

The Day the Colour Faded

By

The Postville Players

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Cast of Characters

MS. NORA: JAYDA-MARIE JACQUE

SIDNEY: EMMA MITCHELL

CARRIE: ROBYN GEAR

MIA: LILLIAN SEMIGAK

AMY: SHANIA POOLE

GRANDMA: LILLIAN SEMIGAK

ACT ISCENE 1

LIGHTS UP ON A STAGE THAT IS DIVIDED INTO THREE SECTIONS. UPSTAGE LEFT, THE SCENE IS SET TO RESEMBLE A BEDROOM. UPSTAGE RIGHT, ON LEVEL WITH THE BEDROOM, THE SCENE IS SET TO RESEMBLE THE KIND OF BASEMENT WHERE TEENAGERS LIKE TO HANGOUT. A DINGY COUCH, BOOMBOX, AND OLD COFFEE TABLE LAY AROUND.

DOWNSTAGE CENTER, THE SCENE IS SET TO RESEMBLE THE COUNSELLING OFFICE OF AN UNDERFUNDED, OVERWORKED YOUTH COUNSELOR. A CHEAP DESK IS CLUTTERED WITH PAPERS AND A SET OF CHEAPER CHAIRS SIT ON EITHER SIDE OF THE DESK. MS. NORA, A PROFESSIONALLY DRESSED COUNSELOR WITH PREMATURE WORRY LINES ENTERS THE ROOM. SHE SITS ON A CHAIR, AND PUTS HER HEAD IN HER HANDS.

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP ON THE BASEMENT AND OFFICE SETS. MS NORA IS STILL SITTING AT HER DESK. GRANDMA ENTERS THE OFFICE, WHILE SIDNEY, CARRIE, AND AMY ENTER THE BASEMENT.

CARRIE (in the basement)

Ugh, Grandma is signing me up for counselling today. I don't need that in my life. It's not like I'm actually gonna go.

GRANDMA (in the office)

My granddaughter, Carrie, really needs your help. She's been experiencing so much grief since her friend passed away. She really needs someone to talk to. I'm terrified of what it is doing to her.

MS NORA

I hear you. What are some of your concerns?

GRANDMA

She has this group of friends. Her friend that died, he was a part of it too. Carrie leaves the house only to see them. They stay out late every night, and they skip off school. I'm afraid they might be drinking as a way to deal with the pain.

CARRIE

I don't need to talk to someone when I have you guys. What do you say we have a drink to forget?

SCENE 3

MS. NORA IS IN HER OFFICE, SORTING PAPERS ON HER DESK. ENTER SIDNEY.

MS. NORA

Hi there.

SIDNEY

Uh, hi.

MS. NORA

You must be Sidney?

SIDNEY

Uh, yeah.

MS. NORA

Well, it's nice to meet you. My name is Nora.

SHE EXTENDS HER HAND. SIDNEY DOES NOT SHAKE IT.

MS. NORA

Well, that's fine. Why don't you take a seat?

SIDNEY SITS.

MS. NORA

So, in my first sessions, I usually just like to get to know the people I work with. What can you tell me about yourself?

SIDNEY

Well, my name is Sidney. I've lived in this town for 16 years, which is my whole life. And, well, yeah.

MS. NORA

Okay, and do you like it here?

SIDNEY

Not really, no.

MS. NORA

Hmm, yeah, I understand that.

SIDNEY

Do you really? Couldn't you just move if you wanted to?

MS. NORA

I guess so. So what made you decide to see a counselor?

SIDNEY

My parents.

MS. NORA

Yeah. That makes sense. Is there any particular reason that they wanted you to see a counselor?

SIDNEY

I don't want to talk about that.

MS. NORA

(beat)

Okay then. We don't have to start there if you aren't ready.

SIDNEY

Okay.

NORA SMILES. SIDNEY GETS UP TO GO. NORA EXTENDS HER HAND ONCE AGAIN AND, ONCE AGAIN, SIDNEY DOES NOT SHAKE IT.

SIDNEY BEGINS TO WALK AWAY. ON HER WAY OUT OF THE OFFICE SHE PASSES CARRIE. CARRIE AND SIDNEY SILENTLY ACKNOWLEDGE EACH OTHER, WITH SIDNEY EXPRESSING HER OPINION THAT THE NEW COUNSELOR IS OFF HER ROCKER.

CARRIE ENTERS.

MS. NORA

Hi. You must be Carrie?

CARRIE

Yes I am.

THEY SHAKE HANDS.

MS. NORA

It's nice to meet you.

CARRIE

You too. You must be the new counselor?

MS. NORA

I am! I'm very excited to start working with you.

CARRIE

I'm sure you are. That's what they all say.

MS. NORA

Oh?

CARRIE

I've been here before. Not with you, obviously. You aren't the first person they tried to set me up with.

MS. NORA

Oh that's good. What kinds of things did you learn in those sessions?

CARRIE

I've learned that sometimes you just need to trust yourself rather than someone else. Which is why I don't even know what I'm doing here right now.

MS. NORA

Oh--kay.

(beat)

Well what happened that might have caused you to return to counseling, if you're so against it?

CARRIE

What, like what event? I'm not here by choice.

MS. NORA

Sure. Let's start there.

CARRIE

I know you know what happened.

MS. NORA

Well, I can see that you're certainly
an insightful young woman.

CARRIE RISES AND SMILES.

CARRIE

It was nice to meet you too. I wish
you all the best in these future
sessions.

MS. NORA

Thanks?

CARRIE

I'll see you next time.

*CARRIE LEAVES, SHE DOES NOT ACKNOWLEDGE
MIA AS THEY PASS EACH OTHER ON THE WAY.
MIA WALKS INTO THE OFFICE AND STANDS THERE
NERVOUSLY.*

*MS. NORA IS WRITING IN HER BOOK AND LOOKS
UP.*

MS. NORA

Hello! You must be ... Mia?

MIA

Hi. Uh, are you ... Ms. Nora?

MS. NORA

Why yes I am! Welcome. Please have a
seat.

MIA SITS.

MIA

Thanks.

MS. NORA

So, Mia, have you been to counseling before?

MIA

No. This is my first time.

MS. NORA

Okay, good. Well there's nothing to worry about here. What made you decide to come to me?

MIA

Well, I have problems. I guess you'd call it nervousness? I convince myself of things that I know aren't real, or can't be changed, and worry about them anyway.

MS. NORA

Oh, wow. That's very self-aware of you.

(beat)

Is there anything you can think of that might have caused this?

MIA

I don't want to talk about it.

NORA RUBS HER EYES. NOT ANOTHER BRICK WALL.

MS. NORA

Okay, then. Thank you, Mia. I look forward to working with you in the future.

MIA

Thanks.

MIA RISES, SHAKES NORA'S HAND, AND EXITS.

SCENE 4

NORA DOES SOME PAPERWORK. A TIMID GIRL, AMY, WALKS SLOWLY INTO HER OFFICE.

MS. NORA

Hi there. Just have a seat, I'll be right with you.

AMY

Thanks. I'm Amy.

MS. NORA

I'm Nora. It's so nice to meet you. So, Amy, why don't we start with you telling me a little bit about yourself?

AMY

Oh no. Safe space?

MS. NORA

The safest.

AMY

Okay, we--

MS. NORA

I'm sorry, Amy, you're going to have to speak up a little.

AMY

Okay. Well, my name is Amy, I'm the youngest of two.

MS. NORA

What do you like to do?

AMY

I like to sit alone and listen to music. Lately I've been hanging out with some of my brother's friends, but I don't know how long that's going to last.

MS. NORA

Why not?

AMY

I don't know. It feels like they're trying to have me around for closure or something.

*NORA LAYS DOWN HER NOTEBOOK AND GIVES AMY
HER FULL ATTENTION.*

MS. NORA

What do you mean by that?

AMY

I'm talking about Tyler.

My brother passed away not too long ago. It was ... sudden. Most people aren't over it. He was well-known. Well liked. Far better than I am with people.

(beat)

He was my favorite person. And now he's gone and everyone's so angry that I really don't even know how to address it. Every day I wake up and lay in bed not wanting to open my eyes because I know that when I do I'll be waking into a world without him.

MS. NORA

Mhm.

AMY

And now he's gone, and I have to navigate everything by myself. It's all too big for me to face alone, and nobody will talk about it with me, and its all just ... deteriorating.

MS. NORA

Deteriorating, how?

AMY

Well, when it happened, his friends fell apart. And it seems like they're only getting worse. Ever since the day after the funeral.

SCENE 5

LIGHTS UP ON THE BASEMENT PORTION OF THE STAGE. MIA AND SIDNEY ARE SITTING ON THE COUCH, EACH WEARING THE SHOCK OF WATCHING A FRIEND GET BURIED.

MIA

Dude, that sucked.

SIDNEY

Tell me about it. I don't even want to think about it.

MIA

Yeah, me neither.

SIDNEY

Did you sleep well last night?

MIA

What kind of a question is that?

SIDNEY

I don't know, just making
conversation, I guess.

MIA

Well, if you must know the truth, I
didn't sleep well last night either.

SIDNEY

What do you mean "either"?

MIA

Well, I assume you didn't sleep well.
Otherwise you wouldn't have asked it.

SIDNEY

I slept fine.

MIA

Really?

SIDNEY

Like a baby.

MIA

Babies don't sleep well. Have you ever
even met a baby?

SIDNEY

(grins)

I know you, don't I?

THIS DRAWS A CHUCKLE OUT OF MIA. SIDNEY REACHES INTO HER POCKET AND REMOVES A PACKET OF CIGARETTES.

SHE LIGHTS ONE.

MIA

Woah, Sidney, what are you doing?

SIDNEY

What's it look like I'm doing?

MIA

It looks like you're smoking. If you get caught you could get in a load of trouble.

(beat)

Not to mention dying. Like, actually dying.

SIDNEY

As opposed to not actually dying?

THE GRAVITY OF THIS SITS HEAVY ON MIA. SHE LOOKS AWAY, SILENT.

SIDNEY

Come on, MIA, I wouldn't worry about it so much. These just ... take the edge off. Calm me down.

MIA

Really?

SIDNEY

Yeah. Want to try one?

*THE LIGHTS COME BACK UP ON THE COUNSELING
SESSION IN MS. NORA'S OFFICE.*

MS. NORA

Amy, it's common for people who've experienced trauma to develop unhealthy coping mechanisms. But it's important that you try to help your friends replace them with healthier coping mechanisms.

AMY

Yeah. I know you're right, but I really doubt they'll listen to me.

MS. NORA

Well, hey now. Don't sell yourself short. I think you should try it, and I bet you'd be surprised how well they listen to you.

*THE LIGHTS COME BACK UP ON THE BASEMENT
SCENE. GRANDMA IS SPEAKING ON THE PHONE.*

GRANDMA

Hi sweetheart, how are you doing?

(Beat)

Listen, I need to talk to you about Carrie. I don't know for sure, like I never see it, but Marie told me she seen Carrie and her crowd down by the playground last night and some of them had cigarettes lit.

(Beat)

I know, I know I don't know for sure if she was smoking. But can you please just talk to her?

(Beat)

You're her mother, you know she wants to hear from you.

(Beat)

You know she don't listen to me,
especially since Tyler passed.

*LIGHTS DOWN ON THE BASEMENT. WE ARE BACK
AT THE OFFICE. AMY AND MS. NORA RESUME
THEIR CONVERSATION.*

AMY

Thanks.

MS. NORA

No trouble.

(checks her watch)

Well, that's our time. I guess I'll
see you in the next session?

AMY

Sure. See you.

*Amy gets up, shakes Ms. Nora's hand,
and leaves.*

ACT IIScene 1

AMY ENTERS THE BASEMENT. MATT AND CARRIE ARE ALREADY SAT ON THE COUCH. MATT IS FINISHING PUTTING OUT A CIGARETTE.

CARRIE TURNS TO AMY.

CARRIE

Hey Amy! How you doing?

AMY

Hey guys, thanks for having me.

MIA

Join on in. We've got cards, games, a radio.

AMY

Oh, awesome. Where's Sidney?

CARRIE

She's on her way with the party favors.

AMY

What? I mean, cool. What kind of party favors?

MIA

Oh, you'll see soon enough.

AMY

(nervous laughter)

CARRIE

What's new kid? You look different.

AMY

I--

SIDNEY ENTERS. HER JACKET POCKETS ARE FULL.

SIDNEY

Heeeeeeyyy!

MIA

Hey Hey!

CARRIE

Hey, Sidney!

AMY

(quietly)

Hi.

SIDNEY HIGH FIVES CARRIE AND MIA, THEN TURNS TO REGARD AMY.

SIDNEY

Well hello.

AMY

(quietly)

Hi.

SIDNEY

(to Carrie and Mia)

She cool?

CARRIE

Yeah she's cool. She knows what's up.

SIDNEY

Wicked.

*SIDNEY PRODUCES A GATORADE BOTTLE FULL OF
AN AMBER LIQUID.*

MIA

Hey oh!

CARRIE

Deadly.

AMY

Where did you get that?

SIDNEY

My grandfather left it in the
cupboard.

(beat)

Who wants some?

MIA AND CARRIE STEP FORWARD.

CARRIE

Me!

MIA

Me too!

*SIDNEY, CARRIE, AND MIA EACH TAKE A SIP
FROM THE BOTTLE. SIDNEY HANDS IT OUT TO
AMY.*

AMY STARES AT THE BOTTLE.

SIDNEY

What's the matter, Kid? I thought you
were cool.

AMY

Well, it's not that. I just think maybe we shouldn't be doing this at a time like this.

MIA

A time like this? What better a time?

AMY

I don't know.

CARRIE

Awh, come on, Amy. It's nothing to be scared of.

A MOMENT OF TENSION. AMY'S INTEGRITY SHINES THROUGH FOR JUST A MOMENT. FINALLY, SHE GRABS THE BOTTLE AND TAKES A SIP.

SIDNEY PUTS HER HAND ON AMY'S SHOULDER.

SIDNEY

(to the others)

This girl's brother was my best friend.

MIA

Yeah, but I was his best friend.

SIDNEY

(beat)

What?

MIA

I was his best friend.

SIDNEY STEPS UP INTO MIA'S SPACE.

SIDNEY

Say that again.

CARRIE JUMPS UP.

CARRIE

Hey! Knock it off, okay? there's no need. We don't know which one of us meant more to him, okay?

(beat)

We just don't.

GRANDMA (from offstage)

Carrie? Are you home?

CARRIE

Quick, hide everything!

TEENS RISE, RUSH TO PUT AWAY ALCOHOL AND CIGARETTES. MIA WAVES A JACKET AROUND IN AN ATTEMPT TO CLEAR OUT THE SMOKE. LIGHTS DOWN.

SCENE 2

CARRIE WALKS INTO MS. NORA'S OFFICE.

MS. NORA

Hello Carrie. Welcome back.

CARRIE

Hey. lets cut the chit chat. you think you know me? Well, you don't.

MS. NORA

Well I would never claim that.

CARRIE

Then why am I here.

MS. NORA

I want to help you work through your issues.

CARRIE

What makes you think I have issues?

MS. NORA

You don't want to talk about Tyler?

CARRIE FOLDS HER ARMS AND STRAIGHTENS HER BACK.

MS. NORA

I think it could be beneficial for you.

CARRIE DOESN'T GIVE AN INCH.

CARRIE

I think it's time for me to go.

MS. NORA

If that's too much for now, that's okay. I'll see you tomorrow for our next meeting?

CARRIE

(Sarcastically) Sure.

CARRIE RISES, SHE WALKS OUT OF THE OFFICE. ON HER WAY, SHE PULLS A GATORADE BOTTLE OUT OF HER POCKET, AND -- OUTSIDE OF NORA'S VIEW -- TAKES A SIP.

ON HER WAY, SHE PASSES MIA AND SIDNEY. UNLIKE THE LAST TIME, SHE MAKES EYE CONTACT WITH THEM FOR A MOMENT. MIA AND SIDNEY ENTER NORA'S OFFICE TOGETHER.

MS. NORA

(sighs)

Mia, Sidney. Have a seat please.

THEY SIT.

MS. NORA

So... Do you want to talk about the other night? I heard there was almost a physical altercation.

SIDNEY

It wasn't a physical altercation, Miss, it was just an argument.

MIA

But she started it.

SIDNEY

I didn't start anything. You're the one who set me off.

MS. NORA

Okay, okay, okay.

(beat)

Calm? What happened to start this argument?

SIDNEY

She said she was Tyler's best friend.

MIA

She said *she* was Tyler's best friend.

MIA AND SIDNEY STOP, AND LOOK AT EACH OTHER. THE REALIZATION OF WHAT THIS MEANS, AND WHY THEY'RE IN COUNSELLING SUDDENLY MAKES SENSE.

SCENE 3

LIGHTS UP ON THE BEDROOM SET. CARRIE IS READING A BOOK. HER GATORADE BOTTLE IN HAND.

GRANDMA

(off stage)

Carrie! Are you still up?

CARRIE QUICKLY HIDES THE BOTTLE IN HER DRESSER.

CARRIE

Yes, Grandma. I'm going to bed now.

GRANDMA

Okay, goodnight.

CARRIE

Night.

SHE GRABS THE GATORADE BOTTLE AND TAKES ANOTHER SIP.

SCENE 4

MS. NORA IS BACK IN HER OFFICE. AMY ENTERS.

MS. NORA

Hey, Amy. How are you doing?

AMY

It's been really hard. The other night at the party, well, they talked me into using some of their ... less than healthy coping mechanisms.

MS. NORA

Oh, well, that's alright. Did you want to?

AMY

I didn't.

MS. NORA

Then why did you join?

AMY

I don't know.

(beat)

Okay, I do know. I find it so hard to open up to people. Like, not you, but real people, you know?

MS. NORA

Mhmm.

AMY

Anyway, I guess I just never felt like I could fit in and now, I have this chance to, and I'm so afraid I'm going to mess it up that I feel like I have to. My brother was the coolest guy. I miss him so much, and his friends are all I have, and now I'm worried that maybe, they won't see me as ... I don't know. Worth his memory.

MS. NORA

Oh, honey. If it means anything, I don't think they're going to feel that way. In fact, have you ever considered that maybe you're all they have left of him?

(beat)

But you can't let them make you do things you don't want to do. You have to set clear boundaries, and you have to stick to them firmly.

AMY

But I don't know how to do that.

MS. NORA

(grabbing her hand)

It's easy. You just have to try your
best.

ACT IIISCENE 1

AMY ENTERS THE BASEMENT. CARRIE IS SITTING ON THE COUCH.

AMY

Hey, can I talk to you?

CARRIE

Sure, come sit down.

CARRIE OFFERS AMY THE GATORADE BOTTLE.

AMY PUSHES THE BOTTLE AWAY.

AMY

Not at this moment.

CARRIE

Suit yourself.

(Takes a sip from the bottle)

AMY

I've been meaning to talk to you about what happened. I wanted to check up on you. You seem to be using a lot of different substances to try to cope and I'm worried about you.

Carrie

C'mon Amy, I'm fine.

AMY

I know your not. from all of the ways you've been trying to hide and deny your feelings, I know that it hit you as hard as it hit me. I mean he was my brother, but he was also your best

friend. I know you think alcohol helps you cope, but it's ruining you. Tyler would hate to see who you've become.

CARRIE

Well he's not here anymore, is he? This is how I'm dealing with it. You don't get to tell me how I cope with his death. You just don't have the right. You just don't get it.

AMY

I do get it. He was my brother. I cared for him as much as you did. I've known him my entire life. How would I not get it?

CARRIE

You need to leave.

SCENE 2

MS. NORA, LOOKING MORE FRAZZLED THAN WHEN WE MET HER, SITS IN HER OFFICE. CARRIE ENTERS THE OFFICE.

MS. NORA

(flatly)

Hi Carrie.

CARRIE

Helllloooooooooo, Ms. Nora.

MS. NORA PERKS UP, GIVING CARRIE HER FULL ATTENTION.

MS. NORA

How are you?

CARRIE

I've never been better. And you know what, I think I'm over it. I don't think I need counselling anymore.

MS. NORA

Over what?

CARRIE

You know. The whole thing.

MS. NORA

What whole thing?

CARRIE

You know.

MS. NORA

You can't even say it. And you expect
me to believe you've moved passed
this?

(beat)

And I know you aren't sober right now.

CARRIE

What are you talking about? I'm fine.

MS. NORA

Okay, then, but before you go, we have
to talk about Tyler.

CARRIE

Fine.

MS. NORA

Fine. So talk.

*CARRIE SITS THERE FOR A MOMENT, THEN
FINALLY, BURIES HER HEAD IN HER HANDS.*

CARRIE

He's gone.

MS. NORA

hey, I know. It's okay. I promise you.

CARRIE

It's just not fair. I can't believe this happened. How is this fair? It's been so hard to go through this alone.

NORA PUTS HER HAND ON CARRIE'S SHOULDER.

MS. NORA

I know. But Carrie, you have to listen to me. You can't drown your pain the way you have been. Grief sucks. Grief is hard. But, guess what? This isn't helping you at all.

CARRIE

No, I guess it's not.

MS. NORA

You don't have to endure the pain on your own. You have your friends. And you have me. I promise you that I'll do whatever I can to help you get through all of this, okay?

CARRIE

(Calming herself, smiling)

Okay.

SCENE 3

THE BASEMENT. CARRIE, MIA, AND SIDNEY SIT THERE. THE EMPTY GATORADE BOTTLE SITS ON THE COFFEE TABLE. THEY LOOK BORED. OVER IT.

AMY ENTERS.

AMY

Guys!

MIA

Hey, what's up?

AMY

I don't think this is right. I think we should be leaning on each other to help us get through this. Instead all we've been doing is drinking and fighting.

(beat)

I don't want it to be like this anymore.

CARRIE

She's right. I think we've been running from our problems for too long.

MIA

Yeah, I've been thinking a lot about it lately. I don't think Tyler would have wanted this from any of us.

Sidney, I'm sorry. I didn't want to fight with you. I guess, in a way, you're the best friend I've ever had, because I need your help to work through this.

SIDNEY

Yeah, man. You're right. It took us some time, but I'm glad we got here.

AMY

You know, guys, we didn't get here alone.

CARRIE

She's right.

SIDNEY

(Throwing bottle away)

Come on, let's go.

SCENE 3

*NORA'S OFFICE. THE STRESSED COUNSELLOR IS
SORTING FILES. THERE'S A KNOCK AT HER
DOOR.*

MS. NORA

Hello?

ENTER MIA, CARRIE, AMY, AND SIDNEY.

SIDNEY

Miss, I just wanted to thank you for
all you've done to help us.

CARRIE

Honestly, you've had such a major
impact on our lives. I'm so grateful
to you.

MS. NORA

Well, thank you guys, but we've all
got some work to do.

MIA

We realize that, but the fact that we
realize that means you're doing
something right. And, I guess, I guess
--

AMY

(tearful)

I don't think we'd be where we are if
you hadn't have helped us. I know when
I first came to you, I really thought
that you'd say same words and my pain
would go away.

I guess I never thought that I'd be responsible for my own wellbeing. But I am, and I guess for the first time in a long time...

MS. NORA

Mhmm?

AMY

I'm feeling great.