

JINGLE SPREE
a triptych

by

Dan Trujillo

This dialogue sample contains five pages from Acts 1 and 2, respectively. These acts feature different characters and locations, even though they are part of one story.

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CHARACTERS

JINGLE SPREE requires 6 actors. The characters are double-cast as one child and one adult. All the actors should be adults.

THE KIDS (in sample)

ALAN POTTS, nine.

VANESSA McSHANE, nine. ALAN's cousin.

DALE GILFOYLE, eight. ALAN's friend.

THE ADULTS (in sample)

ALISON SIPPEL, thirty-two. ALAN and TAMMY's mom.

BETH FENNENBOCK, thirty-two. ALISON's friend. CHRIS and AMY's mom. Carries an enormous purse.

SIERRA McSHANE, thirty-four. ALISON's older sister. VANESSA's mom.

BYRON McSHANE, forty-five. SIERRA's husband. VANESSA's dad.

SETTING AND TIME

ACT I

A walk-up attic of a house in Tigard, a rural suburb of Portland, Oregon. The attic is full of boxes.

It's a Saturday afternoon during a yard sale, 1991.

ACT II

Concurrent with Act I. A yard sale on the lawn of ALISON and KARL's house. Featured prominently for sale is an old electric organ.

The full script has a third act.

NOTE ON THE DIALOGUE

I use slashes (/) to indicate where a character begins speaking in the middle of the previous character's line.

Act I

*(A walk-up attic of ALAN, TAMMY, ALISON
and KARL'S house.)*

ALAN (off, not like a sheep:)
BAAAAAAA BAAAA BA BAAAAA AAAA BAAA BA BAAAAAAA BA BA BAAAAA!

DALE (off:)
Tell me tell me tell me tell me tell me tell me!

(ALAN enters, pursued by DALE.)

ALAN
BAAAAAAA BAAAAAAA no BAAAAAAA!

DALE
How come?

ALAN
BAAAAAAA it's secret information BAAAAA AAAA!

DALE
How come *you* know?

ALAN
BAAAAA AAAA It's secret information for fans.

DALE
I'm a fan.

ALAN
How much?

DALE
Infinity times infinity.

ALAN
But but but it's secret information only for fans who saw
the movie BAAAAAAA BAAA BAAAAA AAAA!

DALE
You ain't seen the movie.

ALAN
Yeah I did see the movie.

DALE
Karl would never take you to see the movie HAHAHA!

ALAN

But my dad took me to see the movie HAHAAAAAAAAHA!

DALE

Your *old* dad took you to see the movie?

(*Beat.*)

ALAN

He did.

(*VANESSA enters.*)

VANESSA

You're not supposed to be up here.

ALAN

BAAAAAA BAAA / BAAAAAAA!

VANESSA

Your mother told me that you're not supposed -

ALAN

Mom can come get me then.

VANESSA

The attic is off-limits.

ALAN

It's my fortress where I do what I want / -- that's the law.

VANESSA

It's off limits. The attic, the basement, the street, / the adult bedroom -

ALAN

The blah the bleh the bloo!

DALE

The door wasn't locked, when the door's not locked, it's not off-limits.

VANESSA (In a "Ma Joad" voice:)

"Dale! It's time for the Rodeo family to feed the yah-mas!"

DALE

Oh dude Alan let's go play Rodeo Family -

VANESSA

You have to do it rodeo style.

DALE

"Let's go rope them little dawggies!"

ALAN

We're lookin' for somethin', for for some of my dad's stuff.

VANESSA

But it's gonna be dinner time soon.

DALE

Oh yes!

ALAN

No 'cause 'cause Karl ain't back from basketball.

VANESSA

My father is / the barbecue chef.

ALAN

Karl's the boss / of the Weber.

VANESSA

My father's making pizza burgers.

DALE

All right pizza burgers!

ALAN

No no no it's gonna be her mom's curry that makes you fart.

DALE

All right curry -- thhhhpppppppppppt!

(DALE heads for the door.)

ALAN (to DALE:)

No no 'cause 'cause I gotta tell you the secret of the movie.

DALE

Oh pleeeeeease please tell me dude.

ALAN

It's a secret only for fans.

DALE

Ngh! (to VANESSA:) "Ah be down in a spell Ma."

ALAN (to VANESSA:)

So long farewell.

VANESSA

My mother told me to keep an eye on you.

ALAN

So?

VANESSA

So, if I see bad things, your mother's gonna come get you.

ALAN

So, I hope she does come up.

VANESSA

You're asking for trouble, Mister.

(VANESSA exits.)

ALAN

'Kay but before I tell you / you must solemnly swear -

DALE

Whatever okay tell me.

ALAN

You must solemnly swear you'll never tell another / living soul or hope to get AIDS.

DALE

Yeah yeah swear tell me.

ALAN

Hope to get AIDS.

DALE

I hope to get AIDS tell me.

Well what is it?

ALAN

First you gotta help me find somethin'.

DALE

No!

Act II

(The lawn of ALISON, KARL, ALAN and TAMMY's house. A yard sale. ALISON in a patio chair. BYRON sits nearby.)

ALAN (offstage:)

BAAAAA BAAAAAAA BA BAAAAAA BAA BAAAAA AAAAAA BAAAAA AAAAAA!!!

(SIERRA enters with a casserole dish.)

SIERRA

I was thinking about the kids. Do you know that movie that -- they're always sort-of going on about it on TV -- has Alan seen it? I thought I could take him to see it, he could spend time with Vanessa. I could take Alan for you, since you're so busy. Do you know the movie I mean?

ALISON

That's okay, he don't wanna see / it really.

SIERRA

It'd be my pleasure to -

ALISON

No thanks.

SIERRA

I just thought I'd -- it would be /nice to -

ALISON

Yeah I know. Thanks. No.

(Beat.)

SIERRA

Let's talk. Hm, Alis? We don't get to talk. We should talk.

ALISON

Talk about what?

SIERRA

Oh you know, about the organ. I was just wondering -

ALISON

Hold up. You smell that? Smells like a possum died.

SIERRA

I brought a curry.

ALISON

Whoops, sorry.

SIERRA

I would like to have a discussion about the organ. Why does it have a green sticker?

ALISON

My stuff is tagged green, yours pink, / Beth's is blue.

SIERRA

But why is there a green sticker on the organ?

ALISON

'Cause I'm selling it.

(BETH enters, with her big purse.)

BETH

YOU'RE LIKE INSANE AMY, YOU'RE MAKING ME -- UGH!

SIERRA

Now that is exactly the issue I want to discuss -

Alison

God anything but this, please not today, please, somebody!

SIERRA

This is healthy communication, / part of a process -

BETH

What the hell are you doing to her?

SIERRA

We're -- we're in the middle of a private discussion -

BETH

Uh-huh 'bout what?

ALISON

'Cout the organ mom gave me.

SIERRA

She didn't -- and it's not the organ per se, it's the green sticker on it.

BETH

What's wrong with green?

SIERRA

It's not / that it's green.

BETH

You should be happy, you got pink. I never get pink.

SIERRA

It's not about what color sticker I got, it's about this green sticker on the organ that she put on when she knows / she shouldn't have.

ALISON

Can we argue about this / some other -

SIERRA

We're not arguing, we're discussing.

ALISON

Okay can we discuss this some other time?

SIERRA

But I feel like you're being evasive. By, don't you feel like she's being evasive?

BYRON

Yup.

SIERRA

You're being evasive.

ALISON (to BETH:)

I can't deal right now.

SIERRA

Alis, an adult discussion / can solve -

BETH

Sierra, hey, c'mon now, c'mon, can't you see she's wiped? She's a like crusty ol' dishrag, okay? she's wiped, completely, we are wiped out from these short-bus kids of ours.

SIERRA

My child is / just as hard -

BETH

But yeah but you got only the one. She got two. We got two, each. We're pulling double shifts, we're stocking goddamn ham-and-cheese sandwiches at the airport, but for you every day / is a day off.

SIERRA

I work, I manage Vanessa's career.

BETH

Okay yeah sure -- you know -- but you wind her up, she goes in the right direction, okay, meanwhile Chris is a god damn felon-in-training, his grubby fingers in my purse, let's not even think about where Amy's headed -- you won't believe the crazy shit she just said to me, okay? She just said she hates Barbies and loves -- okay ready? Whales. What batshit little girl loves whales over Barbie? You know who I blame? okay that slut that Mike's with now, Miss Wanna-Be College Professor of Talking to Whales, she turned Amy, yeah, ever since they took 'em to Mexico, she turned her, that's what they do, 'cause they won't have any kids of their own, they recruit little girls into their hairy-pit yoga-world, where they're like (*yelling off:*) TOO BUSY KISSING THE WHALES TO APPRECIATE BARBIE!

SIERRA

I...I know how she can be.

BETH

She's always playing a boy too. What's that tell you?

SIERRA

You know, Vanessa sort-of enjoys Barbies.

BETH

Exactly, your life is a Dream Corvette.

SIERRA

I don't know -- you could bring Amy over to the house? I think Vanessa would really enjoy playing Barbies with her. We could have beers on the patio. Next Saturday.

BETH

What, you and me?

SIERRA

Sure we'll knock back a couple microbrews, / us girls.

ALISON

You gotta be / kidding.

SIERRA

Maybe you can see if Amy's interested.

BETH

Yeah uh -- yeah we're free.

SIERRA

Great. Go ask her. Next Saturday. We can / have beers.

BETH

Yeah that's...that's a real little girl you got, you know.

(BETH exits.)

SIERRA

I think that'll be good for her.

Now, I'd like to understand your point-of-view, so tell me why you think the organ is yours to sell?

(ALISON heads for the house.)

SIERRA (cont'd)

Alis, why / do you think the - ?

ALISON (calling off:)

Tammy! Alan!

SIERRA

No you're not -

ALISON

What're you up to, kids?

SIERRA

I'm not going to let you be evasive today. You put that green sticker on the organ, when you know Vanessa needs it for the Junior Rose Princess parade, and I am not gonna let you go anywhere -- anywhere -- until we dialogue this.

(We hear a car pull up.)

SIERRA (cont'd)

The parade's two miles long, Vanessa's instructor said that's twenty songs. For her to practice, / how can I - ?

ALISON

Then uh then uh buy it.

SIERRA

That's not funny.

ALISON

It's a hundred bucks.

SIERRA

That is -- honestly? -- absurd. It's not yours.

ALISON

It was in my house.

Mom's house.

SIERRA

My house.

ALISON