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SAY IT AGAIN

BY JOSIE JOSE

CHARACTERS

JULIA: Put-together (until she isn't.) Mid 20's.

WILL: Julia's boyfriend. Mid 20's.

WILL CLONES: Same build, same hair, same clothes, different voices.

SCENE 1

JULIA is sitting alone, center-stage, in a plastic chair.

JULIA

Well...we went to the store, and my boyfriend was like, "Oh let's get some bananas!" And I was like, "No, Will, those are way too yellow, get the green ones." And he was like "nah I don't wanna wait—" which was so like him, you know, just so impatient, and he was like—"I'm gonna eat them all, don't worry" ...and then they'd sit there! And ROT! And every time we'd go to the store I'd be like, "Hey maybe we should buy some new bananas, since

the others were rotten" And he always had the better idea, and was like, "It's okay, I'm gonna make banana bread!" HE. NEVER. FUCKING. MADE. BANANA BREAD!

(pause)

He never made anything... I don't even like bananas.

SCENE 2—Denial

We are in Julia's memory—in JULIA and WILL's apartment. JULIA is sitting on the couch flipping through channels. WILL enters talking on the phone between his ear and shoulder, holding grocery bags.

WILL

No, Mom, we've got a lot to do this weekend so I don't think we can...Yeah she's—

(looks at JULIA who makes a 'no' gesture)

42

WILL (cont.)

She's taking a shower. We were thinking May...

(JULIA shakes her head and mouths "JUNE")

June! We were thinking June!

(beat)

Okay gotta go so... Yup, yup, sounds good! Love you too, buh
bye!

(hangs up the phone and finally sets all the bags down)

JULIA

You literally told her June last week!

(JULIA gets up to help unload the groceries)

WILL

She's getting old, babe.

JULIA

Okay, but *you* forgot and said May-

WILL

I'm getting old.

(pecks her on the forehead)

JULIA

I can't do May, remember?

WILL

Riiiiight. Because of...The...The thing—the important—

JULIA

The gallery, Will. I told you to take off work—

WILL

Yeah! I did! I will. I did.

JULIA
There's a painting I've been working on—

WILL

(unpacking the last bag)

Voila!

(WILL holds up a bunch of bright yellow bananas)

JULIA
I don't think you've seen it yet, but—

(WILL tosses old black bananas in the trash)

Yeah. I'm just excited for you to see it.

WILL
What?

JULIA
The painting.

WILL
Oh yeah, I'm sure it's gonna be beautiful!! Just like my beautiful girlfriend!

(WILL picks up JULIA and takes her to the couch)

Everything is going to be perfect. Just like you. That's why I have to do—this!

(WILL starts tickling JULIA)

JULIA

(laughing)

Ahh! Will, stop! Stop!

The lighting slowly fades to blue. Once the stage is fully blue, WILL stops tickling JULIA and sits upright

JULIA

(to herself)

Dammit. I don't remember what happened after that...

(turns to WILL)

What did you say?

WILL
I don't know.

JULIA

What? Did you....forget?

(beat)

WILL
Julia, I only know what you know...

JULIA

(pause)

Where did you go?

WILL

(looking at each other)

I'm right here.

Fade to black

SCENE 3 - Anger

Lights are back to normal. JULIA and WILL are in a different memory, they are eating breakfast at the kitchen table. The bananas on the counter have spots.

WILL

So what did the doctor say?

JULIA

Just stuff I already knew...That they're sorry...

WILL

(mouthful of banana)

I'm sorry—

JULIA

Bleeding and cramping the next few days—

WILL

I uhh...told my Mom.

JULIA

Why? What did she say?

WILL

Just that she's sorry—

JULIA

I told mine too.

WILL

(surprised)

You called her?

JULIA

She wants us to get married.

WILL

(scoffs)

That's...not gonna do anything.

JULIA

(beat)

When's your meeting?

WILL

(eating much faster, mouthful of food)

Fuck, I'm gonna be late.

(Pecks her forehead)

I'll be back by dinner.

JULIA

Maybe we should think about it...

WILL

Jules, you know we can't get married right now—

JULIA

Why, Will? A child needs parents, it needs support—

WILL

Pfft support—How's your gallery?

JULIA

What the fuck is that supposed to mean?

WILL

We can barely support ourselves.

JULIA

Just because you go to meetings and wear a suit, it doesn't mean
I don't work as hard as you—

WILL

That's not what I'm saying. You're not listening.

JULIA

You're not listening!

WILL
Why are we talking about this?

JULIA
Because imagine if I had to be a Mom—

WILL
Well you don't have to...imagine!

JULIA

WILL (cont.)

(walking towards the door)

I need to go—

JULIA
Great. Yeah, just fucking leave!

(WILL opens the door)

(pause) **SCENE 4 - Bargaining**

I want to. Eventually.

Abruptly, the lighting changes to blue, we are now in JULIA's mind.

WILL

JULIA
Stop! We have to do it again.

(sighs)

I know. So we will get married...Eventually.

WILL
Which part?

JULIA

You keep doing it wrong—the part where you say I don't have to be a Mom. It was...different.

WILL

Okay.

JULIA

I feel like you said something else...like it was a sign...that I wasn't meant to be one—

WILL

Surely, I didn't say that.

JULIA

(beat)

No, you're right, you didn't. Okay let's run it again?

WILL

From the top?

JULIA

No...just...from the part where I tell you to leave?

WILL

Okay.

(opens the door)

JULIA

Great, yeah, just fucking leave!

(WILL begins to leave)

Okay, wait.

(WILL looks back at her and freezes)

And then... close the door.

(There is a long silence as WILL backs up and closes the door.)

JULIA (cont.)
And then say...you won't leave me.

WILL
I won't leave you—

JULIA
No, like...say it better. Say "I'll never leave you."

WILL
I'll never leave you.

JULIA

Say it again.

WILL
I'll never leave you.

JULIA

(upset)

Again!

WILL
I'll never leave you Julia.

WILL holds JULIA on the couch. They repeat this sequence three more times as the lights fade to black.

SCENE 5 - Guilt

(pause) Blue lights come up. It's a different day. JULIA fell asleep on the couch, her eyes open to see that WILL is gone.

JULIA
Will?!

The lights begin to flash between blue and white. The lights go black for a moment, three other actors that look exactly like WILL—including WILL's original actor—appear on stage. Suddenly the lights stop flashing and remain blue

WILL & WILL CLONES
I'm right here.

JULIA
(gets up and examines each WILL. Stops at WILL #4)

Say my name.

WILL #4
Julia.

JULIA
You—

(points at WILL#2)

JULIA (cont.)
Say my name.

WILL #2
Julia.

(JULIA, panicking, points at WILL #3)

WILL #3
Julia.

JULIA puts her head in her hands in great despair. All of the WILL clones say "JULIA" at the same time. JULIA cries and goes up to the original WILL

JULIA
I'm so sorry.

She holds the original WILL's face in her hands. He is still and emotionless.

JULIA

I—I've forgotten. Please...Please say something. Let's do how we met again—Remember??

(WILL #3 EXITS)

Or the pregnancy test?

(WILL #2 EXITS)

The miscarriages? We can do phone calls too—

(WILL #4 EXITS)

Fuck. Let's just go to bed. Okay? Maybe you'll talk in the morning? Can you talk in the morning?

JULIA is hugging him as he stands still, she moves down to his ankles and hugs his leg, sobbing.

JULIA

I'm sorry. I'm so, so sorry.

*Black Out***SCENE 6 - Depression**

There is a still-life painting leaning against a wall. The painting is of black bananas. There is trash all over the floor. JULIA looks disheveled. WILL is standing in the corner of the living room under a blue spotlight, watching JULIA. She flips through the channels on the TV. The phone begins to ring. It rings seven times, and then it goes to voicemail...The voicemail plays: "Are you okay? It's Mom, again. I know this hard—" JULIA picks up the answering machine and presses a button, it plays aloud "Delete message?" she clicks yes. She goes to an old message, it plays aloud: "May 17, 2003, from WILL ROONEY— (WILL's voice is garbled up and hard to decipher) Hi babe—bad service—sorry—can't make it to—love you—good—luck" (She rewinds and plays it again three more times)

SCENE 7 - Acceptance*(pause)*

JULIA is sitting alone, center stage, in a plastic chair. The painting of the black bananas is now hung next to her.

JULIA

Sure, yeah, hi, thank you for coming! Um, yeah, so, I painted this about a year ago. It's oil on canvas...and, it's supposed to be how I feel about...how....time...is fleeting, and we all eat and get eaten (nervous laugh) - sorry, that doesn't really answer the question (laughs)! Um, yeah, well...we went to the store, and my boyfriend was like "Oh let's get some bananas!" And I was like, "No, Will, those are way too yellow, get the green ones." And he was like "nah I don't wanna wait—" which was so like him, you know, just so impatient, and he was like—"I'm gonna eat them all, don't worry" ...and then they'd sit there! And ROT! And every time we'd go to the store I'd be like, "Hey maybe we should buy some new bananas, since the others were rotten" And he always had the better idea, and was like, "It's okay, I'm gonna make banana bread!" HE. NEVER. FUCKING. MADE. BANANA BREAD!

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