

NO SHIT SHERLOCK

A SHORT PLAY

BY: JUAN MAURICIO WILLIAMSON

CHARACTERS:

-MELANIE

-DAVID

-OFFICER

Melanie and David, two suicide jumpers in the Brooklyn Bridge found themselves in a jam when they found out they picked the same spot to jump. Determined to keep the spot, they begin to argue insistently over who should keep the spot. As the minutes pass by, the argument escalates to the point where they lose track of their original goal of jumping.

(Lights up)

(Rush hour in the Brooklyn Bridge) (Passing cars, honks and New York hostility are heard in the background) (Melanie, a young woman, stands on the edge of the bridge. She glances at the drop below her and contemplates whether or not to jump) (pause) (She slowly puts a foot in the abyss, leans forward while still holding on to the bridge with one hand and closes her eyes) (A loud honk is heard in the background) (She loses her balance, nearly falling of the bridge, and opens her eyes hastily)

MELANIE
Shit!!

(Holds on tightly to the bars and recuperates)(David enters)(Does not notice Melanie) (He glances at the drop beneath him and contemplates whether or not to jump) (Pause) (He slowly puts a foot in the abyss, leans forward while still holding on to the bridge with one hand and closes his eyes)

MELANIE
Hey!!

DAVID
Jesus Fuckin' Christ!!

(Jumps startled and loses his balance. Holds tightly to the bars so not to fall into the water)

MELANIE
What are you doing?

DAVID
What are *you* doing?

MELANIE
You were gonna jump, weren't you?

DAVID
Who the fuck are you? *(Recuperating)*

MELANIE
Answer the question.

DAVID
What question?

MELANIE
Were you gonna jump, yes or no?

DAVID
Mind your own business.

MELANIE
Answer the question.

DAVID
No

MELANIE
No what? *No*, you weren't gonna jump or *No*, you won't answer my question.

DAVID
No, I won't answer your question.

MELANIE
Answer the fuckin' question!

DAVID
Stop it!

MELANIE
Answer the question! Answer the question! Answer the fuckin' q!

DAVID
Alright!!... Jesus! ... It's like talking to fuckin' Rain man (*Pause*) Yes, I was gonna jump, if you must know, before you almost killed me. That could be construed as attempted homicide you know that, right?

MELANIE
Don't be such a baby. You were gonna kill yourself anyways, so it wouldn't have mattered.

DAVID
You didn't know that! If you see someone standin' on the edge of a bridge, you either approach them delicately or keep your mouth shut and let them jump. You should know that!

MELANIE
Why the hell should I know that?

DAVID
Everybody knows that!

MELANIE
Nobody knows that! It's not like they teach you that shit next to sex ed in high school... Ok guys now put the condom on the banana. Very good. By the way, if you see someone who's about to jump of a bridge, this is what you gotta do. (*Condescending*)

DAVID
What do you want?

MELANIE
You can't jump from here.

DAVID
What?

MELANIE
You can't jump from this spot.

DAVID
Why not?

MELANIE
'Cause this is my spot. I'm gonna jump from this spot.

DAVID
You've gotta be fuckin' kidding me.

MELANIE
Just pick another spot.

DAVID
No.

MELANIE
Why not?

DAVID
I like this spot.

MELANIE
But this is my spot. I was here first.

DAVID
This isn't a first come, first serve buffet. It doesn't matter who got here first, it's not your spot.

MELANIE
Yes it is! And yes it does! It's a simple matter of courtesy.

DAVID
Courtesy? Fuck Courtesy! You know what courtesy is? Not interrupting someone when they're about to jump of a fuckin' bridge.

MELANIE
I had to! You were about to jump from my spot.

DAVID

It's not your-!!... Fine it's your spot... what's wrong with me jumping from your spot?

MELANIE

It defeats the entire purpose.

DAVID

What purpose?

MELANIE

The purpose of being the first person that jumps from this spot.

DAVID

There's no way in hell you're the first person. This bridge is like 100 years old. For all you know, thirty other people have already jumped in the exact same spot you're standing right now.

MELANIE

No they haven't. I Googled it. Every single spot on this bridge has been taken, except this one right here. This is the only spot left and I'm gonna be the first person to jump from it.

DAVID

That's flat out insane. Are you on meds? *(Pause)*

MELANIE

That's beside the point.

DAVID

Of course you're on meds. That explains everything.

MELANIE

I never said that!

DAVID

What are you taking?

MELANIE

I never said I was on meds.

DAVID

Well, *Are* you?

MELANIE

Mind your own fuckin' business.

DAVID
Answer the question.

MELANIE
No

DAVID
No what? *No*, you're not taking meds or *No*, you won't answer my question.

MELANIE
Wow You're such a dick!

DAVID
Answer the question! Answer the question! Answer the fuckin' q-!

MELANIE
I'm not gonna answer that.

DAVID
Why not?

MELANIE
'Cause its personal.

DAVID
Come on its not like you can hide it. *(Silence)* *(Heavy traffic is heard in the background)*
(Melanie turns her back on David and retreats to her consciousness) Ah shit. I'm... I'm
sorry *(pause)* It's nothing to be embarrassed about.

MELANIE
Who said I was embarrassed?

DAVID
I'm just sayin'. Its way more common than you think... psychiatrists prescribe a controlled
amount but many times people abuse these pills end up-

MELANIE
I'm not abusing my pills!

DAVID
I knew you were on meds!

MELANIE
God dammit! ... You tricked me!

DAVID

No I didn't. You walked straight into that one.

MELANIE

Fine! ... Yes. I TAKE MEDS. My bathroom cabinet looks like a freakin' CVS counter, Happy? But I'm not abusing them and I'm not embarrassed.

DAVID

Yes you are. But you shouldn't be. That's what I'm telling you. I'm a psychiatrist and I see this happen all the time. It's nothing to be ashamed of. *(Long Pause)*

MELANIE

You're a psychiatrist?

DAVID

Yeah.

MELANIE

For real?

DAVID

Yeah

(Long Pause) (Melanie bursts into a hysterical laughter)

What? What's so funny.

MELANIE

A psychiatrist... killing himself!! *(Continues laughing, nearly falling off the bridge).*

DAVID

Ha Ha Ha, fuckin' hilarious.

MELANIE

I can't breath. *(Laughing hysterically)*

DAVID

I'm glad I amuse you.

MELANIE

Oh come on. You gotta see the irony of it.

DAVID

A Psychiatrist committing suicide. Ha Ha. Trust me. I get it.

MELANIE

It's just that you guys are supposed to keep us "loonies" on this side of the bridge, If you now what I mean.

DAVID

Just because we treat people and try to help them it doesn't mean we don't have enough problems of our own.

MELANIE

If it makes you feel any better, I think it's amazing that you embrace your craziness. If every shrink in the world would accept they're just as crazy as the rest of us, the world would be a better place, wouldn't you say?

DAVID

I'm not crazy. I'm experiencing a mental break down, which is completely normal by the way.

MELANIE

Dude we're fighting over who gets to jump first of the Brooklyn Bridge. You're fuckin bananas.

DAVID

I'm not crazy! I just wanna jump of the freakin' bridge in peace, that's all.

MELANIE

I rest my case. *(Pause)*

DAVID

Ok, so maybe I'm somewhat emotionally unstable at the moment; I'm not the one who's desperate to make history as a pioneer suicide jumper.

MELANIE

Mock me all you want, you're not taking this away from me. I've never been first at anything. All my life it's been nothing but failure after failure after failure, but not today. Today I'm gonna jump from this spot. I'm gonna be the first one to do it and I'll be damned if I let a fuckin' nerd in a suit take it away from me.

DAVID

I'm not a nerd. Don't call me a nerd.

MELANIE

You're a psychiatrist, all psychiatrists are nerds.

DAVID

You didn't know that before I told you. It doesn't count.

MELANIE

I didn't need to know. You might as well put a sign on your forehead.

DAVID

What about me comes across as being a nerd?

MELANIE

For starters, your glasses.

DAVID

Wearing glasses doesn't make you a nerd, that's ridiculous.

MELANIE

Wearing them when you're about to commit suicide does.

DAVID

Excuse me for wanting to actually see what's in front of me before I fuckin' die.

MELANIE

Ok. What about your suit?

DAVID

What about my suit?

MELANIE

Who the fuck wears a boring ass suit the day they're gonna die.

DAVID

I didn't know I was gonna die today when I dressed.

MELANIE

And you didn't think to change before coming here?

DAVID

I was at work.

MELAINIE

Nerd!

DAVID

That makes no fuckin' -! ... You know what? I'm done arguing. You wanna go first, fine, go ahead.

MELANIE

Thank you. *(Pause)* *(Melanie resumes her jumping activity. She stands on the ledge but stops. She notices that David has not moved from his spot)* *(Pause)* Well?

DAVID

Well what?

MELANIE
Are you just gonna stand there?

DAVID
I'm waiting for you to jump.

MELANIE
I don't want you watching me. That's weird.

DAVID
What the hell do you expect me to do while I wait?

MELANIE
Leave.

DAVID
I'm not leaving.

MELANIE
Are you some kind of psycho? Does watching people commit suicide turn you on or something?

DAVID
No!

MELANIE
Then leave!

DAVID
Hey If you wanna jump first, go ahead, be my guest, but I'm staying right here.

MELANIE
Fine! ... Just turn around so I know you're not looking at me.

DAVID
Seriously?

MELANIE
Just do it, please? *(David Turns around) (Melanie stares at the abyss; she slowly puts a foot in front of her and closes her eyes)*

DAVID
HEY!!
(Melanie loses her balance, but is able to hold on to the bridge)

MELANIE
What the fuck man!

DAVID
Sorry I couldn't resist. *(Laughing hardly)* See how it feels now, don't you?

MELANIE
You fuckin' asshole!!

DAVID
My bad, won't do it again. Go on. *(Still laughing)* *(Melanie stares again at the abyss. She puts a foot in the abyss)* *(She does not jump)* *(Pause)*

MELANIE
Shit!

DAVID
You can't jump it, can you?

MELANIE
Yes I can. Just give me a minute. Turn around!

DAVID
Sorry. *(She closes her eyes and tries again)* *(Pause)* *(David turns around to watch her)* *(She doesn't jump)*

DAVID
Its ok if you can't. You know that, right?

MELANIE
Shut up. Let me concentrate. *(Pause)*

DAVID
Suicide isn't for everyone.

MELANIE
It is for me. I've been planning this for a long time, I can't back down now. *(Long Pause)* *(She doesn't jump)*

DAVID
Look... maybe you're just having an off day. You've waited this long, might as well wait a little bit longer and do it another day.

MELANIE
It's gotta be today.

DAVID

Why?

MELANIE

'Cause it's my birthday.

DAVID

Hey Happy birthday!

MELANIE

Thank you, that's sweet.

DAVID

How old are you now?

MELANIE

I'm turning twenty-

DAVID

Wow, wow, wow, wow. Hang on a second ... You can't kill yourself on your birthday, That's depressing!

MELANIE

No it isn't. It's beautiful! Think about it. It makes perfect sense. To die the same day you were born... Birth and death reuniting in a single spot... Making a perfect circle. Doesn't it sound magical? *(Pause)*

DAVID

Well, when you put it like that it does make a lot of sense. Kinda romantic really. You know what I mean? ... Makes me wanna wait and kill myself on my own birth- ... wait a minute... today's not your birthday, is it?

MELANIE

Yes it is.

DAVID

This is a scheme, isn't it? A scheme to make me leave so you can take this spot!

MELANIE

It really is my birthday!

DAVID

I can't believe I almost believed you!

MELANIE

I'm telling you, It's my freakin' birthday!

DAVID

Fuck you! I was gonna leave you the spot as a birthday gift. But now I 'm just gonna jump first.

MELANIE

Wait!

DAVID

Happy fuckin' birthday. *(Prepares to jump)*

MELANIE

Wait a second will ya.

DAVID

See ya. *(As David flexes his legs to jump. Melanie takes out a bottle of pills from her pocket and starts shaking it) (David stops immediately) (Long Pause)...* Are those?

MELANIE

Yeah...*(shakes them)* you wanted to know before. Here they are. *(Shakes again) (Pause)*

DAVID

Do that again. *(Melanie shakes the pills playfully) (As she shakes, David begins to get more and more aroused)*

DAVID

Oh yeah.

MELANIE

You like that, don't you? *(Shakes uncontrollably)*

DAVID

Yeah... Yeah!!... Yes!! WOOOOOOOOOW... *(Long Pause)*

MELANIE

How about you? You got any?

DAVID

I thought you never asked. *(David takes out three pill bottles. One-by-one. As he takes each bottle out, Melanie gets more aroused) (He begins shaking)*

MELANIE

Oh my god... Oh my god... Oh sweet Jesus!!... YEAAAHAH! *(Silence) (Melanie and David stare)(They begin shaking the pill bottles in unison, sliding down the edge closer to each other, until they are face to face)*

DAVID

Prozac. (Shake)

MELANIE
Zoloft (Shake)

DAVID
Lexapro (Louder Shake)

MELANIE
Cipralex. (Louder Shake)

DAVID
Seroxat (Louder Shaker)

MELANIE
Welbutrine (Louder Shake) (Pause)

DAVID
Valium!
(They kiss passionately, pills flying into the water as they intertwine) (Long Pause)

DAVID
Hey. Why don't we jump together.

MELANIE
What?

DAVID
Lets jump together. Lets claim this spot as a couple.

MELANIE
Together?

DAVID
Yes together! *(Pause)*

MELANIE
Google didn't mention anything about couples jumping together. It must mean than no one has done it before!!

DAVID
Talk about true pioneers! Come on, let's do it!

MELANIE
Yes!!

DAVID
Really?

MELANIE

Yes! *(They hold hands and stare at the abyss together) (Pause)*

DAVID

On the count of three, ready?

MELANIE

Yeah

DAVID

One, two thr- *(A police officer enters abruptly)*

OFFICER

Hey!!

DAVID-MELANIE

Jesus Fuckin' Christ! *(Jump startled and loose their balance, but manage to remain on the bridge)*

DAVID

Fuck my life!!

OFFICER

You've gotta be fuckin' kidding me!!... Central this is officer Lorenzi. We've got a double 10-23 in the Brooklyn Bridge, over *(to the radiophone in his shoulder)* I repeat. Double 10-23. We've got two jumpers in the Brooklyn Bridge... Ok guys I'm gonna need you to come down the edge.

DAVID

I'm sorry officer. We can't

MELANIE

You gotta understand officer, this is my... our spot. We're gonna jump from this spot.

DAVID

We're gonna be the first ones! *(Pause)*

OFFICER

Central *(to his shoulder)*... send in somebody from psych... Let me tell you somethin' people. You think you're so fuckin' original? Yeah I'm gonna jump of the Brooklyn' bridge 'cause nobody's ever though of that before!! Newsflash. You ain't! This bridge's got more names than a Harlem hooker so spare me the death philosophy and all that bushtit. You wanna kill yourselves, fine, be my guest!! God knows I got enough reasons to do it myself. Shoot yourselves, overdoes on pills, cut, hang, drown yourselves, hell throw the toaster in the tub for all I fuckin' care. But keep it in the confines of your own homes!

'Cause any time any of you Einsteins decide to go "creative" and jump of the Brooklyn bridge, guess what? It stops traffic! Which costs the city a lot of money and therefore can't pay their police officers as much as they should. So if you think you can come here, disrupt the great city of New York and take money away from me. You've got another thing coming. Get *off* the bridge. *(Pause)*

DAVID

Officer you don't understand.

OFFICER

You're damn fuckin' right I don't.

MELANIE

Officer-

OFFICER

I'm not gonna ask you again.

MELANIE

Officer let me explain.

OFFICE

Get off the fuckin' bridge!

MELANIE

Let me explain! Let me explain! Let me fuckin' ex-

OFFICER

Alright!!... Jesus lady! Is she for real? *(To David)*

DAVID

Yeah she does that.

MELANIE

Shut up!

OFFICER

Explain.

MELANIE

Every single spot on this bridge has been taken, except this one right here. People have jumped from every single spot all the way from Brooklyn to Manhattan, except here. This is the only spot left and we're gonna be the first person to jump from it.

OFFICER

Are you serious? Nobody has jumped from this spot? Really?

MELANIE

It's what Google said. (Long *Pause*) (*The Officer stares at the jumpers and then at the water while tapping his foot*) (*He jumps*)

DAVID-MELANIE

NO!!!

MELANIE

What the fuck! (*Silence*)

DAVID

He jumped... He fucking jumped.

MELANIE

No shit Sherlock! That fuckin' asshole!

DAVID

He took our fuckin' spot. (*Pause*)

MELANIE

Motherfucker. What the hell I'm I supposed to do now? (*Silence*)

DAVID

Hey... is it really your birthday? Or you were just fucking with me.

MELANIE

It really is. (*Pause*)

DAVID

Wanna ... maybe go grab a drink with me? (*Pause*)

MELANIE

Sure, why not.
(*Lights Fade*)