

Paranoia

Drama

by  
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CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
BRIAN ALLEN	Meek college-boy just on the verge of manhood. A history of being the worry-wort of the group.	20	M
JUDE PARKER	BRIAN's warm and restless girlfriend.	19	F
TERRI STONE	A perhaps too confident student who constantly works way past her limit.	20	F
GARRETT LANCASTER	A student whose work ethic falls on opposite side of the spectrum as TERRI.	21	M
DEMON	???	??	?
SERVER	College student trying to pay her way through school when she's not buried in her books.	22	F

SCENE ONE.

We don't know where we are. There is only a bed surrounded in darkness, as if floating in space. BRIAN ALLEN, a meek college-boy just on the verge of manhood, sleeps in this bed.

(THE LONDON EXPERIMENT JAZZ QUARTET'S TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE plays.)

BRIAN wakes up. He sits up and looks ahead in terror.)

END OF SCENE ONE.

SCENE TWO.

DAY. BRIAN's dorm room at University of California, Irvine. Cramped, cheap-looking, very minimalistic. Two beds on opposite sides of the room, each paired with a desk with computers and sorts on top. One armoire for clothing. One door leading into the main hallway.

BRIAN and JUDE PARKER, BRIAN's warm and restless girlfriend, lie around on the bed and the floor and stare at the ceiling.

BRIAN

...Welp.

JUDE

...Yeah.

BRIAN

We could --

JUDE

Too expensive.

BRIAN

What about --

JUDE

Had it last night.

BRIAN

There's always --

JUDE  
No way of getting there.

BRIAN  
Oh, right, yeah... How about --

JUDE  
Okay.

BRIAN  
Really?

JUDE  
Yeah, let's do it!

BRIAN  
Well alright then!

(BRIAN takes out his phone  
and dials.)

BRIAN  
Terri? You down to smoke? Like now. Really? Awesome. See you  
soon.

(BRIAN hangs up.)

BRIAN  
She's coming over now.

JUDE  
Should we head out then?

BRIAN  
Yeah, let's go.

END OF SCENE TWO.

SCENE THREE.

Back in nothingness with the bed. BRIAN  
is again sitting in it. There is a  
figure standing as a statue across the  
stage from him, although it is too dark  
to make out. The figure faces the  
audience.

(INTRO TO JEFFERSON  
AIRPLANE'S WHITE RABBIT plays.)

BRIAN LAUGHS.)

END OF SCENE THREE.

## SCENE FOUR.

DAY. Our cast is inside a run-down 1989 Lincoln Town Car. The car is parked in a parking lot a few blocks down from BRIAN's dorm.

The kids in the car include BRIAN, JUDE, TERRI STONE, a perhaps too confident student who constantly works way past her limit, and GARRETT LANCASTER, a student whose work ethic falls on opposite side of the spectrum as TERRI.

TERRI is in the driver's seat, GARRETT is in the passenger seat, BRIAN sits behind GARRETT, and JUDE sits behind TERRI.

(HOUSE MUSIC plays.)

GARRETT holds a pipe,  
smoking from it.)

JUDE  
Garrett, let me have it.

(GARRETT passes JUDE the  
pipe.)

JUDE takes a hit.

JUDE COUGHS heavily. She  
opens the car door and runs  
out.)

GARRETT  
I guess she had it.

TERRI  
She gonna be okay?

BRIAN  
Yeah, give her a sec.

(JUDE returns.)

JUDE  
What'd you put in that stuff?

GARRETT  
Nothing, you just suck at breathing.

JUDE  
I just suck at life.

TERRI  
Sounds like you need another hit.

(People TALKING outside.)

BRIAN  
Guys, wait.

(They all go SILENT. HOUSE MUSIC is  
turned down very low.

The TALKING fades away.

HOUSE MUSIC turns back up.)

TERRI  
You're always so paranoid. No one is gonna come get us.

BRIAN  
Doesn't hurt.

TERRI  
Jude, quit hogging the pipe if you're not gonna smoke.

JUDE  
The bowl's empty anyways.

TERRI  
Already?

GARRETT  
Lemme pack another.

(A SILENCE.

BRAIN LAUGHS giddily.)

JUDE  
What's so funny?

BRIAN  
There's a horse on the window.

TERRI  
Right? I told you I wasn't the only one!

GARRETT  
You guys are crazy, there's no horse.

TERRI  
Look at the streaks. They form a horse!

GARRETT  
There's no horse, you guys.

JUDE  
Ohh, I see it now!

GARRETT  
There's no -- Oh, you mean that?

BRIAN  
Now it's a unicorn!

JUDE  
I don't see the horn.

GARRETT  
For fuck's... There's barely even a horse!

BRIAN  
Now it's a... it's a...

(BRIAN LAUGHS hysterically.)

JUDE, TERRI, and GARRETT  
LAUGH at and with him.)

Stars overlay the entire  
scene.)

TERRI  
Dude, Brian, you gotta share what's so funny.

BRIAN  
Stars. I can see stars!

GARRETT  
Okay now I know you're crazy. The only star out is the sun.

BRIAN  
I can see whole galaxies of suns!

(BRIAN continues LAUGHING  
hysterically.)

A car rolls by.)

JUDE  
Wait, wait, wait, guys. I see a car.

(HOUSE MUSIC turns down.)

BRIAN's LAUGHTER gradually  
stops.

The stars fade.

The car passes.)

GARRETT

Here.

(GARRETT passes the pipe to TERRI. She takes a hit and passes it to JUDE. She takes a hit and passes it to BRIAN. He takes a hit.)

BRIAN

Wait, guys, what the fuck are we doing?

TERRI

We're getting burgers, that's what we're doing!

GARRETT

Hell yeah, we are! I'm starving.

JUDE

Yeah, these munchies are really getting to me.

BRIAN

Is this a good idea? We're all stoned out of our fucking minds.

TERRI

I do this all the time now, it's fine.

BRIAN

That's not helpful.

TERRI

Trust me, I can drive there. Just buckle up.

(TERRI starts the car.)

END OF SCENE FOUR.

SCENE FIVE.

BRIAN sitting in the bed floating in nothingness. The figure is still there, statuesque as ever. This time, it is facing BRIAN.

(CANNED LAUGHTER.)

BRIAN looks around, checking over his shoulder in a paranoid manner.



For a FLASH, the figure is illuminated, revealing to be a DEMON.

As soon as we see it, the FLASH is over.)

END OF SCENE FIVE.

SCENE SIX.

DAY. At the In-and-Out burger drive-thru, still in the 1989 Lincoln Town Car. The car is next in a long line leading to the ordering box.

(BRIAN constantly checks over his shoulder.

TERRI holds back GIGGLING.)

TERRI

Oh my God... Okay, I've got this.

(The car in front of them pulls up farther. The Lincoln moves forward to the ordering box.)

SERVER (OFF)

May I take your order?

TERRI

I'd like a... I'd like a...

(TERRI continues to LAUGH throughout the order.)

I want a cheeseburger, animal style, no pickles.

SERVER (OFF)

One moment please.

(The mic on the other end is covered, but we can still hear SERVER GIGGLING to her coworker.)

SERVER (OFF)

I'm sorry about that, can you repeat your order?

TERRI

I'd like a cheeseburger, animal style, no pickles.

SERVER (OFF)  
Would you like pickles with that?

TERRI  
No, no pickles.

SERVER (OFF)  
How about some cookies?

TERRI  
What?

SERVER (OFF)  
I said would you like some fries with that?

TERRI  
Yeah, yeah, fries. And can I get a hamburger with animal fries?

SERVER (OFF)  
Would you like buns on your burger?

TERRI  
Yeah, I want buns.

SERVER (OFF)  
Would you like burger on your burger?

TERRI  
Yes, burger please.

SERVER (OFF)  
Alright, excellent. Can I interest you in some tickets to the Dodger's game this weekend?

TERRI  
No, no, that's alright. Can I get a double-double without cheese?

SERVER (OFF)  
A double-double double-double coming right up. Will that be all?

TERRI  
Brian, are you sure you don't want anything?

BRIAN  
Yeah, I'm fine.

TERRI  
Are you sure?

BRIAN  
I said I'm fine.

TERRI

Okay, yeah, that's everything.

SERVER (OFF)

Let me just run this by you one last time. So we have one Krabby Patty, hold the mayo, two Tarantinos with a side of Scorsese, and a mullet in a ponytail. Is that correct?

TERRI

Wait, what?

SERVER (OFF)

I said we have one cheeseburger, animal style, no pickles, one cheeseburger, side of animal fries, and one double-double hold the cheese.

TERRI

Yes, that's all good.

SERVER (OFF)

Will you be eating in your car tonight?

TERRI

What?

SERVER (OFF)

I said is this for here or to go?

TERRI

To... to go.

SERVER (OFF)

Very well. Pull up to the next window to pay for your order. I hope we are the highlight of your night.

(SERVER bursts into LAUGHTER over the comm as the Lincoln drives up to the next window.

TERRI stops LAUGHING so much.)

BRIAN

You realize she was messing with you, right?

TERRI

What're you talking about?

BRIAN

She knew we were all high. "Highlight of the night"? Get it?

GARRETT

What're you so worried about?

BRIAN  
They're gonna call the cops.

JUDE  
Nobody is going to call the cops, you don't have to worry.

BRIAN  
Someone might, you don't know.

TERRI  
We're fine, stop worrying.

BRIAN  
Can I go back home once you get your food?

GARRETT  
It's so early, though! We barely got started.

BRIAN  
I wanna go home.

TERRI  
I mean, if you're sure, whatever. You okay with that Jude, or do you wanna keep hanging out with us after?

JUDE  
No, I think I'm kinda done for the day.

TERRI  
You guys are so boring...

END OF SCENE SIX.

SCENE SEVEN.

BRIAN and the bed in nothingness.

(LIGHTS are flashing RED and  
BLUE.

Sirens WAIL.

Brian frantically looks  
around, even more paranoid  
than before.

Both the LIGHTS and the SIRENS  
fade.)

END OF SCENE SEVEN.

## SCENE EIGHT.

DAY. The crew in the 1989 Lincoln, driving down the street to BRIAN's apartment.

(Flashing orange LIGHTS.)

BRIAN

What's that?

GARRETT

It looks like just a street cleaner.

BRIAN

I don't see it.

JUDE

It's over there. Garrett wouldn't lie to you.

(STRANGE NOISE, similar to sirens, sounds off for a few brief moments.)

BRIAN

What was that?!

TERRI

Relax, it was probably just a firetruck.

BRIAN

It didn't sound like a firetruck.

TERRI

I just saw it in my mirror. It's fine.

(BRIAN checks out the rear window.)

BRIAN

There's nothing there. I don't see anything.

(TERRI turns around to look at BRIAN.)

TERRI

Dude, it just went around the corner. Stop freaking out.

BRIAN

I'm not freaking out. I'm not-- Terri. Terri. Terri!

(TERRI looks forwards again. A cop car is stopped at a stop sign.)

She slams on the breaks, but  
it's too late. She rams into  
the cop car.)

BRIAN

Oh my God. Oh my God. Terri that's a cop. Terri that's a--

TERRI

I hear you! Dude, just chill, it's fine.

BRIAN

Fine? You just hit a cop!

TERRI

I didn't hit anything.

BRIAN

I heard it! What if he figures out --

TERRI

He's not going to figure out anything. We're in the car, he's  
in front of us, it's fine.

(The cop car continues  
towards BRIAN's dorm.

Suddenly, the cop car turns  
in the middle of the road to  
block TERRI from driving any  
further.

A non-diegetic "DONG!"  
resonates.

The DAY shifts immediately  
to NIGHT.

BRIAN's HEARTBEAT becomes  
audible.)

BRIAN

Shit. Shit, shit shit. I told you. I told you! We're dead.  
We're done for. He could tell you were driving high and now  
he's gonna find out we're all stoned! We're gonna be stoned  
to death once he's done with us.

(The wheels on the cop car  
FLASH with lights.)

BRIAN

I had so much ahead of me. I'm going to be expelled for this.  
I won't be able to finish my education. I won't be able to  
get a job. I'll have to move back in with -- Oh God! My  
parents are going to kill me!

My mom will probably die once she finds out I've been --

(The cop rolls down the window of his car. He looks directly at BRIAN over his shades.)

BRIAN

Oh God. Oh God, I'm done with this. I'm getting out.

(BRIAN tries to get out of the car. JUDE holds him back.)

JUDE

Brian, calm down. Nothing is going to happen.

(The cop car flashes its SIRENS.)

BRIAN

Let me out! I can't do this, let me out!

GARRETT

Brian, what's going on with you?

(BRIAN stops his protesting. Instead, he slams his eyes shut.)

His HEARTBEAT races faster and faster.)

BRIAN

I'm dead. I'm dead. I'm dead. I'm dead.

JUDE

Brian? Brian? Brian!

(The HEARTBEAT stops.)

BRIAN opens his eyes just in time to see...

The cop car completes it's untimely U-turn and drives the way it came.)

TERRI

Brian, I told you to relax. He was catching some kid with his lights busted.

BRIAN

But it looked like he was --

TERRI  
Brian, chill. We're here.

(TERRI pulls up to the curb.)

BRIAN  
Oh my God. We're finally here.

(TERRI turns around to face  
JUDE.)

TERRI  
Are you two kids going to be okay?

JUDE  
Yeah, we'll be fine. Let's go.

(JUDE and BRIAN get out of  
the car and stand together on  
the curb.

GARRETT waves good-bye as  
the car pulls away.

JUDE puts a comforting arm  
around BRIAN.)

JUDE  
See, bubba? Everything was fine in the end. I think you just  
had a little too much to smoke.

BRIAN  
Yeah, maybe.

JUDE  
Are you okay? You don't see like you're feeling much better.

BRIAN  
I'm not, really.

JUDE  
Maybe you should get some rest. Why don't you go to bed?

BRIAN  
Yeah, that sounds good.

JUDE  
I'll be in the next building over if you need anything, okay?

(JUDE kisses BRIAN.)

BRIAN  
Yeah, alright. Good night.



JUDE

Good night.

END OF SCENE EIGHT.

SCENE NINE.

BRIAN and the bed again.

(BRIAN stares straight forward in horror, fixated on something.

A LIGHT flashes to reveal the DEMON where BRIAN is staring. A PIANO CHORD accompanies the LIGHT.

The first LIGHT fades, but another LIGHT flashes, revealing the DEMON in another location. Another PIANO CHORD accompanies this LIGHT.

The LIGHT fades.

Suddenly, LIGHTS flash all over the stage in front of BRIAN, revealing DEMONS everywhere, all staring directly at him. DISSONANT PIANO CHORDS sound off at each LIGHT that flashes.

The LIGHTS and the PIANO CHORDS stop.

One more LIGHT turns on and stays on for a moment. It reveals the DEMON standing right behind BRIAN's bed.)

END OF SCENE NINE.