

PLAY #30 TRIFLES

by

Buffy Aakaash

Buffy Aakaash
3935 South Americus St.
Seattle, WA 98118

206-619-9021
Buffsters@me.com

CHARACTERS

JAMES

A father.

DANNY

His son. Eleven years old.

TRIFLES

(At Rise: JAMES teaches DANNY how to make cookies. In the background, news plays on a radio. It's various different presidents' declarations of war.)

JAMES

So we have the oven preheating to three fifty. The dry ingredients in this bowl.

DANNY

Flour. Salt. Baking soda. But not sugar?

JAMES

No. The sugar goes with the wet. You cut the sugar into the butter.

DANNY

You cut it?

JAMES

That's what it's called. Because you have to use something sharp to cut up the shortening.

DANNY

Shortening is butter.

JAMES

Yes.

DANNY

You have to cut it.

JAMES

Cookies are all about sugar and butter. Sugar and fat.

DANNY

Mixed together.

JAMES

It's also called creaming. Now you can add the egg.

DANNY

To the sugar and butter?

(DANNY cracks an egg into the bowl.)

JAMES

This is called the wet.

DANNY

Can't we just eat this?

JAMES

I know. It's tasty. But you don't want to eat a raw egg. It might have pathogens.

DANNY

That might make us sick.

JAMES

Right. So now you add the dry to the wet. Go ahead and dump it in.

(DANNY adds dry to wet.)

And stir.

DANNY

So when we bake the pathogens they'll die?

JAMES

That's correct.

DANNY

It's sort of like a war? So we don't get sick.

JAMES

Sort of.

DANNY

We have to kill things so they don't kill us.

JAMES

Danny? Are you listening to this?

DANNY

Not really.

JAMES

We may be going to war, Danny.

DANNY

With people that want to kill us?

JAMES

That's not always the case.

DANNY

Oh.

JAMES

Some wars are about other things.

(They begin blobbing the dough onto a pan.)

DANNY

Are there definitely pathogens in here?

JAMES

There might be. Baking them might be called a preemptive action.

DANNY

I wonder why people like cookies so much.

JAMES

Because our brains are wired to like sweetness and the things that nourish us. Like fats. Sometimes we want those things so badly we're willing to go through a lot of trouble to get them. In a nutshell that's how wars happen.

DANNY

People kill each other for cookies?

JAMES

On second thought, let's just eat the dough.
(He pops one in his mouth.)

DANNY

But the pathogens!

JAMES

Don't worry. I won't let anything happen to you.
Mmmnnn. It's a risk worth taking. Go ahead.

(DANNY eats the raw cookie dough. The sound of the current president declaring war increases as the lights fade.)

BLACKOUT

END OF PLAY