

Limitations (Onstage)

By

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Cast of Characters

<u>TOBY:</u>	Clever; Bored of Mundanity
<u>LIBBY:</u>	Funny; Quickly moves from Idea to Idea
<u>ALARM CLOCK:</u>	A Smart Appliance; Played by same 3rd Actor
<u>COFFEE MAKER:</u>	A Smart Appliance; Played by same 3rd Actor
<u>VACUUM:</u>	A Smart Appliance; Played by same 3rd Actor
<u>BOSS:</u>	TOBY'S Boss; Never Appears Onstage; Played by same 3rd Actor
<u>GLASSES:</u>	A Smart Appliance; Played by same 3rd Actor
<u>CONSOLER:</u>	An Antivirus Program; Never Appears Onstage; Played by same 3rd Actor

ACT I

ON SCREEN

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FADE TO STAGE

SCENE 1

A glimpse of TOBY walking across the clearing.

FADE TO SCREEN

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FADE TO STAGE

Scene 1 (Continued)

A glimpse of TOBY walking across the clearing.

FADE TO SCREEN

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FADE TO STAGE

Scene 1 (Continued)

The Nature Clearing. TOBY takes off his glasses,

puts them back on. Takes them off again. No connection.

TOBY

No!

TOBY looks up, around. There should be no attempt made to appear as an actual forest, a blank stage should suffice.

TOBY

Oh.

TOBY looks across the stage, puts on the glasses.

FADE TO SCREEN

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FADE TO STAGE

Scene 2

TOBY'S house. The house is incredibly minimalist: couch and VACUUM on one side, table and COFFEE MACHINE in the middle, and bed and ALARM CLOCK on the far side. LIBBY lies on the bed.

The table, chairs bed, and couch should be represented as minimally as possible, whilst the vacuum, alarm clock, and coffee maker should be treated as if any other character.

Toby put the glasses in his pocket, slowly inspecting every inch of the house.

As Toby passes the coffee maker:

COFFEE MAKER

Invalid reasoning. Please try again. Possible options include: government dissent. Conspiratorial attitudes. Mental illness. Insufficient-

TOBY

Mental Illness.

COFFEE MAKER

Reasoning Received. Please see one of our virtual consolers. You are important to us! Please see-

TOBY
Later.

COFFEE MAKER
Please define "later."

TOBY
Soon.

COFFEE MAKER
Meeting scheduled for tomorrow. Please confirm.

TOBY
Confirmed.

*The COFFEE MAKER turns itself off. TOBY moves to
the bedroom. LIBBY lays on the bed, glasses on.*

TOBY
Libby.

LIBBY
Work?

TOBY
No.

LIBBY
Over?

TOBY
Libby.

LIBBY
Sleep?

TOBY
Libby...

TOBY puts his glasses on.

FADE TO SCREEN

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FADE TO STAGE

Scene 3

LIBBY slowly swings her legs off the bed and holds out her hand.

TOBY clasps LIBBY'S hand. LIBBY sharply inhales and TOBY lets go. LIBBY keeps her hand out. TOBY slow reaches back for the hand, resting it on hers, slowly guiding her off the bed.

TOBY takes LIBBY offstage.

FADE TO SCREEN

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FADE TO STAGE

Scene 4

TOBY holds LIBBY'S glasses.

TOBY
Hello?

LIBBY
Give my life back!

TOBY
Libby?

LIBBY reaches for the glasses. TOBY pulls them away. LIBBY jumps at TOBY. TOBY moves out of the way.

LIBBY
Mine!

LIBBY runs after TOBY.

TOBY
Please!

TOBY looks at the glasses, puts them on.

SCREEN ON

The screen shows Libby's tabs, as they were left.

Toby looks behind him and sees Libby about to pounce.

Toby drops to the dirt. Libby jumps on top of him, reaching for the glasses.

TOBY
Clear tabs.

LIBBY
No!

GLASSES
Are you positive? This action-

TOBY
Clear tabs!

Libby tears the glasses off of Toby's face.

SCREEN OFF

LIBBY puts her glasses on her face.

SCREEN ON

The tabs are gone.

LIBBY
Restore. Restore tabs!

GLASSES
Command not recognized. Would you like a set of sample commands to try out?

LIBBY sits blankly. TOBY joins next to her.

TOBY
Sorry.
(Beat.)
Send Libby message: Sorry.

LIBBY
Send Toby message: Why?

TOBY
Send Libby Message: Take glasses off. Look.

LIBBY makes no move. TOBY takes LIBBY'S glasses off.

SCREEN OFF

TOBY
Look.

LIBBY
Green.

TOBY
Yes.

LIBBY
Quiet.

TOBY
Breath.

LIBBY breaths.

TOBY
Real.

LIBBY
Always?

TOBY
Today.

LIBBY
Me.

TOBY
Yes.

LIBBY
Noise.

TOBY
None.

LIBBY
Glasses. Noise.

TOBY
Always.

LIBBY
Should share.

TOBY
You.

LIBBY
More.

TOBY
Maybe.

LIBBY
House?

TOBY grabs the two pairs of glasses from the pocket.

TOBY hands LIBBY her glasses. They put the glasses on at the same time.

FADE TO SCREEN

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FADE TO STAGE

Scene 5

LIBBY and TOBY at the table.

LIBBY
Always?

TOBY
Often.

LIBBY
Never listen?

TOBY
Never.

LIBBY
How...

TOBY
To...

LIBBY
Share...

TOBY
Explore.

LIBBY
Listen.

TOBY
Want.

LIBBY
Need!

TOBY
How...

LIBBY
To share...

TOBY
Share?

LIBBY
How to...

TOBY
Explore?

LIBBY
How to...

TOBY
Listen.

LIBBY

How to-

TOBY

Want.

TOBY

How to need.

LIBBY

How to need!

LIBBY & TOBY

How to share, to explore, to listen, to want, to
need, to share, share, explore, listen, want, need
share explore listen want need-

LIBBY

Have idea!

TOBY

Tell!

COFFEE MAKER

Attention! Toby. Attention! Libby. Attention-

LIBBY & TOBY

Attention received.

COFFEE MAKER

Increase in anomalous behaviors detected! Reasoning?

TOBY

Reasoning mental-

LIBBY

Reasoning life.

COFFEE MAKER

Invalid reasoning. Please try again. Possible options
include: government dissent. Conspiratorial-

TOBY

Reasoning Mental Illness.

COFFEE MAKER

Reasoning Received. Please see one of our virtual
consolers.

COFFEE MACHINE whirrs.

Error. Meeting already scheduled for one or more
parties. Reassigning consolation from Toby at Today
to Toby/Libby Unit at Today. Please confirm.

TOBY
Confirmation.

COFFEE MAKER
Libby confirm.

LIBBY
Consolation?

TOBY
Online. Here.

LIBBY
But trouble? Me? Never.

TOBY touches LIBBY'S hand. LIBBY winces but does not move.

TOBY
Here.

COFFEE MAKER
Libby Confirm.

LIBBY
Confirmation.

COFFEE MAKER
Meeting start in five minutes. Please join via glasses. Meeting start in five minutes. Please join via glasses. Meeting-

TOBY unplugs the coffee maker.

TOBY
Fine without coffee?

LIBBY
Yes. The consoler...

TOBY
Consoler worry not.

LIBBY
But...

LIBBY takes the glasses out of her pocket.

TOBY
Ah.

TOBY takes LIBBY'S glasses and brings them to the bedroom, leaving them there, before returning to the table.

TOBY

The idea.

LIBBY

A movie.

TOBY

A movie?

LIBBY

A live movie. In the clearing.

TOBY

I don't understand.

LIBBY

Share through entertainment. Explore something new.

TOBY

Listen to what-

LIBBY

Only we say.

TOBY

We *can* say.

LIBBY

We write it-

TOBY

And act it-

LIBBY

And do it-

TOBY

For our friends-

LIBBY

Neighbors, coworkers, and-

TOBY

All who would-

LIBBY

Like to see-

TOBY
It is brilliant.

LIBBY
It is Brilliant!

TOBY
Very. But how-

VACUUM
Do not forget! Consoler appointment in one minute.
Consoler appointment in one minute.

TOBY
But first, Consoler.

*TOBY grabs the two pairs of glasses from the
bed, makes their way to the couch, and sits.
LIBBY joins him.*

LIBBY and TOBY put their glasses on.

VERY SLOW FADE TO SCREEN

*TOBY and LIBBY sit deathly still on the couch;
lights very slowly fading around them.*

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STAGE FADE IN

Scene 5 (Continued)

TOBY and LIBBY are sat on the couch. TOBY takes his glasses off. The COFFEE MACHINE is now gone.

TOBY

Libby? Libby?

TOBY waits for a response.

TOBY takes LIBBY'S glasses off her face.

TOBY

Libby? You okay?

LIBBY

Toby?

TOBY

Were you offered?

LIBBY

Offered?

TOBY

Offered the credits?

LIBBY

Credits? No.

TOBY
Just me then?

LIBBY
Just you.

TOBY
Quite the figure.

LIBBY
The Consoler?

TOBY
Yes, the Consoler.

LIBBY
He is.

TOBY
Yes, he is.

Beat.

TOBY
Are you okay?

LIBBY
What? Yes.

TOBY
Are you sure?

LIBBY
Yes? Yes.

Beat.

TOBY
It is late.

LIBBY
It is.

TOBY
Going to bed?

LIBBY
Yes, soon.

TOBY
Meet you there.

TOBY goes to the bedroom. LIBBY puts her glasses on.

FADE TO SCREEN

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FADE TO STAGE

Scene 6

TOBY is sleeping in bed. LIBBY sits on the couch, glasses on.

ALARM CLOCK

It is oh seven hundred hours. Time to wake up! It is
oh seven hundred hours. Time to wake up! It is...

*TOBY turns off the alarm clock and checks for
LIBBY.*

TOBY

Libby? You there?

*TOBY shrugs. Moves to kitchen, goes to where the
coffee machine was.*

TOBY

Right, no coffee.

TOBY moves to the table, moves to the living room, and spots LIBBY.

TOBY

Libby! I have-

TOBY starts to take the glasses off LIBBY'S face. LIBBY grabs his arms.

LIBBY

Don't.

TOBY

Please, let me-

LIBBY

Don't.

TOBY

The live movie?

LIBBY

Later.

TOBY

But when later?

LIBBY

Later.

TOBY

I'm sorry, Libby.

TOBY lets go of the glasses. LIBBY lets go of TOBY's arms. TOBY feigns moving away before quickly grabbing the glasses off LIBBY'S face.

LIBBY

Not again!

LIBBY jumps onto TOBY, sending them both to the floor. The glasses go flying.

TOBY

Not the glasses!

LIBBY

My glasses!

TOBY and LIBBY both rush for the glasses. TOBY kicks the glasses into the kitchen, LIBBY and

TOBY both rush after them.

TOBY stops in front of the glasses.

TOBY
Please listen, Libby-

*LIBBY pushes TOBY, TOBY falls onto the glasses
crushing them.*

LIBBY
No! No!

TOBY
I- oh no.

LIBBY
My glasses!

TOBY
It'll be okay.

LIBBY
They're gone!

TOBY
I didn't mean to-

LIBBY
I *need* those!

TOBY
We'll get new ones!

LIBBY
Need to see.

TOBY
Need those to see?

LIBBY
Yes, to live.

TOBY
No, not to live.

LIBBY
It's all lost.

TOBY
Libby, not to live.

Beat.

TOBY
In order to share.

LIBBY
No, not now.

TOBY
In order to explore.

LIBBY
Toby, I can't-

TOBY
To listen! To listen.

LIBBY
And to want.

TOBY
To need. To live.

LIBBY
It's just hard.

TOBY
I know it is.

LIBBY
A whole world. In the glasses.

TOBY
World out here too.

LIBBY
Between bland walls?

TOBY
Between two bland ears.

LIBBY laughs.

LIBBY
Ears not bland.

TOBY
I don't know... response.

LIBBY
No, me neither.

TOBY
Start on live movie?

LIBBY
I don't know.

TOBY
What do you mean?

LIBBY
A foolish idea.

TOBY
The movie is not-

LIBBY
Movie ideas? None.

TOBY
You do. I'm sure.

LIBBY
I truly don't.

TOBY
A world between ears.

Beat.

TOBY
Imagination.

LIBBY
I don't have-

TOBY changes, as if possessed.

TOBY
My liege, take heed.

LIBBY
I can't be-

TOBY
These roads are dangerous.

LIBBY
You will laugh.

TOBY
I value your safety.

LIBBY
Okay. I'll try.

TOBY
Thank you, your majesty.

LIBBY
Protect me, knight.

SCREEN ON

TOBY
I'm at your command.

LIBBY
What was that?

TOBY
Noise from the bushes!

LIBBY
We must hurry on!

TOBY
I'll investigate, your highness.

LIBBY
Please, stay with me.

TOBY
Don't worry, Queen Libby!

TOBY jumps behind the couch.

LIBBY
Sir Toby? Are you there?

TOBY jumps back onto scene playing another character.

TOBY
Yarrrr! What you say, Captain?

LIBBY changes character.

LIBBY
I say, hoist the sail!

TOBY
Hoisting the sail, Captain Libby!

TOBY climbs onto the couch, mimes hoisting the sail. LIBBY climbs to the front of the couch and poses.

LIBBY
Set course for uncharted lands!

TOBY
Setting course for new lands!

LIBBY
Arrrr, seize the open seas!

TOBY
Across the ocean blue! Yarrrr!

LIBBY whips around to TOBY, a new character.

LIBBY
Now to check your reflexes.

TOBY
Sorry, it's my first time-

LIBBY
Don't be scared, it's natural.

LIBBY mimes hitting TOBY'S knee. It jolts.

LIBBY
Good! Now the next knee.

LIBBY mimes hitting TOBY'S other knee. It jolts.

LIBBY
Very good! Now your heart.

LIBBY mimes checking TOBY'S heart. There is noticeable space between LIBBY'S hand and TOBY'S chest. TOBY takes LIBBY'S hand and presses it against his chest.

LIBBY
And that is perfectly okay too.

TOBY stands up, changing character.

TOBY
Madam, may I have this dance?

LIBBY

I'm afraid I don't know how.

TOBY

Neither do I, neither do I.

*TOBY and LIBBY dance, ballroom style,
imperfectly.*

TOBY

To share. To explore. To listen.

LIBBY

To want; to need. To create.

LIBBY & TOBY

To live.

LIBBY and TOBY embrace.

SCREEN OFF

VACUUM

Continued increase in anomalous behaviors detected!
Reasoning?

TOBY

Reasoning...

*LIBBY motions TOBY to stop. Moves over to the
vacuum.*

VACUUM

Anomalous behaviors detected! Reasoning?

*LIBBY lifts the VACUUM; unloads the batteries.
The VACUUM goes silent.*

LIBBY

I think that's much better. You?

TOBY

Yes, but shouldn't we be concerned-

LIBBY embraces TOBY.

LIBBY

Thank you.

TOBY

For what?

LIBBY

Showing me another world.

TOBY

I don't know that-

LIBBY looks at TOBY

TOBY

You're welcome, Libby, you're welcome.

LIBBY

Now! How does one make movies?

TOBY

That's the spirit! They need- uh...

LIBBY

A script. And actors. That's us.

TOBY

We're responsible for the script too.

LIBBY

Have you ever written anything before?

TOBY

We both know that questions' answer.

LIBBY

Well, what did we just learn?

TOBY

It's just imagination.

LIBBY & TOBY

It's just imagination.

LIBBY

It's just imagination!

TOBY

No better time to get started!

SCENE 7

TOBY sits at the kitchen table, paper and pencil in hand. TOBY writes something, crumples the paper, throws it to the side. TOBY stares at the glasses in front of him.

TOBY

It would be so easy.

(Beat.)

Put them on. Live life.

(Beat.)

Live a different life, perhaps.

(Beat.)

Free of whatever this is.

*LIBBY has come out and uncrumpled the paper,
reading of off it.*

LIBBY

"It's much easier to tell you what love isn't than what it is. It's not a feeling or a passion or an obsession. Not adoration. Never adoration. It's not a person, place, thing, or any state of being I've ever known-"

TOBY

You don't have to read it.

LIBBY

But I really quite like it.

TOBY

You do?

LIBBY

Do you?

TOBY

I guess I do.

LIBBY

Then I'll keep reading.

(Back to reading.)

"I've heard it said that love is a promise. Maybe, but no. Love is love: a delicate balance of desire and need, and yet a complete respect for the target of affection. I know not where love comes from or what love is or how love work, but, I know this-"

(Beat.)

"I choose to let love out."

(Beat.)

And you wrote this just now?

TOBY

It doesn't sound anything like me.

LIBBY

Nor should it. It's a character.

TOBY

The cadence just doesn't sit right.

LIBBY

I think you're just making excuses.

TOBY

Let me make excuses in peace.

LIBBY

It's late. You're coming to bed.

TOBY

Let me write one more line.

LIBBY

One more line; then to bed.

LIBBY watches TOBY write one more line.

LIBBY

And now we're off to bed.

TOBY

Let me write one more line.

LIBBY

And one more after that? No.

TOBY

Please, just this last one line.

LIBBY takes TOBY'S hand. LIBBY slowly guide TOBY up and across to the bedroom, and onto the bed.

LIBBY

Don't let this project consume you.

TOBY

I... I shall do my best.

LIBBY

Thank you.

LIBBY looks in TOBY'S eyes. LIBBY and TOBY go in for a kiss before-

ALARM CLOCK

Continued increase in anomalous behaviors detected!
Reasoning?

*LIBBY unplugs the ALARM CLOCK. LIBBY and TOBY
kiss.*

TOBY

Thank you.

SCREEN ON

Scene 8

*TOBY and LIBBY are standing with scripts in
hand. The screen shows TOBY and LIBBY on vibrant
estate grounds.*

LIBBY

This betrayal cannot be undone!

TOBY

It was a simple mistake-

LIBBY

Draw your weapon!

TOBY

Do you intend to fight me?

LIBBY

Draw your weapon!

TOBY

If I must.

(Dropping character.)

Have you made the weapons yet?

SCREEN OFF

LIBBY drops character.

LIBBY

Yes! Let me go get them.

(LIBBY pulls two sticks from behind the
bed.)

I wanted guns, but we get...

TOBY

These will work wonderfully, I'm sure.

LIBBY

Quite a lot of W words.

TOBY

What do you mean by that?

LIBBY

Will work wonderfully? W words? What?

TOBY

Just give me the stick already.

LIBBY

No, no. It's a sword, Toby.

TOBY

It will be, but right now-

LIBBY

Say it's a sword, or else.

TOBY

Libby, please hand me the sword.

TOBY tosses TOBY the stick. TOBY looks for a place to put it.

TOBY

Where am I supposed to put...

LIBBY

I didn't think that far ahead.

TOBY

I guess the floor works, temporarily.

LIBBY shrugs. TOBY and LIBBY put the sticks on the floor. They enter character.

SCREEN ON

LIBBY

This betrayal cannot be undone!

TOBY

It was a simple mistake-

LIBBY

Draw your weapon!

TOBY
Do you intend to fight me?

LIBBY
Draw your weapon!

TOBY
If I must.

LIBBY and TOBY pick up the swords. On the screen, they unsheathe the swords.

TOBY
First blood?

LIBBY
To the death!

TOBY
A bit much for a simple-

LIBBY
To the death!

LIBBY and TOBY take turns aiming, hitting, and blocking. LIBBY and TOBY aim for the stick each time.

LIBBY
Ha!

TOBY
Fwa!

LIBBY
Ya!

TOBY
Ka-pa!

LIBBY
Hu-zah!

TOBY
Ta-dah!

LIBBY
Va-vah!

LIBBY accidentally hits TOBY in the stomach with the stick.

TOBY
Ugh.

SCREEN OFF

LIBBY
Toby! Are you alright?

TOBY
Yeah, just let me, let me, sit down.

LIBBY
Do you need ice? We have ice!

TOBY
No, really. I just need to sit down.

LIBBY
Are you sure?

TOBY
Yes, Libby. I'm sure.

LIBBY
Okay.

TOBY
You don't know the first thing about first aid.

LIBBY
I have to be better at it than fighting. Sorry.

TOBY
No, it's funny. You're funny.

LIBBY
I- don't know what to say.

TOBY
Me neither.

LIBBY
I'm funny.

TOBY
Yes.

LIBBY
I'm funny.

TOBY
Right.

LIBBY laughs.

TOBY
Is that funny?

LIBBY
No, no. No? No. I guess I just, never knew that about myself. Funny. I'm funny.

TOBY
Huh.

LIBBY
What else am I?

TOBY
Libby, I can't construct your identity for you.

LIBBY
Fine, what are you?

TOBY
What am I?

LIBBY
what are you?

TOBY
I guess I've... Never thought about it before.

LIBBY
I can tell you.

TOBY
You can tell me?

LIBBY
I can tell you. You're clever.

TOBY
Oh.

LIBBY
You're incredibly clever. And ambitious.

TOBY
I love your spontaneity. And-

TOBY

I love your
willingness to be new
and how stubborn you
can be and don't get
me started on your
attitude towards life,
and, and, well,
everything and you
were made for me
because of my attitude
towards life and the
way I can be so sweet
and my creativeness
and I'm clever.

LIBBY

I love your
creativeness and you
can be so sweet and
don't get me started
on your attitude
towards life, and,
and, I mean,
everything and you
were made for me
because of my attitude
towards life and the
way I can be so
stubborn and my
willingness and I'm
funny.

LIBBY and TOBY embrace.

SCENE 9

*TOBY and LIBBY sit at the table, the glasses
between them.*

TOBY

No one will listen any other way.

LIBBY

But we remember last time I put them on.

TOBY

It can't be me. They've locked me out since I stopped
attending work.

LIBBY

Hold my hand.

*TOBY hold LIBBY'S hand. LIBBY puts the glasses
on.*

SCREEN ON

TOBY watches LIBBY

LIBBY

Thousand credits?

TOBY hold LIBBY'S hand tighter.

TOBY watches LIBBY

TOBY
Don't listen to him-

LIBBY
Alone.

LIBBY lets go of TOBY'S hand.

STAGE OFF

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FADE TO STAGE

Scene 10

TOBY and LIBBY stand, facing away from the audience, hand in hand. Sticks on the floor next to them.

TOBY
Ready?

LIBBY
I'm scared.

TOBY
I am too.

LIBBY

But that's good, right?

TOBY

Fear just means you care.

LIBBY

Then I must care a lot.

TOBY

You're funny.

LIBBY

And you're clever. A perfect combination.

TOBY

Ready?

LIBBY

I'm ready.

TOBY and LIBBY turn around, their faces fall.

TOBY

Oh.

LIBBY

No one came.

TOBY

That- I-

LIBBY

No one.

TOBY

Oh.

LIBBY

It really was just for nothing.

TOBY

No, it wasn't.

LIBBY

Yes it-

TOBY

Elizabeth.

LIBBY

Tobias?

TOBY and LIBBY Embrace. TOBY separates; picks up TOBY'S stick.

TOBY

This betrayal cannot be undone!

LIBBY

What?

TOBY

This betrayal-

LIBBY

Oh! One more time.

TOBY

This betrayal cannot be undone!

LIBBY

It was a simple mistake-

TOBY

Draw your weapon!

LIBBY

Do you intend to fight me?

TOBY

Draw your weapon!

LIBBY

If I must.

LIBBY and TOBY pick up the sticks.

TOBY

First blood?

LIBBY

To the death!

TOBY

A bit much for a simple-

LIBBY

To the death!

LIBBY charges at TOBY and swings, misses. TOBY

*and LIBBY dance around each other, sticks
swinging, laughing.*

LIBBY
Ha!

TOBY
Fwa!

LIBBY
Ya!

TOBY
Ka-pa!

LIBBY
Hu-zah!

TOBY
Ta-dah!

LIBBY
Va-vah!

BLACKOUT