

**The Forgotten Beach**  
**By**  
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## SCENE 1

*Opens on a dirty, polluted beach, a lonely elderly woman picks up pieces of garbage and puts them in a bag. She looks in pain. A woman walks in then pauses before speaking.*

**Charlie:** Mom, what are you doing? You'll hurt your back!

**Leslie:** Oh, too late for that!

**Charlie:** Ww what are you doing here, anyways we were looking all over for you...

**Leslie:** I'm sorry I needed some time alone.

**Charlie:** And you came here...look at this place it's a dump, I'm lightheaded just standing here.

**Leslie:** You, you don't remember this place?

**Charlie:** No, I don't remember you taking me garbage picking as a child.

**Leslie:** This is the place Charlie. *(Leslie points at NO SWIMMING sign)*

**Charlie:** Ah...How could I forget, my childhood on this beach, my first big cause...Looks like no one attempted to save it after us...

**Leslie:** Did I ever tell you how your dad and I met?

**Charlie:** At the college library fighting over the last copy of a book right?

**Leslie:** Well officially that's where we got to know each other but the truth is we met that summer at my best friend's graduation party. Right here.

**Charlie:** Well how come you never told me! I mean no offense mom but the beach even this one, is more romantic than a smelly college library.

**Leslie:** Oh boy, this beach was so beautiful, back then...

*The two sit on a broken rowboat or canoe.*

**Charlie:** Well, tell me about it then.

**Leslie:** All right. It was a long, long time ago at my best friend Kat's graduation party....

## **SCENE 2**

*Opens on a sunny beach background, sounds of waves and laughter, on stage a game of beach volleyball is being played by four teenagers while the rest are dancing to beachy music. Leslie enters. Kat runs to meet her.*

**Kat:** Leslie! You made it!

**Leslie:** Yeah, sorry I'm late...Wow, you sure know how to throw a party, and man this beach is incredible!

**Kat:** Thanks, it's a really hidden spot, not many people come here so we can be as loud as we want!

**Leslie:** I love coming here every summer after school ends.

*SCREAMS OF CHEERS FROM THE VOLLEY BALL GAME*

**Leslie:** If the rest of the summer goes like this, It's gonna be the best!!

**Kat** I know!!

*A third girl approaches.*

**Ramona:** Girls, can you believe this is our last summer together?

**Kat:** I know, next year we're off to college.

**Leslie:** I'm gonna miss you guys so much.

*Favourite song comes on.*

**Ramona:** OMG!! Girls it's our song!!!

*They start dancing and laughing. Suddenly, a volleyball hits Leslie in the head. She spills her drink on her shirt. A boy runs up to the girls.*

**Brad:** I'm so sorry. Guess I need more practice.

**Leslie:** It's okay. Just an accident. *(to the girls)* Guess I better go home and change.

**Brad:** Here you can have my sweater. That way, you won't miss the party.

**Leslie:** Thanks.

**Brad:** Guess I'll see you later.

*Brad starts walking away.*

**Leslie:** Yeah...See you.

*Brad goes back to the game.*

**Ramona:** Did you see that?!

**Leslie:** What?

**Kat:** He totally winked at you.

**Leslie:** He didn't. You're insane.

**Kat:** He did and he totally wants you.

*Leslie is flattered but doesn't want to show it.*

**Leslie:** He was just being friendly.

**Ramona:** Yeah right.

**Leslie:** Plus, he's not my type.

**Kat:** Since when do you have a type?

**Leslie:** Since now. Besides I have to change.

**Ramona:** I suppose you'll never want to see him again.

**Leslie:** I never said that. I will have to give him back his sweater.

*The girls giggle as Leslie walks off. Lights fade.*

### SCENE 3

*A few years later. Brad and Leslie are sitting on the beach. There is minor litter on the beach.*

**Brad:** Back where it all began.

**Leslie:** Yeah. Good thing we were both at UNB though. I thought I'd never see you again after that night here.

**Brad:** Yeah, I looked for you after the game, but you had already left.

**Leslie:** Hey, it wasn't my fault Kat got totally wasted and I had to take her home. You shouldn't be so upset. It wasn't you she threw up on.

**Brad:** No, but it was my sweater.

**Leslie:** Anyways. I love coming back here every year. Makes me miss high school though. And everyone. We hardly see them anymore.

**Brad:** Well, people are busy. Everyone's almost finished school, ready to go out into the big world out there.

**Leslie:** I know, but...God look at this place it's just as beautiful as we left it, Can you imagine it's almost been four years since we met here.

**Brad:** Yeah, It's crazy how fast things change.

**Leslie:** This place is the one thing that doesn't feel different

**Brad:** What do you mean?

**Leslie:** It's like we go back in time when we set foot here.

**Brad:** Leslie?

**Leslie:** Yeah?

**Brad:** You really love this beach, don't you...?

**Leslie:** Almost more than I love you. Every year, I'm coming back here. I'll even bring my kids here one day.

**Brad:** Me too. We should come together.

**Leslie:** Sure. But who knows what will happen between then and now. We don't even know where we'll be next year.

**Brad:** We might not know where we'll be, but as long as we're together I don't care where we are.

**Leslie:** What are you saying?

**Brad:** I want to come here every year, not to meet up with you and see your kids. I want to come here with you and our kids.

**Leslie:** Really?

**Brad:** Yes really. *(gets down on one knee)* Leslie, will you marry me?

**Leslie:** Yes. Of course yes!!

*Brad puts the ring on Leslie's finger and they hug as the lights fade.*

#### **SCENE 4**

*Sunny day on the beach. There are many people around and there is litter scattered around.*

*Brad and Leslie enter.*

**Leslie:** I can't believe we're here again.

**Brad:** I know. It's such a nice day.

**Leslie:** Yeah! If the weather stays like this, we're gonna have the perfect honeymoon.

*A group of teenagers walk by laughing.*

**Girl #1:** Yeah I know. He was totally checking you out.

*The girls laugh. Two of them finish their drinks and throw their cans on the beach. They walk by laughing.*

**Leslie:** *(picking up the can)* She just threw her garbage on the sand. Some people have no respect.

**Brad:** I know. Look around. You can see the beach is really changing. There's garbage everywhere.

**Leslie:** Yeah, you're right. It's still beautiful though. There's just something about this beach. It's different than all the other ones.

**Brad:** Maybe, because we grew up here. Spent so many hours here as kids.

**Leslie:** Yeah, it breaks my heart to see people destroy it.

**Brad:** I know what you mean, but don't let it spoil our honeymoon.

**Leslie:** You're right. It's gonna be the perfect week. Come on; let's find a place to set up.

**Brad:** *(Takes her hand)* Okay, *(points off stage)* That looks like the perfect spot over there.

*They walk off stage.*

## SCENE 5

*The same beach. There is a lot of trash on the beach. Signs advise against swimming. Only a few people are present. Leslie and Brad enter with their small child.*

**Leslie:** Here we are Charlie. Our favourite spot. This is where Mommy and Daddy used to spend every summer.

*Charlie begins making a sand castle. Every so often picks garbage off her shovel.*

**Brad:** It feels so good to be back. Two weeks away from the office. Two weeks to relax!

**Leslie:** You've been working too hard.

**Brad:** I know. But what choice do I have. I can't wait to get into that water.

**Leslie:** You might be waiting a while. Look at that sign.

**Brad:** No swimming. High bacteria levels.

**Leslie:** Isn't that something.

**Brad:** That's really too bad.

**Leslie:** I have a feeling this trash has something to do with it.

**Brad:** Again?? Last time we were here, teenagers were throwing trash at our feet. Looks like it's gotten worse.

**Leslie:** I thought the town would have done something to clean it up, not let it get to this point.

**Resident:** You would think so wouldn't you? You're not from around here are you?

**Brad:** We grew up here but only come back in the summer now. It's been a few years since we've been back.

**Resident:** Well the town doesn't really care about this beach. It's pretty secluded so they figure no one cares about it. There's a new factory opening up in the next year or two. Apparently, most of the pollution from it will run off down here.

**Leslie:** That's horrible. It will destroy the beach.

**Resident:** I know. They started construction last fall. There's been no swimming allowed since then.

**Brad:** What? I used to swim here all the time as a kid. We had all our parties here in high school. It was always the best spot to hang out. Maybe because it was out of the way a bit.

**Leslie:** Now there's hardly anyone here.



**Resident:** They don't even tell people what's happening here. By the time a lot of us found out, it was too late to do anything. I guess we should have organized a protest or something.

**Leslie:** Well I guess our day swimming at the beach will have to be a picnic by the shore.

**Brad:** I guess so.

**Resident:** There's another beach about a half an hour drive up the coast.

**Brad:** Thanks, we'll keep that in mind.

**Resident:** Enjoy your trip.

*Resident walks off stage.*

**Leslie:** We drove enough today, it doesn't seem worth it to leave.

**Brad:** No you're right. Let's just try and enjoy ourselves.

*Lights fade.*

## Scene 6

*Leslie and Brad are on the beach with their preteens, Seth and Charlie. They are picking up trash.*

**Seth:** Mom, why are we doing this again?

**Charlie:** Yeah, I thought this was supposed to be a vacation, not clean up duty.

**Leslie:** This beach is very special to your dad and I. We've spent a lot of time cleaning this place up over the years.

**Brad:** There was supposed to be a factory built here years ago. That's why we can't swim here. Thankfully the people of the community fought against the company and the press was so bad they backed out.

**Charlie:** So why are we cleaning this place up?

**Leslie:** Because someone has to.

**Seth:** Why does it have to be us? I wanted to go to Striver Beach.

**Brad:** If we let this beach die, it's only a matter of time before the whole shoreline is polluted.

**Charlie:** I guess. Some vacation.

*Seth and Charlie spread out, picking up garbage.*

**Leslie:** Brad, did you hear the talk in town?

**Brad:** Yeah. A lot of people are out of work.

**Leslie:** There's talk that the factory will be built now after all.

**Brad:** I hope not.

**Leslie:** I know. But I don't think anything will stop it now.

**Brad:** We'll do everything we can.

*Lights fade*

## **SCENE 7**

*Five years later. Opens on cleaner beach. Charlie and Seth with protesters on the beach, a man in a suit is trying to calm them down.*

**Protesters:** Save our beach! Save our beach!

**Seth:** We spent years trying to save this beach. My parents fought to stop the factories from being built. They worked so hard to keep this beach alive. We can finally swim here again. Now you're going to destroy it.

*Protesters scream in agreement.*

**Mayor:** Now, we appreciate what you've done for the beach and the community but this place needs jobs. As mayor of this community, it's my responsibility to look after

the people. People need jobs and the new factory will employ over half the town's residents.

**Charlie:** We're not fools. We know this isn't the only solution!

**Mayor:** This is the best way. Now leave this beach immediately. It is now closed and you are trespassing. We have signs to put up and want to do so in peace...

**Charlie:** Just think about it, all of my childhood memories are here! And if you ruin it, future generations we'll never experience this wonder of a beach!

**Mayor:** People are more interested in where their next paycheck will come from.

**Seth:** We'll never stop fighting for this beach.

**Protesters:** Save the beach! Save the beach.

**Charlie:** Stop, It's already started, we can't stop it now....

**Seth:** Charlie what are you doing? You're the one who got us down here! I'm not leaving.

**Mayor:** Your sister is the smart one. Leave now or everyone will be arrested.

*Protesters turn back, depressed. Seth and Charlie stay on the beach*

**Seth:** *(Looking at Charlie disappointed)* What a great role model, teaching me to give up, conform, you know if mom and dad were back from vacation, they'd be as disappointed in you as me.

**Charlie:** We've done everything we could. Mom and Dad have fought for this beach for ten years. It's no use anymore.

*Lights Fade.*

## **SCENE 7**

*Lights come up on beginning set; Leslie sits contemplating, Charlie paces kicking trash.*

**Charlie:** I can't believe that was almost twenty years ago, I felt so guilty when you joined us that year, I couldn't even tell Dad or Aunt Kat. Seth did.

**Leslie:** There was nothing else you could do.

**Charlie:** But now it's twenty times worse! We should have never left, we should have stayed here and saved the beach.

**Leslie:** Now if you had stayed you would have gotten into so much trouble. If you had been arrested that day, you never would have gotten into university, met Jack, and I wouldn't be a grandma now would I!

*Brad and Seth enter*

**Brad:** Just look at this place now.

**Seth:** It's a disaster area. It was bad before, but now everything is completely destroyed.

**Leslie:** I thought things might have been different. I thought people would finally care about this place.

**Charlie:** I guess not.

*Brad starts to pick up some of the garbage.*

**Leslie:** Don't hurt yourself, honey.

**Seth:** It's too depressing here. Sis, let's get coffees for everyone.

**Charlie:** Sure. Tim's is on the way to Aunt Kat's. You coming Mom and Dad?

**Brad:** No, we'll be along later.

*Seth and Charlie leave. Brad and Leslie sit on an old picnic table and look around.*

**Brad:** It's changed so much since we were kids.

**Leslie:** A great deal.

**Brad:** I wish we opened our eyes sooner and did something more.

**Leslie:** We still can, slowly but surely life is still full of surprises for you and me.

**Brad:** You think so? We couldn't even save this place. We were so busy with our own lives; we just let it be destroyed.

**Leslie:** This place might be lost but with knowledge, the future holds hope to make a change. Why, with all we learned (*pause*) It's time to teach.

*They hug as lights fade.*