

# AN EMPTY CHAIR

## Cast of Characters

Kevin- The main Character.

Veronica- Kevin's Wife.

Johnny- Kevin Brother.

Young Joey- Kevin's son when he was younger.

Joe: Kevin's Son when he is older.

Doctor: The Doctor who takes care of Kevin.

## An Empty Chair

### Scene One

*The Stage is split between two different settings. The first which, Stage left, is in Kevin's head. It is very minimal with one empty chair that has a sign that says "DO NOT SIT"*

*The other part of the stage is the hospital room. There it also is minimal with just a bed and an IV line next to the bed. There should be the entity of a person but the audience should not be able to see who it is.*

Kevin: Hello? Hello? Is anyone here? Where the hell am I? I shouldn't have drunk last night. I can't remember a thing. Note to self: Never drink again. (*Thinks a little*)

Yeah, right, like that could ever happen. George must be playing a trick on me.  
George, at least turn on the lights if you're going to leave me in your basement.  
George, you know I am scared of the dark! George! George! Stop ignoring me!  
GEORGE! GEORGE GET ME OUT OF HERE! I am going to kill him! (Goes to the  
chair) This place is so empty! I need to sit down. Wait a sec, why is there a sign  
on the chair? He thinks that just because he puts a stupid sign that says "Don't  
Sit" on it, that I'm not going to sit. He's crazy! You know, something tells me I  
shouldn't sit down. What am I kidding, it's only a stupid sign. (*Goes to sit down  
but can't do it*) I'll just stand.

*(Lights out)*

*(Lights up in hospital room)*

Veronica: Oh, my God, what happened? Is he okay?

Doctor: He was in an accident. He suffered major head trauma and won't wake.

Veronica: (scrambling for words) Oh

Doctor: But, there... there is a little bit of hope. We have two options. Either we can wait  
and he will wake on his own, or there is an experimental treatment that we can  
try. But it is highly risky and very dangerous. So it is up to you. But I highly  
recommend that we give it some time.

Veronica: Okay, let's do that.

Doctor: Okay

Veronica: Wait. Do you think he will be okay?

Doctor: I could give you a statistical analysis about people in this situation, but honestly that does not matter. All you can do is hope. Pray and hope. Be there for him. Be by his side and don't leave him. He can sense that you're there and it will help him. *(Exits)*

*(Lights out)*

## **Scene Two**

*(Lights up in Kevin's head)*

Kevin: George you yellow headed pig this is not funny! I have been here for three hours and it's dark and I am scared! I don't have my teddy bear. At least at home when it's dark I can snuggle with little Tim Tim. I wish I had him. (A teddy bear falls from the sky) Timmy! George, I am going to kill you! Never throw another man's teddy bear! NEVER! You know what, man, you really went too far on this one. This is even worse than when you put peanut butter all over me and threw me in the back yard with all of your pit bulls. Ok well maybe it's not that bad, but this has to be tied with that. God, I have to find myself some new friends. Well if threatening won't work, than maybe I will bribe him! George if you get me out of here I will give you that hot bartender's number. (Pause) Okay, then I will give you my wifes sister's number! (Pause) How about I give you both of their numbers plus all of the money I have in my wallet right now (pause) Good choice - I don't have anything in my wallet...

*(Lights out)*

*(Lights up on hospital)*

Veronica: Johnny!

Johnny: I am sorry it took so long. I had to find a sitter for the kids.

Veronica: It's okay, I'm just glad you came!

Johnny: So, um, what happened?

Veronica: He was in a car accident. Apparently he was drunk... and well drove into a tree.

Johnny: He is going to be okay... right?

Veronica: Well he won't wake up. But the doctor says that there is an experimental treatment we can try after awhile. But we have to wait and see if he wakes. The doctor said he still can wake up on his own.

Johnny: Well, what is it?

Veronica: What is what?

Johnny: The experimental treatment.

Veronica: Well, umm... I am not entirely sure. I didn't ask. I wasn't thinking right! Should I ask him?

Johnny: Nah. If it's our only option there is no use in questioning it. Plus he did say it's possible he will wake up on his own. So for now, let's just be there for him.

(Lights out)

### **Scene Three**

*(Lights up In Kevin's head)*

Kevin: Okay, well it probably has been a whole day and no response from George or

anyone else. Maybe if I try remembering how I got here, I would know how to get out of here. Umm, let's see yesterday I... Watched the game.... Then ate some Kung Pow chicken... Oh I love Kung Pow! Anyway I argued with Veronica.... Oh yeah! And then I went to George's party! Yeah and we got really hammered! Well, that's not a good thing - that will make the rest extremely hard to remember. Think, Kevin. Think. Concentrate Kevin come on.... So I drove for a while until.... until... until... That stupid cop tried to pull me over... And I kept driving until... No that can't be possible.

*(Lights Out)*

*(Lights up in the Hospital room)*

Veronica: He doesn't seem to be getting any better, doc.

Doctor: I know. These things take time. Maybe if you speak with him... Tell him about how much you care, and about the experimental treatment. Tell him anything you want him to hear. Sometimes these talks can be used as not only therapy for you... But if he hears you hope for him, it will help make him stronger.

Veronica: Thanks, doc.

*Veronica crosses from the office into Kevin's head... The she enters and sits in the empty chair. He can see her and hear her but she is not able to see or hear him.*

Veronica: Kevin...

Kevin: Veronica!

Veronica: I am so sorry. This is all my fault!

Kevin: (overlapping) No it is not!

Veronica: I shouldn't have fought with you that night. It was so stupid!

Kevin: No, no it was me, I started it!

Veronica: If only I would have paid more attention to you, you wouldn't have had to go to that stupid party!

Kevin: Veronica, why won't you look at me? I'm right next to you.

Veronica: I just like to be alone sometimes. I mean the kids were gone. We had the house to ourselves. I just wanted to relax, you know. But I know that was selfish of me. I can see your point. The kids were gone, so why don't we spend time with each other? I see it now, and I am sorry. I wish I could go back. Kevin, I know you can't hear me and I am pretty much speaking to myself, (Beat) but I have something to confess. The reason I have been so standoffish is... well... I am having affair with your brother, John. I'm so sorry. You're just rarely home. But even when you are, you're paying attention to the kids, TV, and, everything else never me! When do I get any attention! Joe goes to school and I am just home alone. I love you so much Kevin, and I feel horrible but our relationship hasn't exactly been so great, and I needed someone. Kevin I wish it was you. I even imagined it was you... he even looks and smells like you. I just missed you Kevin and Johnny was the closest thing I had to you. Most of our problems are my fault. I need you, honey. Please get up!

*(Johnny enters)*

Johnny: Veronica are you ok?

Kevin: Johnny, I am going to kill you!

*Kevin goes to tackle him but he misses. He simply cannot get him. It should look as if Johnny is transparent. So Kevin goes right through him.*

Kevin: What the hell is going on!

Johnny: Come on, Vicky it's time to go home, we will be back tomorrow.

Veronica: But...

Johnny: I know you want to stay, but he is going to be here! He isn't going anywhere.  
Besides you need to get rest, and we need to pick up Joe.

Veronica: Oh (pause) Okay, fine.

*(They Exit)*

Kevin: Veronica! Come back! You! (Points at the chair) How can she sit in you but I can't? What the hell? What is going on? Think, Kevin. Think. He said that I am going to be here for a while, but what does that mean. Maybe I am dreaming. Wake up Kevin! Wake up! I don't understand. This can't be a dream, it all seems too real. Johnny said... JOHNNY! I am going to kill you. How could you! You're my brother. And Veronica, you're my wife! How could you? I mean I didn't think our relationship was great either, but my own brother! I have to figure out a way to get out of here!

#### **Scene Four**

*(Lights up in Kevin's mind. Kevin is pacing around screaming, trying to find a way out. This happens for about 30-45 seconds, and then lights down.)*

*(Lights up. Veronica and Joey walk in to the hospital room.)*

Veronica: Kevin I brought Joey. I didn't think it was a good idea at first but he was very adamant about coming, so I finally took him to see you. I'll leave you two alone.

*(Veronica exits)*

*(Lights up in Kevin's mind. Joey crosses from the hospital room and sits in the chair.)*

Kevin: Joey!

Young Joey: Hey daddy. I miss you. Mommy keeps telling me that I can't see you. But I begged her. I thought that if I came I could wake you up. Like you do when I don't wake for school. I brought water, daddy. Like you always used to, remember you always poured water on me when I wouldn't wake up for school. (Pours water on floor.) Daddy wake up! Daddy stop playing around I need you. Daddy please! Daddy!

*(Veronica runs in because she hears all of the noise)*

Veronica: What's going on, Joey?

Young Joey: Daddy won't wake up! Daddy won't wake up, Mommy.

Veronica: (aside) I knew this was a bad idea. Come on, Joey, I'll take you to Johnny he will help you feel better. Maybe we will get some ice cream!

*(They start walking out)*

Kevin: Please come back!

Young Joey: But I don't want ice cream I want. Daddy.



*(They exit)*

Kevin: I need to get out! Help! Anyone! Please! *(Running around frantically)*

*(The doctor enters Kevin's mind.)*

Doctor: There is no way out Kevin. You did this to yourself.

Kevin: What? What are you talking about?

Doctor: You know exactly what I am talking about, Kevin. Johnny and Veronica. Veronica and Johnny! Sitting in a tree! That little touching scene with you and your son doesn't change that.

Kevin: She is the one who cheated on me with my brother!

Doctor: Really? How about your job, huh? Certainly spending more time with your job than with your family on purpose is a form of adultery. Or how about those girls and your bosses you flirt with? Just because you're not touching doesn't make it not cheating!

Kevin: Those were different!

Doctor: How so? Because they were your bosses?

Kevin: I needed that promotion. It was the only way I could support my family!