

Find My iPhone

A Short Play

by

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CHARACTERS

Barbara
Tess

Grandparent Age
Teenager

Please note: Characters can be played by any gender, and character names and pronouns can be changed as wanted. Change reference in script from sister to brother if needed.

For rhythm of piece: BEAT is a small pause.

BARBARA'S HOME. THERE IS A DOOR AT THE ENTRANCE WHICH TESS WILL APPEAR IN, AND A BENCH WITH SCONES. (FIND A RECIPE AND BAKE SOME, OR GET CREATIVE IN CRAFTING A PILE OF THEM.) BARBARA HAS PHONE TO EAR.

BARBARA

Just did my morning walk and popped past the Aldi...for flour...scones...No, I'm not going to Bridge today, just gives me something to do. I enjoy it.

SHE MOVES THE PHONE AWAY FROM HER EAR- THERE IS SHOUTING ON THE OTHER END OF THE PHONE.

BARBARA

...That's ok. Yes it's a very busy age...Oh... masking tape? That's no good.

LOOKS AT KITCHEN COUNTER COVERED IN SCONES.

BARBARA

Why don't you come past and grab them for the kids?... The scones...Well, I could just run them out to the car if it's easier?

A DISAPPOINTED BEAT.

BARBARA

No. I understand.

MORE SHOUTING ON PHONE, BARBARA MOVES IT AWAY FROM EAR.

BARBARA

(Grimacing) Yes, I imagine. Try rubbing alcohol, it might make it easier...of course, yes, sorry to keep you... Let me know if you change your mind...about the scones...about the- - nothing, don't worry, you just get back to... Ok. Bye darling.

A SADNESS IN THE SILENCE. INTERRUPTED BY A LOUD BANGING ON THE FRONT DOOR WHICH STARTLES HER.

BARBARA

Hello?

Hi. It's Tess.

TESS (OTHER SIDE OF DOOR)

Who?

BARBARA

Ryan's sister?

TESS
(Irritated)

Sorry, who?

BARBARA

I don't know how you know my brother, but you obviously do. Can you please open the door?

TESS

Sorry, I don't know a Ryan.

BARBARA

I just want my phone back.

TESS

Your phone?

BARBARA

Yes.

TESS

Are you selling phone plans or something?

BARBARA

I need it back.

TESS

You sound a little young to be selling things.

BARBARA

I know it's here.

TESS

Is this one of those knock and run games?

BARBARA

BEAT

TESS

Do I sound like I'm running?

BARBARA

You sound upset, Tess.

TESS

Listen, whoever you are...what's your name?

BARBARA

My daughter says I mustn't give my name to people so readily. Centrelink scams and all that. You know I've a friend whose grandchildren opened a bunch of credit cards in his name. Spent over \$100,000. Imagine that!? Police involved. Interpol. All sorts of nasty business.

TESS

That's great- I can just imagine the millions I'm gonna make from typing... "Margaret from Wrights Rd"... into my hacking software.

BARBARA

Are you a hacker? Wasting your time here, I don't even have that NBN.

TESS

Look, Margaret, I'm going to call you that if you don't want to tell me your name, Margaret- I'm not a cyberstalker. I'm here for my phone. And whatever stupid thing my evil idiot brother has told you about it, it's not true. It's my phone and I need it back. Now.

BARBARA

Brothers can be very troublesome. Just this morning, my grandsons masking-taped their little brother to a chair. Anyway, no matter how irritating your brother may be, I don't know him. I've never met him. And your phone is not here.

TESS

It is. "Find Your iPhone" told me.

BARBARA

Who?

TESS

It's an app that tracks on a map exactly where your phone is. And you see- my phone is here. The pin told me. My phone is at 126 Wrights Rd. That's your address, is it not?

BARBARA

Last I checked.

TESS

I looked in your garden. And the bin...

BARBARA

(Shocked and amused)

You looked in my bin? Goodness. That's a bit much, Tess. So you are a cyberstalker.

TESS

My stolen property is here, and I have a right to look for it. I thought Ryan would have just thrown it in the bin. It would give him great pleasure picturing me looking through your disgusting rubbish. Nice worm farm, by the way. Good to see someone from your generation cares about our future.

BARBARA

My roses love the worm juice.

TESS

Anyway- Either you are lying, or the world's most precise tracking software is.

BARBARA

Are you hungry, Tess?

TESS

What?

BARBARA

Do you like scones?

TESS

Scones?

BARBARA

Yes, scones. Would you like some?

TESS

(Frustrated by her change of subject)

No!

A BEAT

I'm gluten intolerant.

BARBARA

Tsk, what is wrong with the world today? "Gluten intolerant". What does that even mean? Intolerant...there's lots of things I can't tolerate. Doesn't mean I'm allergic to it. We didn't have any of it, when I was growing up. This allergy and peanuts-that-can-kill-you business. I mean what an idea, a nut can kill you!?

TESS

(Irritated)

Look, I don't have time for chit-chat, Margaret.

(PLEADING)

Please. Please just give me my phone back.

BARBARA

I'm sorry, Tess. I wish I had your phone, I really do. But I don't.

TESS

Ok, Margaret, I'm going to have to call the police.

BARBARA

You'll need to borrow my phone then.

A BEAT.

BARBARA

Why don't I bring some tea and scones out and we can...

TESS LETS OUT A FRUSTRATED SCREAM.

BARBARA

Are you ok, Tess?

TESS

No. I'm not.

A BEAT. BARBARA OPENS THE DOOR.

BARBARA

Barbara.

TESS

(Correcting her)

Tess.

BARBARA

I'm Barbara. You can call me Barb.

A BEAT.

Look, I've never met your brother. I don't get many visitors, to be honest. I don't know about technology. But I do know your phone is not here. I'm sure it will come back to you. In fact, I'm certain it'll be waiting for you at home- in your evil brother's lair.

A BEAT.

And I know this may be hard for you to believe, but one day your nuisance brother may be your greatest ally. And you will yearn for one precious hour of laughter over tea and scones with him.

TESS GIVES HER A LOOK. "AS IF!?"

I mean not today, obviously. Today you should exact delightful revenge on him.

THEY SHARE A WICKED SMILE.

BEAT.

It's not healthy to be so attached to your phone.

TESS SEES PHONE IN BARBARA'S HAND.
GIVES HER A WRY LOOK.

BARBARA

Touche. Did you want to come in and look for yourself?

TESS

No! I'm not going into a stranger's house!

BARBARA

Right. Just through their rubbish bin.

TESS PONDERES HER NEXT MOVE. BARBARA,
PUTS SCONES IN A CONTAINER.

BARBARA

Now, forget this intolerance business.

BARBARA HANDS THE CONTAINER TO TESS.
SHE DOESN'T TAKE THEM. A BEAT.

TESS

Call my phone.

BARBARA

Sorry?

TESS

Call my phone. If it's not here, it won't ring.

A STANDOFF. BARBARA HOLDING CONTAINER
IN TESS'S FACE, TESS INDICATING TO
BARBARA'S PHONE WHICH IS NOW ON THE
BENCH.

BARBARA

I'd prefer to text. All my texts are free.

TESS

What do you mean? Sort your plan out.

BARBARA

So you are selling phone plans. No thank you, I'm not interested in a contract. I'm
happy with my plan.

TESS

Ok, fine, text.

BARBARA GETS HER PHONE.

BARBARA

What should I write?

(Slow)

H - I - space - T - E...

TESS

(Cutting her off)

You don't need to type my name! Just send it to: 0403 565 999.

BARBARA

Ok. And, send.

SILENCE

BARBARA TRIUMPHANT. TESS HESITANTLY ACCEPTING DEFEAT, BARBARA HANDS HER SCONES.

TESS

I'm sorry about going through your rubbish.

BARBARA

No bother. Why don't you take these and come back tomorrow with the container.

TESS TAKES THEM.

TESS

Oh don't worry, if my stupid brother doesn't have my phone, and "Find My iPhone" tells me it's still here, I will be back.

BARBARA

Of course.

TESS

Ok. Tomorrow then. And try not to steal anything else in the meantime.

BARBARA

Only if you stop your cyberstalking.

TESS LEAVES. DOOR CLOSSES. BARBARA SENDS THE TEXT MESSAGE. A PHONE BEEPS O/S. BARBARA GIVES A WICKED SMILE.

THE END.