

The Shadow

A New Ten Minute Play by Noah Wilson

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Working Draft

Characters:

Tommy/Olivia: A young transgender woman who is about to undergo sexual reassignment surgery.

George: Father to Olivia.

Gr. Gram: Olivia's doctor.

Susan: A seminary student with an eagerness to serve.

The Shadow: A possibly spiritual being (maybe not...we'll talk about it.) who remains unnoticed through out most of the show.

Setting:

Scene 1: Tommy/Olivia's bedroom.

Scene 2: Doctor's office.

Scene 3: Hotel room.

Scene 4: A church bible study/Olivia's hospital room.

Time:

The play is set in the present.

Author's note(s):

- It is important to note that we are touching on different moments in Olivia's life that probably span over the course of a few years.
- Dr. Gram and Susan should be played by the same actress.
- Hope you enjoy ☺

Scene 1

(Lights go up on Tommy in his bedroom. He is wearing blue striped pajama pants and a pink bra. Behind him is the Shadow who remains unnoticed by Tommy and will continue to remain unnoticed throughout most of the play. Tommy is on his knees at the edge of his bed about to do something he hasn't done in a little while: Pray. The Shadow watches him as he does this.)

Tommy

Um how do I start this?...Dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ....(Stops) I'm sorry that just feels so formal to me. Is it okay if I call you like God or Jesus or J-man or something? Do you prefer one over the other? I mean I know we don't talk that much and Jesus was like technically your son but you guys sort of have a hybrid situation going on so it would still be cool if I called you Jesus, right? I'm sorry. I'm not a good talker. I'm a writer or at least I'd like to be one. I would write you a letter but I don't have your address so here I am. Talking. Rambling. Anyways, I guess I should just cut right to the chase. No funny business as my Mom would say. Anyways, it happened again today. The bra. I stole it. It wasn't from a store this time. It belongs to my friend Shannon but if I'm being truthful she is wearing a DD, which isn't fooling anyone. I mean if anything I'm saving her toilet paper. I wouldn't have taken it but it looked like the exact same bra Danny's girlfriend loves to show off and...I just wanted to see if I would look good in it. *(Beat. Smiles.)* You should of seen Danny today. I mean, you probably did. You're all knowing and you're everywhere which is a little creepy to me but anyways he came in Drama class wearing his black short sleeved button up and the jeans that get rolled up just enough to show off a bit of ankle....which if you don't know...is like...a HUGE turn on for me anyways he started walking over to me so I did what I usually do: I looked down at my paper and pretended to do my work and tried my best not to freak out... but then he sat down backwards in the seat in front of me. His thighs and his torso leaning against the back of his chair coming closer and closer...Anyway, he sits down and says to me, "Hey buddy! How was you're weekend?" And his hand was like now reaching out towards mine and he begins to rub it a little. God, I just want to take a moment to thank you for giving Danny such strong, soft hands. Whenever he touches me my naughty parts literally want to explode so I thank you for blessing me with such a perfect specimen. It only lasted a few seconds and I know he has a girlfriend that he really loves but whenever he touches me...My hands stop shaking. It's like he's inviting me to relax or something. Like he knows and he's saying its okay which sort of got me to thinking that if he knows than....maybe you know too? *(Beat. Tommy is really starting to get serious)* God, I don't mean to alarm you.....but I recently discovered that I'm a woman and...I'm kind of having some issues with it. I mean, when I was younger I just thought that I was gay but I guess I was just lying to myself. Turns out I am one hundred percent straight! I'm just working with the wrong genitalia. I'm not saying you made a mistake or anything but based on your choices and my increasing bra theft you sort of got me in a pickle. I guess what I'm asking you is....if I decided to pursue my new found womanhood, would you still love me? Because I would still love you. Anyways, I guess that's it for tonight. I'll try to do this more often. *(Beat.)* Oh. Amen.

(Blackout.)

Scene 2

(A special is lit on Dr. Gram who is about to explain a very intense surgery. She will do it with a smile the entire time. In front of her sits Tommy's father, George and next to him sits the Shadow. Behind all of them is a lighted screen which will only show the silhouette of Tommy as he quick changes for his next scene. This could be described as Tommy's transitioning phase. Dr. Gram speaks as Tommy transitions.)

Dr. Gram

So to give you the nuts and bolts of it *(Beat. Laughs to herself.)* Pardon the expression. What we are going to do is take the skin of Olivia's penis and then we will take the skin of the scrotum that has already had the hair removed and we are going to put them together in the space between the bladder and the rectum. Then we will invert the skin so that it can create a cavity which will then become the vagina. Now the recovery time is not all to bad. You'll be in the hospital for a few days but if we schedule this on the 24th you should be discharged by the weekend. You will however have to come back for a check up the following week. We just want to make sure everything is all good under the hood if you know what I'm sayin. During the follow up we will give you your dilators and teach you how to use them properly. You may experience some slight bleeding in the early stages of dilation which is completely normal and should not concern you. However, I am requiring that you keep a journal so that you can write down any discomfort you may experience. You may have trouble controlling your bladder the first few weeks. That is also completely normal and not permanent. Don't worry. You'll get the hang of things. Now the most important thing to do during this process is relax and try to get as much rest as you can. The body needs time to heal so don't over exert yourself with strenuous tasks and if you have any concerns, please feel free to voice them to me or my staff. Any questions so far?

(George raises his hand. The Shadow remains motionless and silent. Blackout.)

Scene 3

(Lights raise on a unimpressive hotel room in San Francisco. We are in the kitchenette area. George sits at the table drinking his tea and reading his paper while the Shadow sits across from him, motionless. We can hear Olivia from off stage. She is in the bathroom.)

Olivia *(Off)*

I like the term neo-vagina.

George

Really?

Olivia (*Off*)

Yeah, it reminds me of the Matrix. Who knows? Maybe after this surgery I'll be able to do back flips and stop secret agents with my mind or my neo-vagina!

George

I'm pretty sure you won't be doing back flips, sweetheart.

Olivia (*Off*)

Where my prescription?

George

It's in your bag.

(Enter Olivia. Note: If we do this right she will have completely transformed from her previous scene. It is important that her femininity looks real and authentic. She is Olivia and she is beautiful. She goes to her bag and picks up her prescription.)

Olivia

Oh God, do I really have to drink this?

George

If you want surgery, yes. You do.

Olivia

They say it makes you go like six or seven times. Supposed to flush everything out.

George

Better get drinkin.

(Opens the bottle. Gags a bit.)

Olivia

It looks like a mixture of saliva and semen mushed up with ripe bananas.

George

Olivia, please-

Olivia

You're not the one who has to chug it down. *(Small beat.)* What if I throw up?

George

Don't throw up.

Olivia (*off*)

I'm not saying I will-