

LEAPERS

Jonathan Dorf

Cast of Characters

ANNE, late 20s

THOMAS, same age or perhaps slightly younger

(Late morning. ANNE, late 20s, stands on the roof of a tallish building. She looks over the edge. She even takes a few steps, as if measuring the jump. SOUNDS of a distant parade. Enter THOMAS, around the same age and carrying a backpack, through the door on the roof.)

ANNE

Stay back. Don't try to stop me.

THOMAS

You've got to be kidding.

ANNE

I'm serious. You come any closer and I'll jump.

THOMAS

Don't you dare.

ANNE

Like you care.

THOMAS

Damn right I care.

ANNE

You don't even know me.

THOMAS

I know you shouldn't jump.

ANNE

You know that.

THOMAS

Yes.

ANNE

Just like that.

THOMAS

Trust me. Get off the roof, go home, think it over. If you still feel you should do it after that, come back tomorrow.

ANNE

Don't patronize me.

THOMAS

You don't want to be patronized? Fine. Today is *my* day. Mine. I picked it out, it has great symbolic value, I've been planning it for a long time--

ANNE

This is so high school.

THOMAS

First you say I'm patronizing you, and now I'm being immature.

ANNE

No--this is so high school, as in this is exactly what happened to me in high school.

(beat)

Bobby Plezko. Actually, his last name was completely unpronounceable, but we all said Plezko. I think it might have been

(pronounced Plezzko-vid-ih-wicks)

Plezkovidwicz.

(The lights flicker, and Thomas becomes BOBBY, 16. Anne becomes her younger self, 17.)

BOBBY

Hi, Anne.

ANNE

Hi, Bobby.

BOBBY

That's a nice dress.

ANNE

Thank you. I want to be buried in it.

BOBBY

That's cool. I want to be buried in this.

ANNE

But you're just wearing jeans and a ratty T-shirt.

BOBBY

Why are you so mean? Why is everyone always so mean?

ANNE

Bobby, I'm sorry--I'm--

BOBBY

It's OK. Excuse me.

(The lights flicker, and it's back to Anne and Thomas in the present.)

ANNE

And five minutes later, he hangs himself from the flagpole on top of the gym.

THOMAS

And...?

ANNE

And!

(beat)

It was the middle of lunch. People were screaming and fainting--at least two cheerleaders vomited on the principal. And before we know it, we're being hurled in front of grief counselors and lighting candles and people who haven't said boo to me all year are hugging me and crying and drooling on my shoulder. The captain of the soccer team, who'd been leaving rotten bananas in my locker on and off since third grade, locked onto my arm so tight it was like a crocodile going into a death roll.

(beat)

That was *my* day, my day to go, but no, I'm five minutes too late and my life is completely wrecked.

THOMAS

(beat)

Can I ask a stupid question?

ANNE

There are no stupid questions, only stupid people asking questions. My Dad used to say that. He may still. We've been estranged since this morning--I thought my passing might be easier for him to take that way.

THOMAS

The Bobby Plezko thing, that didn't happen yesterday, right?

ANNE

I said it was high school. You should listen more carefully.

THOMAS

So it was a while ago.

ANNE

Yes. So?

THOMAS

So why didn't you kill yourself the next day or the next week or month or year or any number of next years? It seems like you've had an awful lot of chances to step up to the plate, so you should give someone else a chance.

ANNE

And that someone, of course, would be you.

THOMAS

You snooze, you lose.

ANNE

I have not been snoozing. I've been waiting for an opportunity.

THOMAS

For what? Five years?

ANNE

Eleven actually, but thank you for thinking it's only been five.

THOMAS

So in eleven years you can't find one moment to get it together and kill yourself?

ANNE

I'm not going to do it when I'm *not* miserable and hopeless! Do I look stupid?

(beat)

I figured I'd ride out the good times as long as they lasted, and when it was clear they were over, then I'd do it.

THOMAS

So it's taken you eleven years to feel miserable and hopeless again?

ANNE

I'm a patient person.

THOMAS

OK. You're right. I'm sorry if I offended you.

ANNE

You should be.

THOMAS

I am. And to prove it, I want you to jump.

ANNE

What?

THOMAS

Go ahead. Jump. You've got my full support.

Like what you see? Hit the back button and follow the instructions to order a perusal copy of the full script!