

A Play by Kathy Huot

CHARACTERS

KATHY Older sister. Expressive to a fault. Thinks a lot about life and where she's going. Reads like an open book. Easily saddened. Focuses on what could be rather than what is. Wistful/dreamer.

KAREN Younger sister. Realist. Overly blunt and says whatever comes to mind. Sees the glass half empty. A bit snarky/a smartass essentially. At times, seems to not care/apathetic. Sarcastic.

SETTING AND TIME

The play is essentially set in the present, where most of it is told through the narrator's father's memories. KATHY and KAREN are the main characters who discuss these memories, which start in Cambodia and transition to America, where it includes the lives of the children. Kathy is the eldest and is faced with the challenge of incorporating the experiences of her father's into her own life and where she wants to go and what she wants to do. It's an internal conflict that is explored throughout the play alongside her father's memories and how he reacts to how she lives her life.

SCENE 1

(It's a quarter past midnight. There is a queen size bed, an old worn out vanity dresser and a 32-inch, five-year-old television. KATHY and KAREN share the bed due to lack of room. KATHY lies awake, staring at the ceiling. KAREN is on her side, presumably asleep.)

KATHY

Hey, you awake?

KAREN

No.

KATHY

Can't sleep?

KAREN

No.

KATHY

Liar.

KAREN

Like you're any different.

KATHY

Touché.

KAREN

So what's the matter?

KATHY

Hmm... like you...can't sleep.

KAREN

(Rolls over)

Listen to some music then? I'm feeling generous so you can borrow my earphones.

KATHY

Thanks but that's not it.

KAREN

What is?

KATHY

Like have you ever thought about what would of have happened if she actually never went AWOL and cheated and like we actually had a nice, picture perfect childhood—went to Disneyland and cruises. All that nice stuff?

KAREN

Sometimes.

KATHY

Yeah. It's like it's not fair.

KAREN

Life isn't fair.

KATHY

So is it our job to make it fair?

KAREN

I dunno.

KATHY

I just want my life to be perfect where pa's not stuck in the past and I have amazing friends and I go to a nice college and life is just...perfect.

KAREN

You know that can't happen.

(Kathy tugs the blankets over her head and curls up. The sound of cars passing by and people yelling at each other and bachata music can be heard blasting from below and next door.)

KATHY

(Muffled)

But it doesn't hurt to wish for stuff.

KAREN

Yeah I hear you. I would have a new laptop and phone if that were the case and maybe pa would get off my back about not getting all A's.

KATHY

(Flips blankets off)

Same, but like life is life and life is a pain in the ass.

KAREN

You can say that again.

KATHY

Life is—

KAREN

You know what I mean.

KATHY

Yeah, just trying to lighten the mood and maybe induce sleep.

KAREN

We'll use the bathroom or something.

KATHY

But the bathroom's where I think the most.

KAREN

Then take a walk.

KATHY

At this time of night? I'll die.

KAREN

Just helping.

KATHY

But think about it. Where would we be if shit didn't hit the fan? If she never decided that her life was more important than her family's well-being. If she chose to be a good wife—no a good person. Would we be in Las Vegas? London? Shanghai? It just makes me...upset that reality decided to fuck us up.

KAREN

Let go of it all ready. It's done and over with. You can't change the past.

KATHY

(Oblivious)

Like if she decided to be just plain good. Take care of us, be normal, faithful—practice fidelity and all that nice shit. Maybe just maybe we'll be happy.

KAREN

Ever heard of the saying "Bad things happen to good people."?

KATHY

Yeah.

KAREN

Well that's what happened to us.

KATHY

And that has never been truer. I just wish good things would happen to good people and bad people would just become—good, so the good don't have to die young or...something like that.

KAREN

Then the world would be weird.

KATHY

How?

KAREN

Think about it. Can we handle if that were to happen?

KATHY

Being only good? All violence, sadness, adultery, and betrayal wiped off the face of the earth?

KAREN

Yeah.

KATHY

Maybe. I dunno. It's hard to say. People are naturally selfish, cruel even.

KAREN

That's deep for no reason, but yeah that's your answer, so stop thinking and go to sleep.

KATHY

I don't like it though.

KAREN

Neither do I, but no one cares. Life goes on. Sleep.

KATHY

Are you just saying that 'cause you're too tired to even care?

KAREN

Just saying what's already there. Also, don't you have midterms tomorrow?

KATHY

Yeah, but the problem is I can't sleep. It's like sleep is having commitment issues and it don't wanna be with me.

KAREN

Should I order some sleeping gas? I got the number right here.

KATHY

Very funny.

(Yawns)

KAREN

Like I said, just helping.

KATHY

Yeah just go to sleep.

KAREN

Same for you.

(Karen turns around and wraps the blankets around her. Kathy turns to her side as well. There is a heavy silence.)

KATHY

(Whispers)

Thanks for listening sis.

(Scene ends)