

THE DISCHARGED TRUTH

A Play in One Act

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Cast of Characters

If there is a '*' next to the character's name they can be any race.

Violet Carson: Caucasian/white presenting. 18 years old.

Travis Carson: Caucasian/white presenting. 18 years old.

Kyle Carson: Caucasian/white presenting. 21 years old.

David Peterson: African-American. 21 years old.

Haley James: *17 years old. (Can be played by one of the voices)


Teacher: *Mid 40s. (Can be played by father)

Counselor: *Late 30s. (Can be played by mom)

Mom: Caucasian/white presenting. Late 30's.

Father: Caucasian/white presenting. Mid 40's.


Man: *Cannot be played by father. Can be played by one of the voices

Voices #1-#7: *Mid-teens to mid 20s. Recorded or actors. They are the ensemble as well. (MUST have a child's voice for the Sandy Hook shootings.) 


Erin: *Haley's significant other in the flashback. (Can be played by one of the voices)

Author's Note

You must have a trigger warning for your show advertisement.

For the safety of the cast there should be an intimacy director hired. 


This script is created so you can go as minimal as possible with a few chairs and tables or you can create the biggest spectacle possible.

In this script 'fog'  is used as the transition to the flashbacks. It is only used as an example of something to be used to create a transition. Use whatever works best for the direction of the play the director and crew wish to go in.

There should be no intermission in the play to keep the momentum going all the way through.

In the text, a dash (-) at the end of a line represents an abrupt cut off or interruption.

In the text, an ellipsis (...)  at the end of a line represents a character trailing off into thought.

Please respect all of the places in the script that say silence. They are of importance and were placed with great care and thought. When you see "silence" it should be approximately five seconds long (one mississippi, two mississippi, etc.). The actors will start to worry that they are losing audience interest and that they need to pick up the pace to keep the scene going. It is inevitable to feel this but just as uncomfortable as they are in silence so is the audience. Which is the point. 

When you see where it says a "beat". That should be taken at the discretion of the director and actors. They should gauge the audience and see if the beat should be a short or long one.

Whenever you see an asterisk (*) used in the script around dialogue. It is a quote from a real person and their experience with a school shooting. Please respect these quotes with great care! This is really what someone went through. This is really their experience. This is really their story. Do not alter or change their words. By doing so you alter their experience and their truth.

SCENES

Empty stage: Scene one, scene eleven, scene twelve and bows.

Carson living room: Scene two, scene four, scene nine, scene ten, scene seventeen, and scene eighteen.

Carson dining room: Scene three.

High school hallway: Scene five.

Classroom: Scene six and scene sixteen.

Cafeteria: Scene seven and scene fifteen.

Girl's bathroom: Scene eight.

Support group: Scene thirteen.

Football field: Scene fourteen.

Violet's bedroom: Scene nineteen.

TIME

Early 2018. Flashbacks are late 2017.

SCENE 1

SETTING: The stage is bare except for a distraught boy, TRAVIS CARSON.

AT RISE: Lights up. Travis looks around the dark. Confused. As voices (preferably in the audience) progress around Travis the more distraught he gets. Fog rolls off the stage around Travis. Projections of school shootings assault the audience member's eyes.

VOICE #1

(Repeated over and over)

Loser.

VOICE #2

(Repeated over and over)

Worthless.

VOICE #3

(Repeated over and over)

Waste of space.

VOICE #4

(Repeated over and over)

Pathetic.

VOICE #5

(Repeated over and over)

Mistake.

VOICE #6

(Repeated over and over)

Kill yourself.

VOICE #7

(Repeated over and over)

Do it!

Travis pulls at his hair. He walks back and forth. Voices progress for about ten more seconds.

TRAVIS

STOP!

The voices go silent. Travis stares out into the audience.

Voices reverberate into the audience. They echo

as they disappear.

VOICE #2

No one was standing or shouting.

VOICE #3

I saw bullets ricocheting off desks and off the wall as he slowly went around the room killing people.

VOICE #4


I can still hear. I can still taste the blood.

VOICE #5

I quickly dove under a desk, that was the desk I chose to die under.

VOICE #6

No way I can survive this. Someone threw up. There was blood everywhere. It took about a minute and a half, and then...


VOICE #7 (SIX-YEAR-OLD) 

When you go to bed, it feels scary, and you keep having this dream in your head about it. Because if you lived it, it's always stuck in your head.

TRAVIS

(Broken)

Why did you do this to me?

A  *is admitted into the theater.*

(BLACKOUT)


END OF SCENE

SCENE 2

SETTING: It is a living room. Shoes, shirts, pants, and other clothing items are thrown around the space. Someone is living in here.

AT RISE: Lights up on two men. KYLE CARSON picks up clothes as he wanders around the room. He shouts answers to history homework that DAVID PETERSON quizzes him on.

DAVID

When was the second amendment ratified? 

KYLE

December 1791

DAVID

Who proposed the second amendment?

KYLE

James Madison.

DAVID

Why was the amendment originally proposed?

KYLE

So, people could defend what they owned.

DAVID

Wrong.

KYLE

Ummm....So the states could have more power.

DAVID

Wrong again.

KYLE

Ehh...Federalists wanted more state militias...?

DAVID

And wrong again.

KYLE

Fuck! I don't know. So-So-so fucking high schoolers can have guns..?

(A beat)

DAVID

Kyle...umm...Do you want me to tell you the answer or...?


KYLE

No. I'm grabbing a beer. You want one?

DAVID

 Sure.

Kyle exits. David walks around the room. He grabs a picture frame and runs a finger along the side of it. Seems deep in thought. While he is in thought fog starts to roll off the stage.

There is a laugh heard off stage. VIOLET CARSON and Travis  on stage. They are both in bathing suits.

VIOLET

Don't you dare, Travis!

TRAVIS

Oh, come on Princess V  It's just a little dip! Is my little sis scared?

VIOLET

A dip?! You call being thrown in the pool, against your will I might add, a dip?!

TRAVIS

(Laughs)
Sounds about right!

Travis grabs Violet. She attempts to get away from him. He throws her over his shoulder.

VIOLET

(Laughing)
Put me down!

TRAVIS

Oh, you want to be put down?!

VIOLET

No! No! Don't you dare!

The fog stops as they rush off stage. Almost as if it is being pulled away with them. A splash

is heard. Flashback over.

Kyle enters. Two beers in hand.

KYLE

I got it! The second amendment was proposed so that citizens had the opportunity to fight back against a tyrannical government! Hell yeah! Beat that!

David jumps in shock and places the photo back down.

KYLE

(Slowly)

...Wh-what were you looking at?

DAVID

Umm...Nothing...

Kyle looks at the picture. He hands David his beer then sits on the sofa. David takes a deep drink.

KYLE

I miss them...like that...

DAVID

I...uhhh...

He sits next to Kyle on the sofa. Kyle takes a drink.

KYLE

Travis and Violet...I miss them...like that.

DAVID

...They were happy.

KYLE

Not just happy. They looked out for each other. Damn, you couldn't separate them no matter how hard you tried. They always wanted each other no matter what. Joined at the fucking hip...Stereotypical twins.

Kyle lets out a sadistic chuckle. He takes another swig of beer. David watches him.

DAVID

How is Violet doing? ...Is she okay? ...Speaking to the cops yet?

KYLE

She won't say anything to the cops. She is barely talking to me. Her therapist says I shouldn't push her but how the fuck else am I supposed to know if she is okay?

(Beat)

DAVID

Do you think she is ready for school tomorrow?

KYLE

Her therapist thinks so...Violet thinks so.

David nods at this.

DAVID

(Slowly)

But...do you, Kyle, think she is?

KYLE

Honesty...? No...not at all. I mean she's going back to that school. That fucking school...

(A beat)

DAVID

If it helps any I'll be there. You know just doing my assistant teaching. So I should have time to check in on her.

KYLE

Yeah, it helps. A little.

(Silence)

David spins his beer bottle in his hands. Kyle occupies his hands with a piece of clothing. He plays with it for a very long time before he throws it down. He swiftly turns to look at David.

KYLE

David, how do you do it?

(A beat)

DAVID

...Do what?

KYLE

How do you...go into that place? How do you deal with it?

DAVID

...I try not to think about it. I mean you can see it on some of their faces. Classes haven't gone back to that room. But everyone is still trying to move on, you know?

Kyle sits. He says nothing for a while. David stares off into space, playing with his beer bottle.

KYLE

I still can't believe it.

(A beat)

DAVID

I don't think any of us can.

Silence. There is noise from upstairs over the silence. Kyle doesn't seem phased but David jumps.

DAVID

What was that?

KYLE

Mom. She's usually asleep from all the meds but when she is awake...she's not taking it well.

David nods. Silence. The noise upstairs continues.

DAVID

Are you sure she's ready to go back to school? It's only been two months. I know she has a clean bill of health but is she really ready?

KYLE

Her therapist has signed off. The school has signed off. The first words she said to me in two months was how she wanted to go back to that school. But, how can she want to go back there? How is she okay going back there?


DAVID

She wants life to go back to normal.

KYLE

Normal. Going back to school isn't going to make life normal for her. Normal would be all of us outside at the pool. Dad throwing Vi in the pool. Trav off to the side reading a book or playing some game with mom. Mom making sure we are all safe.

(Beat)

You staring at Vi's ass thinking no one sees it. 

DAVID

It was one time! I was seventeen!

David throws a pillow at Kyle's head. They throw the pillow back and forth for a second. They enjoy the moment.

KYLE

Promise me you'll look after her? You'll make sure she is okay and safe?

(A beat)

DAVID

Of course. I'll always watch out for her.


(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 3

SETTING: A dining room. Looks to be Christmas or thanksgiving from the food on the table.

AT RISE: Kyle, Travis, Violet, Mom, and Father are all around the table. They all seem to be very happy. Fog rolls off the stage around their seats.

FATHER 

Violet, sweetheart? How was cheerleading practice?

VIOLET

It was great, Dad. Our new routine is going to be fantastic. It's going to be the best one yet. Even Trav got to help out today.

TRAVIS

(Mumbles)


I didn't do much. I just pushed the play button.

VIOLET

Oh, don't be modest. You were such a big help today!

KYLE

Yeah, I bet he was a big help trying to get a peak up Haley's skirt.

Travis throws a dinner roll across the table and all the kids erupt into laughter. 

MOM

(Warning voice)

Children.

KYLE, VIOLET, TRAVIS

(Mutters)

Sorry, Mom.

They all lower their heads but they have smiles on their faces as they pass sly glances at each other.

VIOLET

So, Dad? You and Mom will be at my next competition, right?

FATHER


Wouldn't miss it for the world sweetie.

Violet gives him a big smile and goes back to her food.

FATHER

How about you Kyle? Seeing as how you finally decided to come back home after you've been everywhere in the world.

KYLE

I haven't been everywhere. 

TRAVIS

(mutters)
Not yet at least.

The twins laugh at this and try to hide it by shoving their faces with food.

KYLE

Do you want me to throw another roll at you two?

This makes the twins explode with more laughter.

MOM

Violet! Travis!


VIOLET AND TRAVIS

(Muttering)
Sorry, Mom.

Violet and Travis look at each other and fight back laughs.

KYLE

If you both are done talking now. Can I talk about where *I've* been?

He gives them a pointed look. Travis puts his fingers to his lips and twist like he locked his mouth with a key. He then throws it over his shoulder. Violet tries to hide a laugh once again by filling her mouth with more food.  Kyle rolls his eyes.

KYLE

I did a little traveling overseas. I got to see Paris and Germany. But I really want to go back over seas at some point so I can go to Japan. However, my next stop is Canada...I think but after that I'm not too sure.

MOM

Maybe you could come home for a bit? Take some night classes?

KYLE

Mom. I told you I'm only taking a year off. Two at max and then I'm going back to school...I just needed some time.

(Beat)

Mom nods her head and goes back to her food.

FATHER


Have you at least found yourself a girl yet?

TRAVIS

Like he could find someone to deal with him.

Kyle throws another dinner roll and everyone breaks out into laughter again. Mom and Father even join in this time. Joyful silence.

VIOLET

Dad? How did you and Mom meet? 

MOM

And what got you so interested in us, missy?

VIOLET

I don't know. Just realized you've never told us how you both got together.

KYLE

Yeah. How did you two fall in love?

VIOLET

(dramatic)

I bet it's something cliché like you guys bumped into each other in the quad.

TRAVIS

Or she tutored him in math.

KYLE

Head cheerleader and the quarterback.

VIOLET

Ohhh! Or-

MOM

Enough. If you all stop talking we would share.

KYLE, VIOLET, TRAVIS

Sorry, Mom.

She shakes her head at them. There is a loving smile on her face.

MOM

Would you like to start or me?

Mom looks up very lovingly at Father. He gives her a small smile then looks away.

FATHER

I first heard of your mother from a friend. They shared the same class and your mom was the quiet girl. Didn't talk to many people. I had just gotten out of a rotten relationship and I told my friend I wasn't interested. Then I went to a party that weekend and in walks this beautiful woman. I knew I had to talk to her.

MOM

And talk to me he did? He cornered me at the punch bowl. I was trapped between the fridge and the stove.

FATHER

You could have left if you really tried, but did you?

Mom answers him with a playful shove.

FATHER

I told her she had to go to homecoming with me. After that I proposed about three months later. Then four months after that we were married. And then a year after that we had Kyle.

TRAVIS

Wow...and you two didn't think that was fast? How could you even know who the other really was?

FATHER

You know who someone is right away if they are the right person.

TRAVIS

Really? You can know every little detail? Even all the bad ones.

MOM

There was nothing more I needed to know about this man. He was my hero. Saved me from the bad family I came from and gave me the most perfect family I could ever ask for.

TRAVIS

Huh...some hero.

(A beat)

FATHER

You want to repeat that?

Travis shakes his head and looks away.

VIOLET

I hope I get a happy story just like you guys. Just the perfect story.

The word 'perfect' echoes through the space. As the echo bounces around the space Violet stands center. The family and the table seem to disappear into the fog.

After the table is gone the fog starts to disperse.

VIOLET

Perfect...Just perfect...

(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 4

SETTING: Kyle is making up the sheets on the sofa and eating cereal out of a mug at the same time.

AT RISE: Violet enters. She is dressed in skinny jeans and a sweatshirt that look to be a man's. She has bags under her eyes but she a slight skip in her step as if she is trying to seem fine. Not far behind her is Travis. He seems uninterested in everything.

VIOLET

Morning!

She plops down in a chair. Then kicks her feet up on the coffee table.

KYLE

(Mouth full)

Morning to you too.

TRAVIS

Close your mouth, dumbass.

Kyle wipes off his mouth and swallows his food.

KYLE

Want any breakfast?

TRAVIS

Pass.

VIOLET

I'm good. I grabbed a banana earlier while you were still sleeping.

KYLE

Why were you up so early?

TRAVIS

She's been up for hours. It's annoying.

VIOLET

I just couldn't sleep.

(A beat)

KYLE

Got everything for school?

TRAVIS

When does she not?

Violet nods her head and holds up her bag.

KYLE

Cool. Let me go get a shirt on, go to the bathroom, and then we can head out. I have some things I need to do in town anyway.

Travis sighs. Violet nods her head at this. Kyle grabs a shirt and makes his way out of the room.

TRAVIS

He just wants to make sure you actually get to school. Can't have the perfect princess having a breakdown on the way there.

VIOLET

Shut up. I'm not a princess.

TRAVIS

Sure...whatever you say, Princess Vi.

(A beat)

VIOLET

Can't you just be happy I'm going back to school?

TRAVIS

Oh, poor you. You saw some bad things and now don't want to go to school. Ha, trust me Princess Vi some people have it a lot worse than you.

(A beat)

VIOLET

...I used to love when you called me Princess Vi, when I was little. You know. You got to be my knight for me...now...now it's just...



KYLE

Alright. Who's ready to go?

Both Travis and Violet stand. They look at Kyle. Kyle nods his head then starts for the door. They both follow behind him silently.

(BLACKOUT)


END OF SCENE

SCENE 5

SETTING: A high school hallway.

AT RISE: Violet and Travis enter. As they walk down the hall people bump into Violet. She finally reaches a defaced locker at the end of the hallway. She opens it and grabs her books.

VOICE #5
Bitch.

VOICE #6
Killer. 

She rapidly shuts her locker. Someone trips her and her books go everywhere.

TRAVIS
You fucking asshole! Who do you think you are!?

Travis goes after the person. It doesn't seem to faze them. The bell rings and she stays frozen. Everyone but Violet exits. They kick her papers along the way.

David enters. He's grading papers as he walks. He sees Violet on the ground and stops. David squats down and puts a hand on her shoulder.

VIOLET
FUCK!

She scrambles away from him. David raises his hands to "show no harm". He has a small smile on his lips. A teacher assistant ID hanging from his neck.

DAVID
Sorry, I didn't mean to scare you. I was just...uhh.
Ha, I was just wondering if you needed any help.

VIOLET
No, David...I'm fine.

Violet picks up papers. David bends to help her. She looks at him out of the corner of her eye but says nothing. He continues to help. When they finally have all of the papers and books they stand. They look at each other. He hands the papers over to her.

VIOLET

Thank you, David-...Mr. Peterson.

David nods. He turns to walk away from her. He stops.

DAVID

This is probably inappropriate to say but remember I am your friend first and if you ever need anything at any time of the day, I am next door so...just come over.

David looks uncomfortable.

VIOLET


I know Kyle told you to look out for me but you really don't have to. I can take care of myself.

DAVID

I'm not looking out for you just because of Kyle. I'm looking out for you because I... you know. I did grow up with you.

(A beat)

VIOLET

You can't protect someone from everything just because you "grew up with them". 

He nods his head and walks away. Once he is gone she looks around to make sure she is alone. She pulls out a pill bottle from her bag. She takes one of them. She closes her eyes and takes a deep breath. She grabs her bag and exits.



(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 6

SETTING: Lights up on a classroom. Students towards the back of the classroom throw paper balls at each other. Cheerleaders sit on desks and talk. Others listen to music or nap.

AT RISE: Violet and Travis enter. The class goes silent. Violet finds an empty desk in the front of the classroom. Travis takes the seat behind her.

VOICE #2

What's she doing back here?

Paper balls are thrown at Violet's head. Violet tries to become smaller.

Travis turns around and throws them the middle finger.

VIOLET

(Quietly)

Don't.

Travis jaw is clinched with thoughts of violence but leaves those thoughts and exits the room.

VOICE #3

They actual let her back in?

VOICE #4

How is she not rotting in a jail cell?

VOICE #5

Bet you she knew he was going to do it.

Before anyone can say anything else TEACHER enters. He places a coffee mug down on his desk. He looks over the class. His eyes stop on Violet. He walks over to her and towers over her desk.

TEACHER

(Smirking)

Miss Violet Carson? You are actually back at school?

VIOLET

(Stutters uncomfortable)

Ye...yes. Yes, sir.

The class giggle and laugh at her state.

TEACHER



Well, we have covered so much material while you were gone so if you need help you will just have to ask your classmates and see if they would be willing to help you.

VOICE #6

No way in hell would anyone help her.

VOICE #1

Yeah total health risk with her family and all.

More laughs. High fives exchanged. Violet pulls herself into the smallest ball she can form. The teacher walks back to his desk. He faces the class like he has heard nothing.

TEACHER

Alright, so as you all know today I got us assigned the computer lab. Once I take role we will be on our way to work with your groups.

The teacher sits down at his desk. He calls out names.

TEACHER

Alright that seems to be everyone for today so-.

A girl, HALEY, in a cheerleading uniform rushes in. A bag falls off of her shoulder. Her high ponytail falling down and her uniform looks a mess.

TEACHER



Miss Haley James, late as always I see. I wonder what your grand excuse could be this time?

HALEY

I was, of course, trying to get ready for you.

She throws her hair over her shoulder. She gives the teacher a flirty look. Boys let out wolf whistles and the girls in the class let out giggles. Violet looks disgusted.

TEACHER

How about you have a seat, Miss James? Before I send you to the principal's office.

HALEY

(Purr in her voice)
Of course.


Haley turns and her eyes fall on Violet. They have a slight stare off. Haley walks to the empty seat behind Violet. The class is hushed.

TEACHER


Now if we are done with interruptions does anyone have any questions before we pack up and head to the lab?


Haley raises her hand in the air and speaks before Teacher calls on her.

HALEY

The freak  is sitting in my group section. I sooooo don't want to work with her.

TEACHER

If you wished to have an opinion with whom is in your group then maybe you should have show  up on time.

Haley gives a noise of displeasure. She crosses her arms over her chest in a pout purposely pushing up her boobs. 

TEACHER

Now, if we are done let's head to the computer lab to get started on our presentations.

Everyone exits but Haley stops Violet from doing so.

HALEY

Look, Carson. I really don't want to even look at you but we have this project now. So, you better help out.

Violet tries to walk around Haley but Haley steps in her way to stop her.

HALEY

Did I tell you that you could leave?

VIOLET

Are you really going to stop me?

HALEY

Look. We might have been friends at one point but we

aren't anymore. So, you are no longer in charge.

VIOLET

(Slight chuckle)

What? Did I lose that right because you took over as cheer captain?

HALEY

No. You lost that right because everyone hates you.

(Beat)

VIOLET

What happened to you? Before all this happened we were best friends! Hell, you didn't even want to be a cheerleader and now you are captain!

HALEY

You want to know what happened? What happened is my friends are dead and you could have stopped it but you didn't! You fucking coward! *I can't sleep anymore. The scene, it just keeps going on and on.* You could have stopped this!

Haley holds eye contact for a beat and then exits.

VIOLET

...I could have helped.

Violet is frozen in spot. She grabs her bag and pulls out the pill bottle. She pours a pill into her hand. Stops. Then pours a few more pills in her hand and takes them all.

(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 7

SETTING: School cafeteria. Students are abuzz everywhere.

AT RISE: Travis and Violet enter. When they do everyone goes quiet. Violet freezes but Travis just walks further into the space.

TRAVIS

(Laughing)

Come on Violet. Don't be afraid.

Haley holds out a leg and trips Violet as she walks by. Everyone laughs as she falls to the ground.

TRAVIS

You fucking bitch! I'll ki-

VIOLET

STOP!

Everyone on stage freezes. Fog starts to roll across the stage.

VIOLET

Not now...Not now. Not now.

Travis and Violet watch: Everyone in the cafeteria unfreezes. Everyone is laughing. No one sees Violet or Travis anymore.

TRAVIS

Are we here again?

VIOLET

Shut up.

They move to the edge of the stage and watch their classmates.

HALEY

Thank God homecoming is right around the corner!

ERIN

Can't wait to have you all to myself.

Erin grabs Haley around the waist and kisses her in front of everyone. People at their table start to cheer.

HALEY

Where is Violet? You all *have* to hear what routine she has planned for homecoming. It's so great.


ERIN

I bet it's sexy. Can't wait to see that ass of yours shaking-

HALEY

(Chuckling)

Shut up!

There is a popping noise that can be heard. 

VOICE #2

What was that?

VOICE #3

Sounds like firecrackers. Bet it's just a senior prank.

There are more pops. Closer this time. Erin gets up and makes their way to the door.

VIOLET

(to herself)

Don't open it, Erin. Don't do it.

They open the door and glance around then slam it shut.

ERIN

Everyone get do-

A MAN enters in all black. His face is covered and there is a gun in his hand.

Everything moves in slow motion. People scream and run away from the gunman. After every shot a spot of red appears on a student. Many of them go down and don't move once they hit the ground.

HALEY

No! Don't!

She is on the ground. She holds her shoulder. She has been shot. Erin stands between her and the gunman.

HALEY

Please don't! Don't hurt them.

Violet takes a step forward. Travis grabs her.

VIOLET

Let go I have to save them!

She yanks free from his grasp. Before she makes it to them, Haley's partner is shot. Red appears on them as they fall to the ground.

Violet grabs the gunman. He shoves her to the ground and stands over her.

VIOLET

How could you?! How fucking could you?!

The gunman walks out of the room. He seems to pull the fog out the room with him. Everyone moves back to the place they were at before the flashback started.

HALEY

Did you hear me freak?

Violet jerks her head to Haley. She bolts out of the room. Everyone laughs as she goes.

TRAVIS

You're lucking I can't fucking kill you.

Haley seems un-phased by him. Travis exits.

(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 8

SETTING: Girls bathroom.

AT RISE: Violet stares into a mirror. She is having a panic attack. Travis watches.

TRAVIS

Freaking out won't help anything.

VIOLET

You act like I can fucking control this!

TRAVIS

(Chuckling)

You should be able to. God, it's in the past get over it.

VIOLET

You fucking asshole!

TRAVIS

Boo you. Get it together. You didn't even get shot that day. ...At least not really.

VIOLET

Please go away. You don't know what this is like!

TRAVIS

Me? I don't know what this is like? To be picked on and laughed at?

VIOLET

No!

TRAVIS

(Laughing)

God, everything is always just about you! You. You. You.

VIOLET

Just leave! Fucking Leave!

Travis storms out of the bathroom. She shakes and cries as she stares at herself. She lets out a scream as she punches the mirror. It shatters into a pile of fragmented faces.



(BLACKOUT)


(END OF SCENE)

SCENE 9

SETTING: The living room. It is more put together than it was before.

AT RISE: Violet is curled into a ball in a chair. Travis sits in a chair across from her. Mom is passed out on the sofa asleep. Violet watches her breathe.

TRAVIS

Ever think one day she's just going to take too much and die. 

VIOLET

Shut up.

TRAVIS

You are very testy today. I'm just trying to start up conversation.

VIOLET

I don't want to talk to you.

TRAVIS

Clearly.

(Silence)

Door opens and shuts. Kyle enters. Kyle rushes over to Mom. He puts a hand to her neck and checks for a pulse.

KYLE

How long has she been like this?! Why wasn't I called?

TRAVIS

Cue over protective brother. I'm out.

Travis exits

VIOLET

She was breathing so I didn't see a point in making you leave your class early.

KYLE

You shouldn't have to deal with this. So, yes, you should have called me.

VIOLET

I had it under control.

KYLE

I don't care if you think you had it under control or not. You still call me.



Kyle picks up Mom and carries her to her room. After a beat Violet reaches out for one of the pill bottles. She roll it through her fingers before she slips it into her pocket

Kyle re-enters. He slumps down into the sofa. He lets out a long sigh.

VIOLET

Do you think she is going to be okay to go to court next week?

(Beat)

KYLE

I think she will be fine.

(Silence)

KYLE

Are you going to be fine?

VIOLET

Yeah. I guess.

(Silence)

KYLE

How's it been going with all of the Travis stuff?

Violet stiffens at Kyle's question. She does not look over at him.

KYLE

You are going to have to talk about this eventually.

VIOLET

I don't want to talk.

KYLE

I know. I know you don't. But we have to to talk about this at some point. Your therapist tells me you wo-

VIOLET

My therapist! You have no right to talk to her. Or to tell me what I need to do.

KYLE

I'm not telling you what you need to do. I just want to help, Vi.

VIOLET

I don't need your help! I am just fine.

KYLE

Do you really believe that? Violet, you've been through a lot. It's okay. You don't have to keep it locked away.

VIOLET

I've. Been. Through. A. Lot.

(chuckling)

I saw our father beat MY twin brother and did nothing to save him. Then I told no one because I was stupid and it kept happening to him. And then...And now. God, and now I come home every day to a mom who has to take pills to get through the day and an older brother that thinks he has to become the dad of the house and take care of everything without actually showing any emotion!



KYLE

You think I don't have emotions about this?! I know how bad this is. But I also have my best friend to talk to. Do you? Do you still have any friends that will listen to you?

Violet blinks in shock and she backs away as if he just slapped her.

KYLE

Vi, that's not what I meant. I just-I'm stupid. Just-

VIOLET

No, you meant it. It's fine. I'm going to go to my room. I'll help with dinner later.

(Silence)

Violet moves to exit.

VIOLET

Why don't you go over to David's? Seeing as how you still have friends to talk to.


Violet exits. Kyle pulls at his hair. He reaches out and pushes the contents of the table to the floor. He slides to the ground in defeat.

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

SCENE 10

SETTING: The living room. It's still a complete mess from where Kyle pushed everything around.

 *AT RISE: Speakers are blasting an upbeat/fast tempo workout type music. David dances around the room to the music and seems to be cleaning up as he goes.*

Kyle enters from the kitchen and has an apron on. Obviously has been cooking. Kyle's entrance shocks David as he tried to turn and look at him but he is so into his dance that he trips on his own feet and falls. A slow clap starts from Kyle.

KYLE

Bravo. Should I be looking for you to appear in the next season of 'So You Think You Can Dance'?

David rapidly stands. He turns down the music.

DAVID

At least I can dance better than you.

KYLE

Can you now?

DAVID

Oh. You know I can.

KYLE

Bring it.

Kyle switches the song to a more sultry dance song still upbeat/fast tempo. Both of them have confidence that their dance is the best. Violet enter from upstairs. She stops stunned by the 'sexy' dancing in front of her. She breaks out into a fit of laughter for the first time in two months. Both boys stagger at the sound. David lunges to turn off the music and 'plays it cool'.

KYLE

I'm going to-uhhh. Yeah.

He darts back into the kitchen. David stares at Violet still in shock.

VIOLET

What do I not get more of a show?

DAVID

I-ummm-I....uhhhh.

VIOLET


Stop your worrying. I won't tell anyone.

David nods. He goes back to cleaning up the living room. Violet goes into the kitchen.

(Silence)

Violet re-enters with a glass of water in her hand. She is watching him as he cleans.

VIOLET

You are too good for my family. 

DAVID

What?

She nods towards the mess that he has cleaned up.

DAVID

Oh, this...Ummm I don't have much to do today so...I just figured I'd come help.

VIOLET

That's what I mean. You have no reason to really help and yet here you are. So why?

(Beat)

DAVID

...What does it matter?

Violet watches his every move while he cleans.

VIOLET

Doesn't really matter? There must be a reason. I'm bored and curious. So, tell me.

(Beat)

DAVID

You all are my family. I'll do whatever I can to help.

VIOLET


But we aren't your family... Then again I haven't seen your parents in about a year and you've never really spoken about them even when they are here.

DAVID

...They are in Hong Kong.

(Silence)

VIOLET

For how long? 

DAVID

Indefinitely.

VIOLET

Why did they leave?

(Beat)

DAVID

Why are you so nosey today?

VIOLET

Like I said, I am bored. Wasn't the greatest day as I'm guessing you know.

DAVID

How should I know how your day was?

VIOLET

Come on. Didn't we have this talk earlier about how you are Kyle's spy. Also, seeing as how you are even here you know about the fight Kyle and I got into earlier.

David doesn't answer.

VIOLET

What? Didn't think I was that smart enough to figure all that out?

DAVID

Never said you weren't smart.

VIOLET

Just young...

(Silence)

They stare at each other. It is broken by Kyle entering the room.

KYLE

And dinner is ready!

VIOLET

I'll go set the table.


She exits the room and David watches her go.

KYLE

And there you go. Once again staring at her ass.

David throws a pillow at his head and they both break out into laughter.

KYLE

I'm going to go get mom. Try not to impregnate my sister while I'm gone. 

DAVID

Go to hell!

Kyle laughs as he walks up the stairs. David drops to the sofa and runs a hand through his hair.

DAVID

(to himself)

This family is going to be the death of me.

Violet re-enter.

VIOLET

What do you want to drink?

DAVID

I'll take whatever you're having.

VIOLET

(Smirking)

Of course, you will.

DAVID

What's that supposed to mean?

VIOLET


Nothing...Mr. Peterson.

DAVID

You are a mess tonight. Seems like you are trying to get something out of me. Why is that?

(A beat)

VIOLET

The house is happier when you are here. You make our lives better. You know? 

They stare again.

VIOLET

I'm going to go fix that drink of yours.

She exits.

DAVID

You make my life better too...

He stands and exits to the kitchen.

(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 11

SETTING: Empty stage.



AT RISE: Violet is frozen. Voices are around her (preferably in the house). Fog rolls off the stage. Projections of school shooting.

VOICE #1

I didn't hear anything other than people from other classrooms crying.

VOICE #2

As much as we do, it's unlikely that anyone would ever have the ability to stop an incident like this from beginning.

VOICE #3

I was flat on my stomach, they must have been pretty good shots. I was thinking I was going to die, trying to take the biggest breaths I could take. I was losing air.

VOICE #4

No one really knew what was going on. I'm thinking the whole time hopefully everything is okay, but I look up into the cafeteria and see it just destroyed.

VOICE #5

It sounded like a hammer striking a nail before filling the room with smoke.

VOICE #6

He told me 'Dad, I love you,' I said: 'Call me and tell me how your day goes'." I never heard from him again.

VOICE #7 (SIX-YEAR-OLD)

She gathered us into a room. She sang with us. She told us the good guys would come.

(Beat)

VIOLET

I'm sorry. I should have helped. I could have stopped it.

(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 12

SETTING: The living room. It is cleaned up.

AT RISE: Mom is on stage. She's reading a book. She looks put together. Violet enters from upstairs followed by Travis.

MOM

Good morning.

She doesn't look up from her book. Violet freezes on the steps.

TRAVIS

(Whispers to Violet)

Wow. She's actually sober.

VIOLET

Umm...good morning.

MOM

Why aren't you at school right now?

VIOLET

I, um...I have support this morning. Every Tuesday.

MOM

Hmmm...You still could have gone for a little then left for group.

TRAVIS

Why in the hell would she do that?

VIOLET

Didn't want to deal with having to check myself out and all that.

MOM

You're seventeen you can't check yourself out of classes.

VIOLET

...My birthday was last month.

(Beat)

MOM

Hmm...right. You and Travis turned eighteen. How could I forget?

TRAVIS

You've been high off your ass since the shooting
that's how you could forget.


*Mom looks back to her book. Violet and Travis
make their way down the rest of the steps.
Violet exits to the kitchen while Travis sits in
a chair. He is watching Mom's every move almost
like he is trying to figure something out.*

(Silence)

*Violet re-enters. She has an apple in hand. Mom
puts the book down.*

(Beat)

TRAVIS

(To Violet) 

I'll be outside if you need me.

Violet nods her head at him as Travis exits.

MOM

How's school been?

VIOLET

It's been okay.

MOM

How's cheerleading?


VIOLET

...I didn't go back.

MOM

Why not? You were always so good. It was a promising
career for you.

VIOLET

Time to find a new promising career. 

MOM

Good luck with that.

(Silence)

VIOLET

Are you okay?

MOM
Mmmm...I feel like I should be asking you that.

VIOLET
...Probably...

(Silence)

MOM
Did he ever hurt you...? Like how he hurt your brother?

VIOLET
No.

MOM
He never touched Kyle either...Don't know what was so special about Travis to him.

(Beat)

VIOLET
I should have said something.

MOM
Yes...you should have...

Mom goes back to her book.

VIOLET
Did you know?

(Silence)

Mom doesn't seem to notice Violet spoke.

VIOLET
Mom? Did you know? Did you know?

Mom sighs. She puts her book down.

MOM
Did I know what, Violet?

VIOLET
About dad? ...Did you know?

(Beat)

MOM
...No. Of course, I didn't know...

VIOLET

Are you sure?

MOM

...He had a temper...He-he had a temper.

VIOLET

...Did you know?

MOM

I might have questioned once...but no.

VIOLET

(Chuckles)

Huh...you questioned if your husband was beating your child and you did nothing...yet it's still my fault.

MOM

You knew he was a monster. You should have said something. You could have fixed this!



VIOLET

He was my father! My father! I didn't want to believe it!

MOM

And yet...you saw it with your own eyes and did nothing.

VIOLET

...Would you have even believed me...?

Mom sighs and picks back up her book. Violet nods.

VIOLET

That's what I thought. Why would you believe me over your perfect hero? How could he ever do anything wrong?

Violet exits.

(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 13

*SETTING: There is a circle of chairs on stage.
We are now at a support group meeting.*

*AT RISE: There are many people on stage. Most
are laughing and smiling. Violet and Travis
enter.*

VOICE #1
You're back!

VIOLET
I said I would be back.

VOICE #1
I know but after the Parkland (change to any high
school shooting) shooting I wasn't sure you would
come back.

VIOLET
Of course, I would. I just needed time away from it
all.

VOICE #1
Of course. We understand. Well, even with you gone
Travis never left us.

*They both sad smile and walk over to everyone
else. Travis stands at the door not moving.
COUNSELOR walks in.*

COUNSELOR
Alright everyone! Please take a seat.

COUNSELOR
So, we all know about the tragedy that has hit
Parkland (change out with location of your chosen
school shooting).

A few muttered responses.

COUNSELOR
I will be going down to give support. I'm taking
requests from anyone that would like to join me.
Please come talk to me at the end of the meeting.
Now, I see we have a friendly face that has come back
to us. Violet.

A few people clap and smile.

COUNSELOR

So, Violet would you like to share? Maybe talk about your first day back at school?

VIOLET

Ummm...It was...It was great. Everyone...you know, welcomed me back.

COUNSELOR

That's very good. I'm so happy for you.
Alright...would anyone like to share this week?

Everyone is quiet. They look around at each other.

TRAVIS

(To Violet)

Go ahead. You know what story has been swimming around your head lately.

VIOLET

...I have something to share.

COUNSELOR

Alright! Perfect. Why don't you get up and share with us?

Violet nods. She stands and walks to the edge of the stage. Lights start to fade around Travis. Fog starts to roll around his body.

VIOLET

Well...you see. It was a normal day. I had gotten home early from school. When I came in Travis was on the sofa playing video games.

Travis sits in a chair. Game controller in hand.

VIOLET

I said hey to him then passed by to go upstairs. I was sweaty from cheerleading practice and wanted a shower. So...I left...when I came back that's when I saw it.

COUNSELOR

Saw what?

VIOLET

He was hurting him...

Sounds of the video game amplify. Running water

from upstairs is heard. Father enters. Travis gets ridged. He doesn't look his father's way. He continues with his game.

FATHER

How was school?

TRAVIS

It...uhh...it was good. You know...normal.

Father places a hand on Travis's shoulder. Travis flinches.


FATHER

Nothing out of the ordinary happened?

TRAVIS


No...

FATHER

You didn't happen to fail an algebra test. 

Travis freezes. Doesn't speak.

FATHER


I'm a teacher at your school yet you still thought I was what? To oblivious to find out? To stupid? Ha. To stupid to know of what a failure my son is. 

TRAVIS

...I'm sorry...

Father yanks him up. Pushes him against a wall.

TRAVIS

Please don't... 

FATHER

Don't what? Don't show you what you deserve?! Don't show you how worthless you are?

TRAVIS

I'm sorry. Please don't... I'm sorry. I'll be better.

Father raises his hand to strike him.

VIOLET

I walked down the stairs at that point. I held eye contact with Travis on each hit.

Father beats Travis. In a slow rhythmic beat.

VIOLET

He hit Travis eight times before Travis passed out from pain. He left out the front door. Left him there on the ground.

Father walks out of the room. The fog seems to follow him out. Travis is left on the floor.

Lights fade back to normal. Everyone is silent on stage.

COUNSELOR

That was very brave of you to share.

Still no one talks.

TRAVIS

God, you could have done something...You just watched.

VIOLET

I wanted to save him...But I couldn't move. I couldn't breathe...



(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 14

SETTING: Football field. Cheerleading practice.

AT RISE: Fog rolls across the stage. Violet and Haley both work together to create a routine. (If you need more time going into this scene have the other people out doing a small cheer routine then have Violet come out as if she was watching.)

VIOLET

Alright! Let's take a break! Be back in ten!

Muttered responses to her as people start doing stretches and drinking water. Travis enters. He has a big smile on his face as he walks to his sister and Haley.

VIOLET

Trav! What are you doing here?

She jumps up and gives him a hug.

TRAVIS

I come bearing gifts. A pb&j, a banana, blue gatorade, and a kit kat.

He hands her a bag of food. She kisses him on the cheek.

VIOLET

You are by far the best brother ever. I'm going to go put these in my locker for the game later.

Violet exits.

HALEY

What? Nothing for me big guy?

Haley is sitting on the ground. She looks up at him.

TRAVIS

How could I forget?

He sits down next to her and holds out a bag. She starts to look through it while he talks.

TRAVIS

Red gatorade, a banana, a butterfinger, and-

HALEY

Peanut butter and honey!

She rips open the bag and puts the sandwich in her mouth. A moan is released from her lips.

TRAVIS

Slow down, champ. Don't choke.

He opens the gatorade for her and hands it over. She takes it from him and takes a big drink.

Violet re-enters. She stands off to the side and watches with a smirk on her lips.

HALEY

Thank you.

Travis reaches forward and wipes some peanut butter off her lips. He pops it into his mouth. Haley looks embarrassed.

TRAVIS

No problem.

They stare at each other. They start to lean in for a kiss. Haley pulls back and scrambles to her feet.

HALEY

I should put this in my locker and get back before your sister rips me a new one for being late.

They both stand. Haley starts to exit. She stops when she sees Violet. She is embarrassed again but continues to walk past her. Travis watches her the whole time she goes.

VIOLET

Come on. When are you going to bone her?

TRAVIS

Inappropriate much?

Travis gives her a slight shove.

VIOLET

(Laughing)

Oh, come on. You know you want to.

TRAVIS

She's dating someone.

VIOLET

They got together like last week. No biggy. Just swoop in and sweep her off her feet while you still can.

Travis shakes his head at her.

VIOLET

Come on! Be her hero like how dad is mom's. Don't you want that?

Travis' face goes blank.

TRAVIS

I have to go.

VIOLET

Trav! Come on!

She yells after him as he exits. Haley re-enters just as Travis brushes past her. She looks worried but doesn't go after him.

VIOLET

(Irritated)

Alright everyone! Break is over!

Everyone starts to scramble to their feet. The fog evaporates.

(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 15

SETTING: On a bench outside.

AT RISE: Violet sits. (If need more time going into scene have a couple playing outside then run off as Violet sits down.) She eats a sandwich. Voices from the cafeteria are heard. David enters.

DAVID

Mind if I join you?

Violet moves her things over. David sits down next to her.

DAVID

I...uh...saw you from the window and thought you might like some company.

VIOLET

Thank you.

(Silence)

DAVID

Heard you went back to group this morning? How was it?

VIOLET

It was fun...weird being back.

DAVID

Weird how?

VIOLET

I shared...for the first time. I just wasn't expecting it.

DAVID

What did you share?

VIOLET

...About Travis and Dad. About how he beat him...And I knew...

(Beat)

DAVID

It's not your fault.

David turns towards her. Their knees touch.

DAVID


You couldn't have stopped anything.

VIOLET

(Dark chuckles)

But I really could have. If I had just spoken up. All I had to do was tell one person.

DAVID

And then maybe that one person would have done  nothing. You never know what could have happened.

They stare at each other intently. David leans in. Just as they are inches apart David leans back.

(Silence)

VIOLET

Have they opened Dad's room up again? Or is it still blocked off?

DAVID

Still blocked off.

VIOLET

Let's go.

DAVID

What?

VIOLET

Let's go look in it.

(Beat)

Violet hold out her hand to David. He hesitantly takes her hand.

DAVID

Okay.

They exit.

(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 16

SETTING: A history classroom. There is a thin layer of dust over everything.

AT RISE: David and Violet walk into the room. Violet is frozen in spot. She looks around. David watches her.


DAVID

Are you okay?

VIOLET

I'm just shocked I guess...I guess I thought it would be different.

DAVID

Nope...nothing has been touched once the investigation was over. 

(Silence)

VIOLET

Do you know why he went to the cafeteria first?

DAVID

No...I don't think anyone does.

(Beat)

VIOLET

That's because I haven't told anyone.

DAVID

...why not?

VIOLET

...It would really convict him then...

(Silence)

DAVID

Why did he do it?

VIOLET

Dad said he was going to meet us for lunch that day. It was weird and out of the ordinary. But Dad told me that Travis requested it. Didn't say why just wanted a family lunch. We used to do it all the time when we were freshman.

DAVID

He went to the cafeteria first to kill him there?

As Violet speaks fog starts to move around them on stage.

VIOLET

But I had gone to Dad's room...this room...to talk to him about Homecoming dance. He had told me I couldn't go so I showed up to convince him. The conversation went too long and I knew we should be leaving because Travis would be waiting on us...but then it started.

Father enters and sits on his desk.

VIOLET

Dad heard it first.

Distant popping noises. Father walks to the door. He looks out then he runs back into the room.

VIOLET

He whispered.

FATHER

Get under the desk. Hurry hide!

VIOLET

I crawled under the desk not even knowing what was going on but I saw the fear in his face and I knew not to question it. Before Dad could do anything, the door burst open.

Door opens with a BANG. The man in all black enters. He holds a gun. He points it at Father. Father holds up his hands. He backs away slowly.

VIOLET

At that point I could see the gun and I knew we were going to die. Dad started to yell.

FATHER

Don't shoot! Please don't shoot!!

VIOLET

but he shot.

The man pulls the trigger. Deafening gun shoot. Father falls to the ground. He isn't dead.

VIOLET

I jumped out from behind the desk at that point. Dad was still yelling for him to not shoot. I don't even know if he realized he had been shot yet. If he had looked down like I did he would have seen the pool of blood under him...

(Beat)

DAVID

What happened next?

VIOLET

As I tried to get closer to Dad the gunman shot at him again. I jumped in front of the bullet. It grazed my arm then jammed into the wall.

She points to a spot where the bullet had been dug out of the wall.

VIOLET

He froze once he shot me by accident...or maybe time just slowed down. Either way he looked down at me.

The gunman rips off his mask. It's Travis.

TRAVIS

Violet! Are you okay? I'm so sorry!

VIOLET

He apologized to me. He never wanted to hurt me...just Dad. But he ended up killing seventeen people in the process so did he really not want to kill anyone else?

(Beat.)

VIOLET

I don't know if it was the look on my face or the fact he had accidentally hurt me. But he raised the gun...and I thought for a second it's aimed at me. He's going to kill me. Instead he pulled the trigger and shot our father in the head.

A bang. Father collapses.

VIOLET

Travis turned to me after that. And I thought this was it. Until he turned the gun to himself.

Travis points the gun at his head.

TRAVIS

This sure beats the hell out of algebra, doesn't it?

(Beat.)

VIOLET

And then it was over.

A BANG.

(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 17

SETTING: The stage is bare except for Travis and Violet. They both look out into the audience not moving.


AT RISE: Fog rolls around them. Almost seems to take them into the stage. (Projections and audio should shock the audience. It should be the biggest visual and audio assault. Projections should be interviews of school shootings and the actual footage of shootings. Sound can use a recording of the actor's voices or not. There should be gun shots, interviews, etc. The audience should be as uncomfortable, maybe even scared, as possible) (Other school shootings besides the ones listed should be added in audio and projections.)

VIOLET AND TRAVIS

Columbine - fifteen dead. Grundy, Virginia - three dead. Conception, Missouri - three dead. Tucson, Arizona - four dead. Shepherdstown, West Virginia - three dead. Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania - six dead. Virginia Tech - thirty- three dead. Baton Rouge - three dead. Dekalb, Illinois - six dead. Huntsville, Alabama - three dead. Chardon, Ohio - three dead. Oakland, California - seven dead. Sandy Hook - twenty-eight dead. Hazard, Kentucky - three dead. Santa Monica, California - six dead. Marysville, Washington - five dead. Roseburg, Oregon - ten dead. San Bernardino, California - three dead. Rancho Tehama Reserve, California - six dead. Aztec, New Mexico - three dead. Parkland. Seventeen dead.

Projections and audio come to a crude halt.

VIOLET

It never stops... 

(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 18

SETTING: The living room. Kyle and Violet sit on the sofa. Neither looks at the other.

AT RISE: Kyle spins a bottle in hand. Violet nervously taps her fingers on her knees.

(Silence)


The door opens and closes. Mom enters. For the first time she is dressed in street clothes. She sits on the sofa in the middle of her children. She pulls out an urn and places it on the table.

(Silence)

VIOLET

What do we do with it?

MOM

It's your brother. Have more respect. 

VIOLET

I just don't see why we couldn't have buried him with dad.

MOM

Do you ever listen? You know why. It's like talking to a wall with you.

Mom exits the room in a fury.

VIOLET

She hates me now. Mmm...who would have thought our mother could hate?

KYLE

She doesn't hate you. She's just mad at the situation. At Travis.

VIOLET

Mad that Travis killed seventeen innocent people? Mad that Travis killed dad? Or mad at Travis for killing himself?

KYLE

...all of the above.

VIOLET

And all of it is directed at me. Perfect.

Violet stands. She moves to exit.

KYLE

Vi, wait!

Violet stops.

VIOLET

What?

KYLE

Don't let her get to you. You didn't do any of this.
You couldn't have done any of this.

VIOLET

Thanks...but that's pretty hard to believe when the rest of the world is telling me it's my fault. When I'm at school and everyone hates me because of what he did. They treat me like I knew what he was going to do. I mean, how couldn't I? He was my twin. I should have known. He was my person. I should have known. And now my person is gone. The only person I have now is David! But is he really mine? No. The only reason he is here is because of you. I have nothing...I have no one now...

Violet exits. Kyle sags, defeated.

(BLACKOUT)



END OF SCENE

SCENE 19

SETTING: The living room. Kyle sits on the sofa with his homework spread out around him.

AT RISE: A door opens. David enters with to-go food bags in hand. Kyle stands to help him.

KYLE

Thank you so much for doing this. I did not have time to cook today.

DAVID

It's no problem. I'm happy to help.

KYLE

Just cause you like to help doesn't mean I like to ask for it.

Kyle looks into the bags and then takes two of them.

KYLE

I'm going to go put these in the fridge. Mom and Violet are asleep right now...We got Trav's remains today. Both of them did not take it very well.

David nods. He pulls out his food and starts to eat. Kyle exits. David entertains himself by looking over Kyle's homework. Still eating. Kyle enters, two beers in hand. He gives one to David. He grabs his food and looks back at his homework.

DAVID

Just so you know you are using the wrong formula and have been for a while.

Kyle picks up his homework and looks it over.

KYLE


Fuck.

Kyle throws his homework down. He picks up his calculator and rapidly punches things in. He groans and lays down on the sofa in defeat. David gives a slight smile. He shovels his face with food.

DAVID

Glad I could help.

KYLE
I really hate you.

DAVID 
Not my fault you wanted to travel the world while the rest of us were getting through college.

KYLE
Still hate you.

David shakes his head but keeps a smirk on his lips. They continue to eat.

(Silence.)

DAVID
How long have they been up there?

KYLE
Not long. I guess I should have made her stay down here until after you came over. She's just having a rough day. So, I wanted to give her time to rest. Be by herself.

(Beat)

DAVID
You worry about her too much.

KYLE
You ask her she says I don't worry at all I just hover.

(Beat.)

DAVID
She'll understand one day why we worry so much. Hopefully.

KYLE
Yeah for your luck let's hope.

Kyle gives David a playful shove and small smile.

DAVID
Shut up.

KYLE
Don't even try to act all shy. You've liked my sister since she was thirteen. And I mean she's eighteen




now. Ever think of saying anything?

DAVID

I work at the school she goes to. I can't really say anything.

KYLE

Dude. You're a teacher's assistant for a college course. And on top of that it's not like your old. You're only three years older than her. 

DAVID

She has a lot going on. I don't need to be a distraction to her life.

KYLE

I can promise you. She needs a distraction. Maybe it will get her away from thinking about all of this stuff.

DAVID

I don't know. I just-

Kyle grabs the food away from him. David doesn't react at first. Kyle just stares at him till he looks up.

KYLE

This is literally one of the only times I'm going to be cool with you being all love-y to my sister. Just go tell her how you feel and get it over with. You've been wanting to do this for years.


David gets a nervous look on his face. He finally stands wipes off his hands and starts to leave. He stopping every few steps almost as if he has to pep-talk himself into it.

He finally exits.

(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 20

SETTING: Violet is in her room. Laptop and phone in front of her. Empty pill bottles spill across the floor from her bag. 

AT RISE: Violet is curled up in a ball. Her hair is matted. Clothes too big for her. She looks like she has been crying for hours. Her laptop dings with social media notifications. Voices speaking (preferably from the house).

VOICE #4

Violet the freak actually came back. God, I wish she would just kill herself.

Violet mouths the words. Another ding.

VOICE #6

Right! God her brother should have just killed her instead of going crazy on the school. Would have solved so much trouble.

The dings keep happening. She cries as Travis walks towards Violet. Gun in hand. Violet reaches for more pills and takes a handful. She goes back to reading.

VOICE #5

Freak family.

VOICE #2

Hope she gets put away so none of us have to see her.

Travis squats beside Violet. He reads over her shoulder.

TRAVIS

Violet...?

Violet turns to look at him. She has a fevered grin on her face.

VIOLET

Travis. You're here. Is that really you? I missed you!

TRAVIS

Are you okay?

VIOLET

Yes, I'm fine. I'm great!

She sits up.

TRAVIS

I think you are lying.

VIOLET

It's fine, Trav. I swear. I'm fine.

TRAVIS

Then why can't I believe you?

VIOLET

Why do you care?

TRAVIS

I just had this feeling something was wrong with my baby sister.

*Raises the gun to caress the side of her cheek.
Violet doesn't flinch away.*

VIOLET

(Giggling)

Says the boy that is only like two minutes older than me.

TRAVIS

I needed to make sure you were okay. I hurt you. I had to check in.

VIOLET

I told you. I'm fine. I can handle it. I am handling it.

She plays with a pill bottle. A yawn comes on.

TRAVIS

You sound tired. I wanted to tell you I am sorry. I know what I did was wrong but I just got mad and didn't know what to do. I'll forever be sorry for it.

VIOLET

I know you will.

TRAVIS

Okay. I just...you just needed to know. I love you.

VIOLET

Love you too.

Violet lies down. She looks at the notifications on her laptop. More dings: Travis reads them.

VOICE #3

Feel bad she was even born.


VOICE #4

She's just as worthless as her brother.

VOICE #5

Hope she kills herself.

VOICE #1

Can't believe she used to be a cheerleader with me.
She's so pathetic. 

Violet reaches a shaky hand up and closes the computer lid. She picks up one of the bottles. She dumps all the pills in her hand. She puts the medicine to her mouth and swallow. She closes her eyes.

TRAVIS

I think it's time to go to sleep, Princess Vi.

Violet nods her head. Travis pets her head with the barrel of the gun. He watches his sister with a loving grin.

(Silence.)

David enters. He walks up to the door. Fixes his hair. Wipes his hands off on his pants. He reaches up a hand and knocks.

DAVID

Violet? Umm...it's me. Uh, David. You in there? I need to talk to you.

Travis looks up at the door. He walks over to it. David knocks on the door again.

DAVID

Violet, I know you are in there. Please open up.

Travis raises the gun to the door. He takes one last look at Violet. David hesitantly knocks on the door again.

DAVID

Violet? Hey, are you awake? ...Violet?

*David opens the door. His eyes drop to Violet.
Travis follows him with the gun barrel. David
walks over to Violet. He sees the pills.*

DAVID

Violet! Fuck! Kyle, get up here!

*David drops to Violet's side. He checks her
pulse frantically. After a few seconds he holds
her body close. She is dead.*

TRAVIS

Bang.


*He cocks the gun back like he actually fired it
at David.*

(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE

BOWS

SETTING: Empty stage. Projections of school shootings in the back.

AT RISE: All of the actors enter the stage. They take their bows then stand in a line across the stage. Travis quiets them down if need be. 

TRAVIS

The struggle for which many brothers died in the past, and for which I will die, is not solely because of what is known as bullying. Our fight is against cruel people, cowards, who take advantage of the kindness, the weakness of people unable to defend themselves. Said by Wellington Oliveira. A school shooter in Brazil.

MOM

"One common thread among all the recent mass shooters is they are children of single mothers. These young men had no male role models in their homes." from an article written by Jeanine Martin

KYLE

As of March 2018, the only people restricted from purchasing or possessing firearms are fugitives, people deemed a danger to society and patients that have involuntarily committed themselves in a mental institution, anyone with a prior felony, anyone who has been found guilty of unlawful possession of illegal substances within the past year, and anyone under the age of eighteen.

HALEY

People with mental illness only represent less than one percent of mass shooters. They only contribute to 3% of all violent crimes. Laws that intend to reduce gun violence only focus on a population that represents less than 3% of all gun violence. And even with these restrictions in many states people diagnosed with mental illnesses can still buy guns.

FATHER

"63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes. 90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes. 85% of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes. 80% of rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes. 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes. 75% of all adolescent patients in

chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes. 85% of all youths in prison come from fatherless homes." From an article written by Brian Kirwin. Published by bearingdrift.

VIOLET

78% of attackers have a history of suicide attempts, 71% of attackers feel persecuted, bullied, threatened, attacked, or injured by other incidences, and 73% of the incidences the attacker has had a grievance against at least one of their targets.

DAVID

From January 1980 to March 2018 there have been over 400 people who have died from school shootings. Over 700 wounded.

VOICES #1-7

This is what it's come to. In this country, kids are typically expected to take a back seat to what goes on in politics and policy, and what's going on right now - it can't happen like that any longer It's time for the younger generation to make a stand. It's time to listen to us. The children who are dying.

(BLACKOUT)

END OF SHOW

