

The same tomorrow

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For ATYP Home Theatre

Characters:

A

B

C

D

A and C are 15 or so. B is younger. D is an adult.

Notes on text:

/ means point of interruption

// means for lines to be said at the same time but not necessarily in unison.

This script is deliberately non-gendered. [each of the roles can be played by any gender you choose]. For this reason, you need to name them and insert their names in the text whenever the letter A B C has been used as a place-keeper.

A does their hair in front of the bathroom mirror. A generic pop song plays on a cheap speaker. The bass crackles as A sings along. A is not good with the words; it's been a while since they played this song.

A also seems to be struggling with how they do their hair. It looks wrong- a bit whacky.

A makes a face at their reflection in the mirror and looks at their phone; scrolls, shakes their head.

There is a knock on the door. A hears it but sings louder.

B *[from the other side of the door] What's that you're listening to?*

Another knock. The song ends.

B A?

A rolls their eyes.

 You won't be long, right? We're all waiting inside the garage so we hear when they come.

A scroll on phone to find another song but gets an annoying ad.

 Mum says to tell you don't take forever. They're not far off so... can you hear me?

 They're close. Dad wanted me to double check you only have one bag.

A Yeah.

B Have you wiped your phone?

A stares at their phone.

 A?

A Yes.

B What were you using for the music, then? Can I come in?

A No.

B Please?

A sighs.

A No.

B A, can I ask you... are you sure? About all this, are you... Cause everything's going back to normal tomorrow.

A Tell Mum I'm on my way down.

B Can we talk?

A I'm getting ready.

B Just for a moment?

A I've had months of you following me around!

B Did you just swear at me? You're not meant to, you know that.

A Go and ring Crime Stoppers then! I really don't care. Just leave me alone.

Finally, the song starts.

B Sometimes I hate you so much.

A rolls her eyes. We hear B retreat. A goes back to the hair.

Someone is singing along to the song. Who? It isn't B's voice. It's isn't Mum or Dad's...

A stops dead. The voice is coming from behind the shower curtain. A doesn't know what to do.

Not wanting to turn their back to the shower, A reaches back for something on the sink, anything to defend themselves. A grabs a toothbrush and flings it aside, a tube of face cream, flung again. Then a disposable razor. A holds it out like it's a carving knife. With the other hand, A reaches for the phone, turns the song off. Whoever is singing along keeps going for a moment and stops as A reaches out to pull the shower curtain back.

But C beats A to it, revealing themselves.

A screams, C laughs.

They both freeze and stare at each other.

C //Surprise!

A //What the...?

A You scared me, psycho!

C *[laughing]* I got you. *[about the razor]* What were you gonna do with that? Shave my eyebrows off?

A looks to the door, realising how much noise they are making.

A grabs a towel and throws it at C.

C I'm not wet. I was/ just

A You need to be quiet.

A shoves some of the towel in C's mouth.

Keep it down.

C I am.

C spits out the towel.

A No, really.

C That towel tastes foul. Whose is it?

A Dad's. I'm serious. Whisper. If they hear you ...

C Oh yeah, I'm so scared of your stinky Dad. Oh god, what if I just had the bit he wipes his...

C makes a face.

A and C stare at each other. C smiles.

A Why are you here?

C Oh yeah, nice to see you too after how long? I mean, I'm so pleased to see you I'm going to shove Dad's towel in your mouth and then interrogate you.

Get your things. We're going out.

A Answer my question. Why are you in hiding our shower like psycho?

C That was the other way around. He wasn't in/ the

A Whatever. Why are you here?

C A surprise. And I needed to see you for real without the crack lines on my phone screen.

I'm thinking of going post-screen. Never want to call or zoom or facetime anyone again.

A doesn't respond. C is suspicious.

I know your parents don't have TV and all but... you have heard?

A nods.

Freedom is ours again! Whoo-hoo!

A You should have called me first or maybe knocked on the door?

C More fun this way. And you really think Jane and Jim will care if I'm here? Bet they can't wait to have the house to themselves at last. And your sister[/brother] sounds whinier than ever by the way and before you say it -no we are not taking her[/him] out with us today.

A Out?

C Yeah.

A I can't go out.

C Good one.

A Not today.

C It's not going to be the same tomorrow. Come on! We've been planning this since the start and now the time is here.

A isn't playing along.

This is so not how I thought this would be. Why can't you?

A Nothing. Just a bit busy.

C Your face is going red.

A Is not.

C You're hiding something.

A Not.

C shrugs.

C Then get your stuff ready.

A I/

C No excuses. I've got cash and I've made an itinerary from our list so we can do it all. The beach, then those dumplings in the corner seat /and

We hear a knock on the door.

C Jeez, why doesn't she pee downstairs?

A puts a finger to their lips.

B A? Mum thinks she heard you talking to someone.

A Like who?

B Don't know. They just called. Five minutes away on Wattle Drive. Come down now, Dad's gone all red in the face, you know.

A Ok, ok. I 'm coming!

B Hurry!

They wait until they have heard B has gone.

C Who's on Wattle Drive?

A Gran and Pop.

C Your Pop went blind..

A Yeah.

C Didn't your Gran lose her licence?

A Seriously you need to/

In a panic, A fiddles with their phone.

C Why are you playing with your phone? You're re-setting it.

A stops.

C *[making a realization]* You're not... Oh... This is not...

All that stuff you were reading online?

Tell me you're not... A, those things are a con, there was a story about it on A Current Affair.

A What would they know?

C What about your Mum and Dad?

A We are all going. I should have told you. But I need to be downstairs.

C Is that who's coming?

A nods.

It's a scam. They play on people's fears. What have you agreed to ?

C grabs A's phone

Give it back!

C Answer me.

A scrambles to grab their phone. In a panic now.

A I can't. Please, give it back.

C Not until you tell me what's going on.

A I told you, I can't!

Another knock. Sharper this time.

D A?

A Yes Mum [/Dad.]

D What are you doing? You need to come down now. They won't wait.

A reaches to flush the toilet.

Flushes.

A I'll be right there..

D goes.

C Talk to me.

A No time. I have to be with my family. We've made a choice.

C You're 15, you're nearly....

A Did you read the stuff I sent? Knew you didn't. It's all in there, clear as day. They told us there'd be people like you who'd try to stop us. I gave you the information so you had the chance to get away.

C Get away?

A From what's to come next.

C What comes next is people go crazy and party in the streets, and then we go back to school.

A You think? You'll see.

C So you're going to hide out in some secret fortress in the mountains?

A You don't know anything about it.

C Tell me.

A Do you think going back to normal is going to last? Like 'we are all in this together? Let's bucket-list the things we miss. Noodles and swim at the beach?' You need to turn on the lights!

C doesn't know what to say.

I have to go.

C tries to give the phone back but A shakes their head.

A Keep it. Android sucks but at least the screen's in one piece. Just put your sim in and chuck mine.

C stares at the phone.

C Stay here. Let them go. You sister/brother drives you mad, what will you do there?

A Survive.

Please, promise me you will chuck the sim away?

C nods.

Thanks.

C There's nothing I can say to change your mind?

A shakes her head.

A Stay right there, don't look out the window. Don't get any ideas, I'm warning you, they are ready for anything. Count to 500, no, more, a thousand. And then climb out the way you came.

Don't follow me down and don't say a word to anyone about what I've said because I shouldn't've.

Find the stuff I sent you and read it. Then this'll all make sense.

C I...

A Count. Then...

A points to the window.

A realises that the razor is still in their hand.

A You want this?

C shakes their head. A drops it on the tiles, turns and goes to the door.

C Good luck.

A smiles and turns away, doesn't look back. They leave the room.

A tap drips as C counts from a thousand down.

We hear A's footsteps and the tap and a car. Still softly counting, C goes to the window and looks out. The tap drips. C stops counting, takes in a breath.

End

