

## Audition Side 1: 20 Magical Minutes of Darkness and Silence and Peace

*These two characters are raccoons, dealing with very real and very human, emotional experiences. This audition scene is preceded by Grace's realization that Joffrey's dead partner is in the trash bag he is holding. Joffrey gains the courage to ask Grace for help in giving his partner a proper burial. He quickly gets defensive and puts his walls up when she so easily offers her friendship and assistance after such a long night of searching for him.*

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JOFFREY

Never mind. I'll find another way.

GRACE

No, no, no! I want to help! I'm honored. I want to help you...She wasn't my partner, but...she taught me which trash cans had loose lids. And—oh! She gave me a jar of strawberry jam once. Totally full. She didn't skim off any herself—I could tell, because there was still mold on the top layer. (pause) Joffrey, sit down for a minute. You're hungry, right?

JOFFREY

I'm always hungry.

GRACE

I have a bit of cat food I found outside that blue house.

JOFFREY

The house with the little boy who throws bread on the grass?

GRACE

Yes.

JOFFREY

And the boat in the driveway which never goes into the water?

GRACE

That's the one.

JOFFREY

I like that house.

GRACE

Here.

(GRACE hands him the cat food) (JOFFREY sits down in relief.) (GRACE struggles to pick up the bag)

Where should I move her?

JOFFREY

No—you're not moving her by yourself. We'll move her somewhere together.

GRACE

But you're resting now. I thought you wanted me to—

JOFFREY

So rest with me. For a moment. You've been up all day too.

(GRACE gently sets the bag down and sits herself)

## Audition Side 2: What Happens in Pre-K, Stays in Pre-K

*Miss Hazel, a first year preschool teacher, is living through a typical morning with 6 of her students.*

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*GRAHAM then runs around the room in circles singing the “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” theme song, but you can barely understand it.*

*MISS HAZEL is unphased.*

*HAILEY watches and laughs loudly.*

HAILEY

THAT IS SO EMBARRASSING.

CHARLIE

Miss Hazel, I know a syllable.

MISS HAZEL

Yay Charlie, what is it?

*He begins to count on his fingers the lyrics to “Waka Waka” by Shakira.*

CHARLIE

Tsamina mina, eh, eh. Waka waka, eh, eh. 13 syllables!

MISS HAZEL

Wow, Charlie! Great job!

HAILEY

I can count to 13! 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6, 6.

MISS HAZEL

Nice try! We’ll get there!

RYAN

I can count to one!

*Puts up middle finger to count to 1.*

MISS HAZEL

Wow! That’s enough counting for today!

LUCY

I’M GONNA PEE MY PANTS.

MISS HAZEL

No you are not, Lucy.

### **Audition Side 3: The Experience**

*A couple returns to their favorite restaurant which serves emotions as the main course.*

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WAITRESS

Hi, welcome to The Experience, the restaurant where every meal is an experience. Have you ever dined with us before?

WIFE

Yes, we have.

HUSBAND

We had our first date here, ten years ago tonight.

WAITRESS

Oh, fantastic! Welcome back. I guess you know how it works, then. Just let me know if you have any questions.

HUSBAND

Can you tell us what's on the menu tonight?

WAITRESS

Sure. We have the barbecue chicken happiness - that's always a crowd pleaser, the Caesar salad frustration, gluten free, and the mountain trout rejection. That's fresh and local. Oh, and our special tonight is the feeling-like-your-older-sister-has-your-face-pinned-down-on-a-pillow casserole.

WIFE

Hmmm. What's your most popular?

WAITRESS

That would definitely be our barbecue chicken happiness.

WIFE

(To HUSBAND.) Honey? I think I'm ready to order. (To WAITRESS.) I'll have the happiness.

HUSBAND

(To WIFE.) Oh, come on. You always get the happiness. You got it on our first date. We're celebrating! Live a little.

WIFE

Oh, all right. I'll have the Caesar salad frustration.

HUSBAND

You know, the mountain trout rejection sounds really good, but I'll go with the special.

#### Audition Side 4: Gown

*Lynn and Annie embark on that treasured mother-daughter rite of passage: shopping for the perfect wedding gown. But saying yes to the dress proves not so straightforward after it is revealed the mother may not make it to the wedding due to illness. Courtney, the shop attendant, tries her best to help the ladies.*

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LYNN

Oh ... that I like!

ANNIE

It's nice, no?

LYNN

Who's the designer?

COURTNEY

It's one of our better-priced dresses.

LYNN

The price doesn't matter.

COURTNEY

Oh. Okay. Nice. It's from one of our exclusive suppliers. It's sort of a Stella McCartney inspired—.

*(whispers)*

—knock-off.

ANNIE

Well, it's beautiful.

LYNN

Yes.

COURTNEY

It really does suit you.

LYNN

*(working hard not to tear up)*

It's what I always imagined.

### **Audition Side 5: Like Mom Used To Say**

*Two brothers, Ross and Doug meet again in a strange way-it is the day Ross died. Ross enthusiastically begs Doug to retell the traumatic story of the day Ross tried to commit suicide. Through the story, they look back on what caused a tear in their relationships and reminisce on sayings that their mom used to say.*

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DOUG

(retelling the story) My brother has the most amazing eyes—

ROSS

Are you listening to what you're saying? My brother "has" the most amazing eyes? Start again.

DOUG

My brother HAD the most amazing eyes. (To ROSS) Better?

ROSS

(amused) Better. Continue.

DOUG

All his emotions showed in his eyes. Even if you could only see his eyes, you knew what he was feeling. And they were piercing, those eyes. It was like he could look right through you...into your soul. Know what I mean? And because of that, my brother feels— (ROSS clears his throat loudly) Felt. My brother felt things more deeply. If someone else was happy, he was happy. If someone else was hurting, he was hurting, too

ROSS

(sarcastically) It's called "empathy."

DOUG

Anyway, my brother felt things so deeply that he would cry over greeting card commercials.

ROSS

I did not cry. I...I had something in my eye.

DOUG

Every time? Like Mom used to say he "wore his heart on his sleeve."

ROSS

She said what about a hard on?

DOUG

Not "hard on." "Heart on."

ROSS

I was joking with you.

DOUG

Oh. But you have to admit, it would be fun to hear her say it.

ROSS

Mom say "hard on"? For sure. (Both men laugh)

**Audition Side 6: Bag of Bees**

*We all celebrate finding the person of our dreams. But in this comedy, one couple discovers what happens when there's a nightmare.*

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SAM

You're really just going back to sleep?

ALEX

Sorry, can't hear you. I'm sleeping.

SAM

Alex, sweetie, you know I can't sleep when we're fighting.

ALEX

But we're not fighting! We've never been fighting tonight!

SAM

Then why are you shouting?

ALEX

I'm shouting because we're not fighting! (beat) Okay, maybe we're fighting now.

SAM

See? Now you do have something to apologize for.

ALEX

Wait, did you want me to start shouting just so I could apologize for something?

SAM

No. Maybe.

ALEX

You're skilled at this.

SAM

Yes.

ALEX

Just think if you used those powers for good.

SAM

Thank you, sweetie.

ALEX

It wasn't a compliment and I'm not being sweet.

SAM

Then why are you smiling?

## Audition Side 7: The Meadow

*A woman hires a private investigator, but all is not what it seems...*

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MISS HARRIS (sips her wine)

While we await the results of the analysis, I think it'd be best for you to get out of the house. Stay with a friend, take a mini-vacation, whatever. If what you think is true, it's important for you to get away while I investigate.

MRS. PAGE

I have a friend in the city I can stay with. I'll call my husband later and tell him I'm going away for the weekend. (pause) God, I just can't believe this...

MISS HARRIS

I can only imagine how difficult this must be for you. Why don't you take the next few minutes to compose yourself? Try having some wine.

(Mrs. Page picks up her wineglass and goes to take a sip. Right before she is about to sip it, she sets it down once again.)

MRS. PAGE

I mean, it seemed like yesterday when he proposed to me in that meadow. And now, I have to face the reality that he's possibly cheating on me, and worse yet, possibly trying to kill me?

MISS HARRIS (coughs)

Mrs. Page, why don't you try taking things step by step? I've agreed to investigate this for you, so let's just take it from there, okay? Go on, have some wine. Take it easy for now. (sips her wine)

MRS. PAGE

(Mrs. Page takes ahold of her glass and raises it.) To better days...

(Mrs. Page and Miss Harris clang their glasses together. Miss Harris downs her own wine and coughs again. Mrs. Page holds the glass to her lips only to set it down once more.)

I still keep thinking about that meadow.

MISS HARRIS

What about it?

MRS. PAGE

How my marriage began there...and how it ended there.

MISS HARRIS

How did your marriage end there?

MRS. PAGE

Because that's where I buried my husband...