

# THE PROCESS | *a play*

35

HANNAH BENDER

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

Casey: Woman, late 20's. AA member, overweight.

Juneau: Main character; man, late 20's; recovering from addiction, not an alcoholic. Earlier in the recovery process.

Morgan: Man, middle aged 40's; AA member.

Andres: Man, mid 30's. AA group leader.

Alcoholic 1/Wife: Woman, middle age 40's; AA member/ Morgan's wife.

Alcoholic 2/Marcus: Man, late-teens, AA member/Juneau's cousin.

\*the symbol “/” will be used to show overlap of dialogue.

### Scene

A snippet from the overall play, focused on hangout after an AA meeting.

### SCENE 3

SETTING:

CASEY and JUNEAU enter to find MORGAN sipping a coffee at the table. MORGAN waves them to come join him.

CASEY

You weren't waiting too long huh?

MORGAN

Not really, just sat down.

(JUNEAU and CASEY sit down)

MORGAN (cont.)

Either of you hungry?

(JUNEAU shakes his head no)

CASEY

What are you getting?

(MORGAN holds up the coffee)

CASEY (cont.)

That's it?

(MORGAN nods, CASEY starts looking at the menu, looks up at JUNEAU and MORGAN)

Hmmm... you're really not gonna get anything?

JUNEAU

I'm just not hungry.

MORGAN

I ate before the meeting, plus this was your idea. I'm just here for the ride.

CASEY

Fine.

JUNEAU

You can get something if you want.

CASEY

It's fine, I shouldn't.

(pause)

Plus, I already had a doughnut at the meeting, which speaking of, what did you think of it?

JUNEAU

Oh umm... I mean, it was fine I guess.

CASEY

Fine?

MORGAN

At least you seem better now, you were kinda' in a space

JUNEAU

(thinks about saying something)

Well...

(PAUSE)

/ never mind

MORGAN

What?

JUNEAU

It's stupid.

MORGAN

Just say it.

(PAUSE)

Fine. Ummm well, I was just thinking about the doughnuts from the church, does that mean they know about us?

CASEY

I'd assume they'd have to for us to use the room.

MORGAN

I think they know about the meetings, but the rest of it is kept quiet.

JUNEAU

So, what about the doughnuts? Who brings them to the meetings?

CASEY

We don't get treats often, they probably just had a bunch left-over.

MORGAN

That's how we know God cares about us alcoholics.

CASEY

Really, I just want to know why it's called "Alcoholics Anonymous" when we must stand up and introduce ourselves in the first 15 seconds of every damn meeting?

MORGAN

That's for/ new people.

CASEY

Think about it, I mean, you go to a meeting with anonymous in the name, and what do you do when you get there? Sign a book, say your name and tell your life story.

JUNEAU

I thought you said I didn't have to do that?

CASEY

Well, I meant, not like that.

MORGAN

You kinda screamed when you introduced yourself.

CASEY

Most people just raise their hand or something.

JUNEAU

Oh.../ sorry

MORGAN

Also, you're not required to do those things, people just, do

CASEY

I mean it's fine.

JUNEAU

.../ so?

MORGAN

Well, I think it's supposed to be like trauma bonding. You know, you drink, I drink kinda shit.

CASEY

Right so why can't we trauma bond without saying our name and our numbers?

MORGAN

It's more about the group feeling, I guess? I don't know. I mean, considering our circumstances I think our names are the least of our worries.

JUNEAU

Do you know most of the people there?

MORGAN

Some of them, but I've been at that meeting for a/ little while.

CASEY

Wait, so why don't you think it's a big deal?

MORGAN

I think we're the last people to judge. I mean, can you think of a more messed up group?

(JUNEAU and CASEY pause to think)

MORGAN (cont.)

A more messed up group that doesn't drink.

JUNEAU

What about...

CASEY

Cult leaders!

MORGAN

Nope! They drink too.

CASEY

Yeah, Kool aid, but not/ "the hard stuff"

MORGAN

(nonverbally agrees, his phone starts to vibrate, realizes his wife is calling)

I meant like... actually hold on, be right back.

(MORGAN gets up and walks outside. WIFE enters on the other side of the stage)

MORGAN (cont.)

Hello?

WIFE

(upset)

Where are you?

MORGAN

I'm at dinner with some friends.

(PAUSE)

CASEY

So, what's your deal?

MORGAN

I don't kn- Well hold on, I can explain.

JUNEAU

Oh, umm, things have just gotten' to a point, And I just keep hurting people. But it's like I just can't stop myself.

MORGAN

I know.

CASEY

No no, I'm asking about the whole walk out thing? That deal.

WIFE

Why can't you just give me straight answer?

JUNEAU

Oh/... that?

CASEY

Andres said something about admittance. Something along the lines of "we don't get it?" so what don't we get?

JUNEAU

If I go home I'll just, drink

CASEY

Drink? Drink and.../ what?

JUNEAU

Hurt people.

WIFE

Hell! Are you drunk right now?

CASEY

You're not... drunk/ now are you?

JUNEAU

What?! No.

MORGAN

No, I promise. You really think after everything... I would be out at some bar?

JUNEAU  
What makes you think that?  
CASEY  
I don't know,  
WIFE  
I don't know/ anymore.  
CASEY  
Maybe the way you were acting, you seemed messed up.  
JUNEAU  
So you just assumed I'm drunk?  
CASEY  
You went to AA meeting and acted like that (gestures). What am I supposed to think!?  
(JUNEAU stops, looks down...)  
(MORGAN stops, looks down...)  
(PAUSE)  
MORGAN  
I love you.  
JUNEAU  
(Head still down)  
You're supposed to think I'm an alcoholic.  
(PAUSE)  
And that I'm fucked up.  
(JUNEAU looks up)  
Tell me, tell me I'm fucked up,  
WIFE  
(PAUSE)  
I don't love who you've become.  
JUNEAU  
that I'm just some addict.  
WIFE  
I'm done listening to your lies about how things are going to change. You're narcissistic going out like this. You're physically and emotionally unavailable, and constantly take your unstable sobriety out on me and the kids. And maybe, if it was just me, fine-but not to our kids.  
(PAUSE)  
and out of everything you have the nerve to say that I'm the one putting a strain on our relationship. When you're the one who's lying about their drinking problem. I just want our family back... I want you back.

(starts crying)

You're sick... and it's hard to love you when you're sick.

(PAUSE)

I called your mother, she said she'd make a room for you to-night.

JUNEAU

Because you get a chip and now somehow, you're "fixed".

(looks at phone, notices the time)

CASEY

... At least/ I'm honest about my addiction.

JUNEAU

I'm out, I'm going home. I'd rather get high off whatever you think I'm on than listen to your horse shit.

(starts putting jacket on and getting up to leave)

CASEY

C'mon, we're trying to help.

(JUNEAU is ignoring CASEY, starts to exit)

Hey, come on!

(CASEY fumbles to put some money on the table before going outside to see JUNEAU leaving and MORGAN near the doors of the diner)

MORGAN

You/ good?

JUNEAU

Next time I'll make sure to drink before our meeting!

(JUNEAU past MORGAN and exits. CASEY comes after him and joins MORGAN outside)

MORGAN

You piss him off or what?

CASEY

I think I came off a little strong.

MORGAN

You think? What did you do?

CASEY

We were talking and I pressed him. I wanted a sense of what he's on. He got upset and left.

(MORGAN gives CASEY a look)

CASEY

What?

MORGAN

...I don't know...did you learn anything?

CASEY

Wasn't drunk, definitely on something though, my guess is meth.

MORGAN

Why meth?

CASEY

(notices MORGAN looking upset and uninterested)

Just a hunch. Thin, emotionally damaged, fits the bill. Granted, he could be mixing, but...yeah, no, I don't know. I mean he had all his teeth.

(PAUSE)

I'm guessing your conversation wasn't much better?

(MORGAN pulls out his chip)

MORGAN

Apparently I'm just a good liar.

(PAUSE)

(CASEY looks at MORGAN)

MORGAN (cont.)

...Yeah.

CASEY

Did she say anything else?

(MORGAN gives Casey a sarcastic look)

MORGAN

She said a lot.

CASEY

About us?

(MORGAN shakes his head no)

(PAUSE)

(MORGAN looks at and flips the coin through his hand)

MORGAN

Y'know, I can count on one hand the number of times I've drank while getting this coin, but somehow it makes all of it meaningless.

(PAUSE)

CASEY

I don't think that's true.

(Casey rests against the building next to MORGAN)

(PAUSE)

(CASEY playfully punches MORGAN on the shoulder, MORGAN softly chuckles. CASEY looks at MORGAN who is looking out into the night, MORGAN turns to look at CASEY)



MORGAN

I told you, were not doing that anymore, I have a wife, remember?

CASEY

I remember you saying something about not being pleased by your wife.

(MORGAN looks down, takes a minute and look back at CASEY)

CASEY (cont.)

And you seemed pretty pleased last time.

(CASEY starts running her hands on MORGAN's leg, MORGAN starts chuckling, shaking his head)

MORGAN

We both know that shouldn't of happened.

(CASEY shrugs)

CASEY

(CASEY pulls her hands up)

Just sayin', offers there.

MORGAN

We should both go, home.

CASEY

(CASEY SHRUGS. CASEY and MORGAN start walking towards their cars)

(PAUSE)

You gonna be okay?

MORGAN

That's a good question.

CASEY

Let me know if you're not?

(MORGAN moves his head in acknowledgement)

MORGAN

(PAUSE)

See ya next week?

CASEY

See ya.

(BLACK OUT)