

sc 1	sc 2	sc 3	sc 4	sc 5	sc 6
20:33	9:20	12:06	27:42	11:32	11:41
20:27	9:15	12:18	26:57	11:30	11:33
20:58	9:26	12:25	27:23	11:35	11:43
21:03	9:21	12:13	27:24	11:43	11:39
20:43	9:24	12:09	27:09	11:50	11:37
20:59	9:38	12:38	27:23	12:09	11:57
20:38	9:24	12:07	27:06	11:40	11:25
20:32	9:23	12:09	27:52	11:41	11:36
20:41	9:23	12:14	27:31	11:38	11:25
20:41	9:24	12:08	27:21	11:44	11:27
20:24	9:16	12:08	27:15	11:31	11:36
20:36	9:32	12:16	27:31	11:43	11:37
20:53	9:42	12:26	27:46	11:46	11:31

THE DURATION

A Play
by
Bruce Graham

Draft: 1/25/22

THE TIME: FALL/WINTER 2001

SETTING: An isolated cabin in the mountains of Pennsylvania and a support group in Newark, New Jersey.

At no time should the lights fade out. Emma can begin speaking in one scene while moving to the other.

The Duration should run 92 minutes with no intermission.

CHARACTERS:

AUDREY BATTEN

EMMA BATTEN

DOUGLAS KELLY

"You will not be punished for your anger, you will be punished by your anger."

Buddha

"When you forgive, you in no way change the past - but you sure do change the future."

Bernard Meltzer

WARN:
 TOP OF SHOW
 LX 12 - 177
 SD 1B - 84G
 ANNOUNCER [2]↑
 HAVE A GREAT SHOW!

W/ PLACES

LX 12

[2]↓

ANNOUNCER EAST

LX 13

SD 1B

TIMER!

WARN:

EM SR

[2]↑

END OF SPEECH

LX 14

SD 1C

TIMER!

AUD X OFF STEPS DSL

LX 16

AUD ONTO PORCH

LX 18

CORKBOARD SWITCH

LX 19

SR LAMP

LX 20

AUD TURNS BACK

[2]↓

HALL SWITCH

LX 21

EM ROUNDS CORNER

LX 22

SD 1A

EMMA

Well, as Joanne just told you, I'm Emma and...I'm, uhh -- I'm a twin. And, well, all that stuff you hear about twins - you know, the "psychic bond" thing - one-stubs-his-toe-and-the-other-feels-the-pain-thing. Well, it's, uhh... it's all...crap. If I stubbed my toe Eddie'd laugh his head off. Not that he's mean or anything. When we were kids he just found everything funny. Not...joke-telling funny but -- always seeing the absurdity of things funny. I am not funny. I was the audience. I mean, somebody's gotta' be the audience, right? And being a twin -- well, what was cool was, you know how some parents want to dress twins up in identical outfits and stuff -- my mother would have none of that. If somebody gave us matching outfits she'd donate them to Goodwill. We were always supposed to be our own person, and Eddie...

(a beat)

When he was like ten he started to cut lawns, walk dogs, you name it.

He put all the money in a Hellman's Mayonaise jar and at the end of every month he'd count it out. One-third he put in the bank. Ten, and he had a bank account. That's Eddie. One-third he'd blow on pizza and comic books. And the other third he'd give to my parents, they'd write him a check and he'd get on his bike and deliver it personally to our local SPCA. Every month. Swear to God, that's my brother.

(laughs quietly)

Very weird kid...

(re: the shredded cup)

Oh. Uhh...is there a trash can?

LX 25
SD 2C

(LIGHTS FADE on her and RISE ON Aud. Second day there. She is in the midst of putting away groceries. Phone rings. She checks CALLER ID, and places it on the counter. It continues to ring as she steps outside and -- STOPS SUDDENLY. We DO NOT SEE IT but a CAT sits on the edge of the mountain, staring at her.)

AUD DUMP COFFEE SD 2D
AUD SINK LIGHT LX 26
AUD PULLS OUT PHONE SD 2E
AUD HANGS UP SD 2F

AUD PORCH SWITCHES LX 28

AUDREY

Where'd you come from? You lost?

(moving closer)

Don't be scared. Where's your collar? It's okay. I'm not going to --

SD 2H

(The cat takes off. Phone keeps ringing and she heads inside.)

AUDREY

Oh, Christ...

(answering)

ANSWER PHONE SD 2K

Hello, Douglas. I can't -- sorry, I can't -- can you hear me? Hold on. I have to -- just hold on.

(moving to the edge of the mountain)

That better, Douglas? I have to stand out here on the side of a damn mountain to get reception...Emma's on her way up and -- I'm fine, Douglas. I-am-fine - that's all you need to know.

LX 31

I'm sorry, I know I put you in a bind...welllll...let that TA cover my classes. Oh, whats-her-name - the one that skulks around like *All About Eve* waiting for her chance to go on.

(a curt laugh)

I appreciate it, Douglas, but we both know nobody is "irreplaceable."

SD 3B

(Aud reacts; a car pulls up)

No, thank you...Douglas how can you come up here to check on me if I don't tell you where "here" is?

EMMA (OFFSTAGE)

Mom?

AUDREY

I've got to go. I'm fine, okay, so save the prayers. Thanks for calling.

LX 33

AUD HANGS UP

SD 3D

(She hangs up as Emma enters lugging a box loaded with books.)

EMMA

Hi.

AUDREY

Hi.

(They stand a moment, uncertain, and then hug briefly.)

EMMA

This is...quite a place. What's the water?

AUDREY

Lake...something. Native American name. I haven't learned to pronounce it yet.

EMMA

Pretty isolated.

AUDREY

Yep.