



2-PERSON SCENES

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

Refresh: Short Plays for Long Distance

by Christopher Hageman and Emily Hageman

1M, 1F

Drama

DANNY: So I'm actually glad that you called me because I just heard this really weird thing on the news. I wasn't watching the news, though, because I'm not eighty, I accidentally clicked on a link when I was trying to look at food pictures.

LEAH: Yeah?

DANNY: Have you heard of this thing—the "Last Chat" app?

LEAH: Oh. Yeah. You mean that thing where—

DANNY: It's this thing where—oh, sorry, go ahead.

LEAH: Well, it's like—you input all of your texts and emails and you can talk with an AI simulation of someone you know. And it's really accurate.

DANNY: Yeah, and like—the company just did it because they thought it was funny and at first it had all kinds of bugs and stuff—remember that one thing that went around with that one guy looking at the weird CGI monstrosity of his friend and the thing kept going, "I eat hats. I eat hats. I eat hats."

LEAH: Yeah, that was—kind of funny, but mostly creepy.

DANNY: Yeah, and speaking of creepy—I heard that a lot of people are using it to talk to—like. Dead people.

LEAH: Oh.

DANNY: Isn't that freaky? Like—they input all of their social media and communication and pictures and all of a sudden, they can talk to their dead wife or whatever. But the thing is, like, the program can't advance, right? So they just keep replaying their last conversation with that person over and over again. Like how masochistic do you have to be to do something like that?

LEAH: Maybe the person just—wants to say goodbye.

DANNY: Yeah, but—the version that you're talking to, like, the AI doesn't have any input knowing that it's going to die, right? So—what's the point?

LEAH: I don't know. You get to hear their voice again—see their face.

DANNY: Reopen all kinds of wounds. Bring deep trauma to the surface.

LEAH: That's not fair. You've never lost someone, you don't know what it's like.

DANNY: Yeah, but—all I know is that people have been grieving for centuries without this. It just—feels like another way that technology can disrupt humanity, you know? It's the circle of life—we live, we die, the lions eat the antelopes, Hakuna Matata, you get it.

Pg. 1 of 3



2-PERSON SCENES

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

LEAH: It's easy to say that when you don't know. Can you imagine how much it must hurt to—never get a chance to say what you really feel?

DANNY: Maybe that's just the way it was supposed to be. And I get it, it hurts, but...I mean, what can you do? That's life.

LEAH: Life is supposed to be more than pain.

DANNY: Right—and it is. Bad days and good days come in equal measure. Some days, you're the king of the world, and the next day, somebody's throwing a Starbucks cup at you.

LEAH: You don't understand.

DANNY: You don't either. And I'm okay with that. Let's just live in ignorant bliss while we can. Ugh, let's talk about something else, I'm sorry I brought it up, I have like a billion goosebumps right now.

LEAH: What if I died?

(A pause.)

DANNY: Uh. Rest in peace.

LEAH: Stop joking, I'm serious—what if I died?

DANNY: It's more of a when and less of an if—

LEAH: Danny, I'm asking you a question.

(A pause.)

DANNY: Can we talk about something else?

LEAH: What would you do?

DANNY: Uh, be extremely depressed? Obviously? Leah, I don't want to talk about this, I'm gonna have nightmares.

LEAH: If you could talk to me again, would you?

(DANNY looks at her, confused.)

DANNY: Leah, you're acting weird.

LEAH: Just—think about it. Would you? If you could?

DANNY: I...don't know. Maybe?

LEAH: What would you say?

DANNY: I don't know! I don't want to think about this—I told you, can we just go back to talking about toothpaste or whatever—

LEAH: Just—answer me, and I'll never mention it again. What would you say to me? If I was dead and you had one last chance.

Pg. 2 of 3



2-PERSON SCENES

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

(DANNY is a little scared by LEAH's change of demeanor, but he thinks.)

DANNY: ...I don't know that I would say anything. I think I'd just...if you were really gone, I think I might just want to talk to you like normal. I guess? Because—I wouldn't want you to know, even like Al you, that you were gonna die soon. I guess...I don't know. I feel like—you already know how I feel about you.

LEAH: How do you feel about me?

DANNY: Should we sing Kumbaya and hold hands first?

LEAH: Danny.

(Another pause.)

DANNY: I mean, you know, right? You're the best friend I've ever had—ever will have, I think. You know everything about me—all of the good parts and the crappy weird parts, and you still...somehow, against probably every instinct in your super uptight body, you still like me. And that means...it means a lot, Leah. And I know I don't say it because words are bleh, but I guess...I'd hope that I show it. As much as I can.

LEAH: Yeah.

DANNY: Do I show it?

LEAH: Yeah.

DANNY: Okay. Good.

End of Scene.

REFRESH: SHORT PLAYS FOR LONG DISTANCE

by Christopher Hageman and Emily Hageman

Length: Short Play Collection. Each play is 10-20 minutes.

Cast Size: 10-25 actors (suggested casting: 3F, 4M, 6 any)

Genre: Drama

Synopsis: Building a relationship over a virtual platform can be...difficult. In this collection of short plays written for virtual performance, young theatre makers explore the space that exists between us, our screens, and the person on the other side. Imagine an app that lets you talk to dead people or realize you are a character in a play. That is ending. Very soon. What if you were partnered for an on-line school project with your exact opposite? How are Batman and The Joker handling all of this social distancing? Your students will connect with each of these auspicious plays written with them in mind.

Pg. 3 of 3