

The Men's Room  
A Ten-Minute Play

By: S. A. Ellis

<u>CHARACTER NAME</u>	<u>BRIEF DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>GENDER</u>
AMANDA	Makes mistakes. A lot of mistakes.	19	Female
LIZZIE	Doesn't make mistakes. Or decisions.	21	Female

SETTING:

Late afternoon, in a convenience store men's restroom, some college town in Texas.

SYNOPSIS:

Two young women, Amanda and Lizzie deal with what it means to grow up. Friendship, broken hearts, and ultimately a decision that may or may not need to be made.

A BEGINNING. OR AN ENDING.

AMANDA sits confused and uncomfortable on the toilet, her skirt bunched up around her waist. LIZZIE is facing the urinal in the corner, avoiding looking at AMANDA, she searches an empty box for instructions to read out loud.

LIZZIE

I can't find any instructions on here. Why wouldn't they put instructions on the box? That doesn't make any sense, this sort of thing isn't exactly as self-explanatory as someone would think.

AMANDA

God, I'm dying over here, just give me the fucking box.

LIZZIE

No! I'm gonna find it.

AMANDA

You better hurry. I feel like I'm going to explode.

LIZZIE doesn't respond. She is carefully inspecting the box again.

Just give me the Goddamned box. Jesus Christ.

AMANDA snatches the box from LIZZIE.

LIZZIE

I'm telling you it isn't on there, you just have to do it.

AMANDA

There has to be directions, I don't want to risk fucking it up.

She pauses for a moment to read the box.

LIZZIE

How hard can peeing on a stick be, Mandy?

AMANDA

I know how to piss, thank you. It's what I have to do after that I'm unsure about. Do I put the cap back on? Where do I put it when I'm done? What do I do if it's positive? God, I'm such an idiot, whose would it even be? When would this have even happened?

LIZZIE

Okay, let's take this one step at a time, you don't have to worry about whose baby it is if there is no baby. So, just pee on the stick.

AMANDA

Yeah, okay. I can do that.

She looks uncomfortably across at the urinal.

... I think.

AMANDA goes to pee on the stick.

LIZZIE

Okay. Okay, wait. Give me the box.

AMANDA hands LIZZIE the box, then again, goes to pee on the stick.

Thank you.

AMANDA

Can you set a timer?

LIZZIE is staring distractedly at the urinal.

Liz?

LIZZIE

Do you think guys actually use this in here?

AMANDA

Huh?

LIZZIE

I mean, it's a single stall, do you think they sit down or something?

AMANDA

Still holding the pregnancy test.

Lizzie. What the hell are you talking about?

LIZZIE

I think I read somewhere that sitting down is healthier, is standing some sort of weird masculinity thing?

AMANDA

I have no idea, you want me to call up Zach and ask?

LIZZIE

Right now? I think that might be kind of weird.

AMANDA

Hmm, which part would make it weird? Asking about his peeing habits or the rest of this situation?

Anyway, what am I supposed to do with this thing?

LIZZIE

Just put the cap back on and set it down.

AMANDA

Yeah, right, okay.

AMANDA caps the pregnancy test and sets it on the ground.

LIZZIE

Tell me why the hell you would put it on the ground?

AMANDA

Where else did you want me to put it?

LIZZIE

I don't know, but what if some bacteria gets in there and affects the results?

AMANDA

There is a cap on it! Plus I don't really think that is how it works. It's not even testing for bacteria, right?

LIZZIE

I just don't think the floor of a men's bathroom is really the flat surface the box was referring to.

AMANDA

Do you really think it would make a difference if it was the floor of a women's room?

LIZZIE

I don't know, they are typically cleaner, aren't they?

AMANDA

I guess, but this is better anyway. Single stall. Someone can't just barge in.

And, I don't think there are any loose pregnancy hormones on the ground in here.

LIZZIE

You say that now but just remember, you can always have a false negative, it's very hard to have a false positive.

AMANDA

Hey, uh, why the fuck would you say that?

LIZZIE

I don't know, just thought you might be curious.

AMANDA

I'm really not. How long has it been?

LIZZIE

I'm not exactly sure.

AMANDA

Did you not set a timer?

LIZZIE

...no.

AMANDA

Lizzie, what the fuck, you told me you would set a timer?//

LIZZIE

//I'm sorry, it totally slipped my mind!

AMANDA

How am I supposed to know when it's done developing?

LIZZIE

It's not film, and I think you know when the lines start showing up.

AMANDA

What if one line takes longer and I miss it, and I'm just ignorant and I have to have a baby at 19?

LIZZIE

There are other options.

AMANDA

Not here. What if it's too late? What if we bought a faulty test and I never actually know and I end up being a teen mom. Lizzie, I don't have what it takes to be a mom *or* a reality TV star!

And I don't even know who the father is. What if it's *Nick* dude, what do I do if it's fucking *Nick*?

LIZZIE

Mandy. Breathe, we will give it a few extra minutes. And we can do another one if you want to. Plus I really don't think you are pregnant, aren't IUDs like 99% effective.

AMANDA

Yeah, well maybe I'm the lucky 1%... My doctor told me spotting could be a sign of pregnancy. And my sister told me that it was going to cut open my whole uterus anyway, and apparently if that happens the percentage, like, *skyrockets*.

LIZZIE

I think you would have felt something if your uterus was sliced open...

AMANDA

Maybe not, it could just feel like regular ole cramps.

LIZZIE

Probably like regular cramps on steroids. Slicing an internal organ has to be a noticeable feeling.

AMANDA

This isn't the point.

LIZZIE

If it's too late in Texas we can go on a little... road trip. It will be fun. We can get a hotel. Just you and me.

AMANDA

Just you and me...

How much does it cost? How would I afford it?

LIZZIE

Well, you definitely cannot afford a baby.

AMANDA

Right.

LIZZIE

Which one was Nick?

AMANDA

New Year's. Zach's friend?

LIZZIE

Ohhh, right. I thought you told me you used a condom with that guy.

AMANDA

LIZZIE

And he?...

AMANDA

LIZZIE

Amanda are you serious? You didn't even know him.

AMANDA

Look it was New Year's, and I was drunk, and he was drunk, and I didn't really even think about it.

LIZZIE

I cannot believe you would lie to me about something like that!

AMANDA

It wasn't any of your business.

LIZZIE

You don't know where the hell that random man has been.

AMANDA

I didn't tell you because I knew this is exactly how you would fucking react. I am an adult, I am allowed to make all the mistakes I want with my body.

LIZZIE

Yeah, and then you come crawling over to me, asking me to help you fix it. What are you gonna do to fix this one?

AMANDA

I don't know.

LIZZIE

And what about everything with Mattie? He still isn't talking to you?

AMANDA half laughs, it comes out as sort of a snort.

AMANDA

Yeah, definitely not. But that's not my fault.



LIZZIE

Is it ever your fault?

AMANDA

Are you really trying to blame that on me? I didn't ask him to turn me into some sort of manic pixie dream girl, I didn't sit down and seduce him, I didn't act like a different person. He was disappointed because he built me up into someone that I'm not. And the person I am wanted to sleep with Nick, not comfort Mattie through some ignorant fucking crush. I don't think he could tell you a single real thing about me. So, I'm not going to stop being who I am because one of my friends decides they are in love with me. I'm sorry that who I am is a little bit reckless.

LIZZIE

A little bit?

AMANDA

I'm not out here doing cocaine or anything. I'm just having fun. I'm not hurting anybody.

LIZZIE

Yes, you are!

AMANDA

I'm not intentionally hurting anybody. And Mattie gets a great little sob story out of it, "some chick I thought I was in love with fucked someone right under my nose." I get to be some chick in a lot of stories down the line.

LIZZIE

So that's what you want then? To just be the girl in all the stories? You say you aren't a manic pixie, but isn't that the whole thing, just being a girl to tell stories about? Do you think that Mattie and Zach and Nick are going around telling everyone about how cool of a person you are? How you eat bubblegum ice cream and only listen to 50s country on long drives? Or that secretly you love reality TV? No, because you don't let yourself be an actual person around them.

AMANDA

I do though, I'm not faking anything, I'm me. I'm just being me. They don't see it, but they way I am with them is exactly the way I am with you... with more weed and sex. But still, the same. They turn me into something else, I don't know what you want me to do. What do you want me to do?

LIZZIE

I don't know Amanda. Be an adult. Be a person. A real person.

AMANDA

I am a real person. Look at me. I'm real. I'm here. I'm right here. Look. Look at me. I'm trying my best.

AMANDA grabs LIZZIE's face and turns it to look at her.

LIZZIE

I know you're real. What do you need all them for?

AMANDA

LIZZIE

There is a loud bang on the restroom door. The two girls are startled out of the silence.

LIZZIE

(in the deepest voice she can muster)

Uh, someone is in here.

AMANDA

...do you think it is done?

LIZZIE

We can check if you want.

AMANDA

God, I'm scared.

LIZZIE

We will do it together, okay?

LIZZIE wraps her hand in toilet paper before she bends down to pick up the test up off the ground, AMANDA gives her a judgemental look, LIZZIE shrugs.

LIZZIE

I'm sorry, I don't want to get your pee on my hands? Now, do you mind?

They both look at it at the same time. There is a long pause.

AMANDA

Fuck.

BLACKOUT

END OF PLAY

