The Tide Takes a Turn

a short play

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CHARACTERS

PEGGY: Early 20’s Female

CLARK: Early 20’s Male

DAVIS: Early 20’s Male

KYLE: 20’s Male

DONNA: Early 20’s Female

SETTING: Lifeguard stand at the beach.

TIME: Day

PLAYWRIGHT’S NOTES

SCENE ONE

(DONNA sits on a high lifeguard chair, sleeping. CLARK enters tapping on the chair.)

CLARK

Donna your shift’s// up.

(PEGGY runs in distraught, wearing everyday clothes because It’s her day off. Clark lets go of the lifeguard chair.)

PEGGY

Donna! Oh, thank God you’re ok!

CLARK

Woah slow down. Are you alright?

PEGGY

NO! It’s Davis. He…..he’s dead.

CLARK

Oh my god. Oh my god! Are you sure?

PEGGY

Positive. He’s the only other option.

CLARK

What?

PEGGY

Donna’s right here, I saw Derek and Daniel in the booth, Davis is the only one left.

 CLARK

Wait a damn minute. Start from the beginning.

PEGGY

Well, I was doing my weekly checkup with my…um…spirit guide

CLARK

Oh my god.

 PEGGY

She’s really wise, I swear.

 CLARK

I hate you.

 PEGGY

I’m serious! She told me she sensed a strong dark presence looming nearby.

 CLARK

Ok?

 PEGGY

Meaning Somone is going to die! obviously.

 CLARK

That is not obvious!

 PEGGY

Then she brought out the tea leaves and YOU KNOW WHAT WE SAW!

 (Beat.)

 PEGGY(CONT’D)

The letter D!

 CLARK

I can’t deal with this today, so thoughts and prayers out to Davis, but I have work.

 (Clark begins to climb the chair.)

 PEGGY

He’s missing! I went running to all the lifeguard stations, he’s nowhere to be found.

 (Clark stops.)

 CLARK

Really?

 PEGGY

YES!

 (Clark jumps off the lifeguard chair.)

CLARK

He probably just left something at home and had to go get it.

 PEGGY

Or he’s dead on the side of the road!

 CLARK

Oh God. Let’s not jump to conclusions.

 PEGGY

He could be dead Clark, and I could have stopped it.

 CLARK

Look let’s just use the walkie to see if anyone has seen him.

 (Clark pulls out a walkie talkie from his fanny pack.

 He turns it on.)

 CLARK(CONT’D)

Hey Kyle, any chance I could speak to Davis.

 KYLE(O.S.)

No, but if you find him and do speak with him tell him I’m sick of his shit.

 CLARK

He’s not with you?

 (Peggy starts weeping)

 KYLE (O.S)

Nah, nor did he call out so now I’m a guard down. That piece of shit is getting an earful When I see him.

PEGGY

He’s dead.

 CLARK

Alright, thanks Kyle.

 KYLE (O.S)

Shit! Davis is dead?

PEGGY

YES!

 KYLE (O.S)

Oh shit! I was out here talking ill will on the dead.

 CLARK

He’s not dead. Can we drop that.

 KYLE (O.S)

Aw man, what happened?

 PEGGY

He was shot by someone trying to rob the grocery store, I think.

 CLARK

NO, HE WASN’T!

 KYLE (O.S)

Life’s too short man…..I’m gonna call my dad.

(Clark turns off the Walkie. Peggy falls to the ground unable to control her grief.)

 CLARK

Hey hey hey, it’s ok. I’m sure he’s just ditching to piss Kyle off.

PEGGY

He’s probably been sliced up into little pieces and fed to the sharks.

 CLARK

That’s a reach.

 PEGGY

Or…or he’s silently been battling some rare disease and didn’t want to worry// anyone by….

 CLARK

Let me stop you there. Davis was not that nice of a dude. Is not that nice, IS! Shit now you have me thinking all morbidly.

 PEGGY

Oh Davis. I will dedicate everyday of my life in your memory.

 (Clark helps Peggy back up.)

 CLARK

Are you even close with him?

 PEGGY

I could have been, If he didn’t…you know…..die.

 Clark

We don’t know he’s dead. Honestly Peggy, I think you have a problem with jumping to conclusions.

 PEGGY

My spirit guide// told me…..

 CLARK

Last month she said you were going to come across a great fortune.

 PEGGY

I still could.

 CLARK

You spent your life savings on lottery tickets!

 PEGGY

No regrets.

 CLARK

You lost, Peggy, you lost all 100 tickets.

 PEGGY

What are you saying?

 CLARK

I think it’s time to lose your psychics// number.

 PEGGY

Spirit Guide. And I will not lose her number until Davis himself tells me to lose her number.

 CLARK

Fine, let’s just call him one more time and see if he picks up.

PEGGY

Oh, calling him is smart.

 CLARK

YOU HAVEN’T TRIED CALLLING YET!?

PEGGY

I don’t have his number.

 CLARK

YOU DON’T......you know what it’s fine. I’ll call him.

 (Clark pulls out his phone. And dials Davis’s number.

 It rings three times before someone picks up.)

 DAVIS (O.S)

YO! What up C-man, get it,// cause

 CLARK

Yea I get it!

 PEGGY

DAVIS! You’re alive!

 DAVIS (O.S)

Yeah! What’s up with that? I’ve received like 7 RIP texts. I thought Kyle was gonna be pissed, but then he texted me, “I’ll miss you little man”.

 CLARK

Yea, um…long story. Peggy was worried about you.

 DAVIS (O.S)

Who?

 CLARK

Peggy……she works with us.

 DAVIS (O.S)

Right, right. She cute?

 CLARK

I…uh…guess.

 DAVIS (O.S)

Then let her know I am alive and well baby! Anyways gotta go, don’t tell Kyle we spoke though. I plan on texting him tomorrow with some crazy story about how I beat the odds and woke up from my coma.

 CLARK

Alright, later.

 DAVIS (O.S)

Peace.

(Clark hangs up the phone. Clark then directs all his attention to Peggy)

 PEGGY

Glad he’s doing well.

 CLARK

I’m serious Peggy, delete that number.

 PEGGY

But…But…I need her.

 CLARK

She’s done nothing but fuel your delusion. And it ends up stressing you out which in return stresses me out.

 PEGGY

Clark, please.

 CLARK

Nope, I do not need you doing this anytime that lady wants to fill your head with lies.

 PEGGY

But what if// I……

 CLARK

Nope, I won’t hear it.

(Peggy takes out her phone. She slowly taps away at it)

 PEGGY

There, happy?

 CLARK(CONT’D)

Let me see.

 (Peggy shows Clark the phone screen.)

 CLARK (CONT’D

Good.

(Clark grabs on the lifeguard chair.)

PEGGY

Clark, I didn’t mean to worry you.

 CLARK

It’s ok, just no more surprises for the rest of my shift.

(Peggy starts to walk away slowly, while Clark climbs up the chair. Peggy stops abruptly to pick something up from the sand.)

 PEGGY

Hey! I think I found a wedding ring!

(Clark reaches the top of the lifeguard chair and taps of Donna’s shoulder. Donna slouches over, lifeless.

 CLARK

HOLY SHIT! DONNA’S DEAD!

**END of PLAY**