

By The Sea

By Tom Cocklin

CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
Sarah Bentley	Middle age, in crisis	MA	F
Terry Beal	Middle age, beach goer	MA	M
Mave Henderman	Strong, experienced EMT	MA	F

The scene takes place on a beach in late winter. The waves are rough and the water looks cold. The beach is mostly deserted.

(Note: Blocking notes are to be considered by the director and are not read aloud)

A women walks in from SR to UCS at water's edge. She is talking to herself.

SARAH

(Angry) He said, "I'm leaving!" Leaving!? Just like that? What the hell!

Sarah sits.

SARAH

I did everything. He had it good! I gave him EVERYTHING. So much for Mrs. Bentley! Huh, look where that got me. Screw Mr. Bentley! I hope he rots!

Terry enters SL. He's practicing lines for his comedy routine and paces DCS.

TERRY

(Talking to himself and pacing) OK, I need new material. I heard this somewhere. Let's see, how did that go? Oh, yea. My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. (Beat) I had to put my foot down. (Shakes head) Scratch that... What do lawyers wear to court? Um. Lawsuits? (Sigh) Yikes... These suck.

Sarah rolls around UCS like she's suddenly been hit by a sneaker wave. Terry sees her struggle and runs US into the water.

SARAH

(Screams) Oh, NO! Help! (Continues)

Sarah thrashing around and swimming on her back.

TERRY (INTERRUPTED)

Hey! Hey (Waving frantically)! What the hell? Where are you?

Terry finds Sarah in the water and drags her DCS. They are both soaked and freezing. They sit. Terry wraps his arms around Sarah.

TERRY

Geeze, lady! You never turn your back on the waves around here. That was some sneaker wave and now we're both soaked. (He looks her over) Oh my, you have a nice head wound there. We need to get warmed up in a hurry and get help.

SARAH

Oh! DAMN IT! (Touches forehead) Ouch!

Terry finds his phone in a pocket and dials
911.

TERRY

911 Operator? I'm down at Langdon Beach. I was walking near the parking lot when a woman was caught in a sneaker wave. No, she had her back turned and didn't see it coming. I fished her out the water and we're both wet and freezing. Oh, her head is bleeding. OK. Oh, Terry. Terry Beal. You're close? I'll keep her warm until you get here. I'll wave when I see you. Hurry! She might have a concussion.

SARAH

What was that? That felt like a thousand knives.

Terry pulls Sarah in close and forces her
arms around his waist. Both sitting CS.

TERRY

(Calmly) Are you OK? We're all wet and you're a bloody mess! If my aunt were here, she'd dote on us. Really, she'd be the perfect Auntie-dote for this! Get it? Auntie? Dote? OK, maybe you're not OK.

SARAH

What?

Sarah struggles and looks up .

TERRY

Fine, that wasn't funny. I was...

SARAH (INTERRUPTING)

(Shivering and coming back to reality) What happened? I remember yelling at my soon-to-be ex-husband. Bentley, that rat! Then, a lot of dark and freezing water. I think I blacked out. Did you see that wave?

TERRY

Everyone on the beach saw that wave, but you...

SARAH

My head stings. (Touches her head again) I'm bleeding!

TERRY

I'm surprised you didn't see it! I found you, dragged you up here and called for help.

SARAH

Sorry, I'm a bit distracted. (Beat) Help? What kind of help?

TERRY

The EMTs are coming to warm us up and look at your head. It'll just be a minute. While we wait, what do you call an ambulance with a flat tire?

SARAH

What are you talking about?

TERRY

A flatulence! (Waits...) Never mind.

Terry touches Sarah's head. Awkward and tender pause.

TERRY

Well, anyway I'm Terry. Nice to meet you. (Strained laugh) Sort of. You're lucky I was here. I lost my job at the bank today. Some lady asked me if I'd check her balance so I pushed her over.

SARAH

What bank? Huh?

TERRY

(To himself) OK, tough crowd. (To Sarah) Look, we have to stay warm together or you'll feel a lot worse than you did in that sneaker wave. I'm NOT joking for once! I'm afraid to move you until the ambulance gets here. You might have broken something.

A long pause. Terry looks hard at Sarah.

TERRY

You were too close to the breakers and from what I gather, a bit distracted.