

## ***AND TURNING, STAY***

*by Kellie Powell*

### **AMY**

Don't you dare walk away from me! And don't tell me you're sorry! And don't tell me to forget it, and don't you dare tell me to "let it go." God knows, I'd like to. I wish I could, but I can't! I can't forget that we had something, and you're running away. You're running away! Don't you see, Mark? You're running from what I've searched for all my life! Why, because you're scared? Well, I'm scared too, but you and I - we have something worth fighting for. We could make it work, I'm not saying it would be easy, but I care about you. And I know deep down, under this (Spitting out the word.) bravado, you care about me. And that's what it's all about, Mark, don't you get it? It's the human experience. You can pretend all you want, but you're only lying to yourself. You're denying the simple and wonderful fact that you are emotional, and vulnerable, and alive.

## **BASKETBALL DIARIES**

*by Gabriel Davis*

### **BOY**

I don't need therapy! I don't need to be here. I'm not insane, I'm Linsane. As in I've got "a condition" called Linsanity! And anyone in their right mind who has seen point guard Jeremy Lin do his thing on the basketball court would have it too! That's what my mom and sister don't get. That's why they wanted me to come talk to you. But I don't need to be here. I'm only here because my mom caught me talking about Jeremy Lin at my father's wake. I never would have said anything, but out of the blue my cousin Arnie is like, "Jeremy Lin's a passing fad." If my dad had heard that, he'd have jumped out of that coffin and whooped Arnie. I actually looked over at dad, lying there in our living room, wearin' his sunday best, I half expected to see him get up. Of course he didn't, so I had to tell Arnie myself how Lin's got this low dribble that throws the defense, how his pick and rolls and combinations driving to the net are sick. Arnie tells me, the only reason he's getting any attention is because he's like one of the first few Asians in basketball. Oh boy, I thought. Dad would have kicked Arnie out of the house by now. Dad and I could talk about basketball for hours. So I guess that's why I ... I just don't want to stop talking about basketball you know? To be honest, as long as I'm shootin' air hoops in the mud room and cuttin' up with Arnie, and watching the games like a religion ... it doesn't even feel like he's gone. That's what they all can't understand. I'm not insensitive ... I'm ... They all want to be sad he's gone, see? But he's not. I'm with him, I'm keeping him with me. So ... if they sent me here so I'd stop well ... I'm not going to stop talking about or watching basketball. They think I need this ... talk therapy, but I already got it you know.

## **THE BEANSTALK**

*by Tara Meddaugh*

### **JACK**

Don't poke my eyes out! I'm not one of those sisters! I'm not—wait! Don't leave! I'm sorry—I'm getting a little, I'm a little anxious up here. By myself. But don't leave. I don't know if you can tell, but, I-I-I'm kind of a little bit stuck up here, and...I don't want to be alone.

*(pause)*

See, I didn't...really...think that I'd make it this far up. Although, I've always been a bit of a climber. When I was nine months old, my mom found me sitting on top of the brown cow in the barn one morning. I never considered myself afraid of heights before, but, it's not really the climbing up that scares me. It's the getting down, Black Crow...It seemed so easy getting here—just put one foot on the branch then another and...Oh, I've tried going down already. I put my foot on a branch, but it's slippery now. See? It's like the sludge at the bottom of the pig trough. And you do not want be climbing down from the clouds on pig sludge! I'd fly off and land down there in a broken bone pile. And, then everyone would just say, "Well, that's Jack. He doesn't know how to climb down, poor slow boy."

*(pause)*

And I guess they'd be right.

## **PICNIC**

*by William Inge*

### **MADGE**

Whenever I hear that train coming to town, I always get a feeling of excitement – in here. (*Hugging her stomach*). I always wonder, maybe some wonderful person is getting off here, just by accident, and he'll come into the dime store for something and see me behind the counter, and he'll study me very strangely and then decide I'm the person they're looking for in Washington for an important job in the Espionage Department. (*She is carried away*). Or maybe he wants me for some great medical experiment that'll save the whole human race.

## ***THE CRUCIBLE***

*by Arthur Miller*

### **ABIGAIL**

Now look you. All of you. We danced. And Tituba conjured Ruth Putnam's dead sisters. And that is all. And mark this. Let either of you breathe a word, or the edge of a word, about the other things, and I will come to you in the black of some terrible night and I will bring a pointy reckoning that will shudder you. And you know I can do it; I saw Indians smash my dear parents' heads on the pillow next to mine, and I have seen some reddish work done at night, and I can make you wish you had never seen the sun go down! Now, you – sit up and stop this!

## 5<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY

by Lanford Wilson

### SHIRLEY

*“(Quietly determined.)* I’m going to be the greatest artist Missouri ahs ever produced. No – the entire Midwest. There have been very famous people – world famous people – Tennessee Williams grew up in Missouri. He grew up not three blocks from where I live now! All his formative years. And Mark Twain. And Dreiser! And Vincent Price and Harry Truman! And Betty Grable! But me! Oh God! Me! Me! Me! Me! I am going to be so great! Unqualified! The greatest single artist the Midwest has ever known!

A painter. Or a sculptor. Or a dancer! A writer! A conductor! A composer! An actress! One of the arts! People will die. Certain people will literally have cardiac arrests at the magnitude of my achievements. Doing something astonishing! Just astonishing!

I will have you know that I intend to study for ten years, and then burst forth on the world. And people will be abashed! Amazed! Astonished! At the magnitude.

Oh, God! Look! Is that she? Is that she? Is it? IT IS! IT IS SHE! IT IS SHE!

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH! *(She collapses on the floor. Slowly getting to a sitting position; with great dignity)* She died of cardiac arrest and astonishment at the magnificence of my achievement in my chosen field. Only Shakespeare, Michelangelo, Beethoven, and Frank Lloyd Wright have raised to my heights before me!”

## **OUR TOWN**

*by Thornton Wilder*

### **EMILY**

*“(Defensive.) I’m not mad at you. (Dreading to face the issue.) But, since you ask me, I might as well say it right out, George – (Faces down again. Then finding it hard to say) I don’t like the whole change that’s come over you in the last year. (She glances at him.) I’m sorry if that hurts your feelings; but I’ve just got to – tell the truth and shame the devil.*

*(Facing mostly out, on the verge of tears.) Well up to a year ago, I used to like you a lot. And I used to watch you while you did everything – because we’d been friends so long. And then you began spending all your time at baseball. (She bites the word.) And you never stopped to speak to anyone anymore – not to really speak – not even to your own family, you didn’t. And George, it’s a fact – ever since you’ve been elected Captain, you’ve got awful stuck up and conceited, and all the girls say so. And it hurts me to hear ‘em say it; but I got to agree with ‘em a little, because it’s true. I always expect a man to be perfect and I think he should be. (All innocence, yet firm.) Well, my father is. And as far as I can see, your father is. There’s no reason on earth why you shouldn’t be too.*

*But you might as well know right now that I’m not perfect – It’s not easy for a girl to be perfect as a man, because, well, we girls are more – nervous. Now, I’m sorry I said all that about you. I don’t know what made me say it. (Cries.) Now I can see it’s not true at all. And I suddenly feel that it’s not important, anyway. (Cries.)”*

## **THE MEMBER OF THE WEDDING**

*by Carson McCullers*

### **FRANKIE**

Did you hear what Jarvis said? They were talking about whether to vote for C.O. MacDonald. And Jarvis said, "Why I wouldn't vote for that scoundrel if he was running to be dogcatcher." I never heard anything so witty in my life. And you know what Janice remarked. When Jarvis mentioned how much I've grown, she said she didn't think I looked terribly big. She said she got the major portion of her growth before she was thirteen. She said I was the right height and had acting talent and ought to go to Hollywood. She did, Bernice. She said she thought I was a lovely size and would probably not grow any taller.

### **FRANKIE**

Don't bother me, John Henry. I'm thinking. About the wedding. About my brother and the bride. Everything's been so sudden today. I never believed before about the fact that the earth turns at the rate of about a thousand miles a day. I didn't understand why it was that if you jumped up in the air you wouldn't land in Selma or Fairview or somewhere else instead of the same backyard. But now it seems to me I feel the world is going around very fast. I feel it turning and it makes me dizzy.

### **FRANKIE**

I just now thought of something. I know where I'm going. It's like I've known it all my life. Tomorrow I will tell everybody. After the wedding I'm going with them to Winter Hill. I'm going off with them after the wedding. The trouble with me is that for a long time I have been just an "I" person. All other people can say "we." All people belong to a "we" except me. Not to belong to a "we" makes you lonesome. I know that the bride and my brother are the "we" of me. So I'm going with them, and joining with the wedding. I love the two of them so much and we belong together. Because they are the we of me.

## ***THE EFFECT OF GAMMA RAYS ON MAN-IN-THE-MOON MARIGOLDS***

*by Paul Zindel*

### **TILLIE**

He told me to look at my hand, for a part of it came from a star that exploded too long ago to imagine. This part of me was formed from a tongue of fire that screamed through the heavens until there was our sun. And this part of me – this tiny part of me – was on the sun when it itself exploded and whirled in a great storm until the planets came to be.

And this part of me was then a whisper of the earth. When there was life, perhaps this part of me got lost in a fern that was crushed and covered until it was coal. And then it was a diamond millions of years later – it must have been a diamond as beautiful as the star from which it had first come. Or perhaps this part of me became lost in a terrible beast, or became part of a huge bird that flew above the primeval swamps.

And he said this thing was so small – this part of me was so small it couldn't be seen – but it was there from the beginning of the world. And he called this bit of me an atom. And when he wrote the word, I fell in love with it. *Atom. Atom.* What a beautiful word.

## FENCES

*by: August Wilson*

### CORY

I live here too! I ain't scared of you. I was walking by you to go into the house cause you sitting on the steps drunk, singing to yourself. You can put it like that. I ain't got to say excuse me to you. You don't count around here no more. That's right. You always talking this dumb stuff. Now, why don't you just get out my way. You talking about what you did for me... what'd you ever give me? You ain't never gave me nothing! You ain't never done nothing but hold me back. Afraid I was gonna be better than you. All you ever did was try and make me scared of you. I used to tremble every time you called my name. Every time I heard your footsteps in the house. Wondering all the time... what's Papa gonna say if I do this?... What's he gonna say if I do that?... What's Papa gonna say if I turn on the radio? And Mama, too... she tries... but she's scared of you. I don't know how she stand you... after what you did to her. What you gonna do... give me a whupping? You can't whup me no more. You're too old. You just an old man. You crazy! You know that? You just a crazy old man... talking about I got the devil in me. You took Uncle Gabe's money he got from the army to buy this house and then you put him out. Come on... put me out! I ain't scared of you. Come on! Come on... put me out! Come on! Come on!

