

PLAY #5 A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

by

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## CHARACTERS

TOM

Mid- 30s. Perpetual adolescent.

HOLLY

Late 30s. Older, but taken like a child  
with a new experience.

## A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

(At Rise: TOM and HOLLY arrive to the beach.)

TOM

Good. We finally made it!

(TOM lays out a big blanket. HOLLY is looking out at the ocean.)

HOLLY

Whoa! It sure is beautiful.

TOM

Is it at all what you expected?

HOLLY

I didn't know what to expect.

TOM

You must've seen pictures. In magazines. Or on television?

HOLLY

Oh yes. But this is different. It's not just what my eyes can see. But the smells. The sounds. The feeling of the salt air on my skin! It's...

TOM

The sun!

HOLLY

Unimaginable.

TOM

I'm gonna catch some rays.

(TOM lowers his shades and sits down on a towel. Puts headphones on. It's loud enough for Holly to hear. Heavy metal.)

HOLLY

What are you listening to?

TOM

What?

(TOM opens one ear.)

HOLLY

What are you listening to?

TOM

Mega Preacher.

HOLLY

Yuck!

(HOLLY plops down next to him.)

TOM

I'm trying to have my own experience.

HOLLY

Can I sit with you?

TOM

Yes.

(TOM replaces the earphones. Sits back  
and closes his eyes. Silence.)

HOLLY

We're such different birds, you and I.

(The sound of seagulls.)

Yes... I think I feel much more attuned with you.

Little birdies...

(Sound of the ocean.)

And with you, too. Definitely with you.

(TOM sits up.)

TOM

Who are you talking to?

HOLLY

I'm having my own experience.

TOM

Okay. That's okay.

(TOM goes back down.)

HOLLY

Maybe you shouldn't have had so much to drink last  
night. Do you still love me?

(HOLLY stands up. TOM sits up.)

TOM

What? Did you say something?

HOLLY

I'm going for a swim.

TOM

Okay. I'll be here.

(He lies back down. HOLLY exits. TOM's music gets louder, reaches a climax. He shakes with it. Maybe sings a little of the lyrics. The music stops. He shakes his music device. Checks the earphone connection. Nothing.)

Shit!

(He looks around. Takes in the sounds of birds and the ocean. Looks at his watch. Looks out at the ocean. Stands up. Pause.)

Holly?

(He moves closer to the ocean. Looks left and right.)

HOLLY! Holly?!

(Nothing.)

Oh shit. What the...?! HOLLY! I can't see her. Shit!

HOLLY?!

(HOLLY comes up from behind him.)

HOLLY

I'm right here, Tom.

TOM

Fuck. You scared me.

HOLLY

I'm fine.

TOM

I thought you went swimming. There are rip tides out there!

HOLLY

Rip what?

TOM

Where did you go?

HOLLY

Oh my gosh! On my way to the water I saw some shiny shells. And when I went to look at them, I saw some

sand crabs. Then I saw this big brown thing down a ways. It looked like a prehistoric animal with a spear on its head!

TOM

It's a horseshoe crab.

HOLLY

I'd never seen anything like it!

TOM

And that's its tail.

HOLLY

Huh?

TOM

The spear is its tail.

HOLLY

Oh. Well... Then I heard you calling. What's wrong?

TOM

My iPod stopped working.

HOLLY

Of course.

TOM

No... That's not all. I thought I'd lost you!

HOLLY

I'm still here.

TOM

You said you went swimming. And I looked out and I couldn't find you anywhere. I was scared. I really thought something had happened.

HOLLY

I'm sorry.

TOM

I'm just... Glad you're okay.

(Pause.)

You've really never been swimming in the ocean before?

HOLLY

It's honestly the first time I've ever been near the ocean. I can hardly believe I've spent my entire life never seeing something this wonderful.

TOM

Let's go for a dip then.

HOLLY

Really? Together?

TOM

Yeah... It's always better to swim with somebody.

HOLLY

Is that a rule?

TOM

One of many.

(They begin to walk toward the ocean.)

HOLLY

Can we come here every year?

TOM

Maybe that would be a good idea.

HOLLY

And you know? Before I got to the big prehistoric thingy? I found some clams. I thought we could bring them back and have them for dinner!

TOM

I know how to cook a clam!

HOLLY

You do?

TOM

I was the steamed clam cook off champion several years in a row.

HOLLY

You were not!!

(They laugh. The lights fade.)

END OF PLAY

