



MONOLOGUES

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

The After by Werner Trieschmann

(Six months after a school shooting, SHEREESE realizes she knew one of the seven victims, Toby, better than she thought. In the play, seventh-grade Toby appears, smiles, and listens to her.)

SHEREESE

I can't believe it. I had a date with Toby—one of the kids in the seven. I didn't think I knew any of them. I forgot—I don't know how. This was when I was in seventh grade. Me and a bunch of my friends went to the fair and we met up with these boys. One of the boys was Toby. Everybody acted like it was a surprise or something but I think it was a set up. They were all there so they could get us together, me and Toby.

We went off on our own and walked all over the fair. We played the games and saw these rabbits in a cage. He was so quiet—he barely said anything—but he was smiling the whole time. Then we went on the Ferris wheel and it stopped at the top. His friends found us and were yelling up at him, wanting him to kiss me. He just smiled. After that, we walked around some more and it was getting late, the fair was closing.

[Toby reaches out and holds Shereese's hand.]

He reached out and held my hand. Like he was my boyfriend.

[Toby lets go of Shereese's hand.]

But then the fair was over. I don't remember why I didn't see him again after the fair but I didn't. Maybe he had another girlfriend. We were in seventh grade. We were kids.

[Toby turns and walks off.]

He died in this school. He was shot in this hallway. I didn't go to his funeral. I didn't ...he held my hand at the fair.

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Length: 70-85 minutes. (A one-act version of this play is also available.)

Cast Size: 14-30 actors (suggested casting: 8F, 4M, 8 any)

Genre: Drama

Synopsis: One bright, blue fall afternoon a shooter walks in Three Roads High School and kills five students and two adults. During the shooting, students in one section of the school put up a makeshift barrier of desks, chairs, music stands—and a photo of the wall goes viral. In the hours, weeks and months after the wake of another tragedy, students and teachers deal with grief, the media frenzy and uncomfortable scrutiny that comes along with this horrible violent event that's become all too common in America.