

(Mini-StagePlay: Drama)

A House by Any Other Name



Steve Glickman

*Sometimes home is the
hardest place to go.*

SAMPLE SCENE

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SPIRIT

Hello dear.

GIRL

Where am I? How did I get here? Who are you?

SPIRIT

It's very complicated dear; very. This doesn't happen often, so please understand as best you can. I'm you; kinda. You've died in a car crash, but because of the doctors at the hospital, you're body is still alive, in a coma.

GIRL

No, I'm alive. I'm alive.

SPIRIT

You're alive in spirit, dear. You're very alive in spirit. I know. I've been watching you for a long time now.

(beat)

But that car crash killed your brain. You received a terrible bump on the head, and your brain is bleeding badly, and there's not much that the doctors can do about that.

GIRL

I feel fine.

SPIRIT

Here you do, of course. There's no reason for you to feel any of that here; so let's just pretend that you're still inside your head, but so far down that nothing can get through.

GIRL

Who are you?

SPIRIT

Can't you tell? Look closely. I'm you! I'm you in about 30 years! Can you tell?

GIRL

Oh my god. What's going on? What do you want? Why am I here?

SPIRIT

Please, be patient. There's a lot to understand. First, please believe me when I say that no one here wants to hurt

you. I know that this is very difficult for you. This is about the most difficult thing that you'll ever have to do. I know all about you. I am you, remember? I was here, standing where you are, once. I also died in that car crash, but I came out of the coma, and lived for many years afterwards. I know all about you, because I am you. These things happen sometimes. I remember how confused I was when I was here. I remember how I didn't really understand everything that happened. I remember it all very well.

GIRL

You're me?

SPIRIT

Yes.

GIRL

So I didn't die?

SPIRIT

Not for me.

GIRL

So, am I going back?

SPIRIT

Only if you want to. No one here has to do anything that they don't want to do. I'm not here to tell you what to do. If you choose to stay, or if you choose to return, the decision is entirely up to you.

GIRL

So I don't have to go back?

SPIRIT

Absolutely not.

GIRL

Are things going to change if I go back?

SPIRIT

I wish I could tell you they will, but they won't.

GIRL

Will I be happy?

SPIRIT

Sometimes.

GIRL

I want to be happy.

SPIRIT

I know.

GIRL

Why can't I be happy?

SPIRIT

Look.

LIGHTING ILLUMINATES the hallway behind them. WALL LIFTS on one side to show a dark room with a little girl sleeping there. FATHER appears backing out of the other door from a darkened room. He is wearing pajamas, and appears very nervous.

GIRL

Dad!

SPIRIT

He can't hear you.

GIRL

Dad!

Father tiptoes along hallway; enters the sleeping girls room, quietly. WALL LOWERS on girls bedroom. Suddenly the Girl squirms, and the Spirit also shows some discomfort.

GIRL (CONT'D)

What's he doing to me?

SPIRIT

He's hurting you.

GIRL

No! Stop him! Stop him!

SPIRIT

I can't. He can't hear me either.

GIRL

I'm so scared.

SPIRIT

Yes.

GIRL

I'm so lonely.

SPIRIT

Yes.

LIGHTING DIMS on hallway, switches
back to lobby.

GIRL

I don't want to go back. I want to stay here.

SPIRIT

Yes.

GIRL

Why is he so bad?

SPIRIT

He doesn't know better.

GIRL

I hate him. I hate him.

SPIRIT

Wait, there's more.

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