



2-PERSON SCENES

This scene is from a Stage Partners play, free to read in full at yourstagepartners.com.

My First Lockdown by Jason Pizzarello

2F

Dramedy

(GRACE and TESS standing in a small closet. Perhaps represented by a box of light, or nothing at all. They can't see much and stand very close together. ...Shortly after the lockdown.)

GRACE: Are you sure this is the safest place to be?

TESS: No.

GRACE: What?! Then why are we in here? Why did you say—?

TESS: I never said it was the safest.

GRACE: Yes you did! There was no way I would have come in here if it wasn't for you. The only reason I rushed out of the bathroom and in here is because everyone was yelling. I hate closets. I hate all small spaces. I'm what-ever-you-call-phobic.

TESS: You need to be quiet—you're making it unsafe.

GRACE: I would rather be floating on a tiny raft in the middle of ocean than stuck in a tiny closet. But you said 'let's get in here, quick' like you knew that this was the safest place and so I listened to you. Why? I should have run in the opposite direction.

TESS: You know what, this would be the safest place...if you weren't in it.

GRACE: Then maybe I should go. You want me to go, I'll go.

(Pause, she waits for a response.)

GRACE: I'm going.

(She gets up, but TESS pulls her back.)

TESS: Stop alright. Don't be stupid. You're staying. Just shut up for like two seconds.

(GRACE stays. A few silent beats. They can hear each other breathing.)

GRACE: Have you ever been in a lockdown before?

TESS: No. But my dad's a cop and he's shown me a bunch of videos.

GRACE: Oh my God what did I just touch?

TESS: I don't know what did you touch.

GRACE: I don't know! But it was...wet.

TESS: Okay.

GRACE: Disgusting. This is something disgusting and wet in here. Maybe it was a dog, like a wet lost dog that doesn't bark. But it wasn't moving. So why would it be a dog?

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TESS: It's not a dog.

GRACE: Yeah, thanks I know. But it's just—

TESS: It's a probably a mop or something. We're in a closet.

GRACE: Like a janitor's closet.

TESS: I don't know.

GRACE: Do you hear anything? **TESS:** All I hear is you talking. **GRACE:** Why are you so angry?
TESS: I'm not.

GRACE: You're like always angry. At me especially it seems. Is it something I did? Because I've been thinking, even before you trapped me in this wet death cage, that you have like an attitude with me and maybe it was something I did? But I don't think so because I barely even interact with you except when I have to in class or something. And even then, it's not like we're friendly. I mean I try to be friendly to you but you always seem so angry. So the only thing I could think of is, that it could possibly be is that I got the part of Claire and you didn't. Maybe it's not anger but jealousy. I mean I'm sorry if you feel that way but I didn't cast the play, so maybe it's something you should talk to Mrs. B about if you're like harboring all these feelings or whatever.

TESS: One: I'm not angry. Two: I didn't even want that part. Three: you realize if you keep monologuing like that you could possibly get us killed.

(Beat. GRACE reflects on number three.)

GRACE: *(In more of whisper:)* One: If you're not angry then why do you always look angry?
Two: Of course you wanted that part, everyone did. Claire is the lead. Three: Do you really think we might die?

TESS: One: This is just my face. Two: Did you ever think that not everyone wants to play the lead? Maybe some people are better in smaller roles. Three: Yeah, I do.

GRACE: Really?

TESS: Yeah.

GRACE: Oh my God. Oh my God. I'm gonna die in a janitor's closet.

TESS: Why do you keep moving around like that? Just relax. Ya know, I'm sure everything's gonna be fine.

GRACE: I should have stayed in the bathroom.

TESS: No you shouldn't have. That's a really obvious place to hide.

GRACE: I definitely should have stayed in the bathroom.

TESS: Will you stop jumping around—you're going to knock something over.



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GRACE: I have to do something.

TESS: Just breathe—I told you, everything’s gonna be—

GRACE: No—I really have to pee. Like I really really have to. I was in the stall when the announcement went off and I just stopped and ran out thinking—I don’t know— I was afraid. And now that the adrenaline is wearing off, my bladder is waking up like ‘hey, remember me Grace, we have unfinished business.’

(GRACE is hopping up and down now.)

TESS: Shhhhhh...

GRACE: Maybe I’ll try and make it back.

TESS: No. You can’t leave.

GRACE: Then what should I do??

TESS: Hold it.

GRACE: I can’t! That’s what I’m telling you! I can’t!

TESS: Okay, sshhhhh.... Just, um, just...go then.

GRACE: What? Go where?

TESS: Here. Yeah, just go. When you gotta go, ya gotta go. Just go.

GRACE: Here?

TESS: Why not right? Nature calls. This is an emergency situation. We can’t leave. Go in the bucket or something.

(GRACE starts to cry.)

TESS: Are you crying?

GRACE: This is so embarrassing. I’m gonna die in a janitors closet in a puddle of my own pee.

(TESS takes her hand. GRACE is taken aback by her gesture. She stops moving around.)

TESS: It’s okay. We’re not gonna die.

GRACE: You don’t think so?

TESS: No.

GRACE: Will you pee with me in this closet?

TESS: No I will not.

GRACE: Okay.

TESS: You can though.

GRACE: I just did.



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(They look down. Beat.)

TESS: So you did. Feel better?

GRACE: Yeah.

(Pause. They listen.)

GRACE: Hey Tess.

TESS: Yeah?

GRACE: I know you don't want to play the lead, and I understand that's not everyone's type or style or whatever, but you would have been a great Claire. You're could be the lead, if you wanted. Any day.

TESS: Okay. Thanks. ...Maybe next year.

GRACE: Yeah, next year. Definitely.

TESS: Hey Grace.

GRACE: Yeah?

TESS: Hand me the mop.

End of Scene.

MY FIRST LOCKDOWN by Jason Pizzarello

Length: 30-35 minutes

Cast Size: 10-20 actors (suggested casting: 5F, 5M, 5 any)

(There is a version with more roles available. Contact Stage Partners for details.)

Genre: Dramedy

Synopsis: Inspired by true events, a group of theater students have just finished performing a play when the unthinkable happens - the school goes under lockdown. Caught in various rooms throughout the school, the students have to figure out what to do, who to trust, and if they're ever going to feel safe again.