

Survivors Include

by

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a ten minute drama

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Cast of Characters

Kevin Reynolds, 15 – devastated by the death of his adored older brother.

Mike Dobson, 15 – Kevin’s best friend, at a loss but standing by.

For Nick The Best Brother Ever

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Setting: The attic of a modest rambler. February 2004.

At rise: A single candle flickers L. We may or may not be able to make out KEVIN REYNOLDS, 15, sitting in its glow.

A shaft of light from off R and a metallic whine suggest a trapdoor being opened from below. KEVIN extinguishes the candle immediately. We hear footsteps on creaking stairs and then the whine of the trap being closed. After a brief return to darkness, a switch is thrown and a single overhead bulb casts a dim glow across the space.

S.L. we see KEVIN sitting with his arms around his knees, facing off L. He is wearing a t-shirt and jeans and is barefoot.

MIKE DOBSON, also 15, enters from R. He is wearing a jacket over a sweatshirt and jeans and has his hands in his pockets for warmth. He is not at all surprised to find KEVIN.

KEVIN hears him approach, but does not turn back.

Hey. MIKE

Hey. KEVIN

For a moment MIKE is at a loss. Then he steels himself, crosses to KEVIN and crouches down near him.

MIKE
Your dad told me you were up here.

KEVIN nods.

MIKE
All the times I've been in your house, I've never been up here.

KEVIN doesn't respond.

MIKE stands and looks around the attic.

MIKE

'You think there's some kind of law that people have to store Christmas decorations and empty luggage in the attic?

KEVIN (raising his head, but still not turning to look at MIKE)

That's gonna really suck from now on.

MIKE

Christmas?

KEVIN nods.

MIKE

I'm sorry ...

KEVIN (after a beat)

And Fourth of July, and my birthday and his God damn it!

MIKE

I'm sorry.

KEVIN

Would you stop saying that!!!

MIKE

I'm ... I wish there was something else to say.

KEVIN

I didn't think you'd ... it's like a game ... What's it gonna take to make Kevin cry?

MIKE

No. That's the last thing ...

KEVIN

Everyone ... Rev. Greevey. Aunt Claire. Aunt Laura. Everyone. All the neighbor ladies. Mrs. Cilinski ...

MIKE

Mrs. Cilinski was here already?

KEVIN

Wanted it in her permanent record I guess.

MIKE smiles.

KEVIN

They have all been trying to get me to “let it out.” Like anyone could afford a ticket for that ride.

MIKE (after a beat)

Any teachers?

KEVIN

Just Principal C. so far. Unless someone came by after I came up here. Mayor Grevengood was here seconds after the Army guys left.

MIKE

Grevengood?

KEVIN

To see if he might say a few words at the circus.

MIKE

Service?

KEVIN

Just wait. We should wear red noses.

MIKE

Say the word.

KEVIN stares at him for a long, long beat.

KEVIN

Cool. What’s the crowd like downstairs?

MIKE

Just your Dad and Mary Ellen.

KEVIN

That’s the first time since the two Army guys got here.

MIKE

Mary Ellen didn’t look so good.

KEVIN

Mary Ellen is always a mess.

MIKE nods.

MIKE
I didn't see your mom.

KEVIN shrugs. A beat.

KEVIN
She hasn't been out of her bedroom ...

MIKE nods.

MIKE
Is Karen ...

KEVIN
Tomorrow. I think she's coming tomorrow.

MIKE
Oh.

KEVIN
That's what everyone says. Just that way. "Oh"

MIKE
It just seems strange that she wouldn't come right down ...

KEVIN
Why?

MIKE
To be with Rob's ...

Kevin stiffens at the mention of the name.

MIKE
To be with you guys.

KEVIN
Why? We're not *her* family.

MIKE
You would have been.

KEVIN
But now we're not going to be.

MIKE

Insert the thing you don't want me to say here.

KEVIN

I never really liked her.

MIKE (after a beat)

He was a really good guy.

KEVIN

Like I didn't know?

MIKE nods.

MIKE

Aren't you cold?

KEVIN

Nah

.

MIKE

We could go back down.