

ACT I

Scene 1

SETTING: The entire room is dark. Only two white beams are shooting down at a bar stool and a white dress lying on the bar counter respectively.

AT RISE: TAMSIN is sitting on the stool alone, looking at the white dress, frozen.

TAMSIN

(looks up after a while to talk to the audience)
When your life's already sort of messed up, you don't need a lot of explanations. I want to talk to someone about how depressed I am, but I have nothing specific to talk about, and I am not depressed enough to go see a psychologist.

(Another beam of light follows OTIN's entrance. TAMSIN looks down at the floor. The beam shooting on the white dress is doused.)

OTIN

(fixing his collar)
Tam, I'm having troubles with my shirt.
(turns his head towards TAMSIN and sees her not moving at all)
Hey, how long have you been holding this dead pose?

TAMSIN

(looks up at OTIN and shrugs)
Geniuses have troubles too, eh?

OTIN

Will you take a break making fun of people? I need help.

(OTIN is still struggling with his collar. He frowns slightly and looks over to TAMSIN to search for help.)

TAMSIN

(sees OTIN frown and seems to be bothered)
Yeah, alright. Sorry.
(OTIN freezes as TAMSIN speaks to the audience)

I cannot tell whether he is making a joke or actually blaming me, so I consider it as an annoyance. Now I just feel so sad and helpless. I feel like he doesn't like me anymore. I doubt whether I should like myself after doing such things like that... bothering another person.

OTIN

(looks up at TAMSIN)

Tam, I need your help. What's wrong?

TAMSIN

(Coming back to the earth, she jumps up and trots across the stage to OTIN. The beam of light follows her.)

Sorry, I was thinking... daydreaming.

(helps OTIN fix his collar)

There.

OTIN

Thanks.

(pauses)

Are you alright? You seem tired. Or sad. I can't tell, but you are acting weird.

TAMSIN

Oh, am I? I'm fine. Don't worry about me. I was just a bit stuck in my head. No big deal.

OTIN

(giggles suspiciously)

You're definitely hiding something. Come on, just tell me! Who else would you tell if you don't tell me?

TAMSIN

(laughs awkwardly)

Oh, it's really nothing.

OTIN

(pats TAMSIN on the shoulder)

I am right, aren't I? Come on, tell me.

TAMSIN

(TAMSIN gets away from OTIN's hand and goes back to sit on the bar stool. The beam follows her. She talks to the audience and OTIN freezes.)

How would I tell him? That I was afraid of him blaming me?
That I was trying to mentally murder myself? Ugh, I wish he
just shut up for a while.

(to OTIN)

No, Ot, it was actually nothing.

OTIN

Fine, fine. If you insist.

(short silence)

Are you going?

TAMSIN

Of course. Why wouldn't I? You don't look good every day.

OTIN

Dang, these words coming out of your mouth.

TAMSIN

What do you mean?

OTIN

Oh, nothing. Just kidding.

(The beam of light shooting on the white dress
appears again. OTIN looks over.)

What is that?

TAMSIN

(looks over)

Oh, it's...

(realizes)

It's a dress, you fool.

OTIN

(still staring at the dress)

Are you wearing it later?

TAMSIN

Maybe. I like T-shirts better though. You know that.

OTIN

(laughs)

I can't wait.

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT I

Scene 2

SETTING: In the living room of SASCHA's apartment. A couch is at the center with a small tea table in front. Clock on the wall shows 19:21.

AT RISE: TAMSIN is sitting on the bar stool and OTIN stands beside her. Hullabaloo fades in as ALEXA and SASCHA quarrels into the room. OTIN and TAMSIN looks over to the source of the noise at the same time.

ALEXA
It's not a derogatory term, I'm telling you.

SASCHA
Well, the thing is that it was used to derogate my brother and I don't understand why you think that is absolutely fine.

ALEXA
I am so not saying that.
(ALEXA sits down on the couch and falls backwards, allowing herself to sink into the soft cotton and linen. SASCHA sits on the couch handrail farther away from ALEXA.)
Is "sissy" a bad word?

(ALEXA looks over to TAMSIN. OTIN joins the girls on the couch with OTIN in the middle.)

TAMSIN
It's controversial, but I'm going to say no. What's happening?

ALEXA
(sits up)
Sascha thinks that a boy being called sissy is humiliating.

SASCHA
Oh no, I never said that.
(ALEXA humphs and lies back down. SASCHA rolls her eyes.)

My brother was called sissy by his "friends".

(makes an air quote)

So I yelled at these boys. And Alex thinks that I was overreacting.

ALEXA

So you weren't?

SASCHA

(stands up)

Bennie was crying, couldn't you see? I can't believe it.

(SASCHA sits back down. OTIN pats her knee.)

ALEXA

Sissy isn't a bad word, Sascha. You think being feminine is so terrible that you need to yell at a bunch of wimpy kids?

OTIN

Hey, hey, chill. Why don't you two have a cup of coffee first?

(TAMSIN pours two cups of coffee and puts them on the tea table. She then sits by ALEXA's side. OTIN holds the coffee cups on one hand each and hands them to ALEXA and SASCHA.)

Alex is being feminist and Sascha loves her brother. Let's leave it there, eh?

(SASCHA takes a sip of her coffee. Silent remains until TAMSIN accidentally kicks the tea table leg.)

TAMSIN

Sorry.

(pauses)

Otin, shouldn't you be heading to the hall?

OTIN

(takes a look at his watch)

Oh, yeah, right. See you guys later.

(OTIN heads off. SASCHA stands up and leaves her seat.)

SASCHA

(heading off the other way)

Restroom.

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT I

Scene 3

SETTING: Still in the living room, lights dimmed. Clock on the wall shows 19:47.

AT RISE: ALEXA is lying on the couch and TAMSIN is leaning on the bar counter, eating a box of ice cream.

TAMSIN
(finishes her ice cream and throws the empty box into the trash can)
Sascha's been in there a long time. I'll go check on her.

(TAMSIN heading off)

ALEXA
(sits up on the couch)
Tam.
(TAMSIN stops walking and turns to look at ALEXA)
Sascha and I fight every day.

(TAMSIN walks over to the couch and sits beside ALEXA)

TAMSIN
What?

ALEXA
Well, yesterday, Sascha asked me if I wanted to move in with her.

(pauses)
I said I would want my own room. And... she started to yell at me.

TAMSIN
Why?

ALEXA
I don't know. She gets... emotional easily recently. It's sort of impossible to talk to her.

(ALEXA looks away, showing a mixed feeling of worried, confused, and sad. TAMSIN looks at her. Lights dim and narrow down on TAMSIN as silence holds. Finally, the entire room is darkened with only a beam of light shooting on TAMSIN; ALEXA can be barely seen.)

TAMSIN

(slowly looking towards the audience)

Alex has been my friend since... I don't know when. The day she came out was a disaster. Her mother screamed out terrible, terrible words... and claimed to disown her. Her father walked away.

(pauses)

I was there, standing next to her. I didn't know what to do.

(looks back at ALEXA)

She looked helpless. It's like watching a new-born giraffe baby trying to catch up to her mother and running away from the hungry leopard.

(to the audience)

So I took her by the wrist and ran out of the house.

(The entire room is suddenly lightened up as SASCHA enters.)

ALEXA

(stands up)

Are you alright? I was worried.

SASCHA

(indifferently)

Oh, no big deal. I'm sorry that I yelled at you.

(SASCHA walks quickly towards the couch and takes her handbag that was lying on the tea table. ALEXA comes round the table to approach SASCHA.)

ALEXA

(grabs SASCHA by the arms)

No, I'm the one that's sorry.

(ALEXA moves closer to SASCHA and tends to kiss her but moves away again and her eyes drop down. SASCHA hesitates and kisses her gently. ALEXA enjoys the kiss and looks back at SASCHA.)

Sascha, I need to talk to you.

(SASCHA's face becomes expressionless again and she takes ALEXA's hands off from her. ALEXA is stunned and freezes at the spot.)

SASCHA

(walks toward the mirror and starts to observe herself)

I'm ready. Shall we go? Ot will be starting soon.

TAMSIN

(starts to head off)

Yeah, Sascha's right. We shouldn't be late for Ot's grand performance.

SASCHA

(scans TAMSIN)

You're wearing this to his concert, Tam?

TAMSIN

(scans herself)

Yeah, why?

SASCHA

Oh darling, go change a set of clothes. He wouldn't want to see you show up at a formal and elegant concert with a fat boring T-shirt.

TAMSIN

(looks over to the white dress that is still lying on the bar counter)

Yeah, you're right. Go without me; I'll catch up with you girls.

(TAMSIN walks over to sit on the bar stool beside the white dress. SASCHA looks over to ALEXA, who's still frozen.)

SASCHA

Babe, let's go.

(ALEXA hears SASCHA and turns her head towards her. She sighs slightly and follows SASCHA off. TAMSIN sighs heavily and all lights are off right after the sigh, except for the white beams that are shooting on her and the dress.)

TAMSIN

(to the audience)

I ran a long way grabbing her hand. It must've been ten blocks. I didn't think of stopping until she finally stopped me. "What are you doing, Tam?" she said, "Are you insane?"

(pauses to recall)

I... I can't remember what happened next. It was chaotic. She yelled at me; I yelled at her.

(short pause)

Then Ot came.

(turns her head to looks at the white dress)

Otin!

(TAMSIN grabs the white dress and changes it on. She steps in front of the mirror and examines herself. The light follows her. She takes a breath and exits.)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)