NELSON
Fine. I'll be Nelson. And you can be Death.

ELI
Okay.

NELSON
Countdown from three.

ELI
Can I do the countdown from three?

NELSON
Sure.

ELI
Three. Two. One.

(Eli runs after Nelson. As Eli charges towards Nelson they both scream. They chase after each other for awhile. This ultimately leads to both of them on opposite sides of the basement facing each other. Eli tries to catch his breath.)

NELSON
Aren't you gonna come for me?

ELI
Being out of shape means you're gonna die early, right?

(Eli looks like he's about to cry. Nelson walks up to Eli to comfort him. Eli tags him.)

Got you! ELI

(Nelson falls to the ground and lies on his back.)

What's the next exercise? Nelson? ELI

Find a place on the ground and lie on it. NELSON

Okay. ELI

(Eli picks a place on the floor and lies down on his back.)

Let's just lie here for the rest of the club. NELSON

Okay. ELI

I never felt my heart beat so hard. NELSON

Yeah. Mine too. ELI

(Silence.)

I like this. I like silence. I was a dick to Naomi. I feel bad. ELI

Eli? NELSON

Yes. ELI

Don't take this the wrong way. NELSON

I won't. ELI

NELSON

But could you please, and I mean this with all my heart, could you please shut up? That would mean a lot to me. 'Cause I will miss this. I'm not afraid. On the ceiling, there is a paint mark that looks like a smile, but no face to go with it. Just on its own. I never noticed that. And my breathing's deep. I never noticed how deep it is within me.

SCENE 9

(Naomi's apartment. She is in a large hoodie and sweatpants with tears in the knees. She sits on a futon.)

NAOMI

(To the audience.)

I was a mess at Eli's office home
I know that
And because of that I have taken some desperate measures
I am grass rooting

(Naomi takes a poster from underneath her futon that has Naomi's face on it and a phone number. It reads, "Need A Friend? Naomi's Your Woman.")

Putting my name and number all around Chestertown
Flyers up at the grocery store
Going door to door
Canvassing
Busking
Chanting
Performing
And so far I have had
Zero interest
No phone calls
But I'm still forging on
I watched Lyle's YouTube video
It was horrible and didn't resemble Bohemian Rhapsody at all
But I want to help Lyle out
So I emailed the biggest site in the world
Goss dot com
And told them to check out this courageous pizza delivery man
I said that the video changed my life
And I haven't heard back
But tonight I'm gonna make a friend move
I've been practicing asking Lyle to eat pizza with me
It will be epic
Prepare yourselves

(Doorbell rings. Naomi answers the door. It is Lyle wearing his pizza delivery uniform.)

LYLE

ME-Medium pepperoni pizza with extra pepperoni.

NAOMI

Great.

LYLE

And I saw your flyer!

(Lyle takes out a flyer from his pocket with Naomi's picture on it.)

NAOMI

That's me.

LYLE

I like it. Making yourself more visible to the world. Have you watched my video yet?

NAOMI

I did!

LYLE

HOW DID YOU LIKE IT? Sorry. I mean, how did you like it?

NAOMI

I loved it.

(Lyle takes out his phone and looks up the video.)

LYLE

Cool. It's up to, well, still double digits, but now it has twenty four views. I see your comment saying, "This gave me life!" so that's good. Someone just commented, "Freddie would've been so disappointed," but that's okay. They just don't know what true music is, right? Sorry. I'm getting cocky.

(Silence. This is Naomi's moment.)

NAOMI

Do you wanna eat some of my pizza with me?

LYLE

What?

NAOMI

Do you wanna eat some of my pizza with me?

LYLE

Sure.

(Naomi and Lyle sit on the futon and eat the pizza.)

LYLE

This is amazing. I never tried the pizza before at The Pizza Man. This is changing my life. This means so much to me.

NAOMI

Really?

LYLE

Just someone taking the time to sit with me. No one's ever done that before. Maybe I should take my video down.

NAOMI

You should keep it. Maybe you'll inspire millions of people around the world.

LYLE

By how good it is?

NAOMI

Yes. And also maybe, like, let's say someone thinks it's bad, because it's all opinion anyway, maybe they would feel inspired, because you're so brave with putting yourself out there.

LYLE

I mean, all I ever wanted was to be a singer, but maybe I was meant for infamy.

NAOMI

Yes. And infamy's not bad.

LYLE

Not nowadays.

NAOMI

You have to believe in yourself.

LYLE

I'm believing.

(A ton of phone beeping noises. Lyle takes out his phone from his pocket.)

LYLE

The video's going viral. And all these outlets are picking it up. And you're right!

(Newscaster 1 and Newscaster 2 enter.)

LYLE

They're saying:

NEWSCASTER 1

It's so bad it's good

NEWSCASTER 2

Watch this video of a pizza man singing Bohemian Rhapsody and feel better about yourself

NEWSCASTER 1/NEWSCASTER 2

This pizza delivery boy is brave

LYLE

I feel so seen by the world.

NAOMI

That's great!

(Lyle's phone rings. He answers it.)

LYLE

Hey....Yes, this is Lyle....Yes, that's my video.....I know, right?.....When did I know I was a horrible singer? Good question! I think I knew when, well, I don't think I knew I was a horrible singer until now. BUT THAT'S OKAY! Sorry.....Who is my inspiration?.....Naomi.....She's one of the best friends in the whole world. Everyone should be friends with her. Everyone. I have her flyer here.....Okay, her number is 516-234-9498.....Naomi Brennan. B-R-E-N-N-A-N. Nice speaking with you!

(Lyle hangs up the phone.)

LYLE

That was the biggest gossip site in the world.

NAOMI

Goss dot com?

Goss dot com.

LYLE

Oh. My. God.

NAOMI

(Naomi's phone starts beeping a lot as if hundreds of notifications have hit her phone at once. Naomi looks at her phone.)

NAOMI

Everyone wants to be friends with me. And not just Facebook friends. Friend friends. The Sentinel just released an article entitled:

NEWSCASTER 1/NEWSCASTER 2

"Could Naomi Become The Next Hayden Waverly?"

(Newscaster 1 and Newscaster 2 exit.)

NAOMI

Oh my God. This is everything I have ever wanted. I need to look cool. I can't wear this. I need to transform! Ummmmm, can you close your eyes really quick?

Sure.

LYLE

(Lyle closes his eyes and Naomi transforms what she is wearing into a cool outfit.)

LYLE

I have a plan! Because I have fans. And you have friends. We can help each other out. I can play music and you can hang out with your newfound friends. I will sell millions and that can help you make millions of friends. Sounds easy.

NAOMI

I love that and then I will befriend everyone even the Solitary Citizens.

LYLE

And I will be famous and maybe then my parents will love me.

What?

NAOMI

Nothing. Let's make it happen!

LYLE

Open your eyes.

NAOMI

I can't.

LYLE

Now you can.

NAOMI

(Lyle looks at Naomi.)

You look so cool. I would totally be friends with you.

LYLE

(Naomi's phone rings. Naomi answers it.)

NAOMI

Hello?.....Oh, so nice to speak with you, CNN.....Yes, I am a great friend. Lyle is great too. And, in fact, if you wanna see us both, you should stop by my place.....My address? 3254 Willow Road, Apartment 134 in Chestertown. And I just wanna say, before I hang up, that I am here for everyone. Even the Solitary Citizens. 'Cause, well, I was you once. Long ago, I was a Solitary Citizen. But I saw the light. I found people who I cared for and who cared for me. And I wanna be that Hayden Waverly for someone else, but, more importantly, I wanna be me.

(Naomi hangs up the phone.)

That was so inspiring.

LYLE

What?

NAOMI

What you said.

LYLE

(The floor reverberates underneath their feet. Voices of a large crowd are heard.)

They're coming. Oh, shoot.

LYLE

I'm going to make friends

NAOMI

LYLE

And I'll sing. I'll sing a cappella so it will be even worse and make people feel even better about themselves!

NAOMI

I'm gonna, I'm gonna, I'm gonna—

LYLE

You got this.

(The sounds from outside become louder. The crowd is heard beyond the walls of the apartment. It becomes increasingly more loud until the apartment shakes.)

LYLE

Greet them with me.

NAOMI

I will.

(Naomi and Lyle go to the door. Lyle thinks for a minute, then opens it. Lyle exits to big cheers. Naomi exits to even larger cheers.)

SCENE 10

(The basement of Episcopal Marble Church. There is a long table with chips, veggies, and fruit punch. There is a large poster that reads, "We'll Die Someday And That's A-Okay!" on the wall. Eli, Devin, and Nelson stand in a triangular pattern.)

NELSON

Welcome to the club, Devin. So, we're gonna start off with "But You'll Die." A person says an action and then the person next to them will say, "But you'll die." And we'll go around in the circle.

DEVIN

Or should we triangle? Hahahaha!

ELI

Hahahaha!

NELSON

And we have to maintain eye contact and we can't cry.

ELI

Not that you and I would cry, Devin! Hahahahaha!

DEVIN

Hahahahaha!

NELSON

Will you excuse me for a moment?

(Nelson exits. Nelson screams. The scream is more distressed than before. He re-enters as though nothing has happened.)

NELSON

I'll start. Playing guitar.

ELI

But you'll die. Making a to do list.

DEVIN

But you'll die. Baking cookies.

NELSON

But you'll die. Grocery shopping.

ELI

But you'll die. Shoveling snow.

DEVIN

But you'll die. Feeling stressed about the work and family life balance, but knowing my best friend in the whole world, Naomi, has got my back.

NELSON

But you'll die. Playing tennis.

ELI

But you'll die. Taking photographs.

DEVIN

But you'll die. Thinking all day about how Naomi's the best person I have ever hung out with.

ELI

If you're gonna be my friend, then you can't be friends with Naomi. Who gave you that friendship bracelet?

DEVIN

Naomi.

ELI

Life advice?

DEVIN

Naomi.

ELI

Who's been there for you?

DEVIN

Naomi. When I'm talking to you on the phone, I'm emailing Naomi. When I'm hanging out with you in your office, I'm dreaming of Naomi. When I eat your salad, I'm thinking about the much better salad Naomi made for me after we played football. And guess what? My name's not really Devin, it's Darron and I work at a video store off highway I-97. I have a wife. I have a daughter. You never ask about them. We only ever talk about you. And I'm not happy. I'm actually incredibly saddened and with a bad case of seasonal depression in the winter months to the point I need to get a special lamp. And your salad's so horrible, I wanna murder it. It has, like, chickpeas and grapes and walnuts and little domes with like little brown circles and shit—

ELI

Quinoa.

DEVIN

Well, you and your salad can have fun. And you know what else wasn't true? I think it's dumb you stand all the time. Desks are for sitting, bro. Yes, I say bro. And I have no shame about it. Temporary Friends Unlimited sucks. And I'm gonna give you such a bad review on the Internet. My day was a dumpster fire, if you're asking.

(Devin exits.)

NELSON

Well, I wasn't expecting this today! But that's a-okay! Get it? Hahahaha.

(Nelson points up to the poster.)

ELI

I have something to present. What I think happens after.

NELSON

Okay!

(Nelson takes a seat.)

ELI

When I go under, or, like, when I die, I will take my breath, and be transferred to a smoky bar, and I can sing forever and it is so beautiful that everyone cries. Just a warning, my voice is actually very bad, but I'm gonna try....

(Eli sings the following. He has a beautiful voice, but he is nervous. He sings a capella and there isn't a clear melody, or rhythm to the song.)

ELI

I COULD TRY
TO SAY GOODBYE
BUT THAT WOULD MEAN THE END IS NEAR
AND I HAVE NOWHERE TO GO
AND MY RACCOON'S LOST
AND I CAN'T FIND HIM
AND IF ANYONE HAS HIM
COULD THEY LET ME KNOW!

And everyone would dance. It would be kinda like a square dance and everyone would clap. Then a raccoon's voice would pierce out of nowhere and the raccoon will join in and he will sing in his raccoon way, but now he'll be able to speak and we will talk and it'll be so rad and then he will sing:

(Eli sings.)

YOU'RE THE BEST OWNER TO ME
AND YOU'RE THE BEST ACTOR THAT EVER WAS

And then everyone there would want to see me act and I will do one of the big speeches from Hamlet and I'll actually be really good and everyone will cry and I will not cry, I will smile the biggest smile known to humanity and Buddy will be like, "Wanna do a traveling act?" And I will be totally down. So, we'll tour up in the sky, or in the ground, or wherever we are, and we'll tour to all the other dead people, him and I, Buddy and I. And I'll apologize for naming him such a typical pet name and he'll be, like, "No man, it's cool" and that will be that. And we'll do that forever. That's all I have. That was dumb, right?

NELSON

No, it was beautiful.

ELI

Thanks. I totally improvised that. Drama school. How are you feeling?

NELSON

I feel like I'm getting better.

ELI

Great. And, ummmm, I have a question?

NELSON

Yeah?

ELI

How do you know if we're right, or not? It's cool to imagine these things, but the likelihood of it being true, of me actually going around the universe with my raccoon in a traveling band seems unlikely.

NELSON

All we have is hope. When you think too hard about it, about dying, about the actual intricacies of dying, taking the last breath, possibly defecating yourself, on top of thoughts of what will happen after! It's enough to drive a person crazy! Hahahaha.

ELI

Hahahaha.

NELSON

Hahahaha, but seriously. Maybe it really is what we want it to be. At least that's what's keeping me going. That and all the human beings in my life.

ELI

Mine too. Well, I'll see you next week!

NELSON

I will see you then too!

ELI

You too too.

SCENE 11

(Naomi's apartment. She wears her cool outfit. A loud crowd of people can be heard through the front door. Naomi proudly stands.)

NAOMI

(To the audience.)

So, I have a ton of friends now
Be jealous

SCENE 12

(The basement of Episcopal Marble Church. There is a long table with chips, veggies, and fruit punch. A large poster that reads, "We'll Die Someday And That's A-Okay!" is attached to the wall. Nelson takes two seats and places them so they are facing each other. Nelson takes a seat in one of the chairs.)

NELSON

This is an exercise we can do for the rest of the time. Sit across from me.

(Eli sits across from Nelson.)

ELI

Is this the "But You'll Die" exercise?

NELSON

No, it's the "I'll Miss That" exercise.

ELI

Okay!

NELSON

I'll notice something about you. And I'll say, "I see...", like, I see your nose, or whatever I see. And you'll say, "I'll miss that." And then you say what you see. It can be the most basic thing. Like a thing most people have.

ELI

Okay! Great!

NELSON

You go first.

ELI

So, I comment on you?

NELSON

Yes.

ELI

Okay! I see your neck.

NELSON

I'll miss that. I see your forehead.

ELI

I'll miss that. I see your hair.

NELSON

I'll miss that. I see your nose.

ELI

I'll miss that. I see your ears.

NELSON

I'll miss that. I see your cheeks.

ELI

Time out. What happens if you don't like your cheeks and you won't miss that? I hate my cheeks. They lack bone structure and I don't—

NELSON

You can say you won't miss that. The reason why we're doing this exercise is because my friend is sick. And now they're seeing everything differently. Like they'll wake up to the same bird's annoying screech in the morning, but, my friend, they realize they'll miss that. They'll miss that along with the grumpy mail man, and the local fast food chain, and their back acne, and breathing so.....

(Silence.)

NELSON

Keep going.

ELI

Oh. I WON'T miss that. I see your chin.

NELSON

I'll miss that. I see your eyes.

ELI

I'll miss that. I see your eyes.

NELSON

I'll miss that. I see your eyes shifting.

ELI

I'll miss that. I see your eyes shifting.

NELSON

I'll miss that. I see you're content.

ELI

I'll miss that. I see you're also content.

NELSON

I'll miss that. I see you're alright.

ELI

I'll miss that. I see you're okay.

NELSON

I'll miss that. I see you're blissful.

ELI

I'll miss that. I see you're free.

NELSON

I'll miss that. I see you're hiding.

(Silence.)

ELI

I'll miss that. I see you're hiding.

NELSON

I'll miss that. I see you're afraid.

ELI

I'll miss that. I see you're melancholy.

NELSON

I'll miss that. I see you're unsure.

ELI

I'll miss that. I see you're imperfect.

NELSON

I'll miss that. I see you're lonely.

ELI

I'll, I'll, I'll miss that. I see you're lonely.

NELSON

I'll miss that. I think that's it for today. Hahahahaha.

(Nelson checks his watch.)

NELSON

We're at time. Well, a few minutes early so.....

ELI

I feel horrible.

NELSON

We can still have a ton of friends and feel lonely.

ELI

That's right. That's right. That's right. I guess I don't know what I give off to the world in terms of my vibes.

NELSON

Me too! I guess I seem tired today Hahahahaha!

ELI

Yeah. Hahahahahaha.

NELSON

Did not sleep well last night. Hahahahaha.

ELI

Me neither. Hahahahahaha.

NELSON

We'll be at the town cemetery next week.

ELI

Great! Well, ummmmm...

(Nelson begins to exit as though he will exit to scream.)

ELI

Nelson? Do you wanna come over and play checkers?

NELSON

Tonight?

ELI

Yeah. I live within walking distance.

NELSON

Oh. That sounds fun!

ELI

You know how to play?

NELSON

Yeah! I used to play when I was a kid.

ELI

Me too!

NELSON

Maybe we can eat these snacks there.

ELI

Yeah. That would be great. Hahahaha.

NELSON

Hahahaha. And we can talk about—

ELI

Anything. Talk about anything.

NELSON

Yeah!

ELI

Or not talk about anything at all! But I'll have music.

NELSON

What music?

ELI

Whatever's on the Top 40.

NELSON

I love whatever's on the Top 40.

ELI

Me too.

NELSON

And then maybe we could, you know, order take out. On me.

ELI

Yeah! I mean, I'll offer to pay of course.

NELSON

But I'll be, like, that's alright. I got this.

ELI

But I'll keep offering.

NELSON

And I'll keep insisting.

ELI

And we'll eat and play checkers, but it will probably lead into watching something on TV.

NELSON

I love TV.

ELI

Me too!

NELSON

That would be so fun!

ELI

Well, we can, like, you know, head over there now?

NELSON

Yeah!

(Nelson and Eli start to exit. As Nelson and Eli reach the exit, they stop and turn to each other at the same time.)

ELI

I would love to have you over for checkers, but I forgot that one of my friends has a party 'cause they just moved, it's like a house party type of deal, so I gotta be there 'cause I helped build the house.

NELSON

I forgot I had something, a friend's having a baby shower and I gotta be there for support. I'm sorry, I get all my friends mixed up. Maybe another time if that's okay?

ELI

Another time sounds good.

NELSON

Yeah. Maybe some other time.

(Pause.)

NELSON

You can go on ahead. I have to make sure I have everything.

ELI

Bye.

(Eli exits. Nelson waits for a moment. Nelson looks back at the room and exits.)

SCENE 13

(Naomi's apartment. Naomi sits on her futon. Loud banging, screams of fans are heard beyond the apartment walls. The banging, screams, and the crowds outside are noticeably louder than ever before. She wears an oversized hoodie and sweatpants ripped at the knees. She is exhausted and watches television.)

NAOMI

(To the audience.)

There is such a thing as too many friends
 I haven't slept in 10 days
 This must be what it feels like to have a ton of friends
 To be wanted
 Needed
 I went on 24 friend dates in one day
 One per hour
 Oh my God, I totally distracted myself from death until this point
 I wanted to be popular, but now I just wanna be me
 I'm not me right now
 I wanna go back to when I had zero friends
 I wanna go back to then
 I don't wanna go out there again
 Maybe never

(Newscaster 1 and Newscaster 2 enter holding their microphones.)

NEWSCASTER 1

Naomi is inching closer and closer to Hayden Waverly's title as The Most Popular Person In The World, or T.M.P.P.I.T.W..

NEWSCASTER 2

But controversy has plagued her cause.

NEWSCASTER 1

Now she seems to have stopped cold turkey meeting with her friends.

NEWSCASTER 2

Cold turkey sounds good right now.

NEWSCASTER 1

Want my sandwich for lunch?

NEWSCASTER 2

Absolutely not. Your kitchen was filthy the last time I was at your place.

NEWSCASTER 1

That's not nice.

NEWSCASTER 2

I'm sorry. I just have been trying to get in touch with Naomi. We had a nice 5 minute conversation and she's not returning my calls.

NEWSCASTER 1

Naomi's lack of commitment to our friendship's causing me to drift apart from my children.

NEWSCASTER 2

Caused me to have my kidney stones act up again.

NEWSCASTER 1

I could barely make it out the door to be here today.

NEWSCASTER 2

Naomi, almost The Most Popular Person In The World, is tearing people apart.

NEWSCASTER 1

Where is Hayden Waverly when you need her?

(Newscaster 1 and Newscaster 2 exit.)

NAOMI

(To the audience.)

The moment before the accident happened

I looked out the window in my parents' car

The one, that when I looked up

I could see the sky

And I dreamed of peeking my head through that window someday

Having the wind through my hair

That was the last thought I had before the crash
 My last thought wasn't about my sister
 It was about me
 I chose to sit on the left side that day
 My sister is one of those people where everything came easy to her
 Friends came easy to her
 Laughter came easy to her
 Just being came easy to her
 And I am the one who lived
 I can't go out there
 I can't see these people
 There's a reason I have no friends
 No true friends
 The reason I'm a Solitary Citizen
 And that reason
 Is me

(Something catches Naomi's eye through
 the window in her apartment. She walks to
 the window.)

I see Nelson and Eli
 They're in the cemetery
 They knew me before I was a Hayden Waverly knockoff
 Those people haven't even seen me as I really am
 As I am now

(Naomi climbs through the window. Lyle opens her door
 slightly to let himself in. Lyle closes the door and looks
 around.)

LYLE

Naomi? Naomi? You have friends here for you! Naomi? They want you! They need you!
 I don't know how much longer I can keep playing and singing! Naomi? It's tiring!

SCENE 14

(The Chestertown Cemetery. Nelson and Eli sit on a
 burial plot with a red and white checkered print blanket
 beneath them. A picnic basket sits between them. They
 eat a leafy salad and chips.)

ELI

How do you like my salad?

NELSON

It's good. I think this location for my grave will be nice. Under the trees so when I get too warm, I can feel a breeze. Although I won't be able to feel anything. I'll be underground. Under the dirt. Unconscious. There will probably be high school kids that come here for fun. High school kids terrify me. They'll judge the graves. They'll see the name "Nelson." They might laugh. But let's not think about that! At my funeral, I want there to be dancing. Any type of dancing. I want people to feel every emotion, to breathe, to let themselves go. Hahahahaha. But this is a nice cemetery, huh?

ELI

I haven't been to a cemetery before. Like in one. I buried my raccoon out behind my office home.

NELSON

Yeah! It's quite something, isn't it? So much history. So much.....death.

ELI

I like these chips.

NELSON

Thank you! I opened the bag.

(Naomi enters.)

NAOMI

Hey.

NELSON

Naomi?

NAOMI

Shhhhhhh.

NELSON

What are you doing here? You have a ton of friends now.

NAOMI

I'm taking a break. Hey, Eli.

(Silence.)

NAOMI

Not talking to me?

ELI

No.....Darn it!

NELSON

Want some salad?

NAOMI

That's the nicest thing anyone could ever offer me.

(Naomi eats the salad with great fervor.)

NAOMI

This is the best salad I've ever eaten!

ELI

You're just saying that.

NAOMI

You made it?

ELI

Yeah. I thought you were too cool for us now. Thought you were too busy.

NAOMI

I hate being popular. I hate it so much. I hate having a ton of friends. I hate having people need me all the time. I barely can keep track, but it could be worse.

NELSON

Yeah. I'm dying so.....

NAOMI

Sorry.

NELSON

Do you wanna know why I have the club here today? Exposure therapy. And also to get some feedback on my burial plot of choice. So, how do you like my new home, huh? My burial plot!

NAOMI

I like it!

ELI

Me too!

NELSON

Thank you! I feel lonely sometimes. And I don't wanna burden my friends with these things. They don't know I'm sick. You're the only people I've told so.....I have friends, but I can't open up to them? Like really let them in? They don't know huge parts of me.

Not bad things, but just, like, the fact that I have this feeling of running a lot of the time, this feeling I need to leap and fly and kick and scream, because otherwise I might as well be dead. If one more person asks me what happened to my girlfriend.

(Nelson points in front of himself.)

She's across from us. The headstone with the roses. And it brings up these feelings, these feelings that make me seem deep, or I've had a rough life, but actually, I just, I'm terrified. I lied. I have zero friends. I was pretending. I say, "my friends," but we're just people who knew each other at one time. So, I guess I'm a Solitary Citizen.

ELI

Me too.

NAOMI

Me too. Maybe we should, you know, hang out together?

SCENE 15

(Eli's office. Naomi, Eli, and Nelson sit underneath covers watching a movie on the television.)

NAOMI/ELI/NELSON

"This is how the chapter of my story goes. And I've written you out of it, Peter."

(Silence. Naomi, Nelson, and Eli look at each other.)

NAOMI/ELI/NELSON

Hahahahahahahaha.

(Silence.)

NAOMI/ELI/NELSON

"You never loved me, Peter. You just loved the novel that is my life."

(Naomi, Nelson, and Eli look at each other.)

NAOMI/ELI/NELSON

Hahahahahahahaha.

(Silence.)

NELSON

"That will be two pence."

(Naomi and Eli look to Nelson.)

NELSON

I've watched this movie a lot.

NAOMI/ELI/NELSON

Hahahahahahaha.

(Silence. Eli drifts off to sleep. Silence. Nelson drifts off to sleep. Silence. Naomi watches the movie intently. She looks to Eli and Nelson, noticing they are both asleep.)

NAOMI

(To the audience.)

I have friends
And now it's silent, but I'm not alone
I don't need to be The Most Popular Person In The World
Or T.M.P.P.I.T.W.
I can be me and still have friends
I can be a little gross and have people still like me
I can be dumb sometimes, but someone's got my back
I can be selfish sometimes, but they know I'm good at heart
I can be me
I'm good now
I don't need you
I'm incredibly happy

SCENE 16

(The basement of Episcopal Marble Church. There is a long table with chips, veggies, and fruit punch. The banner that says, "We'll Die Someday And That's A-Okay!" is attached to the wall on one side. Naomi and Eli enter.)

NAOMI

That was the best night.

ELI

The best night. And today I left Temporary Friends Unlimited. I wasn't gonna support that business anymore.

(Naomi and Eli eat some snacks.)

ELI

Where's Nelson? Remember when we first met here and Nelson wasn't here and I thought he died? Anyway, I'm no longer into just veggies. I eat chips now.

NAOMI

Welcome to the club.

ELI

Hahahaha.

NAOMI

I didn't realize that was funny.

ELI

Just the way you said that.

(Pause. Naomi's look of happiness turns to concern.)

ELI

What?

NAOMI

Wait. I feel something.

(Naomi peeks underneath the table cloth. She gasps. Naomi looks to Eli. Naomi and Eli remove the table cloth, revealing Nelson's body underneath the table. There is also AstroTurf on the tabletop that is revealed once the table cloth is removed. The Chestertown Cemetery. Naomi takes an iPod and a speaker from her pocket. She places it on the tabletop covered in AstroTurf.)

ELI

I guess it's just us.

NAOMI

Are you ready?

ELI

Ready. For Nelson.

NAOMI

For Sandra.

(Eli presses play on the iPod. It may be the same techno song Nelson danced to earlier, or may be a different song. Naomi and Eli dance. They gradually lose themselves in it. Their limbs go from tightened to loose, their feet progressively have minds of their own, and they dance wherever their instincts may lead. This dance is not choreographed. After awhile, the Actor enters.)

ACTOR

If you've ever wanted to dance in a play this is your chance. You are not required to, but you are more than welcome to. Wait for the drop. I will count you in. Eight. Seven. Six. Five. Four. Three. Two. One.

(Bass Drops. Dance party. Even though the audience is invited onto the stage for the dance party, Eli and Naomi do not interact with them. They become more enraptured in their own journey through the dance. This ultimately leads them to stand on the table covered in AstroTurf, facing each other, near the end of the song. As soon as Naomi and Eli hug, fade to black.)

END OF PLAY