

GETTING

This

CLOSE

Getting This Close

By: D. Brent Holland

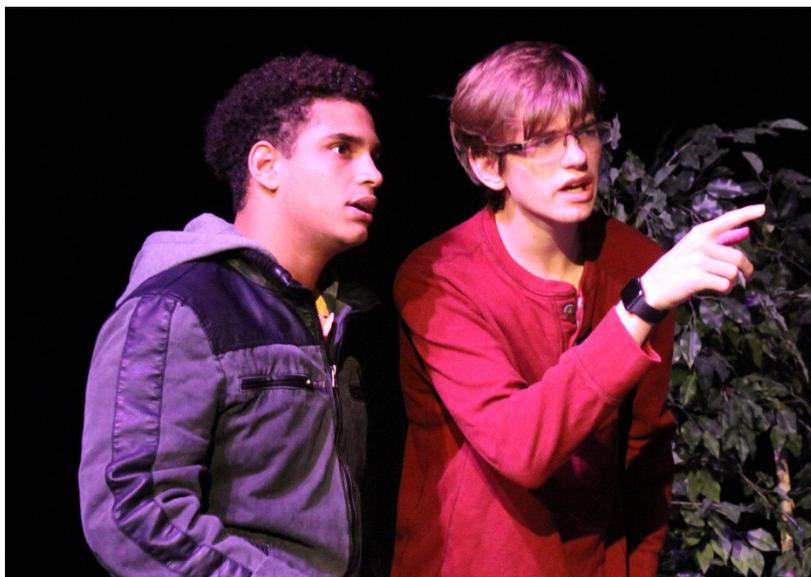
Copyright © 2016: D. Brent Holland and Off The Wall Play

Publishers

<http://offthewallplays.com>

This script is provided for reading purposes only Professionals and amateurs are hereby advised that it is subject to royalty It is fully protected under the laws of South Africa, the United States of America, the British Empire including the Dominion of Canada and all other countries of the Copyright Union. All rights including but not limited to professional amateur film radio and all other media including use on the worldwide web and the rights of translation into foreign languages are strictly reserved and any unauthorized use of the material may subject the user to any and all applicable civil and criminal penalties. For any information about royalties or to apply for a performance license please click the following link :

<http://offthewallplays.com/royalties-and-licensing-of-plays-sold-byoff-the-wall-plays/>



Danny and Brett talking about the fairer sex

Cast List:

Danny: A High School senior. Genuine, likeable.

Brett : Danny's kooky best friend. Completely shameless, recently had a bad relationship with Jessica.

Emma: A truly nice person who is infatuated with Danny.

Jessica: A conniving sociopath who also wants Danny.

Caroline: A friend of the girls, a gossip.

Tyler: A college student who dates Emma and treats her poorly.

Eric: A college student that was recently arrested on drug charges

Brad: A normal enough guy trying to date Jessica.

This show was produced by E.A. Laney High School in October of 2016. It was our competition piece and won awards at both the Ashley Play festival and North Carolina Theatre Conference.

The original cast is as follows:

Danny: Dallas Thompson **Tyler:** Garrett Smith

Brett: Sam Weaver **Caroline:** Sarah Brueckner

Emma: Hailey Mroz **Brad:** River Hedgepeth

Jessica: Lani O'Neill **Eric:** Michaiah Moore

(Lights up. Danny is standing stage center)

Danny: If you watch enough movies or read enough books, you often run into a familiar theme. You'll have this guy... or girl... who gets this close *(he mimes a small amount of space)* from his dreams and desires only to have to have them slip through his fingers. The popular thought about this is that it's the worst kind of tragedy... I mean, even the greeks wrote about this stuff. But I think that's a bunch of crap really. I mean, it would suck and all, but I think that almost achieving your dreams and desires only to fall short pales in comparison to what I have been through this year.

(he sighs)

Danny: Imagine this... imagine that you have this goal or dream and you spend an unhealthy amount of your time totally obsessing over it... and when the moment comes you don't fall short, but rather achieve in all its glory a small taste of exactly what you have wanted so badly. Just a moment... only to have it never happen to you again. That is me. That is my story. My name is Danny Taylor.

(A school bell rings)

Danny: Don't sweat it...that's just the first bell and I still have five minutes to get to class. Moreover since I'm a senior and drive to school I can always use traffic as an excuse if I run late anyways. *(switching gears)* This is my senior year in high school... the money year... the year where everything is supposed to be golden right? And I guess it had been pretty much just that until last night. You would have to see it to believe it.

(Danny moves across stage to where Emma is waiting for him. As Danny walks up, he moves in to kiss Emma and she stops him)

Danny: *(confused)* What?

Emma: Danny... we need to talk.

Danny: *(trying to be chipper)* Sure, let's talk on the way to Brett's house, haunted hayride tonight remember?

Emma: *(struggling for words)* I can't go.

Danny: Did something happen? Is everything ok?

Emma: Yeah...Well... no. I was going to send you a text but I didn't think it would be fair.

Danny: Fair?

Emma: *(upset)* We can't do this anymore. Friday night was a mistake... we've been friends for too long... I don't want to mess that up.

Danny: We talked about that... it won't mess up anything!

Emma:... *(He moves in to hug her)*

Emma: No... don't. Danny... I'm just confused right now and I need some time. I have a lot to think about and everything that has happened this week and... I can't go tonight. Please don't be mad at me...

Danny: Mad at you? For what?

Emma: I have to go. *(she goes in her house)*

Danny: *(to the door)* Call me later ok? *(he is very confused)*

(back to the audience)

Danny: That was Emma Brown and I'm in love with her. Don't look at me like that! Yeah yeah... I know... "you're just 17 Danny, you don't know what love is." Yeah, well up yours! It's love or it isn't. It's something.. and if it makes you feel better to call it lust, or teenage hormone attraction disorder or anything else then that's fine with me. Hell, if you want to go all third grade on me I will just say I liked her. I did like her. A lot. *(pause)* So that's established. And you just saw the most gut wrenching confusing moment of my entire life. A moment where the love of my... the "like" of my life just reached down my throat and grabbed my heart along with my spleen pancreas and probably even my colon... dropped it on the floor and stepped on it. Also... while we are at it, let me just go ahead and wreck a myth for all of the girls out there... You can't just be friends. Guys aren't wired that way. Right now, I am telling you that if you know a guy... a straight guy... and you think he is only your friend then you're an idiot. That guy wants you. He is biding his time, taking his vitamins and saying his prayers that his shot will come. He may play the part of best friend just like I have with Emma freaking Brown for years, but that guy wants you. Understand?

(Bell rings again)

Danny: Anyways... four days before this greek level tragedy, Emma and I kissed for the first time. She was the one who kissed me as I honest to God thought all hope was gone. But it happened and for four days I was living the dream man. It was real and then last night. Boom. Heart, spleen, pancreas, colon. *(He mimes stomping on them.)* But I have to get to class now. I will catch you up on the rest later.

(in a different part of the building, Jessica comes up to Emma)

Jessica: Did you tell him?

Emma: *(obviously upset)* Yeah, I did... are you sure I did the right thing?

Jessica: *(consoling)* Of course you did.

Emma: I just can't believe he'd say all of that.

Jessica: I am not going to pretend that I understand guys, but one thing is simple... for the most part they're one dimensional and total douche bags.

Emma: I just thought Danny was different.

Jessica: I know Em... but I heard it with my own ears. He said clear as a bell that he couldn't believe you kissed him, and he said it was way too awkward to tell you he wasn't interested in you.

Emma: To Brett and Lance...

Jessica: Yes.

Emma: Then why did he kiss me back? What about the next night at the lake?

Jessica: *(exasperated)* Guys... knowing him he probably thought it would be an easy score.

Emma: Jessica...

Jessica: I'm just saying Em.

Emma: I feel like such an idiot. You know how long I've been building up to that.

Jessica: And how long I've been telling you it's a bad idea.

Emma: You're the best Jess. *(She hugs Jessica)*

Jessica: Well, I have some news that oughta cheer you up?

Emma: *(not digging it)* Oh yeah?

Jessica: Remember that guy I introduced to you at my job?

Emma: *(remembering)* Tyler?

Jessica: That's him! Totally been asking about you. Wants your number.

Emma: *(not totally into it)* Really?

Jessica: *(energetic)* Yes! And he is a total sweetheart, and super cute and he's majoring in micro-biology!

Emma: I don't know Jess...

Jessica: Well, too bad. I already set you up. We have a group that's going to meet downtown to eat and then we're going to hit up the haunted on 8th street.

Emma: *(Smacking her arm)* You did not tell him I would be there!

Jessica: *(playfully)* I surely did... and you're going. That's all there is to it.

Emma: When?

Jessica: Tomorrow night!

Emma: That soon?? No...

Jessica: *(convincingly)* You need this! Seriously... you're going.

(Emma's phone rings.)

Emma: *(looking at the ID)* It's my mom. *(She goes to leave)* I'll talk to you later ok?

Jessica: Sure thing. But you're going... you know that right.

Emma: We'll talk about it.

Jessica: Super cute...

Emma: He's not the one I want...

Jessica: Micro biology...

Emma: *(laughing)* Shut up already!

(Emma leaves... lights dim as Jessica crosses the stage to where Danny and Brett are sitting)

Brett: *(he does not like Jessica)* Well, hello there Satan.

Jessica: *(Dryly)* Brett.

(Awkward pause)

Brett: Well, I don't think I can stand this excitement any longer, so I'm headed home. Call me in a bit just so I know that the demon hasn't swallowed your soul.

(he goes to leave)

Jessica: I have your jacket in my car.

Brett: *(leaving)* keep it.

Jessica: It's the brown one you wear all the time...

Brett: *(turning around)* Yup. And I want you to keep it. I'll miss that jacket... it's my favorite. But in missing it, I will have a constant reminder of what an absolute moron I can be. It's a sacrifice ya know?

Jessica: *(dryly)* You are so dramatic.

(Acting as if he has been shot with an arrow)

Brett: Ahghghhhh! *(loudly)* I've been hit! Danny! An arrow shot from the loathsome mouth hath pierced me!

Danny: Dear God...

Jessica: *(disgusted)* Shut up...

Brett: Or what?

Jessica: You're embarrassing yourself.

(He now stands on the bench. Pulls the arrow out with much ado)

Brett: *(holding the imaginary arrow over his head)* Everyone! See this! This is the arrow I pulled from my own body... through my very heart... from this FOUL temptress from... *(he is at a loss...then aside to Danny)* What's the name of that place we get curry?

Danny: Punjab Ali's

Brett: *(Loud again)* from this FOUL temptress from Punjab Ali's! Steer clear friends! The very air is corrupt. *(he bows and several passing students politely applaud)*

Jessica: Can you leave now?

Brett: *(sarcastically)* Can I get a good bye kiss?

(dead pan stare follows. Brett puts his hand on Danny's shoulder)

Brett: *(sincerely)* Be vigilant.

(Brett leaves)

Jessica: He is such a weirdo.

Danny: You dated him.

Jessica: Don't remind me. *(switching gears)* So.... I kinda heard.

Danny: I figured you might. What did she say to you? You didn't answer my texts.

Jessica: I'm sorry. She was over late last night...she's a mess.

Danny: Everything was great. The kiss...the next night at the lake... lunch on Sunday. Then out of nowhere... boom.

Jessica: I don't think I can explain it.

Danny: *(desperate)* You're her best friend...try!

Jessica: I don't know. I mean...she's has never once been interested in you like that.

Danny: I know! You've told me that since we were sophomores.

Jessica: Then she calls me up and says that she kissed you and... *(pausing)* I don't think I should tell you all this Danny.

Danny: Come on Jess... I'm dying here.

Jessica: Look... it sucks ok? She told me the kiss just happened... she was confused and then regretted it immediately.

Danny: But Saturday night... the lake...

Jessica: She didn't know how to tell you... she didn't know how to backtrack.

Danny: I think part of my soul died this morning.

Jessica: You'll live. You can do better than her.

Danny: *(totally sincere)* That's just it... I don't want to. She's like my best friend and totally perfectly most beautiful person ever.

Jessica: Exaggerate much?

Danny: *(looking at her)* You know how I feel.

Jessica: *(Sympathetically)* I do... and I'm sorry. I just don't get it.

Danny: What?

Jessica: I just don't get why she kissed you when she's been totally crushing all over Tyler.

Danny: *(say what?)* Tyler?

Jessica: From Punjab's. The tall blonde.

Danny: She likes him?

Jessica: Total obsession. I would have told you but I didn't know she was going to kiss you.

Danny: *(dejected)* Wow...this sucks.

Jessica: I know. It'll get better though. So... you doing anything tonight?

Danny: Why?

Jessica: *(here's the whole point)* Well, my parents are going out pretty late and I wanted to see if you wanted to come over and hang out. Do a movie or something.

Danny: I can't.

Jessica: Why not?

Danny: *(struggling)* I...uh... have to help Brett with his AP Literature project.

(he knows that sounds lame even as he says it)

Jessica: *(somewhat put off)* Ok then... Well, tomorrow night a bunch of us are going to the haunted house downtown. You want to come? Bring Brett along if you want... just tell him he has to act normal.

Danny: Is Emma going?

Jessica: *(slight pause)* Yeah...she's going. But Danny...

Danny: I know... I know.... But maybe I'll come out tomorrow night.

Jessica: Ok. Well, I'll see you tomorrow then. You sure about tonight?

Danny: Yeah... sorry. I told Brett I would help...

Jessica: Well, if things change, call me.

Danny: I will.

(She leaves and Brett immediately emerges from a group of people nearby)

Brett: *(suddenly...scaring Danny)* I have an AP Literature project due?

Danny: *(startled)* Uh...no. Where did you come from?

Brett: Listening from right over there. That thing about the project damn near gave me a heart attack.

Danny: It was all I could come up with.

Brett: Jeez dude... I know you say she's not your type and all, and she's a sith lord, and the anti-christ, and a dementor, but still...she invited you over.

Danny: I know...

Brett: And her parents are going to be out...

Danny: *(enough already)* I know...

Brett: Are you gay?

Danny: *(taken aback)* No...

Brett: *(joking, but straight faced)* I mean, cause if you are I would be totally fine with it.

Danny: Shut up.

Brett: Just sayin'

Danny: *(Switching topics)* You free tomorrow night?

Brett: You asking me out?

(Danny looks at him)

Brett: Nah... I heard. Yeah... the haunted house. I'm down. Might not be a good idea though if Emma's crushing on some other guy.

Danny: That really sucks.

Brett: Love sucks amigo.

(Brett leaves. Black out)

Brett: But just four days ago, it was like this!

(Flashback in time to the "first kiss." Emma and Danny are walking back to her car talking about the movie.)

Emma: *(mid conversation)* Thanks for walking me out to my car. You didn't have to...

Danny: *(laughing)* You picked the last spot in the lot, didn't want you to get abducted, or wrangled away by aliens. Just being safe here.

Emma: *(playing along)* Yeah... the alien thing is always risky. But I have a pre-calculus test on Monday so if it did happen, at least there would be something gained.

Danny: You have a test on Monday? Ten to one says that Brett forgot.

Emma: Brett always forgets, but yet he always manages to get by. You know he's ranked 6th in our class now right?

Danny: (*Impressed*) I knew he was up there, but I didn't think it was that high. He hasn't told me.

Emma: I'm not sure he even knows. It all comes so easy for him.

Danny: Some things do... No so much with Jessica.

Emma: (*laughing*) I thought they were going to get into a fist fight a couple of times tonight. Ever since Jess dumped him he has embarrassed her every time we've been out.

Danny: I think it's his grieving process. I don't think anyone has ever broken up with him before.

Emma: I don't know why Jess even went out with him, you're the one she's wanted since God knows when.

Danny: (*zooming past that one*) Bah. Jessica doesn't know what she wants...

Emma: I don't know...

Danny: She's not my type anyways.

Emma: (*Curious*) What is your type Danny?

Danny: (*embarrassed because Emma is his type*) I dunno... I like girls to be shorter than me... smart... quick, easy to joke with. I don't know. That's a tough question really... what's your type?

Emma: (*Equally uncomfortable*) Well... Honest. That's a must... I mean, I have something perfectly in mind (*eye contact*) but it's hard to describe.

Danny: I understand completely.

(*Emma's phone rings*)

Emma: Hello? (*She listens*) Yes, Jessica... I'm coming. I was just talking to Danny. (*listens*) I will be over in a few. (*pause*) Ok... see you in a minute. (*she hangs up*) I'm staying over at Jessica's tonight. I guess I'd better go. (*she moves in to hug Danny again*) Thanks again for walking me out...

(*in the middle of the hug, there is an awkward pause...eye contact... and then both move in for a kiss that only lasts a couple of seconds. Then breaking the realism of the moment, Jessica walks on stage*)

Jessica: Emma, are you coming or what?

(*Emma breaks the embrace with a final look at Danny and then moves off stage. Danny addresses the audience*)

Danny: Ok. So I know what you are thinking. (*pause*) All women are blood sucking, genocidal sadists... right? Well, maybe you aren't thinking that but at this time I sure was. I mean, I've lived with the opposite sex for the last seventeen years of my life and I am more clueless now than ever. See a group of five girls and you know what you have? You have a nonsensical herd of stray asses... except it's worse because they're devious... and shallow... and sometimes really, really hot... but mostly just devious and shallow. Where was I? Oh, yeah... a herd of...

(*Brett enters, obviously in a hurry*)

Brett: Are we going or not?

Danny: Hold on a sec...

Brett: I mean, cause I don't really care if we go or not.

Danny: We're going!

Brett: Fine, then let's go!

(They exit as light come up on Emma, Jessica, Tyler and Caroline)

Caroline: So who are we waiting for again?

Jessica: Tommy and Lance said they might make it and Michelle too.

Caroline: How about Brett and Danny?

Jessica: *(Dodging)* I don't think they're coming.

Caroline: I saw Brett earlier and he said they were.

Emma: *(say what?)* Brett and Danny are coming?

Jessica: I don't think so, I mean I mentioned it...

Emma: *(angryish)* why would you mention it?

Tyler: Who are Brett and Danny?

Caroline: Brett is Jessica's ex. A psycho... in a funny kind of way.

Jessica: He's not funny at all.

Caroline: And Danny...

Jessica: Danny's not a nice guy.

Emma: *(objecting)* Yes he is.

Jessica: He's the guy I told you about...

Tyler: The one that keeps messing with Emma?

Emma: It's not like that really.

Tyler: Jess has told me all about him... sounds like a bum.

Emma: Really...he's not. I just kinda pushed him into something he apparently didn't want.

Tyler: I don't get it.

Emma: *(frustrated)* It's complicated.

Caroline: *(getting it)* So you two really hooked up?

Emma: I don't want to talk about it.

Tyler: And this guy doesn't want you.

Jessica: Never has.

Tyler: *(making eyes at Emma)* Well, that makes no sense at all... is this guy blind?

(Danny and Brett walk in... as they do..)

Brett: *(under his breath)* Isn't that the guy from Punjab's?

Danny: *(also under his breath)* Yes.

Brett: The one that likes Emma.

Danny: Yes...

Brett: Like as in the one who she would rather be with than you.

Danny: *(enough)* Yes! Did you know he was going to be here?

Brett: Dude... I didn't even know we were going to be here. Did you know Jessica was going to be here?

Danny: Yes! I told you that!

Brett: You did?

(They are close enough now)

Jessica: *(happily)* Hey guys, glad you could come!

(Brett talks to the others while Danny pulls Jessica to the side)

Danny: *(Angrily under his breath)* You didn't tell me he was going to be here!

Jessica: *(innocently)* I didn't know! I promise.

Danny: Then how did he get here?

Jessica: Emma invited him. I told you she was crushing on him.

(Caroline comes over)

Caroline: Is this a private conversation?

Danny: *(over compensating)* No! *(including everyone into the conversation)* So... everyone here?

Brett: Apparently we are waiting on Tommy and Lance.

Caroline: Danny...this is Tyler, he works with Jess and I at Punjab's.

(They stare at each other)

Danny: *(not reaching a hand out)* I heard. Nice to meet you.

Tyler: You too.

(Things are awkward)

Brett: Sooo.... We going to eat anything tonight?

Caroline: Let's try the new taco place down town.

Brett: That place almost killed me last week.

Emma: Killed you?

Brett: Yeah... liquefied my bowels. I pooped molten lava for half a day after that. But hell, I'm down to tempt fate again.

Jessica: *(appalled)* You are so gross.

(Brett makes a kissy face at her)

Brett: You used to love it baby.

Tyler: *(putting his hand on Emma's shoulder)* What do you think Emma?

Emma: I don't know...I might have to get home after the haunted house.

Tyler: I could take you home

Danny: *(interjecting)* No you can't!

Tyler: what was that?

Danny: Um... Emma, can I talk to you for a second?

(They separate from the crowd)

Danny: I really need to talk to you.

Emma: Danny... I'm sorry. I talked to Jessica and what I did was totally wrong.

Danny: No...no... what are you talking about?

Emma: I never should have kissed you. That was a mistake.

Danny: *(hurt)* It was?

Emma: Yes. It should have never happened. Can we just get back to the group now?

Danny: What, so you can grope all over the punjab's guy?

Emma: His name is Tyler and I ...

Danny: *(building)* I don't care what his name is! So after all of this, this guy just walks in here and now you're with him.

Emma: *(frustrated)* What are you talking about??

Danny: I mean, one day you're kissing me and the lake and all that and then just like that...

Emma: *(interrupting)* I talked to Jessica, she told me all about what you said about the lake.

Danny: And she told me what you said too!

Emma: I thought I knew you, I really did...

Danny: *(almost shouting)* I don't know you at all! Is this who you are? Do you just hook up with whoever is standing closest to you that night? Is that how it works?

Emma: Is that what you think I did?

(They are both being very loud now and the group is pretty much forced to pay attention to them)

Danny: Yeah! I pretty much figured it out and that is exactly what you did.

Emma: *(livid)* I've known you for three years... told you everything and you...

Danny: I thought I could tell you everything, but you're nothing... you're just a whore who...

Emma: Whore??? You just called me a whore?

Danny: *(realizing what he said)* Uh... well I...

Emma: *(seething)* After all the time I spent... *(a decision is made)* Fine. I don't know you at all Danny Bricklin.

(she walks up and totally plants a five second kiss on Tyler. He is stunned but not as stunned at Danny)

Danny: *(abashed)* What in the hell was that?

Emma: *(raging)* I was kissing the person standing closest to me!

Danny: Is that how it works?

Emma: That's how you said it works.

Danny: Well fine!

(he walks up and plants an equally long kiss on Jessica...who is stunned but immediately kisses him back. This makes Emma start

kissing Tyler again. At this Brett, realizing he is the only guy not currently kissing a girl, looks directly at Caroline and gives her the creepy double eyebrows...)

Caroline: Uh.... No.

(blackout)