

THE OTHER SIDE

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The Other Side

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Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

Cast:

8 male, 1 female, 6 mixed - max characters 15, min 8 (with doubling).

- SKY:** An experienced homeless woman, distrusting, regular user of heavy drugs.
- CRAIG:** A confident and complex man experiencing repeated homelessness.
- JAKE:** A young drug runner, anti-social and intimidating.
- 16-YEAR OLD CRAIG:** Young but mature in nature. Keen to show father he is strong.
- CRAIG'S FATHER:** An intimidating large older man, imposing patriarch of the family.
- LIZ:** A sympathetic social worker working at Jimmy's Night Shelter.
- MAN 1:** Accuses Craig of being complicit in bike theft.
- MAN 2:** Associate of man 1.
- BULLY 1:** Reinforces rumour that Craig is a murderer. Friend of Bully 2.
- BULLY 2:** Also accusing Craig of being a murderer, friend of Bully 1.
- RUNNER:** Far more aggressive dealer, very threatening demeanour. Exhibits characteristics associated with long-term crack cocaine usage.

- NHS OPERATOR:** Guides Craig through recovery procedure in attempt to save Sky.
- GOOD COP:** Slightly more sympathetic officer investigating Sky's death.
- BAD COP:** Unsympathetic and pervasive officer investigating Sky's death.
- SARGE:** Officer manning the reception at the police station.
- SOLICITOR:** Assisting Craig with his murder accusation in police interview.

Throughout the play, there will be actors playing members of the public (referred to as 'bystanders' intermittently walking across the stage (these characters can be played by anyone currently off-stage after a change of clothes). Front of stage, in front of the protagonists. These characters will be silent but will imitate conversations and social interactions between themselves. They will almost always entirely ignore Sky and Craig (two protagonists).

ACT I
Scene 1 - SHOP FRONT

Scene opens to a 'The Gap' shop front, with a 'closing down' sign on the front. Craig is sitting looking down, a woman with a stoop is walking slowly past the shop.

CRAIG: (Looking up at Sky.) You alright darlin'?

SKY: Me? No mate, I need 17 quid.

CRAIG: Ok, well I can't give you 17... But here's 20.

SKY: (Takes the money being offered.) OK, nice one, thanks. You are a good bloke.

CRAIG: Name's Craig, nice to meet you. Wanna sit?

SKY: (Tentatively sits.) Yeh, nice to meet you Craig, I'm Sky... So what you doing out here?

CRAIG: Sky? Like that, my favourite colour's sky blue.

SKY: Oh yeh? And what's a charmer like you doin' here then?

CRAIG: I've just been kicked out... Lost everything.

SKY: Kicked out? What for?

CRAIG: Because sometimes, my brain tells me to say and do stupid things.

SKY: I get that (chuckles). Well your first night's the worst, gets better over time.

CRAIG: Why do you say that?

SKY: **(Chuckling.)** I've been round and round in this circle for 30 years now Craig, I know what I'm talking about.

CRAIG: Yeh, it ain't my first rodeo an' all.

SKY: Oh, I see. **(Scopes Craig up and down.)** Well, you seem decent. **(Pauses.)** C'mon then, lets hunker down here. This Gap's been closed for months now anyway.

CRAIG: If the Gap's closed, let's fill it!

Both laugh.

CRAIG: Right, I've got two sleeping bags and a blanket here. From Wintercomfort, that day centre that hands out stuff to the homeless. Wanna make a little home with it?

SKY: Nah, you're alright I've got my own **(starts laying out blankets and sleeping bags)**. Right, that's your corner, this one's mine. Cross this line, Craigy boy, and this sky's gonna turn stormy.

Sky and Craig settle themselves in with a combination of sleeping bags and blankets.

CRAIG: So what's someone beautiful like you doing on the street?

SKY: Can't be that beautiful, dad knocked me two front teeth out when I was 16.

CRAIG: I can see beyond that... Wouldn't have even noticed if you hadn't said.

Companionable silence.

CRAIG: You hungry, Sky?

SKY: Hungry in Cambridge? **(Laughs.)** ...No mate, I'm not hungry, I know where to go get food, just gotta be sure the wrong people won't be there when I go pick it up, know what I mean? **(Laughs.)**

CRAIG: Ok... So what's your poison then?

SKY: Whad'ya think my poison is? I told you I've been out here for 30 years.

CRAIG: Well, it must be a toss-up between white and dark then?

SKY: More like a toss-up for both.

Craig gives Sky a concerned look.

SKY: Don't look at me like that, don't need *your* pity.

CRAIG: It's not pity Sky, I'm just concerned.

SKY: And what the fuck are *you* concerned about? You hardly know me.

CRAIG: Well I've not known you for very long, but I can tell who's alright, And you seem like a decent bird.

- SKY:** I'm decent to people who are decent to me, yeh.
- CRAIG:** Well, hopefully you'll think I'm decent... I'm not sure I could handle a slap from you!
- SKY:** You're right there, sunshine.
- SKY:** **(Rummages through her pockets.)** Ohh... Shit.
- CRAIG:** What's up?
- SKY:** I lent my phone to a mate, she's round the corner and I gotta go get it.
- CRAIG:** Want me to come?
- SKY:** Nah, she wouldn't like that besides... **(Sky looks around, as if plotting.)** I've got a task for you Craig-y boy, whilst I'm gone...I'll only be a few minutes.
- CRAIG:** Oh yeh? What's that?
- SKY:** **(Walks off stage and walks back on with a bicycle.)** Right, this is my bike, and I want you to look after it whilst I'm gone.
- CRAIG:** Aren't you gonna ride it there?
- SKY:** Nah, brakes fucked. I'll get it fixed later, but I need you to make sure no one takes it.
- CRAIG:** Who's gonna steal a broken bike?
- SKY:** Ha! This is Cambridge, Craig, bikes are like currency here, there's so many dodgy bike dealers it's worth keeping an eye out. This one may only be worth a fiver, but that's a quick fiver to those who