

Distance

A short play

By Drew Petriello

Contact:
Drew Petriello
(425) 530-6011
dpetriello@comcast.net

CAST

KOMIYA SUGIOKA: Female. 20s-30s. Japanese American. Web designer. Suffering from depression. Wants to be free of it, but doesn't know how to do so.

SONORA MARTINEZ: Female. 20s-30s. Latin American. Lawyer. Extroverted. Feels very strongly. Makes a little too intense of eye contact.

SPECTRE: Genderless. Ageless. Features completely obscured. Otherworldly. Behaves like Komiya.

SETTING

An American metropolis.

Highly minimal design.

SCENE 1

Sonora's apartment.

Komiya stands in a corner of the stage,
watching. Sonora packs boxes. She lifts a stack
of books.

KOMIYA

Knock.

There is a knock on the door.

SONORA

(dropping the books on her foot)

Mother Mary and Joseph!

Sonora rocks on the ground, cradling her foot.

KOMIYA

Go in.

Spectre enters.

SONORA

I will murder your family, your goldfish, your goldfish's family...!

KOMIYA

Ask.

SPECTRE

Sonora, are you okay?

SONORA

(speaking to Spectre)

Komiya? Holy shit, I didn't think I'd get a chance to see you before I left!

KOMIYA

Show concern.

SPECTRE

What happened?

SONORA

(standing up)

Nothing I'll be - son of a dog's asshole - it's nothing. Bring it in, Coco.

Sonora hugs Spectre.

KOMIYA

Reciprocate. Idiot.

Spectre hugs back, accidentally stepping on
Sonora's hurt foot.

SONORA

Bitch, you don't have to break it twice!

They separate. Sonora hops on one foot, nurses
the hurt one.

KOMIYA

Apologize!

SPECTRE

I'm so sorry.

KOMIYA

Do something right for once.

SONORA

(still hopping)

Just for that, you're helping me pack.

KOMIYA

Do it.

Spectre helps Sonora pack. Sonora ceases to
hop and joins in, limping.

KOMIYA

Tell her.

SPECTRE

Can't stay for long.

SONORA

First you wound me, then you seduce me with free labor, and now you're running out on me just as things are getting good? Who are you, my ex?

KOMIYA

Banter.

SPECTRE

My transformation won't be complete until banging a series of blondes behind the...

KOMIYA

(facepalming)

...oh my god.

(beat)

SONORA

Well, I was trying to avoid mentioning Penis Brain's "exploits," but thank you, Komiya, for the reminder. Now I'll have to drop by Dr. Rosenthal's and bawl for an hour before moving tomorrow.

KOMIYA

Apologize, you idiot.

SPECTRE

I'm sorry. And I know it's been a while. I feel bad about not... you know.

SONORA

We've been busy. All is forgiven.

(beat)

You and Marigold still going strong?

KOMIYA

Evade. Abort. Abort.

SPECTRE

The same as always. You know. Long distance is... You seeing any one new?

SONORA

Are you okay?

KOMIYA

She knows. Do something right for once. Tell her.

SPECTRE

You know me. Taking on more work than I should. But I'm fine. I'm good.

Silence.

KOMIYA

TELL HER, GODDAMMIT!

SPECTRE

Actually, I was wondering if...

SONORA

What?

KOMIYA

Spit it out. Spit it out. Please. For the love of god do something right for once and spit it out.

SPECTRE

(struggling to say what they have to say)

I came because I... won't be... seeing you for a... well, I mean, you're moving - but I'm also - well not quite...

SONORA

What's wrong?

KOMIYA

Tell her tell her tell her!

SPECTRE

Nothing's wrong. I'm going home for - a little while.

SONORA

Oh.

(beat)

Oh. My goodness. I saw on Facebook. I don't have any words.

KOMIYA

Don't think about it. Evade.

SPECTRE

It's alright.

KOMIYA

Tell her that you appreciate her friendship.

SPECTRE

Just... thank you for being around. For having been around.

KOMIYA

Tell her that Aunt Itsumi's death is driving you crazy.

SPECTRE

I mean, it's not *alright* alright. It's tough. I'll get through it.

KOMIYA

Tell her that you feel at an impossible distance from everything at all times. Tell her that you can't feel anything anymore. Tell her that you're stuck in the routine of yourself. Tell her that if she doesn't stop you tonight, you're going to do something very, very dangerous to yourself. Tell her that if she moves away, it's just going to be you now, just you, alone, alone... Tell her all of that. Say it. Verbatim. Do something right for once. You can do it, you colossal fuckup. You can do it!

SPECTRE

It was a surprise. No one knew that she was in so much... you know? It's hard to see the signs.

SONORA

I'm sure. Well, if you need to talk about it, you know where to find me. Well, several states away, actually, but you can call anytime.

KOMIYA

Elsewhere.

SCENE 2

Komiya's apartment.

Komiya in the corner. Spectre lays on a bed.

KOMIYA

Are you going to get them?

Spectre tries to get off the bed, but can't.

KOMIYA

Really? Can't even...?

Spectre puts head in hands.

KOMIYA

Stop fucking crying. If you're going to get them, just get them. Do something right for once. I clearly can't stop you from doing what you want. Too far away. Too distant.

Spectre gets up. Spectre finds a bottle of pills.

KOMIYA

Is there anyone else? Marigold, Mom, Dad, Ichigo, Sonora...

(beat)

There aren't any more.

(beat)

Get it over with. Or whatever.

Spectre opens the pill bottle.

A knock on the door.

KOMIYA

Who could - ?

SPECTRE

Who is it?

SONORA

(offstage)

It's me. It's Sonora. Can I come in.

KOMIYA

Get her out. No - get her in. No - I don't know, I don't know -

SPECTRE

I thought you had to pack.

KOMIYA

I want her gone, I want her here...

SONORA

I got a call from Marigold.

KOMIYA

Fucking Marigold. Can't keep her fucking mouth shut.

SPECTRE

I don't know what she told you, but I'm fine.

SONORA

Glad to hear. Can I come in?

Silence.

SONORA

I'm coming in.

KOMIYA

Evade. Evade!

Spectre tries to put the cap back on the bottle,
but the pills spill everywhere.

KOMIYA

No no no, she can't see, can't -

Sonora enters.

SPECTRE

You startled me - startled is all, you startled -

SONORA

Komiya! Were you - ?

KOMIYA

She can't know.

SPECTRE

I have trouble sleeping.

SONORA

Marigold said you might...

KOMIYA

Marigold.

SPECTRE

What does she know? Nothing.

Sonora hugs Spectre.

SONORA

Komiya, Komiya.

Komiya steps closer to Spectre.

KOMIYA

Elsewhere.

SCENE 3

Waiting room.

Spectre sits. Sonora paces on the phone.

Komiya is a little closer to Spectre.

SONORA

I know I said I'd be starting at the firm on Monday but - I wouldn't be calling unless something really serious came up.

(listens)

Just a couple of days. Postponing just a couple of days.

(listens)

It is. I'll see you when I see you.

Sonora hangs up. She sighs, sits beside Spectre.

KOMIYA

Why?

SPECTRE

You don't have to do this.

SONORA

I do.

(beat)

I should've known something was up sooner. Should've known the instant I read about your aunt.

(beat)

Dr. Rosenthal's great. Got me through my - you know how I was. After Penis Brain.

(beat)

(puts arm on Spectre's shoulder)

Nothing to be ashamed of, Coco. Nothin', nothin', nothin'.

Komiya steps closer to Spectre.

KOMIYA

Elsewhere.

SCENE 4

Komiya's apartment.

Spectre sits on the bed. Komiya stands behind Spectre. Spectre holds a pill bottle.

KOMIYA

Do something right for once.

Spectre opens the pill bottle.

KOMIYA

Do something right for once.

Spectre doesn't move.

Komiya grabs Spectre's hand. She forces Spectre to remove a single pill, swallow it, close the bottle, set it on the bed.

Komiya sits beside Spectre, smiling. Sonora enters, phone in hand.

SONORA

Marigold's taking the red-eye. She'll be here soon. And then I'm off.

KOMIYA

You didn't have to do that.

SPECTRE

You didn't have to do that.

SONORA

Say that one more time and I'm tethering you to the roof of the moving truck.

Sonora sits beside Komiya.

Sonora hugs Komiya.

Spectre stands. Slowly walks backwards towards the corner. Spectre produces a bottle of pills. It opens and closes the bottle continuously throughout the rest of the scene.

Sonora's phone goes off.

SONORA

A motherfucker needs to take this.

(making for the door, answering)

Funny getting a call from you, Penis Brain. If you're looking for a rebound, boy do I have some words for *you*...

Sonora exits.

Komiy a notices Spectre opening and closing the pill bottle. They lock eyes. Komiy a picks up the pill bottle on the bed. Komiy a and Spectre each stand on opposite ends of the stage. Together, they open and close the bottles.

KOMIYA

Marigold, Mom, Dad, Ichigo, Sonora...

(stops opening and closing pill bottle)

Aunt Itsumi.

SPECTRE

(mocking)

Do something right for once.

KOMIYA

I have.

Spectre continues to open and close the bottle as lights fade.

THE END.