

Boy – 1

a science fiction teen play

by Claire Caviglia

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Boy - 1

Scene 1

Regular lighting

Doctor Cartise's Office Downstage

(DOCTOR CARTISE, in a gray lab coat sits at a very neat desk. She's intently working. Two women, DOCTOR WHITE AND DOCTOR ANDERSON enter)

Dr. White: Doctor Cartise?

Dr. Cartise: Yes?

Dr. White: It's a girl.

Dr. Cartise: Wonderful. Number 2367.

Dr. White: *(hesitant)* And a boy.

Dr. Cartise: *(coldly)* Impossible.

Dr. White: There was a mistake made-

Dr. Cartise: You know I despise mistakes, Dr. White.

Dr. White: It was not mine.

Dr. Cartise: Who's then?

Dr. White: *(lowers head)* Dr. Morgan's.

Dr. Cartise: I appreciate your sense of loyalty, Doctor White, but Doctor Morgan can speak for herself. You know the policy Doctor White...even if we've never had issue until now.

Dr. White: *(a bit sad)* Yes.

(she turns to leave)

Dr. Cartise: I know it used to be a common practice, Doctor Morgan, to put multiple zygotes inside a female to ensure at least one healthy fetus.

(turns to DOCTOR MORGAN)

But technology has advanced, Doctor Morgan. Our Breeders only need one zygote, one embryo. Not only that, but we can predict the gender as well. Here at Sisterly Love, we only allow singleton female eggs inside in each Breeder to insure the healthiest possible fetus. You are aware of this, I'm sure? Since you are the Assistant Fertility Doctor?

Dr. Morgan: Yes.

Dr. Cartise: So please, enlighten me on why a male fertilized egg was placed into a breeder along with a female one.

Dr. Morgan: I can explain-

Dr. Cartise: So it wasn't a mistake?

Dr. Morgan: No, Doctor Cartise, it was not. I just, I wanted-he's an experiment.

Dr. Cartise: An experiment beneficial to the Operation?

Dr. Morgan: Yes, absolutely! I wanted to see if a male raised by only females could embody our ideas and beliefs; I think that is where the future of the Operation lies next.

Dr. Cartise: So you were assuming he would stay.

(Doctor Morgan is silent)

No.

Dr. Morgan: Doctor Cartise-

Dr. Cartise: We do not raise boys.

Dr. Morgan: But this is different. They're twins!

Dr. Cartise: Twins that were a mistake! We keep the same policies, twin or no twin. The girl stays, the boy doesn't. There are all-male orphanages that will gladly take him.

Dr. Morgan: I beg your pardon, but you cannot separate twins. Yes, there are other orphanages but none with his sister. It's not good for his mental health-

Dr. Cartise: We don't care for his mental stability-

Dr. Morgan: But we care about hers! It will affect her as well. She will not live to her full potential if she feels there's something missing.

(pause)

I can tell she will grow to be something, Doctor Cartise. Her vitals are strong and her face has excellent bone structure.

Dr. Cartise: *(DOCTOR CARTISE seems to reach for something, then realizes what she is doing)* ...Alright. For her well-being. But you will take full responsibility for the boy, Dr. Morgan. He is your "experiment" after all. But if he ever poses a threat-even though he is one by just staying here-he leaves.

Dr. Morgan: Yes, ma'am!

Dr. Cartise: You along with him.

Dr. Morgan: *(quieter)* Yes, ma'am. I'll call him Stephen.

Dr. Cartise: He will get to choose his own name at eighteen like the others. I have work to do. Go record Girl 2367 and...Boy 1 in the Identity Records.

Dr. Morgan: Thank you so much, Dr. Cartise! He won't-I won't disappoint you.

Dr. Cartise: *(waves her away)* You already have.

(DR. MORGAN looks crestfallen. She leaves DR. CARTISE to her work)

Scene 2

Regular lighting

Twenty-seven years later, Stephen's Office Downstage

*("Twenty-seven years later" flashes up onstage. **STEPHEN** sits at his desk, working. **IRENE**, his secretary, walks in)*

Irene: Stephen? Heinsworth is on the phone with you. He wants to discuss-

Stephen: *(smiles at her)* Revisions?

Irene: Yes, Line 1.

Stephen: Thanks, Irene.

Irene: I don't know why you let him make his corrections over the phone. It takes up so much time.

Stephen: Nah, I mean, email would be convenient. But we all have the little things we like done a certain way. And if presidential-candidate Senator David Heinsworth wants to call and revise his speeches over the phone, so be it.

Irene: *(laughs)* You're too good, Stephen.
(she exits)

Stephen: *(answers phone)* This is Stephen Morgan. Hello, Mr. Senator. Some final corrections for tonight's speech? Absolutely. Did you like the additional line in the fourth paragraph? Okay, good. Annd...In the second paragraph? Is that where you want that? Alright, I just put it in. Anything else? Oh yes, about the budget. Ah, additional figures. I'll have Joel draw them up right now. Okay. Okay. Anything else? Awesome. What do you mean will I be there tonight? Of course I will. Can't miss one of the deciding factors of the presidential election.

(laughs)

Alright. See you soon.

(he packs up his stuff)

I'm leaving, Irene!

Irene: *(offstage)* Have a good weekend!

Stephen: If I live through tonight!
(*he exits*)

Irene: (*picks up the phone*) Yes. Boy 1 has left the building.
Yes, he just left.

Scene 3

Dim Lighting

*Nighttime, after convention, Upstage
(STEPHEN and his coworker **VALERIE** leave the convention, other
people leave, too)*

Valerie: Nathaniel Heinsworth spoke wonderfully.

Stephen: I think it's one of his best.

Valerie: Absolutely. And that means it's one of your best, too.

Stephen: I guess. It's just difficult to pick the correct words
sometimes.

Valerie: But you always seem to choose correctly. Lucky guess?
*(She laughs at her teasing but a woman, **SENECA** walks by crossing
the stage, STEPHEN watches stunned)*

Valerie: What is it?

Stephen: *(stunned, in shock)* Valerie? Can I meet up with you
later? I need to-
(starts to walk after the girl)

Valerie: Oh, um, okay.
*(makes eye contact with two women who saw the whole scene, they
exit together)*

Scene 4

*Dim Lighting
Night Upstage*

*(STEPHEN follows the girl around the two levels of the stage, watches as she talks to people—he looks as if he wants to approach her, until the girl walks away and enters into an apartment. Stephen seems nervous, then knocks on the door. Another girl, **TESSA**, answers the door.)*

Tessa: Who the hell are you, and why are you following my roommate?

Stephen: Um-

Tessa: Yeah, who are you, creep that follows young women around, I'll admit, you're dressed pretty nice to be a creep but-
(she actually looks at him now)

Wait. Whoa. Come here.

(STEPHEN nervously steps a bit closer.)

Holy chocolate cow. You look exactly like-

Stephen: Yeah...that's why I-

Tessa: What's her name?

Stephen: Um-

Tessa: Yeah, the girl you followed.

Stephen: I, uh. I know this is going to sound weird, but she looks like someone I knew a long time ago.'

Tessa: Okay, so you know her, but you don't know her name?

Stephen: ...Yeah

(TESSA'S eyes widen)

Tessa: That makes sense...

Stephen:...It does?

Tessa: This is all going to sound so crazy. *(laughs)* But then again, what isn't? *(beat)* Here, come in. *(She opens the door*

wider, STEPHEN hesitantly looks at her) Don't worry, I've eaten. I won't bite.

(STEPHEN follows her into the apartment)

Half Stage Regular Lighting
Tessa and Seneca's Apartment Upstage

Tessa: I'm Tessa, by the way.

Stephen: Stephen. Stephen Morgan.

Tessa: You look exactly how you did as a kid.

Stephen: I'm sorry?

Tessa: Here...sit down. Sorry, we just moved and the place is still being unpacked.

(yells)

SENECA!

Stephen: You know, you kind of look familiar, too.

Tessa: Girl 2405

Stephen: (shocked)

Tessa: You remember, don't you? That means something to you?

Stephen: I...can't. Maybe vaguely. My memory is not very good.

Tessa: You were adopted, right?

Stephen: Yes...

Tessa: At how old?

Stephen: I'm not exactly sure...

Tessa: You don't know how old you were when one of the biggest moments of your life happened?

Stephen: ...Yes. I'm sorry, I know it sounds weird.

Tessa: Not as weird as you might think. SENECA, GET DOWN HERE!

Stephen. Your roommate...Seneca? She's...Girl 2367?

Tessa: Yes.

Stephen: I knew it! That was her! People would ask about my family, but all I could say was-

(STEPHEN turns at the sound of her voice)

Seneca: Girl 2367.

(she smiles)

Hi, Stephen. I'm Seneca...I guess you could say your long-lost sister.

(STEPHEN and SENECA both stare at each other. TESSA looks at them both)

Tessa: Well, this is better than the final season of Gossip Girl!

Seneca: *(Goes over and stiffly hugs Stephen)* It's good to see you again.

Stephen: It's so great to see you, too.

(They both keep studying each other)

Tessa: Is that really all you guys can say? Twenty years of being apart and-

Seneca: It's complicated, Tessa.

Tessa: Duh, it's complicated. I mean, your long-lost brother appears out of nowhere on your doorstep and is in the same field as you-Seneca for Senate, it makes a good campaign slogan-

Stephen: How'd you know I was in politics?

Tessa: Your nametag, my friend, and now you guys need to reconnect but you're making a very awkward first attempt at it-

Seneca: Tessa!

(sighs)

Sisterly Love.

Tessa: What about it-oh. OH. Yeah. Right. That's complicated.

Stephen: What's Sisterly Love?

Tessa: You don't remember?

Stephen: No.

Seneca: You really don't?

Stephen: I'm afraid not.

(Tessa and Seneca look at him strangely.)

Seneca: It's the orphanage we were raised in. Until you were adopted.

Stephen: Oh, that's the name. I never realized.

(Tessa and Seneca exchange looks)

Seneca: You know Stephen, it was great getting to see you, but I have a super early morning tomorrow.

Tessa: Campaigning...and stuff.

Seneca: But it was a pleasure, really.

(She started to walk him out)

Stephen: Wait, um, I want to hear more from you. All this time, I've been wondering-

Tessa: Meet him for lunch! You're free then.

(Seneca glares at her)

I'm her unofficial campaign manager. And her yoga instructor.

Stephen: I'm free for lunch tomorrow. Would that be alright? Really, Seneca, I've never been close to my adopted family. I want to get to know you again. Maybe you're piece that's been missing from my life.

Tessa: *(whispers to Seneca)* If you're not going to lunch with him, I am.

Seneca: Alright. That would be...nice. I'll meet you downtown at noon. Does the Wildflower Café work?

Stephen: Yes. Yes, absolutely. Thank you.

(He hugs her again)

See you tomorrow.

(He exits)

Tessa: He seems like a good guy.

Seneca: Yeah, that's the problem. I still have to notify Doctor Cartise on this complication.

Tessa: Why? What! Don't!

Seneca: I have to; it endangers the Operation.

Tessa: Seneca, he doesn't remember anything! Couldn't you tell? He doesn't remember the place, the doctors, how old he was when he was adopted, he doesn't remember anyone but you. He isn't dangerous!

Seneca: The most dangerous threat is not always the most obvious.
(TESSA and SENECA stare at each other)

Tessa: Fine. Go do the right thing. *(She turns to leave)*

Seneca: Tessa?

Tessa: Yes?

Seneca: You think my brother's cute?

Tessa: *(grins)* Yeah.

Seneca: Gross.
(the lights dim as they're laughing and fades to blackout)

Scene 5

Blackout
Stephen's House Upstage

*(The stage is empty and dark except for Stephen sleeping in his bed. Sound of two people, **GIRL 2650** and **GIRL 2678** crashing into his room.)*

Stephen: Huh? What the-

Girl 2650: Keep still and you won't get hurt.

Stephen: Ow-

Girl 2678: And shut up.

Stephen: What are you-
(Stephen gets beat up)

Girl: 2678: That'll shut him up.

*(Sound of them loading STEPHEN into a van, and car driving. As the car drives away, the lights slowly come up until it's regular lighting and more and **GIRLS** come onstage.)*

Scene 6

Regular Lighting
Sisterly Love Orphanage Upstage

*(Many **GIRLS** are onstage visiting and training. STEPHEN walks in blindfolded and gagged with the two girls leading him. All of the girls quiet-no guy has ever been here.)*

Girl 2911: Who is that?

Girl 3005: What is he doing there?

Girl 2951: Is he supposed to be-

Girl 2678: Move along, girls. Classified.

Girl: 2650: Girl 2888? Go notify Dr. White that we're here.
(GIRL 2888 runs downstage)

Stephen: *(Tries to speak but sound is muffled by gag)*

Girl 2678: *(kicks STEPHEN)* No one asked you.
(they lead him downstage to the offices. They put him in a chair and wait for DR. WHITE)

Dr. White: Thank you, both. Your obedience will be recorded.

Girl 2650 and Girl 2678: Thank you.

Girl 2650: Do you require any other assistance?

Dr. White: No. Thank you, Girl 2650 and Girl 2678.
(they nod and exit upstage, pulling the excited crowd of girls along with them. DR. WHITE unties Stephen)

Dr. White: There. Is that more comfortable?

(STEPHEN sits sullenly, refuses to look at her.)

Boy 1-Stephen-that's what you were called. You were the only child with a true name around here. Everyone else gets to choose a name once they're grown.

(STEPHEN refuses to acknowledge her.)

We don't want to hurt you Stephen, but you need to cooperate with us. Do you not remember me? Look at me, Stephen. When you were five years old, you contracted a serious fever from a spider bite. They brought you into my practice space, and you stayed two weeks. You have to remember that.

(He finally looks up at her.)

Stephen: I don't. What do you want from me?

Dr. White: We need to ask you some questions.

Stephen: About what? Where am I?

Dr. White: Sisterly Love Orphanage.

Stephen: Why am I here? Why was I separated from my sister? Where is she?

Dr. White: We ask the questions around here.

(She softens a bit)

You remember Doctor Morgan?

Stephen: She was the one that accompanied me to my adopted family. But my name remained Stephen Morgan.

Dr. White: *(warming up)* She always had a soft spot for you. Did she ever visit after?

Stephen: She died soon after she escorted me to my family.

Dr. White: *(shocked)* Jamie Morgan is dead?

Dr. Cartise: Dr. White. I see you are enjoying this trip down memory lane with our detainee.

Dr. White: *(jumps up)* Dr. Cartise, I'm sorry-

Dr. Cartise: I suggest you take your lunch break early, Michelle. Dr. Anderson will need your assistance in Laboratory 10 when you are finished.

Dr. White: Yes.

(She quickly walks away, DR. CARTISE watches her)

Dr. Cartise: When we sent you away, we never meant for you to come back.

(she studies STEPHEN intently for a moment. Then she yells)
Liberty!

(LIBERTY, another young women, enters stage right)
You are being promoted. Your job will be to accompany Mr. Stephen Morgan at all times. Don't let him near the bunkers and he will eat his meals separately. You will be his...bodyguard. Can I trust you with this, Girl 2700?

Liberty: My name is Liberty.

Dr. Cartise: *(smirks)* It doesn't seem to suit you, Girl 2700.

(LIBERTY glares at her)

Stephen: *(panicked)* Can someone please explain-

Dr. Cartise: Boy 1, I suggest that you stay in line. Don't try anything. You will be hurt if necessary. It's people like you who threaten what we do.

(she exits stage right)

Stephen: I don't understand, why am I-

(LIBERTY goes over and slaps him. Lights blackout)

Scene 7

Regular Lighting
Outdoors of Sisterly Love Orphanage

(Many GIRLS are outside, training, talking)

Girl 3001: Did you see him?

Girl 3005: Yeah, he's pretty cute, too!

Girl: 2958: What's he doing here?

Girl: 3001: I'm not sure.

Girl 2958: Is he adopting?

Girl 3001: He's much too young!

Girl 3005: *(suggestively)* I wouldn't mind him being my daddy.

Girl 3001: *(playfully aghast)* 3005!

(LIBERTY walks across the stage)

Girl 2958: Look, there's Liberty now! I heard she's in charge of him. Someone go ask her!

Girl: 2777: Are you kidding? No way! 3001-you go! She likes you best!

Girl 3001: *(laughs)* Liberty doesn't like anyone.

(She approaches LIBERTY).

Girl 3001: Um, Liberty?

Liberty: What.

Girl 3001: You know the...male that was brought in?

Liberty: Geez, did you all see him?

Girl 3001: Two education blocks were out for break. And well, word travels fast. We just wanted to know-

Liberty: What did you want to know? If he's cute? If he's young? If he'll be your knight-in-shining armor?

Girl 3001: No-

Liberty: Listen here, all of you.

(She looks at the rest of the group and join GIRL 3001)

That boy, that male, is the reason why we're here. He, just like all of his type, is why we do what we do. Give him the chance, and he will dominate you. Just like man has done for centuries.

Girl 3005: But Doctor Anderson said it is alright to have feelings for-

Liberty: Feelings?! You know what I feel for him? Disgust. Anger. Hatred. Those are what I feel. If you want to feel flirty, pretty, fine, go ahead. But he'll screw you over. Mark my words.

(She turns to exit)

Girl 3005: You don't have to take everything so personal!

Liberty: Excuse me?

Girl 3005: He didn't personally hurt you. Or girls in the past. Other men did that.

Liberty: I guess it's from weak-minded girls like you who Doctor Cartise gets her best information. It's in bed where men reveal the most. Enjoy your life, *Prostitute* 3005.

(GIRL 3005 runs off, her friends follow her. SENECA emerges from the shadows.)

Seneca: You know Doctor Cartise doesn't appreciate you harassing the girls.

Liberty: She won't know if you don't report it.

Seneca: I'm afraid that's my job, Liberty. I have to be impartial...even to my best friend.

Liberty: Your love affair with justice and the law is your most admirable quality. But I'll be the first to admit, it's a pain-in-the-ass. I miss you on-site.

Seneca: Yeah, I miss it, too. But politics is what I was born to do.

Liberty: So running for Senate tops being Doctor Shark-tise's #1 spy?

Seneca: The official title is Director of Inner Relations.

Liberty: I know what you were called. Did you know your unofficial title was Killjoy Supervisor?

Seneca: Stop it! You know, those who don't purposely go and break the rules see me as someone who cares for their own well-being.
(beat) Enough about me. How have you been?

Liberty: My official title is Shark-tise's Lapdog.

Seneca: Liberty-

Liberty: I know, you love the woman-

Seneca: She made me who I am today.

Liberty: And you're great, I get that, but she's a total control freak who doesn't understand humor.

Seneca: I don't find taking underage girls to a bar funny, either. That's why you're back and under such a tight leash.

Liberty: I just wanted them to get a real-world experience! Heaven knows they're going to need it.

Seneca: Listen, they'll be fine. I was. You are. Sure, it's a challenge adapting at first, but we know what we're all working towards.

(They say the motto together. SENECA says it seriously and proudly, LIBERTY mocks it)

Seneca & Liberty: "The female leaders of today can only rise with the complete domination of man."

Seneca: You know, you and Doctor Cartise are pretty similar.

Liberty: Thanks for the insult.

Seneca: Shush and let me finish. You both are passionate-

Liberty: She has no feelings-

Seneca: You are both persuasive-

Liberty: I only use my powers for good-

Seneca: (*boldly*) You both hold a vengeance against the opposite sex

Liberty: ...Sorry I don't care for the gender who leaves their five year old daughter abandoned on the doorstep of an orphanage. But doesn't everyone?

Seneca: I wouldn't say I have a complete hatred. Of course my loyalty lies with the Operation, but I don't feel hate. Someday I'll want a family...

Liberty: (*stunned*) Does Doctor Cartise know that?

Seneca. No...but it's a long way off.

Liberty: She despises those who chose marriage and family life, even though they remain loyal and send their daughters back-

Seneca: I'm well aware.

Liberty: She says those who depend on a man for comfort and security are the greatest threat to-

Seneca: (*anger*) Enough Liberty.!

Liberty: I'm...shocked. Especially, you Seneca, her Golden Girl. You're practically her daughter.

Seneca: (*anger*) I am not her daughter.

(*pause, quietly*)

I had a brother.

Liberty: Impossible. Not even married girls have boys. Cartise has Doctor White makes sure of it.

Seneca: The woman who gave birth to me was a Breeder. You're a special case, most of us are here because of invitro and the surrogate Breeders of the Operation.

Liberty: Yeah...

Seneca: Well, Doctor Morgan who was the Assistant Fertility Doctor at the time, made a mistake. She implanted two embryos instead of one. And my Breeder agreed to have the twins once Doctor Morgan realized it, even though nothing like this had ever happened before. And she went up against Cartise's wrath. I wish I knew which Breeder she was. Even though she's too old for it now, I'd like to thank her for her courage.

Liberty: So what happened?

Seneca: Girl 2367 and Boy 1 were born. And the boy got to stay.

Liberty: I'm only two years younger than you, how did I not see him?

Seneca: He was sent away, along with Doctor Morgan, right before you came. We were seven. His rebellious spirit, like yours, got him in trouble. And I don't know what to think now that he's back-

Liberty: Wait. Stephen Morgan is your brother?

Seneca: Yeah, did you see him?

Liberty: I'm in charge of him! He's in a drugged sleep now so I went out for a walk-

Seneca: Stop shirking your duties-

Liberty: And the girls came up to me all boy crazy and now you... wow. (pause) How did he even find his way back? If I escaped, I wouldn't leave.

Seneca: I...reported him.

Liberty: Seneca!

Seneca: It was the right thing to do for the Operation! He's in politics too, and he saw me at a convention, and he followed me back to the apartment-

Liberty: He followed you?

Seneca: Tessa answered the door when he knocked. Once he came into the house, I knew who he was. It appeared Doctor Cartise used the memory formula to discard the memories of this place.

When Tessa and I talked to him, he remembered nothing...except Girl 2367.

Liberty: I guess he wouldn't know your chosen name. But to report your own brother?!

Seneca: Even though I am "weak" in your eyes, Liberty, because I want a family and children, does not mean I am well-aware of my duties and alliances. Even though Stephen is my own blood, the Operation and those in it are my family.

(Seneca exits)

Liberty: Guess I better go be nice to Mr. Morgan...
(she exits, blackout)

