

WALK ME THROUGH IT

A Short Play  
by Jeremy Sony

CASTING: 1 M, 1 Flexible

CHARACTERS: WILLIAM, 30s - Everyday Joe. Married. First time seeking professional help.

DOCTOR, 30s - Soothing yet stern. Always in control. (Can be cast as a man or woman)

SETTING: Table. Two chairs. A small room.

Drama. Run-time: 5 min

Will just needs to talk himself through the disturbing events surrounding the night he lost... BING... he's not supposed to say lost...the night his wife was murdered. So says his doctor if he's ever going to cope with it.

Jeremy Sony  
6478 Crab Apple Drive  
Canal Winchester, OH 43110  
614-259-7669  
jeremy@jeremysony.com

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AT RISE: WILLIAM and the DOCTOR are seated. A FRONT-DESK BELL on the table between them.

WILLIAM

This is uh ... (huffs out a breath)... harder. I thought I... no, I can do this. I can. (deep breath) I can do this, I can do this... then I lost my -- Michelle --

(DOCTOR RINGS the bell.)

DOCTOR

What did we just talk about, William?

WILLIAM

I'm not supposed to say lost.

DOCTOR

Good, that's right. Now walk me through it, okay? Can you do that? That's all you have to do and then the real work begins. Tell me about finding Michelle's body. Tell me how you found her.

WILLIAM

I forgot my keys --

(DOCTOR RINGS the bell.)

WILLIAM (cont'd)

I'm sorry.

DOCTOR

Don't apologize, you didn't do anything wrong. William, look at me. You're going to be okay. It's up to you to confront the fear. Letting go of a loved one, a wife especially, is one of the most difficult things you'll ever do, but I am here to help you and make this easier.

WILLIAM

How is this easier? Huh, Doc? Every five words it's "Bing!" "Bing!" -- fuckin' bell over and over.

DOCTOR

It's only when you lose focus. You can do this.

WILLIAM

I mean, you want me to -- no, no, I can't do this.

(WILLIAM stands, maybe a slight pace.)

DOCTOR

This is normal, perfectly normal. To be scared. It's going to hurt, that's part of the deal --

WILLIAM

But you said --

DOCTOR

I said easier. Not painless. Please sit down. If you can't remember and recall this moment, in every detail, you will never get past it. You will never escape. Is that what you want?

(WILLIAM collects himself and sits.)

WILLIAM

From the top?

DOCTOR

This is your healing process. If that helps, then yes, let's go from the top.

WILLIAM

We hadn't been in the room more than a couple hours. Checked in, came upstairs. I hadn't unpacked -- she did, but Michelle's like that --

(DOCTOR RINGS the bell.)

WILLIAM (cont'd)

Was. Michelle was like that.

DOCTOR

Keep going.

WILLIAM

She said she was going to draw a bath and maybe we should order a pizza. And I thought yeah, that would be nice. So she did. And I did. And then while I was on the phone with the pizza guy, I realized I'd lost my wallet. So when I knew I'd lost it --

(DOCTOR RINGS the bell.)

WILLIAM (cont'd)

I realized I couldn't find my -- not lost, couldn't find.

DOCTOR

William, am I wasting my time?

WILLIAM

What? No, no, you're not, you're --

DOCTOR

Walking through the events shouldn't be this difficult for you.

WILLIAM

She's my wife --

(DOCTOR RINGS the bell.)

WILLIAM (cont'd)

Damn it!

(The DOCTOR stands, commanding the room.)

DOCTOR

Was. She was your wife. This is why there's a problem. You're stuck on this idea that you lost her, like you can get her back. She's not coming back. That's why I'm here, isn't it? That's why you're paying me?

WILLIAM

Yes --

DOCTOR

So you need to trust me now. This is what I do, but I can't do my job if you can't do yours.

WILLIAM

I realized I couldn't find my wallet. I told her I was going to check the car and I left. I went downstairs.

(DOCTOR RINGS the bell.)

WILLIAM (cont'd)

I said I'd be a second and I didn't feel like grabbing the key so I shut the latch in the door to wedge it open. Then I went downstairs. And I searched my car.

DOCTOR

And you couldn't find it.

WILLIAM

And I couldn't find it.

DOCTOR

How long were you gone?

WILLIAM

Ten minutes?

(DOCTOR RINGS the bell.)

WILLIAM (cont'd)

Ten or fifteen minutes, I didn't wear a watch.

DOCTOR

And then you came back up stairs.

(beat)

And then you came back --

WILLIAM

-- upstairs. Music was coming down the hall. From my --

(DOCTOR RINGS the bell.)

WILLIAM (cont'd)

From our room. And I came in and I could hear the bath running. I told her I was back -- asked if she wanted pepperoni... she didn't answer. So I peeked in the bathroom thinking the music was loud --

DOCTOR

What was playing?

WILLIAM

Brahms.

(DOCTOR RINGS the bell.)

WILLIAM (cont'd)

Or Beethoven, maybe, I don't know -- I hated that classical shit, that was Michelle's thing, she listened to it all the time.

(starting to break down)

She loved it and... oh god...

DOCTOR

It's okay to cry. Better if you do.

WILLIAM

... oh Michelle...

DOCTOR

Almost there, William. And when you checked the bathroom?

WILLIAM

She was... she... god, there was so much blood.

DOCTOR

You have to say it.

WILLIAM

She was dead. And that's when I called the police.

DOCTOR

Very good, William. I know that was hard. We're going to run through it one more time. Can you do that for me?

WILLIAM

Yeah.

(Pause)

And then I call the pizza guy right?

DOCTOR

First help me get her into the tub.

WILLIAM

Will there be a lot of blood?

DOCTOR

It needs to match your story. You better give me your wallet now. And lose the watch. Remember, I need fifteen minutes.

(WILLIAM hands the doctor his wallet and watch.)

WILLIAM

And the other half of your payment.

DOCTOR

(holding wallet)

I'll know where to find you.

(LIGHTS DOWN.)

END OF PLAY