

THE SUICIDE PLAY

by Audrey Cefaly

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MICHAEL and ARIEL stand on the ledge of a very tall building, unaware of each other's presence. They speak directly to the audience.

MICHAEL

I'd say from the time I was about six or seven I've had this urge to punch my old man in the face. He had a switch, it was one I got from the forsythia bush, and he trapped me in the bathroom for an hour just whaling on my ass. Our relationship was kinda strained after that.

ARIEL

Nobody cares about real human connections anymore. Ya notice that?

MICHAEL

I really, really wanna punch him in the face.

ARIEL

That guy in Times Square, giving out free hugs? I asked him, he said he got 3 hugs yesterday. Three. In Times Square? That's not a good number.

MICHAEL

I've thought about all the ways I'd do it too. Coldcock. Right across the nose.

ARIEL

Hugs are awesome.

MICHAEL

Pow...

ARIEL

I love giving hugs.

MICHAEL

Asshole.

ARIEL

The problem is you can't just go around groping people. They get anxious.

MICHAEL

It was a protractor. And I put it back. I put it back as soon as pop caught me with it, and I apologized to the manager and he gave it to me anyway. *Here kid, here's your protractor, grow up and be somebody.*

ARIEL

They might even scream or runaway like you're a sociopath or something...

MICHAEL
Pop just stood there.

ARIEL
...I would imagine.

MICHAEL
Stupid smirk on his face.

ARIEL
But you're probably not a sociopath.

MICHAEL
And right then, I realized the shit going down. I felt
closer to a perfect stranger than my own fucking father.

ARIEL
You're just needing, right?

MICHAEL
You believe that shit?

ARIEL
You're just needing, just like always.

MICHAEL
When you're a kid you don't know that you know things.

ARIEL
And what's so wrong with that?

MICHAEL
But you do. Waaaaay more than grownups.

ARIEL
It's not a crime or anything.

MICHAEL
I've thought about it.

ARIEL
All the ways we fail each other...

MICHAEL
If someone could just pay attention, ya know, just the
slightest bit of attention, they might notice things.

ARIEL
Whatever.

MICHAEL
Like how your heart is broken. Or like that thing where you
pretend to be all cocky, skipping class that day but you

ARIEL

I hadn't thought about it...

MICHAEL asks non-verbally if he can move a bit closer. Ariel allows it. He moves a few feet closer. He sits on the edge of the ledge.

MICHAEL

At least it's not raining.

ARIEL

Why do you care if it's raining, you're gonna kill yourself.

MICHAEL

Yeah, but like... rain would make it sad somehow, I dunno.

ARIEL

Sad..

MICHAEL

More sad...

ARIEL

Oh.

MICHAEL

For them.

ARIEL

Oh, right, for them.

ARIEL sits.

MICHAEL

Ya know?

ARIEL

But not for us...

MICHAEL

Fuck if I care.

ARIEL

I... I think I'm confused.

MICHAEL

My friend just committed suicide by jumping off a 12 story building. Plus it's raining. Kinda thing.

ARIEL

You have friends?

(beat)