

THERAPY

By Sean Coe

A play in 3 acts

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CHARACTERS:

TIM: Male or male identifying, any race. Late 20s-early 40s.

DEZ: Female or female identifying, any race. Late 20s- early 40s.

Note: There is a sense of exasperation one gets when you can't remember something, or when someone doesn't remember what you do. That feeling should subtly permeate this play.

ACT 1

Lights open on a small office with 2 chairs and maybe a desk. Nothing to suggest any personality. In one chair sits the smartly dressed DEZ. Opposite her, TIM slumps in a pair of well-worn black jeans, leather jacket and a gray tee. He is scruffy, very pale, with the look of one who hasn't bathed in a while.

TIM

Do I make you uncomfortable?

BEAT

TIM

Do I stink?

(sniffs his underarm)

'Cause I can't smell anything. No really, I cant smell ANYTHING. Which is weird. If you're wearing perfume, I can't smell it. Are you?

DEZ

Yes.

TIM

Great. So I've got a cold.

(Slides his chair back)

Don't want you to get my germs.

DEZ

No worries.

TIM

Sooo, do I?

(singsong)

Do I, Do I, Do I, Do I, Do I make you uncoooooomfortable?

DEZ

(Smile breaks through)

Well a little discomfort is a good thing right? That's what this is about.

TIM

Okay. Why?

DEZ
Growth. My turn.

TIM
Shoot. Oh, hold up. How is this being-

DEZ
All taken care of. We have your info.

TIM
Wait. Oh yeah, I remember. Jesus. That kind of shit
just keeps slipping my mind-

DEZ
So now let's explore a little. What do you remember
about-

TIM
Stuff. Okay let me see ...

End of scene 1.

Scene 2

Everything exactly the same. Except ...

TIM

Do I make you uncomfortable?

BEAT.

TIM

Do I stink?

(sniffs his underarm)

'Cause I can't smell anything. No really, I cant
smell ANYTHING. Which is weird. If you're
wearing perfume, I can't smell it. Are you?

DEZ

Yes.

TIM

Great. So I've got a cold.

(Slides his chair back)

Don't want you to get my germs.

DEZ

No worries.

TIM

Sooo, do I?

(singsong)

Do I, Do I, Do I, Do I, Do I make you
uncoooooomfortable?

DEZ

(Smile breaks through)

Well a little discomfort is a good thing right?
That's what this is about.

TIM

Okay. Why?

DEZ

Growth. My turn.

TIM

Shoot. Oh, hold up. Did I pay you for last time?

DEZ

All taken care of. I have your info.

TIM

Wait. Oh yeah, I remember. Jesus. That kind of shit just keeps slipping my mind-

DEZ

So now let's explore a little. What do you remember about-

TIM

Stuff. Okay let me see ...uuuummm.

(Frustrated)

Nothing.

DEZ

There has to be something.

TIM

Does there? Maybe I led a very uneventful life worth forgetting?

Silence.

TIM

You're ... pissed? No something else-

DEZ

I'm just here to-

TIM

Listen? Help?

DEZ

Yes.

TIM

But I gotta do the work. Gotcha.

DEZ

That's a nice leather jacket. Do you remember where you got it?

TIM

Not a fuckin clue. Got ... that ... vintage feel to it though. Heavy. Not that thin, shitty leather they use now. This has weight. Got some scars. This probably helped ...

DEZ

What?

TIM

Well, when I- well when what, what I GUESSE happened-

DEZ

Maybe that's not-

TIM

HONDA!!!!

DEZ

(Faintly excited)

Your car?

(pause)

Your motorcycle?

BEAT

TIM

My dog.

DEZ

What kind of dog?

TIM

Wait ...wait, you're not going to give me a high Five or somethin'? COME ON!

He gets up and starts to walk.

TIM

This is a breakthrough! I REMEMBER-MY DOG! Honda.

DEZ

So what-

TIM
Cool name don't ya think?

DEZ
It's cute, so what-

TIM
Can't you-

DEZ
-kind of dog is

TIM
I remembered-

DEZ
So describe him-

TIM
A fucking shepherd all right!

DEZ
Colors. Words. Describe him to me.

BEAT

DEZ
(Helping)
So a German Shepherd?

TIM
No. Not that. A sheep dog. Herding. Border Collie.

DEZ
Really? So he was-

TIM
No. That's wrong. Wrong, wrong, wrong. Fuck.

DEZ
We can come back to that.

TIM

Noooo, to hell with that. If I remembered the dog it must be important enough to ... GOD DAMN!

DEZ

The eyes. What color were they?

TIM

I dunno. Aren't most dog's eyes brown?

DEZ

Think about it. You're right. If you remember him- or her, then-

TIM

I just remember I had a dog. Named Honda, so I figure it's a boy. NOT ... yeah you know what, I think Honda was a girl. Small, for a sheep ...

(whispering to himself)

Like marbles. They looked like marbles.

DEZ

Her eyes.

TIM

Yes. One brown ...

BEAT

TIM

The other blue. SHE was-her eyes were brown and blue and her fur was merle. She was so pretty. Yeah, I got her now. Australian Shepherd.

DEZ

Good. Okay now-

TIM

No. Let me enjoy this.

DEZ

We need to keep going.

TIM

You mean I have to keep going.

DEZ
No, we do.

TIM
OK. I'm tired. That was tough, like reaching into a space
where your hand can't fit.

DEZ
Let's continue.
(Pause)
Please.

TIM
Why?

DEZ
So, on the same subject, how did you get the-Honda?

TIM
This is so hard.

Blackout. End of scene 2.

Scene 3

Exactly the same as Scene 2 except quicker pace.

DEZ
What kind of dog?

TIM
Wait ...wait, you're not going to give me a high
Five or somethin'? COME ON!

He gets up and starts to walk.

TIM
This is a breakthrough! I REMEMBER-MY DOG! Honda.

DEZ
So what-

TIM
Cool name don't ya think?

DEZ
It's cute, so what-

TIM
Can't you-

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(Helping)
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must be important enough to ... GOD DAMN!

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TIM
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DEZ
Think about it. You're right. If you remember him-
or her, then-

TIM
I just remember I had a dog. Named Honda, so I figure
it's a boy. NOT ... yeah you know what I think Honda was a
girl. Small, for a sheep ...
(whispering to himself)
Like marbles. They looked like marbles.

DEZ
Her eyes.

TIM
Yes. One brown ...

BEAT

TIM
The other blue. SHE was-her eyes were brown and

blue and her fur was merle. She was so pretty.
Yeah, I got her now. Australian Shepherd.

DEZ

Good. Okay now-

TIM

No. Let me enjoy this.

DEZ

We need to keep going.

TIM

You mean I have to keep going.

DEZ

No, we do.

TIM

OK. I'm tired. That was tough, like reaching into a space
where your hand can't fit.

DEZ

Let's continue.

(Pause)

Please.

TIM

Why?

DEZ

So, on the same subject, how did you get the-Honda?

TIM

This is so hard.

He paces.

TIM

My gut tells me someone gave him to me.

DEZ

Just a feeling then? All right. Follow that.
Someone gave him to you. Friend? Relative? Spouse?

TIM
Connect the dots Tim.

DEZ
Exactly. Why I want to keep going.

TIM
Spouse. I feel like I would've remembered her before the dog. Definitely a woman. Nah ... God that'd be terrible. To not know I was married? That would suck for both of us.
(Looks at Dez)
You could tell me.

DEZ
Would that be the same as remembering?

TIM
It might help me know what to remember. Hey dumbass, did you know you're married? Nope, but thanks for telling me.
(looks at hand)
No sign of a wedding band. You really don't know?

Silence.

TIM
(Miming a microphone)
Testing. One, two, three, testing. Is this thing on? Ok by the deafening roar I'm getting, "Fuck you Tim." Figure it out.

DEZ
This isn't about me providing answers.

TIM
Right. No.

DEZ
No?

TIM
Doesn't make sense. If I were married that person would be here. Every day. I mean I know I would be there if my wife or whatever was in this condition. Right? That's what you do.

(Pause)
Like when someone has dementia, you know,

Alzheimer's.

DEZ
Why do you mention that?

TIM
So that's a thing?

DEZ
You have to tell me.

TIM
Of course. So I have dementia.

DEZ
Does it have to be that?

TIM
Ok, well if it isn't dementia what the fuck is it and
how come you won't tell me?

Dez gets up

DEZ
I made some coffee, want a cup.

TIM
Sure.

She makes two cups of coffee, putting 1 teaspoon of cream in both, and hands him the cup.

TIM
How did you know?
(Pause)
The coffee? How did you know how I like it?

BEAT

TIM
Wow. Wow!
(Inches from her face.)
This isn't our first session is it?

A look of triumph mixed with agony on her face as she drops the cup.

Blackout. End of scene.

Scene 4

The same as scene 3 except ...

TIM

Wait ...wait, you're not going to give me a high
Five or somethin'? COME ON!

He gets up and starts to walk.

TIM

This is a breakthrough! I REMEMBER-MY DOG! Honda.

DEZ

So what-

TIM

Cool name don't ya think?

DEZ

It's cute, so what-

TIM

Can't you-

DEZ

-kind of dog is

TIM

I remembered-

DEZ

So describe him-

TIM

A fucking shepherd all right!

DEZ

You have to go faster.

BEAT

DEZ

(Helping)

So a German Shepherd?

Tim pauses, then proceeds to speak dialogue rapid fire.

TIM

No. Not that. A sheep dog. Herding. Border Collie.

DEZ

(following suit)

Really? So he was-

TIM

No. That's wrong. Wrong, wrong, wrong. Fuck.

DEZ

We can come back to that.

TIM

Noooo, to hell with that. If I remembered the dog it must be important enough to ... GOD DAMN!

DEZ

The eyes. What color were they?

TIM

I dunno. Aren't most dog's eyes brown?

DEZ

Think about it. You're right. If you remember him-or her, then-

TIM

I just remember I had a dog. Named Honda, so I figure it's a boy. NOT ... yeah you know what I think Honda was a girl. Small, for a sheep ...

(whispering to himself)

Like marbles. They looked like marbles.

DEZ

Her eyes.

TIM

Yes. One brown ...

Beat

TIM

The other blue. SHE was-her eyes were brown and

blue and her fur was merle. She was so pretty.
Yeah, I got her now. Australian Shepherd.

DEZ

Good. Okay now- FASTER!

TIM

(more rapidly)

No. Let me enjoy this.

DEZ

We need to keep going.

TIM

You mean I have to keep going.

DEZ

No, we do.

TIM

OK. I'm tired. That was tough, like reaching into a space
where your hand can't fit.

DEZ

Let's continue. Please.

TIM

Why?

DEZ

So, on the same subject, how did you get the-Honda?

TIM

This is so hard.

More rapidly.

TIM

My gut tells me someone gave him to me.

DEZ

Just a feeling then? All right. Follow that.
Someone gave him to you. Friend? Relative? Spouse?

TIM

Connect the dots Tim.

DEZ

Exactly. Why I want to keep going.

TIM

Spouse. I feel like I would've remembered her before the dog. Definitely a woman. Nah ... God that'd be terrible. To not know I was married? That would suck for both of us.

(Looks at Dez)

You could tell me.

DEZ

Would that be the same as remembering?

TIM

It might help me know what to remember. Hey Dumbass, did you know you're married? Nope, but thanks for telling me.

(looks at hand)

No sign of a wedding band. You really don't know?

More rapidly

TIM

(Miming a microphone)

Testing. One, two, three, testing. Is this thing on? Ok by the deafening roar I'm getting "Fuck you

Tim."

Figure it out.

DEZ

This isn't about me providing answers.

TIM

Right. No.

DEZ

No?

TIM

Doesn't make sense. If I were married that person would be here. Every day. I mean I know I would be there if my wife or whatever was in this condition. Right? That's what you do.

(Pause)

Like when someone has dementia, you know, Alzheimer's.

DEZ

Why do you mention that?

TIM

So that's a thing?

DEZ

You have to tell me.

TIM

Of course. So I have dementia.

DEZ

We've already been through that!

TIM

Ok, well if it isn't dementia what the fuck is it and how come you won't tell me?

Dez gets up

DEZ

I made some coffee, want a cup.

TIM

Sure.

She makes two cups of coffee, then asks:

DEZ

How do you take yours?

TIM

You know-just some cream.

(pause. Dialogue return to normal)

Another damn test. Did I pass?

DEZ

Kind of. Means the short term memory is coming back, at least in comparison.

TIM

Great. Can I get you to promise if I ever come here and can't remember my name you'll have

someone put me out of my misery?

DEZ

What would you prefer: gun, needle or pill?

TIM

Damn! I was joking.

DEZ

So was I. I cannot stand needles.

(pause)

Progress is being made.

TIM

Really? 'Cause sometimes it feels ...
like I'm repeating myself.

BEAT

DEZ

You are. That's ok, it's all part of the process.
Now, you were talking about your dog-

TIM

Whoa! My dog! I mean who the fuck is taking care of
her! Jesus Christ!

DEZ

I understand your concern but we need to move-

TIM

I need to leave! I gotta go home, except I don't know
Where fuckin home is!

DEZ

That's what we're here for-

TIM

NO! NO!

Phone rings. DEZ stiffens but makes no move to answer.

TIM

Aren't you going to answer it?

DEZ

I never answer the phone during a session. Cell or office.

Phone keeps ringing.

TIM

They must really need to talk to you.

Phone stops.

DEZ

See? All right-

A buzzing sound comes from Dez's purse.

TIM

Your cell phone.

DEZ

It will stop.

Phone rings again. Buzz stops then starts again.

TIM

Jesus Christ, go ahead and answer your fucking phone!

DEZ

No.

Ringling seems to get louder!

TIM

I'm outta here. Somebody needs to tell me where I goddam live so I can look after- ANSWER YOUR PHONE!

He makes a move to leave. Dez snaps her fingers twice and Tim slumps almost falling. She catches him and gently pushes him back. Phone is still ringing:

DEZ

(Answering)

Don't EVER do this gain ...no ...no. What the hell .. Stop-STOP! I'm fine. I just ... need .. SHUT UP!

(pause)

I do not care. If you or anybody interrupts a

Session again ... I am making progress. Yes. I will not be told how to proceed. No, not happening I have to get back to work. It's dangerous, not that I'd expect you to know. Are we ... no, fine, do what you want-are we done here? We're done.

Hangs up phone. Pulls out cell from purse. Lights start to flash.

DEZ
 YOU BASTARDS!
 (Addressing the room)
 UNACCEPTABLE!

She is seething, almost shaking, with anger. A sob escapes from deep within then a desperate effort not cry. Slowly she regains control and with a start rushes over to Tim. A look of determination as she snaps her fingers twice. Tim awakens.

TIM
 Uhh .. so .. I have to .. I have to go.

DEZ
 (Gently restraining him)
 Everything is fine.

TIM
 No .. my dog-

DEZ
 She's fine. Honda is fine.

TIM
 How do you know? What happened ...I felt ...
 Something.

DEZ
 Another little reboot that's all.

TIM
 What? How do you-

DEZ
 Because I have her. Honda is with me.

BEAT
 BEAT

TIM

WHY?

DEZ

Do you want to see her?

TIM

Yes. Please.

Dez gets her cell phone.

DEZ

Okay, here we go. I took this yesterday. Enjoy.

She hands him the phone.

DEZ'S VOICE

Honda, Honda c'mere girl. Good girl, look in the camera, GOOD GIRLLL. Say hello to Tim. C'mon, say hello. Hi Tim!

We hear barking. Tim is transfixed. Dez watches him, a slow, compassionate smile coming to her face. Lights dim.

END OF ACT ONE

Act Two
Scene 1

A few minutes later.

TIM
(Handing back her phone)
Thank you.

DEZ
Welcome.

TIM
She looks good. Happy. Like she's with someone
she knows.

DEZ
Right.

TIM
So ... Right. You're not going to tell me.

DEZ
Telling isn't knowing.

TIM
God. And I'm supposed to trust you.

DEZ
You don't have to. Trust is earned after all. But
Honda is ok. You saw that.

TIM
Are you my wife?

BEAT

TIM
Girlfriend? Fiance?

BEAT

TIM
Sister, friend, colleague, cousin or some other
relative, Jess Christ just tell me.
(pause
NOOoo. Because this is all one big, fucking jigsaw

puzzle that I HAVE to solve.

DEZ

In a manner of speaking.

TIM

Are you pissed that I remember the dog and not you?

DEZ

(slightly amused)

Are you trying to goad me?

TIM

Worth a shot.

DEZ

You're a very smart guy. But ...

TIM

Not as smart as you?

Dez shrugs.

TIM

That feels like a challenge. When were you going to tell me that I'm under hypnosis?

DEZ

Nice. Hypnosis is a strong word. Because your mind is in a fragile state I implanted a suggestion-
(snaps her fingers)

Tim slumps. Snaps her fingers twice.

TIM

(Coming to)

Goddamn it, stop. You want me to trust you-not when you play God. This isn't clap on, clap off.

DEZ

I put it there to protect you, not to have power.

TIM

Take it off.

DEZ
OK.

Phone rings. DEZ rips the cord out.

DEZ
There we go.

TIM
Someone is not going to be happy.

DEZ
(Leaning in conspiratorially)
Fuck them.

TIM
Cool. So you're taking it off.

DEZ
Yeah, yeah.
(Holds up her fingers)
Last time I promise. Clap off.

Snaps her fingers. Tim's head rolls down. She kneels in front of him.

DEZ
Tim. Tim, follow my voice. It's safe and warm where you are but I need you to follow my voice. It's okay now. You are safe with me. You don't have to leave when you hear my fingers snap.

TIM
(Still asleep)
Why?

DEZ
Always questions. Because I need you. Ready?

TIM
(sleep)
I think so.

DEZ
One ... two ... three. Come to me.

Tim awakens. A few seconds pass as they look at each other. Then Dez snaps her fingers.

DEZ
All done.

TIM
You promise?

DEZ
Cross my heart and hope to die ..

TIM
Stick a needle in your eye ...

DEZ
But that's so gross it'd make me cry ...

TIM
(slowly recalling)
So ... instead ..You'd ... MAKE ME MY FAVORITE PIE

DEZ
AND if that pie didn't taste too good ...

BEAT

Come on, keep going!

TIM
What's the point-

DEZ
AND IF THAT PIE DIDN'T TASTE TOO GOOD

TIM
I would ...I'm no fucking good-

DEZ
(Starts keeping a beat with hands)
And if that pie didn't taste too good-

TIM
(picking it up)
You'd build me a big house made of wood -

DEZ

And if I didn't build the house like I should-
Very likely because I know nothing of carpentry-

TIM

I would know that you did the best you could-

DEZ

And if you asked me nicely to build it again-

TIM

You'd say of course I will, anything for a-

BEAT

TIM

Friend.

(Pause)

Jesus Christ.

DEZ

Hey friend.

TIM

Hey friend. So you're not a therapist? At
least-

DEZ

Right now, I'm both.

(Rhyming again)

And now that Tim knows I'm his friend,
We can keep going to find-

TIM

How all this shit will end.

Blackout. End of scene

Act 2

Scene 2

Stage is completely dark. A loud popping sound then a small beep is heard. Lights flicker and the beeps become continuous. This continues for a while until a flash of light reveals ...the things you see out of the corner of your eye. Immediately the stage goes dark again. Beeping sound becomes fainter and fainter until ...

End of scene

ACT 2

SCENE 3

Back in the office.

DEZ

What's wrong?

TIM

I dunno. Man ...I feel-
(Starts doing push-ups)

DEZ

What are you doing?

TIM

Trying to energize. I'm starting to feel really
blah.

DEZ

How many are you going to do?

TIM

(Stopping)

God, I am in such shitty shape. I used to be able to
do fifty no problem.

DEZ

(Gentle dig)

When was this?

TIM

When I was ...

DEZ

What?

TIM

I was going to say younger. But something felt
strange. Like... like I shouldn't say that.

DEZ

Why?

TIM
Because it didn't apply or make sense.

DEZ
Not to play twenty questions but-

TIM
It was just a feeling.

Suddenly the lights flicker.

TIM
What was that?

DEZ
(Uneasy)
Don't' know. Keep going-

Lights start to flicker more wildly.

TIM
Must be some kind of storm.

DEZ
Maybe so, don't worry about it.

TIM
I don't hear anything. Why don't you have windows in here?

DEZ
Not my choice, but let's get back to-

Lights go out. Seconds.

DEZ
Tim?

TIM
I'm right here. I don't feel so good.

DEZ
It's okay, hold on.
(Forcefully)
Hello. Hello! Lights! LIGHTS! Please!

Lights flicker on. Tim is on the floor.

TIM
Think the generator might be kicking in.

DEZ
Sure.

*Light come up. DEZ helps Tim into his chair, a look of concern evident
On her face.*

TIM
Whew!

DEZ
You okay to continue?

TIM
Sure sarge. Jesus, you don't let up. What the hell?
(Assessing)
Yeah. I'm fine. Probably blood sugar. I don't
Remember eating anything. I mean I had the coffee-
(Looks in his cup)
Shit! Probably cold now. Oh well.

Drains the cup. Dez watches expectantly.

TIM
Damn! No offense friend, but that coffee sucked.
No taste at all even with cream.

DEZ
Next time you make it. All right, back to work.

TIM
Whoa! Shouldn't I eat something? I mean I think
I should.

DEZ
What do you want? Wait I've got something-
(Pulls a paper bag out of her purse)
Here catch.
(throws him the bag)

He catches it with one hand and peers inside.

TIM

YES! A Cheeseburger. You do know me.

DEZ

Pretty well.

(removes another bag from purse)

Wouldn't want you to eat alone.

(starts to eat)

How's the burger?

TIM

Not bad. Not bad at all. What are you eating?

She lets him take a bite.

TIM

Fish taco? Blech!

DEZ

Don't judge, burger boy.

TIM

Weird. That shit has no taste-just like the coffee.

(Looks at burger)

This does though.

(Looks at her intently)

Why is that?

(pause)

None of this is real is it?

End of scene.

Act 2

Scene 4

*Stage completely dark. It stays like that for seconds, with whatever sounds we hear coming from the surroundings. Then our ears catch a faint whisper, while shadows seem to cross the stage looking for something, or someone. More whispers and the beeping sound returns, getting louder and louder
Until ..*

Lights come up on Dez and Tim still eating.

DEZ

You eat slow.

TIM

Yeah, you know I don't think so. It keeps replenishing.

DEZ

How's that-

TIM

I am eating it but I don't seem to be getting anywhere. Take a few bites-which reminds me you got anything to wash it down?

DEZ

Yes.

(Pulls out a bottle of wine)

This ought to do nicely.

TIM

Jesus Christ! What else you got in there?

Dez pulls out wine glasses.

TIM

Wow. Sure beats my fuckin' wallet.

DEZ

So how does all this speak to your theory?

TIM

Pretty much confirms it. It was all starting to add up. Sooo ... this is a dream. I can't remember ever dreaming this way. Not that I-okay let me run this by ... wait

BEAT

BEAT

TIM

You're not real.

DEZ

Duh.

TIM

That kinda sucks.

DEZ

Awww, that's sweet.

TIM

No, I really mean that.

DEZ

I know you do. Let me slightly correct your statement. I am real. Right now. Here.

TIM

You mean you're are as real as I make you.

DEZ

Close. Look at your burger.

TIM

Wow, what the fuck. It's almost gone.

DEZ

Why?

TIM

Because I'm done with it. Full.

DEZ

Right. Look at our wine.

TIM
Empty. You know, that all felt familiar.

DEZ
Like ...

TIM
A memory. God damn! Your'e good.

DEZ
Yeah, don't give me too much credit. It's
your world squirrel, your mind. But I was.

TIM
WAS?
SILENCE

TIM
Was.

DEZ
Let's keep going.

TIM
No. Give me a minute.
(Pause
So this is a dream, all this is in my mind.
You probably know so much more about this, well
At least I THINK you do-get it? Mind, think-

DEZ
Brilliant.

TIM
I wanna fly.

DEZ
What!

TIM
My dream so let me fly, just like Superman or
Ironman or ...

DEZ
Shazam?

TIM

Not where I was going but ... so. How do I do it?

DEZ

Don't look at me.

TIM

C'mon at least let me do it like Mary Poppins.

DEZ

I have no control over this.

TIM

That's right, 'cause it's my mind. Of course that doesn't explain why you hardly ever answer my questions. Okay. I'm gonna fly.

Gets on chair.

DEZ

Yeah, this has doom written all over it.
May I just say that I am so disappointed.

TIM

Why?

DEZ

I tell you this is all your mind and your first thought is to fly? How dully traditional.

TIM

Classic. Like my jacket.

DEZ

The jacket is cool. This is boring.

TIM

Say that to me when I'm buzzing around the room. Maybe the ceiling will open up and I'll head straight for the sky. Go look for a star or hide in the clouds like my old man.

BEAT

TIM

Shit. My old man was a pilot. Well good, like father, LIKE SOOOOONNNNN!

Jumps off chair and lands flat on his face.

DEZ
We done with this?

SILENCE

DEZ
Tim? Trust me when I say this, but I know
you are not hurt. Tim?

SILENCE

DEZ
Hey, you weren't even that far off the ground.

Goes over to him. Kneels down

DEZ
Tim, it's all in your head, okay? Ha, Ha!
Come-

He playfully grabs and kisses her lightly.

DEZ
What the fuck?

TIM
I just wanted to see.

DEZ
What? If you were an asshole? Check.

TIM
You won't tell me so I had to find out.

DEZ
Really? That pathetic attempt-we'll call it a pass-

TIM
You said ... I know ... we're friends, but what kind?

DEZ
So hey, kiss her against her will and find out.

TIM

Wasn't against your will ...this is my fucking dream
so-

DEZ

You can do whatever you want? I'm more real than
that.

TIM

I'm sorry. Fucking confused and I don't know the
rules. Scared. Ok. Scared.

DEZ

Please don't try to be vulnerable.

TIM

I don't want to be but I am. Ok, that was a dick
move. Not like me I think. But there HAS to be a
reason YOU'RE here and not somebody else-

DEZ

You don't even know my name.

TIM

Yes I do. I know but there has to be -

DEZ

I don't usually kiss guys who don't-

TIM

If you don't think that bothers me, you aren't nearly
as smart as you think ...or I think you are. One of
those.

DEZ

So kiss me. Not like a schoolboy kissing his mom-

TIM

No-

DEZ

Don't be a fucking baby.

They kiss tentatively, then with a little more effort.

DEZ

(Letting him go)

Let's get back to work. Enough with the psychic driftwood.

TIM

Whatever. That helped me.

DEZ

How?

TIM

There was a been there-done that quality to that kiss-

DEZ

Imaginary kiss. And thanks.

TIM

No, you're my bud. My pal. I mean yeah obviously you're cute. And I really like ... no, love you. But ...

DEZ

Quickly, even though it is kind of YOU saying this-I feel the same way.

Tim starts to shiver.

DEZ

What's going on?

TIM

I feel really cold, suddenly. Don't you?

She starts to shiver

DEZ

Little bit.

TIM

You got a thermostat in here-fuck, keep forgetting where I am. I hate the cold.

DEZ

Which tells you?

TIM

I'm some place I don't want to be.

(pause)
Where is that?

DEZ
I think the lights are starting to turn on.

TIM
Maybe.

DEZ
They have to.

TIM
This is something bad.

DEZ
Add it up.

TIM
What?

DEZ
ADD IT UP! WHO AM I!?

TIM
MY FRIEND!

DEZ
WHO AM I!?

TIM
My best friend. The one who watches my dog. The
one who GAVE me my dog.

DEZ
And?

TIM
And weird shit keeps happening. This is
my dream, but you're in charge ...or you know where
we're going-

DEZ
Details!

TIM
It's getting colder!

DEZ
(Almost savagely)
Add it up!

TIM
The lights in here keep flickering. And I
feel like something is waiting or watching.
You know what it is. And I feel ...weaker.
Shit. And I'm really scared. DEZ! DEZ!

BEAT

DEZ
(Pride and sadness)
Yes. Yes.

BEAT
BEAT

TIM
Am I dying?

DEZ
We both are.

Blackout
End of Act 2.

ACT 3

Scene 1

Dez is applying makeup, making her look paler than Tim, then adds a bluish lipstick. She looks ...

TIM

What the fuck are you doing?

DEZ

You know the saying: Live fast, die young and leave a good looking corpse.

TIM

You're not dead!

DEZ

I'm getting there.

TIM

Stop it!

Dez starts to shiver heavily. Tim takes off his jacket and wraps it around her.

DEZ

Ever the gentleman.

TIM

Something wrong with that?

DEZ

(Heavy southern accent)

Nothing at all Timothy, nothing at all.

DEZ

Sweet Timothy-

TIM

What-

DEZ

my dear little boy-

TIM
are you-

DEZ
I am so sorry, a thousand sorrys,

TIM
STOP!

DEZ
for what I have done.
(Pause. Then in her voice-)
I don't know-
(Back to southern)
Please forgive me sugar. I'm in such pain.
Know I'll always love you-

TIM
(Sobbing)
Please stop-

DEZ
and look for me in your dreams. Mommy.

Dez stops looking confused. Tears run down Tim's face.

TIM
I couldn't get her to wake up. She wouldn't
wake up.

DEZ
I know.

TIM
That's why I became an EMT.

BEAT

FUCK ME!

Whispering.

DEZ
Look at me. What do you see?

TIM
What was that? No, I don't want to know-
what do I see? Your lips ... your skin, that color ...

Jesus, that color.
 (Pause)
 You drowned.

Without a word, Dez reaches into her bag and pulls out lipstick. Suddenly hugging Tim tight, she stabs his forehead with the lipstick, drawing a circle with the mark she has created.

DEZ
 Hold STILL!
 (Pushes him away and reaches inside purse)
 NOW, TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE!

She holds out a pocket mirror.

TIM
 Pale. Lips the same color-
 (Recalling with a rush)
 I've hit my head, probably unconscious,
 We're both ... IN THE WATER-

Grabs wine bottle.

TIM
 (Reading Label)
 Lily Pond Winery. This is where we went. We drank
 some wine- we ate and then ...and then

DEZ
 (Singing)
 The long and winding-

TIM
 DEZ!

Lights flicker and then go dim.

DEZ
 Here they come.

The shadows appear out of all corners and advance.

TIM
 I see them. They've been here the whole time.

DEZ

They're lost. Can't find the light, so they wait.

The shadows appear to pull both Dez and Tim. He grabs her.

DEZ

What are you doing?

TIM

I'm not letting go!

DEZ

Tim it's happening, you're coming-

TIM

I'm not letting go!

(Pouring out of him, almost mechanically)

I see them. They've been here the whole time.

Lily Pond Winery. This is where we went. We drank some wine- we ate and then ...and then

Lily Pond Winery. This is where we went. We drank some wine- we ate and then ...and then

I've hit my head, probably unconscious,

We're both ... IN THE WATER-

DEZ

Tim you have to let go-

TIM

(struggling)

NO!

(Torrent begins again)

I see them. They've been here the whole time

They've been here the whole time.

That's why I became an EMT-

DEZ

This isn't another reboot-

TIM

I couldn't get her to wake up. She wouldn't wake up-

DEZ

you are regaining consciousness!

TIM

(Faster)

I couldn't get her to wake up. She wouldn't
wake up. Something wrong with that? Something
wrong with that? Something wrong with that? Am I
dying?

DEZ screams

DEZ

OH MY GOD! GOD! TIM! TIM!

TIM

Am I dying? Am I dying-

DEZ

Please, PLEASE, TIM! TIM!!!!!!!

TIM

(Breaking from the trance)

DEZ! What's going on!

DEZ

I can't- please, please, please
(sobbing)
JESUS CRIST!

TIM

I'm not letting go!

DEZ

I CAN SEE YOU!

(calm)

Tim, you have to let go. You can't stay down-

(Panic)

Don't , don't. don't, please-

(Calm)

Tim, I've regained-

TIM

(Back to trance)

None of this is real is it? None of this is
real is it? None of -

DEZ

-regained consciousness. I can't-

TIM
-this is real is it?

DEZ
-HELP YOU!

TIM
My best friend. The one who watches my dog. The one who GAVE me my dog. My best friend. The one who watches my dog. The one who GAVE me my dog-

DEZ
TIM! You have to let go.

TIM
DEZ! DEZ!

Their hands go up as if a wall separates them.

TIM
DEZ! DEZ!

DEZ
(Her conscious self taking over)
I can't break the glass! The GLASS!
I can't ...Help me ..
(gasping)
I can't ..

TIM
(Trance)
This is bad. This is bad. This is bad-

DEZ
Aaaaaggh!

TIM
Girlfriend? Fiancé?

DEZ
I see you-

TIM
Sister, friend, colleague, cousin or some other relative, Jess Christ just tell me. Sister, friend, colleague, cousin or some other relative, Jess Christ

just tell me-

DEZ
I see you-

TIM
Sister, friend, colleague, cousin or some other
relative, Jess Christ just tell me-

DEZ
You're drowning-go BACK UP! You can't, you
Can't-PLEASE TELL ME WHAT TO DO!-PLEASE... please
...go.

(growing weak)
GO! DON'T LEAVE. Please don't ...

TIM
Stick a needle in your eye. Do I make you
feel uncomfortable?

*Tim breaks free of the shadows and runs off. Blackout. Dez sinks
to the ground. A small, faint spotlight emerges on Dez.*

DEZ
I can see you through the glass.
(pause)
Tim? Tim?

*She starts to stretch out. Gasping ... then:
Lights go up, then down.*

BEAT

*Lights go up, then down. They keep repeating this pattern for
several seconds. Tim rushes on stage. Lights stay on.*

TIM
Come on let's go!

DEZ
How did-

TIM
You're not the only one who can get in
people's heads-

DEZ
Are we-

TIM
Dunno. Hold on-

He picks her up and they exit. Lights start to flicker, whispers and ...

Video on cell plays:

DEZ
Honda, Honda c'mere girl. Good girl, look in the camera, GOOD GIRLLL. Say hello to Tim. C'mon, say hello. Hi Tim! Wanna wave? Come on, show him how you wave. HI TIM! Love you, friend. See yoooo sooon.

Dog barks. Video stops.

BLACKOUT.

END OF PLAY.