



Sample Pages from Isolation

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HORROR MOVIE 101: FAILING CAN BE DEADLY

A Collection of Five Hauntingly Bizarre Tales

A COMEDY IN ONE ACT BY
Steven Stack



Cast of Characters

Heirlooms (2W, 1M)

Tara: Female. 16, very rough, lives in squalor.

Dane: Male. 16, is trying to build a life with Tara.

Nicole: Female. Current "Hook Hand."

The Girl on the Side of the Road (3W, 1M)

Cal: Male. 18, very caring, has family issues.

Jane: Female. 18, comes off as cold and unfeeling but really isn't. For the most part.

Hazel: Female. A girl that needs to get home to Mother.

Mother: Female. Rather scary, out for vengeance.

The One (4W, 2M)

Spencer: Female. Sarah's girlfriend. 17, smart, self-assured, and willing to make tough choices.

Sarah: Female. 16, Spencer's girlfriend, the nice one of the group.

Mark: Male. 18, the logical one, Liam's best friend.

Liam: Male. 15, the goofy one, dating Ava.

Sophie: Female. 16, obsessed with horror movies.

Ava: Female. 17, very smart but believes there is more out there than can be proven by science or logic.

Isolation (5W)

Karen: Female. 18, Cassie's older sister and protector.

Cassie: Female. 16, Karen's younger sister, the favorite of the family.

Marcy: Female. 17, Karen's best friend, hiding something.

Taylor: Female. 17, attacked by Jenny, currently tied up.

Jenny: Female. 17, has been attacked, currently running through the woods like some type of crazed animal.

David and Delaney's Guide to the Perfectly Nifty Prom (2W, 1M)

Kate: Female. 18, Delaney's best friend and possessor of a well-manicured ancient burial ground.

David: Male. 17, Delaney's dedicated boyfriend who doesn't like dirt or gross things.

Delaney: Female. 17, David's girlfriend since they were 6, dead.

Horror Movie 101: Failing Can Be Deadly was first performed in October of 2016 at Forte Studios in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin. Here is the original cast.

Heirlooms

Tara: Gracie Hamburg

Dane: Carter Coon

Nicole: Evelyn Santoirre

The Girl on the Side of the Road

Cal: Kobi Johnson

Jane: Grace Haroldson

Hazel: Chloe Stack

Mother: Evelyn Santoirre

The One

Spencer: Evelyn Santoirre

Sarah: Sara Thompson

Mark: Carter Coon

Liam: Kobi Johnson

Sophie: Gracie Hamburg

Ava: Camille Ginther

Isolation

Karen: Evelyn Santoirre

Cassie: Gracie Hamburg

Marcy: Grace Haroldson

Taylor: Camille Ginther

Jenny: Justine Mattson

David and Delaney's Guide to the Perfectly Nifty Prom

Kate: Sara Thompson

David: Carter Coon

Delaney: Justine Mattson

Dedication

Dedicated to Prentiss Alexander Bledsoe

Isolation

Setting: A cabin, deep in the woods.

At Rise: KAREN is trying to calm down CASSIE, her younger sister.

KAREN: Everything's going to be fine, Cassie. Trust me.

CASSIE: And why should I trust you again? You're the one who brought us out here in the first place. And you killed Mark, who came all the way out here even though he's dealing with what happened to Sarah.

KAREN: I know. It's terrible, but if I hadn't killed him, he would've attacked you. Or killed you. He'd already attacked Jenny, so someone had to stop him.

CASSIE: Well, you sure stopped him.

KAREN: Look, I'm sorry for what happened to Mark, and I'm sorry for all this, but we can't leave Jenny out there. We have to find her.

CASSIE: Find her for what?

KAREN: To get her help. And Taylor too.

CASSIE: What are you not getting? There was no help for Mark, and there's not going to be any help for—

MARCY enters pulling down one of her sleeves while KAREN and CASSIE turn to her.

Well?

MARCY: She's tied up. She's not going anywhere.

CASSIE: Are you sure?

MARCY: Well, I'm no Girl Scout with her knot tying badge, but I think so.

KAREN: You didn't get bitten or anything, did you?

MARCY: I'm not stupid, all right? I'm fine.

CASSIE: Why did you roll your sleeves down when you came out? Like you were trying to hide something?

MARCY: I was cold.

CASSIE is about to protest, but KAREN cuts her off.

KAREN: No, Cassie. She said she was fine, so she is.

CASSIE: Of course. Taking people at their word in a situation like this seems to be exactly what we should be doing.

MARCY: What's your problem?

CASSIE: I don't know, Marcy. It *might* have something to do with my sister killing my boyfriend, who had taken out a pound of flesh from Jenny, who before running off like some monster, attacked Taylor, who now lies in there foaming at the mouth and tied to her bed! Other than that, I have no problems at all. Thanks for asking.

MARCY: Um, you're welcome? (to KAREN) So—are we ready to go?

KAREN: Yeah. And once we find Jenny, we'll tie her up too, bring her back, and then go get help.

MARCY: Sounds like a plan.

CASSIE: When did you both become so dense?

KAREN: That's not helping, Cassie.

MARCY: (to CASSIE) What do you propose we do?

CASSIE: What we should've done after Mark attacked Jenny. Leave and then send help for them.

KAREN: We can't do that. If we don't find Jenny soon, she may... and Taylor needs medical attention now—

MARCY: So we find them first and then we go. And then everything will be okay.

CASSIE: Nothing will ever be okay again! And this plan of yours... Horror Movie 101 says that when teenagers in a cabin start getting infected with some unknown virus and start attacking one another, they all end up dead. At no time ever has a plan of saving your friends from something like this worked.

MARCY: So you propose we leave Jenny in the woods and Taylor tied to the bed while—

CASSIE: While we go for help.

KAREN: Which will take too long.

CASSIE: Well, it wouldn't have if someone hadn't demanded that we leave our phones at home!

KAREN: I wanted us not to be distracted!

CASSIE: And we're not. We are clearly aware of Jenny running around the woods like a raging animal, and Taylor slowly becoming what Jenny is just one door away from us.

MARCY: Don't say that! Both of them are going to be fine.

CASSIE: No, they're not. They're both going to end up like Mark and both of you know that. You (*points to KAREN*) are just doing this because of guilt and you (*points to MARCY*) are just doing it because of loyalty and I understand both. But in the end, if we stay, we're only going to be faced with one option if we're going to survive.

KAREN: Kill them?

CASSIE: That's right.

KAREN: We're not killing them.

MARCY: We might have to. You had to kill Mark.

KAREN: Mark was too far gone.

CASSIE: And Jenny's not? You saw her and the way she attacked Taylor. How is she different from Mark?

KAREN: It doesn't matter. We have to try.

CASSIE: I don't.

KAREN: We're not asking you to. We're asking you to stay here until we get back. Don't go in there with Taylor under any circumstance. If she talks to you, just talk to her through the door and try to keep her calm. Can you do that?

CASSIE: While you two are—

KAREN: Finding Jenny? Yes.

CASSIE takes a moment, looks at the car keys—a look which MARCY notices—and then CASSIE looks back at KAREN.

CASSIE: Okay, I'll stay.

KAREN: Good.

MARCY picks up the keys and pockets them.

CASSIE: You're taking the keys? What, you don't trust me?

MARCY: No, I don't. And we can't take the chance of you leaving us out here.

CASSIE: Karen?

KAREN: I know you don't agree with this, but I've always kept you safe before, and I'm going to do it this time too.

CASSIE: By leaving me in this cabin with her (*pointing offstage*) without a cell phone or a car?

MARCY: Well, when you think about it, the two of us are way more likely to die.

CASSIE: That doesn't make it better.

KAREN: Look, no one's going to die. Anymore.

CASSIE: And what if you guys do get killed or get turned? What then? What do I do? How is that protecting me, Karen?

KAREN doesn't speak for a moment and seems to be considering something. She then turns to MARCY.

KAREN: Give her the keys, Marcy.

MARCY: (*to KAREN*) What?

KAREN: Do it. Listen, there's a huge chance that you and I... and we're too far out for her to walk to the nearest town. If something happens to us, she has to have a way to get out of here fast. (*to CASSIE*) Promise us, though, that you'll stay for at least an hour and if we're not back by then, take Taylor and get her to a hospital. You understand?

CASSIE: Okay. But if she goes all Mark or Jenny, I'm leaving without her.

KAREN nods at MARCY, who hands CASSIE the keys reluctantly.

KAREN: We're counting on you, Cassie.

CASSIE: And I'm counting on you two coming back.

KAREN: We will. With Jenny in tow. (*to MARCY*) Get the rope.

MARCY walks over and picks up the rope as KAREN picks up the baseball bat.

CASSIE: Why are you—

KAREN: Just in case. Love you, little sis.

CASSIE: You too.

KAREN: (to MARCY) You ready?

MARCY: I'm not sure one can be fully ready for this particular situation, but... sure.

KAREN and MARCY start to leave as CASSIE clutches the keys. KAREN turns back to her.

KAREN: Remember, one hour.

CASSIE: One hour.

They look at each other and then hug awkwardly. Then KAREN and MARCY exit, leaving CASSIE alone. The silence of the cabin starts to make her even more anxious. She sits down and thumbs through a magazine, clearly not registering what she is seeing. She starts to hear sounds that may or may not be there. She throws the magazine down and groans. She gets up and looks at the keys and begins to walk over to the door. She is seriously considering leaving but can't.

Damn you, Karen.

TAYLOR: (offstage) Cassie? Is that you? Are you there? (CASSIE freezes but doesn't answer or turn) I can hear you breathing.

CASSIE: What do you want?

TAYLOR: I want you to untie me. I'm better now.

CASSIE: Doubtful.

TAYLOR: I'm your friend. You can trust me.

CASSIE: I'm not untying you.

TAYLOR: Can you get me a glass of water then? I'm so thirsty.

CASSIE: Nope, nope, nope. Not going in there. You can wait until Marcy and Karen come back.

TAYLOR: Oh, you're out there alone? (CASSIE doesn't answer) You are, aren't you? (no answer) Maybe I should come out there and keep you company.

CASSIE: Shut up! You're tied up in there, so—

TAYLOR: Am I?

A struggle is heard and TAYLOR begins laughing. And then nothing. Until footsteps from the room are heard. TAYLOR gently knocks on the door.

TAYLOR: Knock, knock, knock. Let me out, Cassie. Or I'll huff and puff and blow the door down. (*silence*) This is no way to treat a friend.

CASSIE: That's—you're not you anymore.

TAYLOR: That's true, but Taylor's still in here. I can hear her screams. Like I'll hear yours soon. (*laughs*) Now open the door, Cassie!

The door starts violently shaking.

CASSIE: Forget this! (*Runs to the front door and tries to open it. She can't.*) What the—why won't the door open?! (*TAYLOR laughs as the bedroom door continues taking abuse. Then the lights cut out.*) Oh my god.

Silence. Then the bedroom door crashes open. CASSIE screams. She starts to fumble in her pocket and pulls out a tiny flashlight that fits in her pocket. She turns it on, facing the front door. She hears footsteps and swings the flashlight around, trying to find them. After a few misses, she turns and finds TAYLOR right in her face.

TAYLOR: You're it. (*grabs CASSIE and bites her as the flashlight rolls away*)

Scene 2

Setting: The woods.

At Rise: We see KAREN enter ahead of MARCY, who enters rather slowly.

KAREN: I still don't think you should have done that to the door.

MARCY: You're the one who wanted to give her the keys.

KAREN: I'm only saying that—

MARCY: Just taking precautions, Karen.

KAREN: A precaution is not locking my sister in a cabin with—

MARCY: She'll be fine. I tied Taylor up. She's not going anywhere. And it's not like Cassie couldn't open the door if she tried. It would just take her a little time.

KAREN: And if she doesn't have a little time?

MARCY: Then she'll be out of luck, I guess.

KAREN: (*looks at her*) I'm going back.

MARCY: And do what? Bring her with us? To find Jenny, who's not tied up and has already attacked Taylor? Solid plan there, Karen. Let's stick to what we were going to do: get Jenny and then go back for Taylor and Cassie. Then we get the hell out of this godforsaken place. (*scratches her arm*)

KAREN: (*noticing MARCY*) What's up with your arm? You've been scratching a lot since we left.

MARCY: My dad's trying a new detergent. Not a fan.

KAREN: Were you a fan earlier at the cabin? When you weren't scratching?

MARCY: What are you trying to say?

KAREN: (*stares at her*) Nothing. I'm sorry. (*silence*) This whole thing stinks. How does something happen like this in St. Claire, Minnesota?

MARCY: Or anywhere... really.

KAREN: Yeah. Do you think it's a virus? Like Cassie said?

MARCY: Well, Cassie is the smart one and the way she explained it after Jenny went nuts... I would say yes. If not that... demons?

KAREN: (*laughs*) More like zombies.

MARCY: Yeah, but ones that aren't stupid. Like, Jenny was never that clever when she wasn't...

KAREN: Infected?

MARCY: Yeah, infected. (*silence*) Say, if we survive this, when do you think Cassie is going to forgive you what you did to Mark?

KAREN: I don't know. What's the going time for getting over your sister bludgeoning your boyfriend to death to save your life? Two weeks? (*silence*) I don't know. She really liked him.

MARCY: We all liked him. Not like Cassie, but you know what I mean. He even let us use his family cabin. (*silence*) Well, I guess I didn't like him much after he tried to eat Cassie and Taylor. (*silence*) Do you think Jenny's still out here?

KAREN: I do. Remember when she left, she said she would be waiting for us.

MARCY: Well, I wish she'd given us a meeting spot because I think our time is running out.

KAREN: It is. I'm not even sure that there ever was time.

MARCY: You can't think that way.

KAREN: All I wanted was to hang out with my sister and my friends before graduation. That's it. And I get this. You get this. Because of me. This is all my fault.

MARCY: Well, not all. Just mostly.

KAREN: Thanks. And Cassie didn't even want to come, but I forced her to. And now, if something happens to her... I'll never forgive myself.

MARCY: What if something happens to me?

KAREN: You came here by choice. But I wouldn't forgive myself for that either. But Cassie's my sister. The one member of the family who's going to be something.

MARCY: So are you.

KAREN: What, Marcy? I couldn't get into college. Any college. Cassie, though... There's a reason that my parents put her on a pedestal. And I understood. I always understood. I'm the tough one with nothing to lose. I'll live a perfectly average life, but she... (*looks at her watch*) Let's just hurry up and find Jenny.

They walk around silently.

MARCY: Hey, did you hear what happened to Delaney?

KAREN: Yeah, what's going on in this town? All these people dying in such bizarre ways and now... this.

MARCY: Right? It's like we're in a movie. Maybe Cassie's on to something with that Horror Movie— (*they hear a noise*) That's probably not her.

JENNY: (*sing-song*) Karen. Marcy.

MARCY: Or it is? What's our plan exactly?

KAREN: You got the rope?

MARCY: Yeah. What am I supposed to do though? Lasso her?



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