# The Men's Room A Ten-Minute Play

By: S. A. Ellis

CHARACTER NAMEBRIEF DESCRIPTIONAGEGENDERAMANDAMakes mistakes. A lot19Female

of mistakes.

LIZZIE Doesn't make mistakes. 21 Female

Or decisions.

# **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?

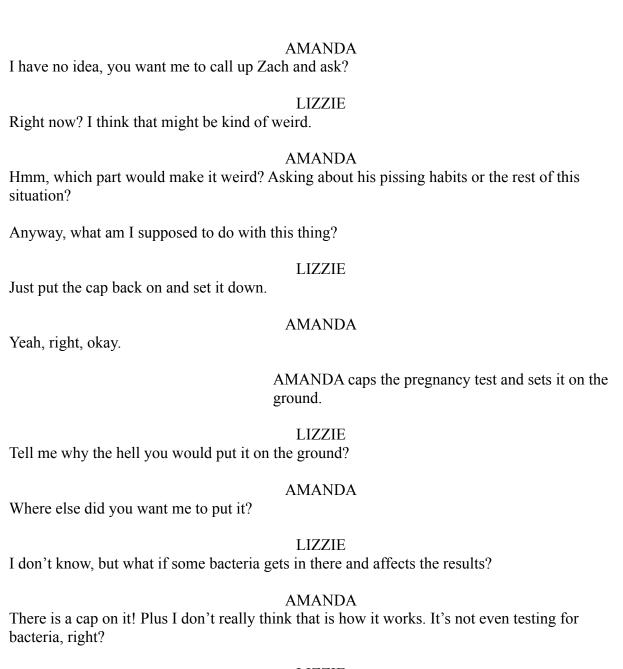
**AMANDA** 

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 st	ep at a time,	you don'	t have to	worry	about	whose	baby	it is	if there	is
no baby. So, just pee on th	ie stick.									

Yeah, okay. I can do that.	AMANDA
	She looks uncomfortably across at the urinal.
I think.	
	AMANDA goes to pee on the stick.
Okay. Okay, wait. Give me the box.	LIZZIE
	AMANDA hands LIZZIE the box, then again, goes to pee on the stick.
Thank you.	
Can you set a timer?	AMANDA
	LIZZIE is staring distractedly at the urinal.
Liz?	
Do you think guys actually use this in h	LIZZIE nere?
Huh?	AMANDA
I mean, it's a single stall, do you think t	LIZZIE hey sit down or something?
	AMANDA
	Still holding the pregnancy test.
Lizzie. What the hell are you talking ab	out?
I think I read somewhere that sitting do masculinity thing?	LIZZIE wn is healthier, is standing some sort of weird



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** 

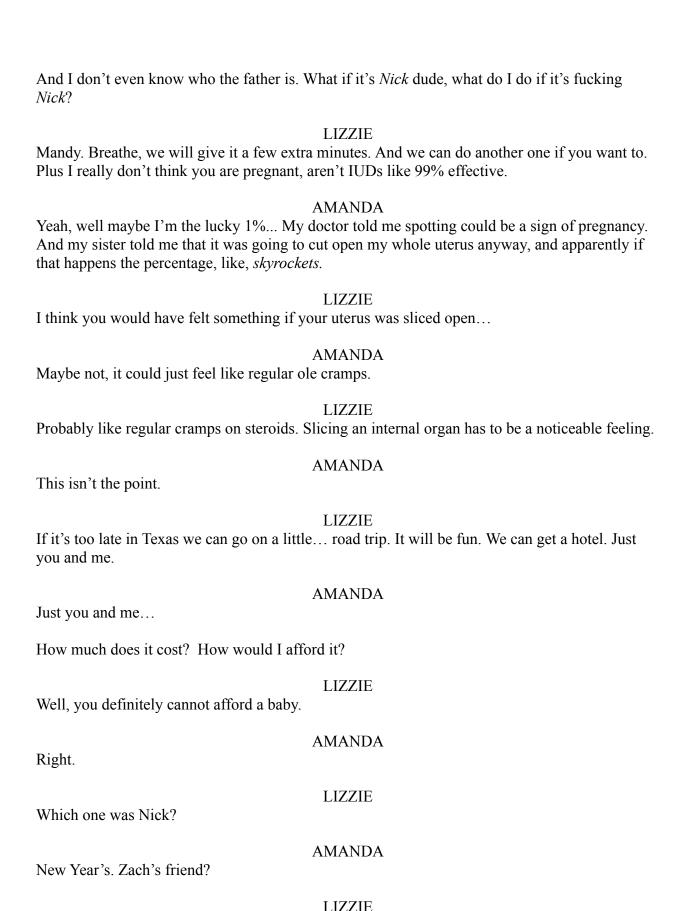
I don't know, they are typically cleaner, aren't they?

**AMANDA** 

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

**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 think there are any loose pregnancy hormones on the ground in here.



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
	LIZZIE
	There is a loud bang on the restroom door. The two girls are startled out of the silence.
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	LIZZIE epest voice she can muster)
Uh, someone is in heredo you think it is done?	AMANDA
We can check if you want.	LIZZIE
God, I'm scared.	AMANDA
We will do it together, okay?	LIZZIE
The wife do to together, only .	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.
I'm sorry, I don't want to get your pee o	LIZZIE n 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

her.

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

LIZZIE

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