

THE AWESOME INEVITABILITY OF WEIRDNESS

by Scott Mullen

Copyright © 2024 by Scott Mullen, All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-64479-234-6

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Brooklyn Publishers LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Brooklyn Publishers LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers LLC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Brooklyn Publishers LLC.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Brooklyn Publishers LLC.

BROOKLYN PUBLISHERS LLC
P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406
TOLL FREE (888) 473-8521 • FAX (319) 368-8011

THE AWESOME INEVITABILITY OF WEIRDNESS

A Comedic/Dramatic Duet

by Scott Mullen

SYNOPSIS: Molly and Skyler strike up a conversation in the park after she wonders why she saw him turning his T-shirt inside out.

TIME: Present.

SETTING: A bus stop.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 female, 1 male)

SKYLER (m) Teen. Nervous, shy, self-conscious. *(63 lines)*

MOLLY (f) Teen. Quirky, open. *(66 lines)*

SET: Just a bus stop bench on an otherwise bare stage.

PROPS: None.

COSTUMES: Skyler wears a potentially interesting T-shirt. Molly is dressed normally, for a warm day.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: It is the director's choice as to how much of shirtless Skyler we see; if the actor is nervous about this, work around it. The play could start as Skyler has finished yanking his inside-shirt upside down, or we could see it all play out. Likewise, it doesn't matter if we ever see what it says on the shirt – though if you find a good weird T-shirt, feel free to lean into it.

AT START: *SKYLER is seated on a bus stop bench. He looks down at his T-shirt, reacts to what he is wearing, looks around, and then yanks off his shirt, flips it inside out, and puts it back on. He sits on the bench, then leans forward and looks to his left, looking for the bus. Entering from the right is MOLLY. She gives SKYLER an odd look, then sits down at the other end of the bench. They awkwardly don't look at each other. Then MOLLY gives SKYLER a long look.*

MOLLY: Did I just see you taking off your shirt and putting it on inside out?

SKYLER: ...No.

MOLLY: I think I did.

SKYLER: Maybe I did.

MOLLY: Because?

SKYLER: No reason.

MOLLY: There must be a reason. No one just takes off their shirt and turns it inside out.

SKYLER doesn't respond.

MOLLY: If you can't tell a stranger, who can you tell?

SKYLER: You think we're strangers?

MOLLY looks at him. Tilts her head.

SKYLER: We go to the same high school.

MOLLY: Oh. *(Tilts her head the other way.)* Are you sure?

SKYLER: You're Molly Gibson.

MOLLY: I am. And you're...

SKYLER: Skyler Williams.

MOLLY: Huh. Well, it is a pretty big school.

SKYLER: We had English together last year.

MOLLY: Oh.

SKYLER: I mean, I was in the back, in the corner—and you were in the front row, so I wasn't really in your sightline, but, yeah.

MOLLY: Did you talk a lot in class?

SKYLER: No.

MOLLY: I did though, right?

SKYLER: You are... talkative.

MOLLY: I know people hate that. I can't help it sometimes. The answer is in my head, the teacher wants someone to respond, my hand shoots up. That used to bother me—I'd say to myself "Molly, what are you doing?" But there my hand would be. Waving. I know people found that annoying. You probably found that annoying.

SKYLER: No.

MOLLY: Well, thanks for that. Really.

MOLLY and SKYLER sit there in silence. SKYLER looks for the bus.

MOLLY: Probably a few minutes yet. For the bus.

SKYLER: I know.

MOLLY: So you're really not going to tell me why you turned your shirt inside out?

SKYLER: I don't think so.

MOLLY: Because it feels like we're not strangers any more.

SKYLER: Before, you thought I should tell you because we were strangers.

MOLLY: Yes.

SKYLER: So really, you just want me to tell you.

MOLLY: I'm extremely curious. In fact, I intend to spend every second before this bus comes trying to get you to tell me the story.

SKYLER: Fine. My mother asked me if I could take the bus into town to pick up something at the store for her. So I left the house and walked all the way down here, then realized that I forgot to change my embarrassing shirt. And I didn't have time to walk home and get back here in time to catch the bus, and the next bus isn't due for an hour. So I turned my shirt inside out. See? Not really a story.

MOLLY: Back up. How is your shirt embarrassing?

SKYLER: I don't want to talk about it.

MOLLY: Is it a stain?

SKYLER: No! What's embarrassing is what's printed on the shirt. It was a gift from my aunt. It's silly, and weird, and I only wear it around the house, but this time I forgot and wore it out in public. So I turned it inside out.

MOLLY: Because you didn't want anyone to see it.

SKYLER: Yes.

MOLLY: Because you think it's weird.

SKYLER: I do.

MOLLY: But it's your shirt. A shirt you like wearing.

SKYLER: Yes.

MOLLY: So let people see it!

SKYLER: I don't want people to think I'm weird. I'd rather they not notice me.

MOLLY: Like I never noticed you.

SKYLER: See, it was working!

MOLLY laughs.

SKYLER: You're laughing. This is exactly what I was afraid of.

MOLLY: I'm not laughing at you because you're weird. I'm laughing because you want to hide that. You should never hide who you are!

SKYLER: Even if you're weird.

MOLLY: I'm weird. Everyone is weird in one way or another. Just because they hide it doesn't mean it's not there. Weirdness is inevitable! It's awesome! Weirdness is what makes people interesting! Being different is what makes us who we are! Sometimes I like to dance in public, even when there's no music. Dance break!

MOLLY gets up and starts dancing. She's really pretty awful. She keeps doing it anyway—she's having fun.

MOLLY: I'm probably terrible at dancing, but who's to say what "terrible" really is? This is me. This is what makes me happy. Am I terrible?

SKYLER: I'm not a dancer. I can't really judge.

MOLLY: Tell me.

SKYLER: Yes. You are really pretty terrible.

MOLLY laughs.

MOLLY: You should try it. Come on.

SKYLER: No thanks.

MOLLY: It's fun.

SKYLER: Not my kind of fun.

MOLLY: I respect that. (*Stops dancing.*)

SKYLER: I mean, if you want to be weird, why not just wear two different shoes?

MOLLY: Because I'm not a two-different-shoes girl. I'm a girl who likes dancing at a bus stop. Does that make me weird?

SKYLER: A little.

MOLLY: I'm not afraid of that.

SKYLER: Well, I'm not weird.

MOLLY: But you wear that shirt. You like that shirt. Even though you think that shirt is weird. See, you can't escape the inevitability of weirdness!

SKYLER: Stop.

MOLLY: Wouldn't it be boring if everyone was always exactly the same? Why do we need to judge each other for weird things we do? Even if they are embarrassing?

SKYLER: No one wants to be embarrassed.

MOLLY: Why not? Everyone does embarrassing things. You want to hear one of my embarrassing stories?

SKYLER: If I say no, you'll tell me anyway, right?

MOLLY: Yes! So one day I went into a shoe store to buy some shoes. And I saw these really adorable shoes that I had to try on, so I put them on, and I'm dancing around the store—because I have to make sure they're comfortable, right? And then this girl taps me on the shoulder to ask if she could have her shoes back. Because she took them off to try on shoes! I mean, it was totally embarrassing—but it was funny, too! Because it was so me! Your turn.

SKYLER looks for the bus.

***Thank you for reading this free excerpt from
THE AWESOME INEVITABILITY OF WEIRDNESS by Scott
Mullen. For performance rights and/or a complete copy of
the script, please contact us at:***

Brooklyn Publishers, LLC

P.O. Box 248 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Toll Free: 1-888-473-8521 • Fax (319) 368-8011

www.brookpub.com

DO NOT COPY