



Sample Pages from Double Click

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SIXTEEN

IN 10 MINUTES OR LESS

Friend Request
Double Click
Brace Yourself
Lazy Eye
Fireworks
Pay Phone
Bench Warrant
Wheels
Tumblefur
Status Update: A Symphony

A Suite of Short Plays
BY
Bradley Hayward



Sixteen in 10 Minutes or Less

The plays herein may be licensed together or separately. The piece was conceived as a full length evening of entertainment, but each short stands perfectly well on its own without any prior knowledge of the characters. When produced in its entirety, the plays should be presented in the following order:

Act One

Friend Request (3M, 4W).....5

Thanks to a series of ill-fated friend requests, a doctored photo of a student spreads like wildfire among a group of teenagers.

Double Click (1M, 1W)..... 15

Young love blossoms when two teenagers flip open their laptops and start chatting.

Brace Yourself (1M, 1W)..... 23

A teenage brother and sister squabble as they try to extract a gummy bear that has lodged itself in a set of braces.

Lazy Eye (2 Either)31

Two eyeballs get bent out of shape while defending their half of a teenager's brain.

Fireworks (1M, 1W)..... 39

A couple of teenagers in love look up at the night sky and wait for colorful explosions to dance among the stars.

Act Two

Pay Phone (2M, 1W, 1 Either)..... 47

When a teenager loses his cell phone, he has no choice but to use a pay phone. Things quickly take a turn for the worse when a mysterious operator starts telling him what to do.

Bench Warrant (4W)..... 57

Three teenage girls have claimed a bench as their very own and routinely chase away all the "losers" who come near it.

Wheels (2M)..... 65

A teenage boy tries to repair a beat-up old truck so that he can get away from his parents and their broken down marriage.

Tumblefur (1W)..... 73

A sweet teenage girl takes her dog for a walk in the park and discovers that there is something exciting around every corner.

Status Update: A Symphony

(3M, 4W) 79

Seven teenagers express their hopes and fears online in a rousing symphony of status updates.

Settings

When the plays are presented together, the settings should be simple representations of each locale. The use of blocks is more than sufficient and will help facilitate quick scene changes between plays. When the plays are presented separately, the settings may be as simple or elaborate as you wish.

Characters

3M+4W, Expandable to 13M+17W+3 Either

James: Hyper & jumpy, male.

Piper: Outgoing & popular, female.

Cindy: Sarcastic & spontaneous,
female.

Samantha: Exuberant & talkative,
female.

Laura: Artistic & lonely, female.

Brody: Quiet & introspective, male.

Vance: Shy & thoughtful, male.

Right Eye: Eyeball, male or female.

Left Eye: Eyeball, male or female.

Operator: Voice only, male or
female.

Mom: Voice only, female.

Dad: Voice only, male.

When all of the plays are presented together, the characters may be played by the same actors throughout (for a minimum cast of 7) or the roles may be assigned separately (for a cast up to 33). All of the named characters are sixteen years old.

Right Eye, Left Eye, Operator, Mom, and Dad were written to be played by the same actors as the named characters, but could be cast separately.

If the plays are presented independently, many of the roles become gender flexible. Simply change the pronouns when appropriate.

Double Click

by Bradley Hayward

Characters

Vance, Cindy

Setting

Two desks; two bedrooms

There are two desks, in two separate rooms, pointing away from one another. They both have a laptop on them. VANCE is sitting behind his desk. He takes out a comb and slicks his hair back. He takes a deep breath and then opens his laptop.

VANCE: Double click. *(he clicks his mouse twice and then nervously rubs his hands together)* And now I wait...

He takes another deep breath. CINDY enters and approaches her desk, excitedly. She straightens her dress and then flips her hair over one shoulder. She sits down and opens her laptop.

CINDY: Double click. *(she clicks her mouse twice)* And now I –

VANCE: *(sees her on his screen)* Hi there!

CINDY: Oh, hi!

VANCE: It's good to see you.

CINDY: Have you been waiting long?

VANCE: All day.

CINDY: You've been sitting there all day? That's kinda weird.

VANCE: No, I mean I've been looking forward to chatting with you all day. I just turned on my computer now.

CINDY: Whew! For a second there, I thought you were a psycho. You know, one of those weirdos who spends all his time online, waiting for someone to chat with because he's so lonely. But when nobody comes online, he gets mad and chops his parents into bits, then pops a TV dinner in the microwave as if nothing happened.

VANCE: Okaaaaay...

CINDY: What?

VANCE: Now you sound like a psycho.

CINDY: (*laughs*) Gotcha! I just got back from the movies and that's what it was about.

VANCE: A guy chops his parents into bits and then has a TV dinner?

CINDY: Yeah. It was hilarious.

VANCE: You find that sort of thing funny?

CINDY: Not usually. But it was funny cause it starred that guy from that show I like.

VANCE: What guy from what show?

CINDY: You know. The funny one. The one where they live near the beach and take off their shirts all the time cause... I dunno, it's hot or something.

VANCE: I don't think I know it.

CINDY: Sure you do.

VANCE: What's it called?

CINDY: It's on Thursdays.

VANCE: Not ringing a bell.

CINDY: I'll think of it. It's really funny. So... what did you do today?

VANCE: I went shopping for school clothes.

CINDY: That's fun.

VANCE: Not really. Mom came with me. Ugh.

CINDY: Bummer.

VANCE: Yeah. She kept poking her head in the dressing room. "How are you doing in there, honey? Try this on. Try these on. Are those jeans snug in the crotch?" At full volume! When I tried on the jeans, she had every mom in place pop their head over the door to take a look. "Snazzy," they said. "I bet you're quite a heartbreaker." Like I was a toddler or something. I keep trying to tell her that I can shop for myself, but she doesn't want to believe

it. I swear, if she could wave a magic wand and turn me back into a five year old forever, she would.

CINDY: Well, were they?

VANCE: Were they what?

CINDY: Snug in the crotch?

VANCE: Yeah. But no way was I gonna tell her that. I can't let her always be right.

CINDY: So you bought them?

VANCE: (*nods*) I guess I'll have to lose some weight. Anything to avoid another "I told you so."

CINDY: Can I see them?

VANCE: Maybe later.

CINDY: Come on. Try them on and show me.

VANCE: I'll wear them tomorrow. Maybe I can lose ten pounds in the next twenty four hours.

CINDY: Fine. If that's the way you want it.

VANCE: That's the way I want it.

CINDY: Fine.

VANCE: What did you do?

CINDY: I went to the movies. But I guess I already told you that.

VANCE: Anything else?

CINDY: I bought some clothes, too.

VANCE: Yeah?

CINDY: I always buy a new outfit for the first day of school. A few weeks into the semester, you can wear whatever. But that first day has to be something special. Especially when it's a new school and you don't know anybody yet. But you know how that goes.

VANCE: Yeah. I'm glad we found each other. It's nice knowing I'm not the only one that's going to be new tomorrow.

CINDY: After changing schools three times in three years, I've gotten pretty good at figuring out the shortcuts. The first switch was awful. Everybody hated me. But I figured out pretty quick how to spot the popular girls. So the second time, I found them right away and made nice. Now it's a piece of cake. I figure I'll be one of them in no time.

VANCE: I'm not very good at meeting people in person. I'm far better online. But not in a weird, psycho way. I'm just more comfortable at a distance.

CINDY: Don't worry. I'll take you under my wing and we won't be "the new kids" for long.

VANCE: So can I see what you bought?

CINDY: I thought you'd never ask. *(she stands up and twirls in front of her laptop)* Do you like it?

VANCE: That's what you bought?

CINDY: What? You don't like it?

VANCE: No, I like it very much. But shouldn't you save it for tomorrow?

CINDY: Why?

VANCE: Isn't that why you bought it?

CINDY: Yeah. But I wanted you to see it first.

VANCE: Really? You wore it for me?

CINDY: *(smiles)* That's right. Just for you.

She leans in at the camera and winks. VANCE covers his with his hand and mouths the words "holy cow!"

Hey, where'd you go?

VANCE: *(takes his hand off the camera)* Nowhere. I'm here.

CINDY: You went away for a second.

VANCE: Must have been a glitch.

CINDY: So you like it?

VANCE: Do I ever. You look really nice.

CINDY: Thanks. It was really expensive, but I had Mom's credit card.

VANCE: She lets you use her credit card?

CINDY: I didn't say that. I just said I had her credit card.

VANCE: Won't she get mad when she finds out?

CINDY: She won't even notice. You should see all the junk she buys.
Every time we move, we have to get a bigger U-Haul.

VANCE: What kind of stuff does she buy?

CINDY: You know. Crap.

VANCE: Like what?

CINDY: Like one time she bought this dollhouse. I have no idea why, but she did. It's one of those big ones with a dozen rooms or more. Then she bought a little grandfather clock. And then a little kitchen table. And a little china cabinet. And a little bed. And a little rug. A little everything.

VANCE: It must be really nice.

CINDY: It would be if she'd ever build the stupid thing.

VANCE: She hasn't built it yet?

CINDY: Nope. It's all in little boxes.

VANCE: And she keeps moving it from city to city?

CINDY: (*nods*) I told you. She's crackers.

VANCE: I dunno. Maybe it's the house she wishes she had.

CINDY: How do you mean?

VANCE: I know I wish I could stay in the same house. Moving around from one base to another doesn't exactly make life easy. I don't even put nails in the wall anymore. I hang all my pictures up with pieces of tape. Why would I put holes in the wall when I know I'll be out of there in a year or less? The first time we moved, after I packed everything up, there were all these nails in the wall. They looked so lonely. I couldn't help but wonder if the next person who moved in would hang things up the way they wanted to or put their pictures where I did. Or worse, what if they didn't have any pictures? Then they would have to look at the nails and wonder what used to be there. At least that's what I'd think

about. Now I just use tape because then I can put things where I want them, but not make any decisions for those who come after me. So maybe that's why your mom bought the dollhouse. So she could hang things up and know they'll always be there.

CINDY: Sexy Man!

VANCE: Huh?

CINDY: Sexy Man! That's the name of that show with that guy from the movie today.

VANCE: Oh.

CINDY: I just Googled it.

VANCE: Right.

CINDY: Sorry, you were saying?

VANCE: Nothing.

CINDY: So you really like my dress?

VANCE: I really like it.

CINDY: I can't wait to meet you. I've never gotten to know a guy like this before we actually met in person. It makes the first day of school less scary, that's for sure.

VANCE: Yeah.

CINDY: Maybe this is an odd request, but will you hold my hand when we go down the hall tomorrow?

VANCE: Really?

CINDY: Totally! (*she winks at him*)

VANCE: I'd like that.

CINDY: Awesome.

VANCE: I'd like that a lot.

CINDY: Then we won't look like total losers. Nothing worse than people thinking you're a loser on the first day.

VANCE: Oh.



help@theatrefolk.com www.theatrefolk.com

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