THE SUICIDE PLAY

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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?

ARTEL

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

MICHAEL really just shit yourself on the playground from diarrhea and you gotta hide in the bathroom stall with that fat kid who eats three lunches and cries all the time.

ARIEL

When we fall and crack open and the life drains out...

MICHAEL

Nobody gives a shit.

I've used up all my chances.

MICHAEL

Not a single shit.

ARIEL

All gone.

MICHAEL

Fuck it.

HE steps closer to the edge.

ARIEL

I'm fine with that.

SHE steps closer to the edge.

Silence...

HE prepares to jump.

MICHAEL

ARIEL is startled. She stares over at Michael. HE notices her for the first

time.

Oh... hey.

(long pause)

ARIEL

Are you gonna kill yourself?

(beat)

MICHAEL

Yeah. You?

ARIEL

Yeah.

(beat)

MICHAEL

Right on.

(long pause)

ARIEL

What kind of coffee do you drink?

MICHAEL

What?

ARIEL

Cuz that could be like another funny coincidence.

(beat)

Well, not like "funny, haha..."

MICHAEL

I have a Keurig.

ARIEL

Oh, I'm sorry.

MICHAEL

Are you like a coffee snob or something?

ARIEL

No. It doesn't have to be Starbucks.

(beat)

But it does have to be coffee.

MICHAEL

(indicating the shrubbery below)

Be careful on that side, I've scoped it out, there's a thing and there's also a bush, like a monster bush or something.

ARIEL

A bush...

MICHAEL

Like a boxwood maybe. Fucking man-eating boxwood.

ARIEL

Oh.

MICHAEL

Hardcore.

ARIEL

(looking over the ledge)

Hardcore...

MICHAEL

That's--I mean... maybe you're into it.

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)