

AN ORDINARY MAN

a one act comedy about being a little more than
ordinary

by Simon Robson

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CHARACTERS

JACK - MAN: The main male character and also a werewolf.

JUDY - WOMAN: The wife of the main character.

DAD: The father of MAN and the father in-law of woman

SIMON - FRIEND: The best friend of MAN.

ACT ONE

[The scene is a lounge with a lone man sitting on a settee. The man is seated facing the audience, but slightly to one side. He sits there and a woman enters carrying two mugs of tea. She hands one to the man and sits down.]

MAN: I could do with a cuppa.

[He takes a drink from it]

WOMAN: I wish we could go out once in a while.

MAN: Oh come on, I do my best. It's not easy you know.

WOMAN: It isn't easy for me either.

[WOMAN sits down]

MAN: I know it's just that I got into the habit of staying in. You try calculating the movement of planetary bodies just to decide whether you can have a beer.

WOMAN: I do, I did it for you last time. Anyway you have your pills.

MAN: That is true. I don't know how I would cope without them.

WOMAN: You couldn't. By the way I just ordered more. You weren't getting low: but they take a while to get a hold of.

MAN: We could try a look out. Tomorrow night, it's a bit late now.

WOMAN: Yes, we'll go out tomorrow.

MAN: To be honest I'm just a little bit tired. I was a bit shell shocked last time.

MAN: Well you know you shouldn't drink too much. You just blurt things out.

MAN: I know, but it's a hard life being a werewolf. All the bad press. They never talk about normal people being violent and killing people, because they are normal. Oh no - let's pick on the werewolves again.

WOMAN: I've heard all this before. It's just the way things are.

MAN: It's alright for you. It's bigotry. I mean have I ever bitten anyone?

WOMAN: Not to my knowledge. Your mother said, when we met that you had never bitten anyone.

MAN: It's all about control. The occasional violent werewolf makes everyone else look bad. Most of us aren't like that. The violent ones, if they weren't werewolves they would still be violent. Violent people make violent werewolves.

WOMAN: You want to drink that or it'll go cold.

[Talking about the coffee]

[He takes a drink and as she talks he puts it down]

WOMAN: I know it's not easy for you. But it is not easy for me either. But we have each other.

MAN: Yes, but when the mob made that noose it was not you they were going to hang. It is not like the films. In the films they always have lit torches. It's not lit torches you need to watch out for. It's washing line and trees. One makes a loop and before you know it you're doing the grave yard jig.

[MAN stands up and starts to pace up and down]

WOMAN: Yes but you could turn into a wolf and escape.

MAN: It's not that easy. Anyway you get put away for that sort of thing now. I do not intend to get sent to a prison for all my years, just for no longer being bipedal. But where they hell would I hide?

WOMAN: Your mother would take you: but they would look there. It would be Okay. My brother would help out.

MAN: He's a good brother in law, and I did help him put that shed up.

[MAN sits back down again]

WOMAN: He would help. He likes you.

MAN: But I don't like to impose. But in those circumstances then I would have no choice. I suppose.

WOMAN: Anyway it hasn't happened yet and I don't think it will. What you need to do is focus on what is important in life.

[THERE IS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR]

The man stands up and walks to the door and opens it

MAN: Hello Dad. How are you?

DAD: Good, son good.

MAN: Come in. Would you like a cup of coffee?

DAD: I'd love one.

WOMAN: Don't worry, I'll make it

[SHE START TO GET UP]

MAN: No it's alright. I'll make it.

[He leaves the room]

WOMAN: Sit down.

[DAD, Sits down]

DAD: How is everyone?

WOMAN: Good. It is getting very difficult to get him out of the house.

DAD: His mother and I were both getting worried. He can't stay in all the time.

WOMAN: I did get him out yesterday. But he works freelance online and never seems to get any time off.

DAD: Well at least it means he's busy. There are a lot of people who would change places with him.

[MAN ENTERS]

MAN: I don't know about that. Just think if that was a multiple choice question. You can: A, be unemployed, or B, be a freelance computer programmer who by the way happens to be a werewolf.

WOMAN: I don't know, have you been online lately?

MAN: Online, I practically live online.

DAD: Not this bloody werewolf thing again. I have told you it is just a phase. Your uncle Bill had it and then one day all of a sudden never became a werewolf again.

MAN: I know, he became a dog.

DAD: But a dog is better. People pat dogs, feed dogs.

MAN Neuter dogs.

WOMAN: That's not fair. You know your Uncle Bill couldn't help getting stuck as a dog for a while.

DAD: Hey. He was very embarrassed by that whole incident.

MAN: I'm not having a go at Uncle Bill. It was just bad luck. But do you wonder why I don't go out anymore. People shoot wolves, and yes dogs are cute but getting your balls chopped off is a high price to pay for cuteness.

DAD: It just pains me to see you tear yourself apart. If you keep doing this you will make yourself ill. Life does not go according to plan for many of us. I was a circus clown when I met your mother. But work dried up and now I work in the planning department. But life goes on.

MAN: The kettle's boiled.

[MAN GOES OFF TO GET THE COFFEE]

WOMAN: I worry about him a lot. I found him looking online for a cure for being lycanthrope.

DAD: There isn't any. Believe me I would know.

[Man enters and gives the cup of coffee to Dad]

MAN: Know what?

DAD: That there is no cure yet for lycanthropy.

MAN: I hate the word lycanthrope. Sounds like a disease: which it is. But I prefer werewolf, or werewolves. Apparently saying a person is a werewolf is not PC. It is mixing the person up with the condition. But I still prefer it because it is what I am.

DAD: Still it skips generations. I mean there is only your uncle who transformed into a wolf, then a dog. There is no one else in the family at all, so you must have it a lot less than others do.

MAN: Some people have trouble keeping human form. So I am lucky really. Plus I respond well to the anti-werewolf medication. It gives me a lot of control. So I can't complain really.

[There is a knock at the door. Man walks to the door and opens it]

FRIEND: Hello. Just thought I'd pop round.

MAN: Nice to see you. (Man ushers the friend in)

FRIEND: There was something I was going to talk to you about.

DAD: well, I will just go back to see your mother (talking to MAN) We were going to watch the late film. (DAD puts his cup of coffee down and leaves)

MAN: Would you like a cup of coffee?

FRIEND: Yes, I would love one.

MAN: Everyone wants coffee today.

FRIEND: Well if it is going to be any trouble?

MAN: No not at all. I was going to make another cup anyway.

[Friend looks over to woman]

FRIEND: There was something I was going to tell him.

[He gestures to where man is making tea off stage]

FRIEND: and I was wondering how he will react?

WOMAN: Well tell me first and I can tell you what to expect.

FRIEND: Well I was bitten last week and I just found out I am a vampire.

WOMAN: I'm not sure. I will bring the subject up so that you can find out.

[MAN walks in with cup of coffee and hands it to FRIEND]

WOMAN We were just talking about vampires [talking to MAN]

[MAN sits down]

MAN: Vampires. Oh nasty buggers they are. Never trust a vampire. They have done horrible things to werewolves over the years.

FRIENDS: Well werewolves always strike me as dangerous. I have never seen one, you understand.

WOMAN: Oh no. There probably aren't any round here, or vampires for that matter.

MAN: I would keep well away from vampires.

FRIENDS: There must be some good vampires? I mean many had no choice.

MAN: Take it from me I have read online about vampires and they are best kept away from.

FRIENDS: Well what are the chances of us meeting a vampire?

WOMAN: Very small. About the same as meeting a werewolf.

MAN: Werewolf, around here. No chance.

FRIEND: But if a person was say something strange, like say a werewolf. Then if he was a friend then they should accept them, I think.

[MAN looks nervous, worried that he has been found out.]

WOMAN: Well I don't know. I mean werewolves are different. They would have to think about it.

MAN: But how about a vampire, if a person was a vampire but someone they knew well, then should it matter? I don't think so.

[FRIEND looks nervous worried he has been found out]

WOMAN: Could you get me a biscuit? [Looking over to man]

[MAN goes to get biscuit]

FRIEND: Does he know? That I am a vampire?

WOMAN: No, it is just coincidence. Don't worry.

[Man walks in room and gives a biscuit to woman]

MAN: Here's the biscuit. I should get out more you know. I spend too much time in doors.

FRIEND: Funny you mention that, but the wife reckons I should spend more time in. Daylight does not seem to agree with me now.

WOMAN: How's she been?

FRIEND: A bit worried of late. But she is well now. I am on a special diet now. So she gets my stuff from the doctors.

WOMAN: He is like that. He is forever picking up tablets from the doctor.

MAN: That's true and that programing work is not paying well lately.

FRIEND: I know how you feel. I just lost my job, at the Morgue.

WOMAN: Oh that's awful.

FRIEND: It's Okay. I have just started to get more journalism work and stuff online.

MAN: Oh well that's handy. You just have to expand that.

FRIEND: It is a pity that there are probably no werewolves and vampires around here. A man I met had a friend, who was a vampire said, that if a vampire gets bitten by a werewolf, the conditions cancel each other out.

WOMAN: Cancel each other out?

FRIEND: Not completely, but the vampire no longer has to stay away from the sun, and can get away with eating rare meat.

MAN: What of the vampire?

FRIEND: The same.

MAN: A cure.

FRIEND: Pity there aren't any.

WOMAN: But I know where to find a werewolf and a vampire.

MAN: But you just said there aren't any.

WOMAN: Look, I have been keeping secrets. In this room, are a vampire and a werewolf.

MAN: I know you are trying to help, but I would know if you were a vampire.

FRIEND: You mean werewolf.

MAN: Or werewolf.

WOMAN: Look, you two. My husband is a werewolf, and you
[looking at friend] have just become a vampire.

MAN: Oh I'm sorry about what I said before.

FRIEND: Don't worry about it. Anyway we have a treatment, for
us both: if you want one.

MAN: Want one? I have suffered from lycanthropy my whole life
really: technically it really set in at puberty.

WOMAN: But that makes it a part of you.

MAN: To you maybe, but to me it is a monster that has blighted
my life.

FRIEND: I have just been bitten, so I am lucky really.

WOMAN: You said the conditions do not cancel each out
completely.

MAN: I knew there was a catch.

FRIEND: Well it means that the werewolf: no longer has to
drink blood, or transform on the full moon. We would have
increased strength and could transform at will.

MAN: At will. So If I chose I would never have to transform at
all.

FRIEND: Never: You could choose not to. But you would have to

eat rare meat most days to maintain your health.

WOMAN: So how do you go about this? Do you just bite each other?

FRIEND: Yes, at the same time would be best.

WOMAN: We need to check this first to make sure we do it right.

MAN: I have the phone number of the association of new vampires. I can call them.

WOMAN: I'll tell you what - I will call them. Do you have the number?

FRIEND: Yes I wrote it down. Where is that piece of paper?

[Friend looks in his own pockets for the paper]

FRIEND: Here it is.

WOMAN: I will phone it, love.

[Woman kissed man briefly and goes over to the phone]

MAN: Well if this works it will change my life

FRIEND: I suppose it will help mine remain the same

MAN: At least you will be saved the suffering that comes from being different

FRIEND: But being different is not all bad.

MAN: That's not my experience of it. Being different is a pain. Not fitting in, the whole of the world being set up for people completely unlike you. It's not just the condition of being a vampire you would have to deal with. But also not being like other people.

FRIEND: I never thought of it like that. I suppose a vampire is not like other people. A vampire is different, he sticks out. They are potent, powerful.

MAN: Pretentious.

FRIEND: What?

MAN: Trust me. People think the same about being a werewolf. Some people even try to get turned.

FRIEND: Really? What happens?

MAN: If they succeed they regret it. Nothing is ever like it is on the television. Everything becomes mundane, and when the sheen and image have gone, all that is left is a medical condition.

FRIEND: But if this works, we are still different. We are then werevamps.

MAN: Yes. But as far as I am concerned, I will not transform as I will have complete control. This makes me a normal human, or as near as makes no difference.

FRIEND: Control. That is what this is all about really. The different between a blessing or a curse: the ability to control, to choose at will.

WOMAN: I've been put on hold.