



**Sample Pages from
The Girl on the Side of the Road**

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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

The Girl on the Side of the Road

Setting: A dark and lonely road. Midnight.

At Rise: HAZEL, a shabbily dressed girl, is sitting onstage, slowly rocking back and forth. She is muttering, but it's not clear what she is saying. CAL and JANE enter, in the midst of an argument.

JANE: Why are we walking this way? I swear the gas station was back the—

CAL: I know this area of St. Claire really well and there's a— (*JANE's finger across CAL's lips quiets him. She moves her hand away.*) Why did you— (*her finger goes back across his mouth*)

JANE: (*whispering*) What part of my finger on your mouth did you not understand? Look. (*She points to HAZEL rocking back and forth. CAL looks.*)

CAL: Wow. That's— (*together with JANE*) Sad.

JANE: (*together with CAL*) Creepy. (*CAL turns to her*) A girl in a ripped and dirty dress, rocking back and forth mumbling something on an abandoned road in the middle of the night? Creepy.

CAL: A girl in a dress that perhaps her mother made, sitting alone on a road in the middle of nowhere, hoping desperately that someone will help her? Sad. (*CAL crosses to HAZEL. JANE tries to stop him but fails.*) Hey there. Are you okay? (*HAZEL continues mumbling*) Can you hear me? (*More mumbling. CAL slowly sits down beside her.*) Do you mind if I sit here?

Still more mumbling. Finally, JANE grows tired of this. She crosses over to them.

JANE: She doesn't want us here, Cal. Let's go.

CAL: I'm not leaving her here. (*to HAZEL*) Can you hear me?

There is no answer. JANE crosses to her.

JANE: (*forcefully*) What's wrong with you?

CAL: Jane, I got this.

JANE: Apparently not.

CAL tries to get JANE to stop talking when HAZEL finally speaks.

HAZEL: (to JANE) Can you take me home?

JANE: (forcefully) What? No. (CAL looks at her and JANE tries to be sweeter) I mean... not a chance.

CAL: That wasn't better. Worse, actually. (CAL turns to HAZEL) What's your name?

HAZEL: Hazel. I want to go home. Can you take me home?

CAL: Of course. Why are you out here alone?

HAZEL: Because I got mad at Mother. I had to leave. And then it got dark.

CAL: Let's see if we can get you home— (JANE grabs him and starts to pull him away) What?

JANE: (looking at HAZEL) We'll be back in a second. (JANE pulls CAL downstage) What are you doing?

CAL: Helping a girl find her way home.

JANE: No, you know what you're doing? Dropping us right in the middle of a horror film.

CAL: What?

JANE: There is clearly something up with that girl. Horror Movie 101 says, if your boyfriend's car runs out of gas and you come upon a creepy girl talking about being lost and "going home to Mother"... you know what you don't do? Take her home to Mother. Because Mother will kill you. Trust me. This... is not a good thing.

JANE looks at HAZEL, who's watching her calmly, then looks back to CAL.

CAL: Horror Movie 101 is not a real thing.

JANE: Oh, I guess you're also going to say that the legend of Hook Hand is only a legend.

CAL: It is.

JANE: Tell that to Dane and Tara. Oh, wait, you can't because they're dead. From wounds that looked like a hook went through them. We are not walking her home because if we do, we'll end up like Tara and Dane... dead, and ending up dead was not in my plans for tonight.

CAL: First of all, you're overreacting, as you often do. And yes, I've only known you two weeks, but evidence is trending that way. This is not a movie. What happened to Dane and Tara was a tragic accident that has nothing to do with us. We just happened to get stranded on a lonely dark road where there just happens to be a girl who needs to get home. *(considers)* Okay, that does sound like the making of a horror movie.

JANE: Exactly.

CAL: But it's not.

JANE: You don't know that. Remember Ava and her friends at the haunted house? How did that turn out?

CAL: Poorly, but it's not the same thing.

JANE: Famous soon-to-be last words.

HAZEL: Please, I just want to go home.

CAL looks at JANE, who seems to be relenting. Slightly.

JANE: This is such a bad idea.

CAL: *(smiles at her then crosses over to HAZEL)* We'll take you home.

HAZEL: *(smiles and stands up)* Thank you. Mother will be so happy to see me. She must be so worried now. *(looks around)* Where's your car?

JANE: Someone thought we had enough gas. And we didn't.

CAL: I feel like that's a shot at me.

JANE: It is.

CAL: Anyway, we have to walk. Is your house far?

HAZEL: No. It's real close. *(pointing off)* It's that way.

JANE: If you knew the way home and it's real close, why didn't you just walk—

HAZEL: Because of the dark. Bad things happen in the dark.

JANE: No need to tell me that.

CAL: Okay, let's get you home. We'll keep you safe.

JANE: *(to CAL)* Are we seriously doing this? *(CAL nods)* When I end up dead, I am going to be pissed at you.

CAL: And dead, so...

JANE: I really hate you sometimes.

CAL: But the rest of the time... *(he smiles)*

JANE: I know. Let's just hope we get more "rest of the times."

CAL: We will. Trust me. *(takes her hand)*

HAZEL: Can you take me home now?

JANE: Yes. Geez. We already said we would. So stop asking.

CAL: You have a way with people. *(reaches for HAZEL, who pulls away)*

HAZEL: Don't touch me!

JANE laughs.

CAL: Okay, sure, no problem. We'll start walking and you tell us where to go, okay? *(HAZEL doesn't respond) I'll take that as a yes. (CAL starts walking, but JANE stays still. HAZEL stares at JANE and doesn't move. JANE stares right back at her.) C'mon, Jane.*

JANE: *(turns to CAL, shakes her head, and then follows him)* This is not going to end well.

They exit with HAZEL following behind them.

Scene 2

Setting: Still on that same dark and lonely road.

At Rise: JANE and CAL enter, but there is no sign of HAZEL.

JANE: We have been walking for forever. My legs hurt, I'm hungry, and—

CAL: We're doing a good deed, Jane.

JANE: Have you always been like this?

CAL: What—thoughtful? Caring? Concerned about the wellbeing of others?

JANE: Sure.

CAL: Not always, but my mom taught me to always put my family first.

JANE: But she isn't your family. Unless you mean "God's family" or something.

CAL: I didn't. She reminds me of my sister.

JANE: I didn't know you had a sister.

CAL: I did. But she, uh, died... when I was 5. She was uh... really good. My mom never really got over it, and I, well...

JANE: (*touches his arm*) I'm sorry.

CAL: Yeah. So, I guess, ever since then, I don't want anyone to have to go through...

CAL looks away and stops talking. JANE touches his arm.

JANE: I understand.

CAL: (*to JANE*) Are you having a moment of feelings?

JANE: They leak out every now and then.

CAL: It's nice. (*Silence. CAL takes JANE by the hands.*) I need you to know something now. I know we haven't been dating long, but... I like you. A lot.

JANE: Because I have feelings? If I'd known that—

CAL: No. I knew the first time I saw you. It was like... we were meant to be together.

JANE: Little heavy, dude, though I guess that explains why you were staring at me. But why tell me now if it wasn't because of the—

CAL: It's just, you never know when... (*He seems to be trying to say something—but he can't. He changes the subject.*) Where did she go? Hazel! (*There's no answer. CAL turns to JANE.*) How did we—

JANE: Because we're so into each other? (*CAL turns to her and gives her a rather disapproving look*) Oh, I see. Losing someone is a mood killer. I have to be honest, though, I'm already sick of her. I know that you want to do the right thing, but—

CAL: What do you suggest we do?

JANE: Leave her. We already lost her, so leaving her—

CAL: We are not leaving her out here in the middle of nowhere.

JANE: Because your mother would—

CAL: (*more forceful than intended*) My mother protects her own.

JANE: You realized how creepy that sounded, right?

CAL: Yeah. I'm sorry. It's just that my mom... is a little messed up right now, so I get a little defensive about her.

JANE: Well, I didn't really say anything about her, but... my mom's a little off too. For about 10 years. I swear that she loves her bottle more than me. Hey, we should have them get together and have a messed-up mom party. (*CAL stares at her but doesn't say anything. He then turns and walks away.*) Or not.

CAL: Hazel! Hazel!

They wait and nothing happens. Then HAZEL appears behind JANE and touches her back. JANE jumps.

JANE: Holy sh—you scared me!

HAZEL: I'm sorry. I brought you these. (*from behind her back, she produces flowers, dead ones, and smiles*)

JANE: For me? (*HAZEL nods. CAL crosses beside JANE.*) They're dead.

HAZEL: They reminded me of you.

JANE: What is that... whatever. Here's what I think of you and your stupid flowers. (*JANE takes the flowers, looks at them and then throws them over to the side. JANE turns to HAZEL, who's smiling.*) Are we almost to your house? Because this is getting old.

HAZEL: Oh, we are. So close. (*she looks at them*) Will you come in and talk to Mother?

JANE: Does your mother have a phone?

HAZEL: No. We don't need those things.

JANE: Then no.

CAL puts his hand on JANE's shoulder and then turns to HAZEL.

CAL: (*sweetly*) We really need to get home. Our parents are going to be worried and—

HAZEL: Mother will be sad if you don't come in. (*to JANE*) Especially you.

JANE: I'm okay with your mom being sad, so we're going to leave after we bring her stray home.

HAZEL starts screaming and throwing a fit. CAL tries to stop her but JANE just keeps staring. Finally, the girl calms down and a bizarre look comes over her. She walks over to JANE.

HAZEL: When Mother finds you, she's going to choke the life out of you. And I'm going to laugh. Because you're bad. You do bad things! Like *your* mother.

JANE: What the hell? (*looks at HAZEL and then to CAL*) I'm going back to the car. With or without you, Cal. This girl is messed up and I'm done. (*HAZEL smiles at her*) Keep smiling at me and I will punch you in the face.

CAL: (*crosses over to her*) Jane, we can't leave her out here alone. (*JANE starts to protest*) Okay, I can't leave her out here alone. I know she's... but she's still—

JANE: No! You heard what she said to me. How can you—

CAL: I have to.

JANE: Something is wrong about this. Really wrong. We need to go now. She's not normal, and this is going to end badly for us. So come with me and we can find a phone and call the cops for her.

CAL starts to consider it and HAZEL hugs him.

HAZEL: Please don't leave me here all alone. Please?

CAL: (*looks at HAZEL and then at JANE*) I can't.

JANE: Then I can't go with you.

CAL: I understand. You should go. Go back to the car and wait for me. I won't be long.

HAZEL: No! Don't let her go.

CAL: (*to HAZEL*) She's going back to the car to wait for me. And I'm going to take you home. Everything will be fine. Trust me. (*Turns back to JANE and crosses to her. Almost in a whisper.*) Don't wait for me. Find a way home. Walk home if you have to. Do not wait for me. I'll talk to you tomorrow.

JANE: Seriously? (*CAL shrugs*) No, I'll... (*CAL kisses her*) Wow, our first kiss. I figured it would be under less strange terms, but—

HAZEL: (*angrily*) Take me home. Now.

JANE: (to HAZEL) No. We're having a moment. (to CAL) What did you mean—

CAL: I gotta go. (*louder than needed*) I'll be back before you know it. Just wait for me. (*he looks at JANE a little longer, sadness in his eyes, then turns to HAZEL*) Ready?

HAZEL: Yes.

HAZEL takes his hand and they start to walk off. HAZEL looks back and flashes a creepy look at JANE. JANE starts to say something, but they are gone. Lights fade to black.

Scene 3

Setting: The same dark lonely road. Still.

At Rise: We see JANE, tired, scared, and angry, making her way back to the car.

JANE: I swear the car was right here. Where is it? And what's taking Cal so long? He should be... such a bleeding heart. (*beat*) Which he probably has now. (*she paces in silence*) I never should have left him. What was I thinking? That girl... and Cal had to be the hero. Insisted on taking her home. (*Unbeknownst to JANE, CAL enters. He looks distressed, empty.*) And here I am looking for a car that has apparently disappeared. Unless... (*beat*) No. I can't start thinking that way. I'm already freaked out enough, so— (*she turns and sees CAL*) Cal?

CAL: Jane.

JANE: (*runs to him*) Are you okay?

CAL: Why didn't you go home? Like I told you to.

JANE: I couldn't leave you. Well, and I couldn't find the car.

CAL: Didn't figure you would. (*JANE takes a moment*) Because you're bad with directions. (*looks away*)

JANE: (*places a hand on his shoulder*) What's wrong with you?

CAL: You were right all along.

JANE: About?

CAL: The girl. Everything.

JANE: Did you drop her off?



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