

THE BETRAYED, THE FORGOTTEN, AND THE MARTINS

By Bradley Walton

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THE BETRAYED, THE FORGOTTEN, AND THE MARTINS

A Ten Minute Comedy

By Bradley Walton

SYNOPSIS: Revolution is brewing in a devastated land. The betrayed and the forgotten have banded together to topple a despotic leader. But when a hapless recruiter pitches the cause to a vacationing family from a First-World country, they threaten to bring the revolution to a screeching halt with their cluelessness.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1-2 females, 1-2 males, 5-9 either; gender flexible, doubling possible)

THE BETRAYED: The betrayed people of a desolate, foreign land.

BETRAYED #1 (m/f) The head of the betrayed.

(38 lines)

BETRAYED #2 (m/f) *(11 lines)*

BETRAYED #3 (m/f) *(10 lines)*

BETRAYED #4 (m/f) *(10 lines)*

THE FORGOTTEN: The forgotten people of a desolate, foreign land.

FORGOTTEN #1 (m/f) The head of the forgotten.

(26 lines)

FORGOTTEN #2 (m/f) *(11 lines)*

FORGOTTEN #3 (m/f) *(10 lines)*

FORGOTTEN #4 (m/f) *(10 lines)*

FRANK/PHYLLIS (m/f) A compatriot of the betrayed
and the forgotten. *(24 lines)*

THE MARTINS: A well-meaning but self-absorbed, middle-class family
from a First World country.

ANDREW (m) The husband and father of the
Martin family. *(23 lines)*

ELLEN (f) The wife and mother of the
Martin Family. *(17 lines)*

TANYA (f)..... Andrew and Ellen’s teenage daughter. (1 line)
NICK (m)..... Andrew and Ellen’s teenage son. (1 line)

CAST NOTE

TANYA and NICK can be omitted from the play if necessary. (Omit ANDREW’S “...and our kids Nick and Tanya” along with NICK and TANYA’S follow-up responses.) If omitting one but not the other, modify ANDREW’S “We have two children” speech as necessary. Characters may also be combined as follows:

BETRAYED #1 and BETRAYED #3 can be combined.
BETRAYED #2 and BETRAYED #4 can be combined.
FORGOTTEN #1 and FORGOTTEN #3 can be combined.
FORGOTTEN #2 and FORGOTTEN #4 can be combined.

DURATION: 10 minutes.

SETTING: The stage may be bare, or strewn with bits of trash or rubble.

COSTUMES

The BETRAYED and the FORGOTTEN should be dressed in ragged gray, beige, or black clothing. Each group should have some bit of color to their costumes to visually distinguish the two groups from one another, such as orange arm bands for the BETRAYED and blue arm bands for the FORGOTTEN.

FRANK is dressed like the BETRAYED and the FORGOTTEN. He also should have a bit of color to his costume, but it should be a different color from the BETRAYED and the FORGOTTEN.

The MARTINS are dressed in nice, touristy-looking clothes.

PROPS

- Sticks, Knives, Farm Tools (or other simple weapons.)
- 2 Cell phones.

Do Not Copy

Special thanks to Anna Dick.

AT RISE: *A stage that is either bare or strewn with bits of trash or rubble. As the lights come up, the BETRAYED march onstage from right and pose dramatically. They may be carrying sticks, knives, farm tools, or other simple weapons.*

BETRAYED #1: In days long past, we believed in a cause.

BETRAYED #2: A noble cause!

BETRAYED #3: A righteous cause!

BETRAYED #4: Or so we thought.

BETRAYED #1: We rallied behind our leader.

BETRAYED #2: We were ready to fight.

BETRAYED #3: To kill.

BETRAYED #4: To die.

BETRAYED #1: After years of struggle, our leader was triumphant.

BETRAYED #2: But he did not trust us.

BETRAYED #3: He feared a day would come...

BETRAYED #4: When we might topple his regime.

BETRAYED #1: Our leader turned on us.

BETRAYED #2: Some he jailed.

BETRAYED #3: Some he exiled.

BETRAYED #4: Some just simply disappeared.

BETRAYED #1: We had been promised riches, but instead...

BETRAYED #2: He took our lands.

BETRAYED #3: He took our homes.

BETRAYED #4: He took what little wealth we had.

BETRAYED #1: And so we have waited.

BETRAYED #2: Patiently.

BETRAYED #3: For revenge.

BETRAYED #4: The fire of anger burning brightly in our hearts.

ALL BETRAYED: We are the betrayed! Our day has finally come!

The BETRAYED move to stage right. The FORGOTTEN march onstage from left. They may be carrying sticks, knives, farm tools, or other simple weapons.

FORGOTTEN #1: In days long past, we dreamed of a better life.

FORGOTTEN #2: For ourselves.

FORGOTTEN #3: For our children.

FORGOTTEN #4: And their children.

FORGOTTEN #1: Our wants were few.

FORGOTTEN #2: Warmth.

FORGOTTEN #3: Food.

FORGOTTEN #4: A place to call home.

FORGOTTEN #1: We believed in our leader.

FORGOTTEN #2: We thought he was kind.

FORGOTTEN #3: We thought he was wise.

FORGOTTEN #4: We were fools.

FORGOTTEN #1: Our leader cared only for himself.

FORGOTTEN #2: He built a palace.

FORGOTTEN #3: He lived in opulence.

FORGOTTEN #4: While we had nothing.

FORGOTTEN #1: The promises of our leader...

FORGOTTEN #2: Were all broken.

FORGOTTEN #3: To him, they meant nothing.

FORGOTTEN #4: His words had been lies.

FORGOTTEN #1: Now we live in squalor.

FORGOTTEN #2: We sleep on the streets.

FORGOTTEN #3: We go days without food.

FORGOTTEN #4: And our dreams have turned to dust.

ALL FORGOTTEN: We are the forgotten! Our day has finally come!

The FORGOTTEN move to the left side of the stage. The MARTINS enter from up center. They are a middle-class family consisting of ANDREW, ELLEN, TANYA, and NICK. TANYA and NICK are glued to their phones and follow their parents around without looking up. As ANDREW and ELLEN speak, the BETRAYED and the FORGOTTEN appear confused, and eventually begin exchanging baffled looks between one another.

ANDREW: We met at a community college in November.

It was really cold outside.

She walked into a glass door

And left a smudge in the shape of her face.

ELLEN: On the day of our second wedding anniversary, we went out for dinner

Only to discover that they had changed the menu at our favorite restaurant

And loaded potato skins were no longer served there.

It was a real bummer.

ANDREW: We have two children.

They are both in high school.

They talk to us occasionally.

But mostly they prefer to text.

ELLEN: We live in a pretty good house

In a pretty good neighborhood.

We both work at pretty good jobs and make pretty good money,

But we still play the lottery.

ANDREW: My boss annoys me sometimes.

He chews on pens and has a mild superiority complex.

Some days I kind of want to tell him off,

But I probably never will.

ANDREW and ELLEN: We are the Martins! Our day has finally come!

BETRAYED #1: What?

BETRAYED #1 and FORGOTTEN #1 cross to ANDREW and ELLEN.

FORGOTTEN #1: I'm sorry, but...what're you doing here?

ANDREW: A guy named Frank asked us to come.

ELLEN: He said you needed Martins.

BETRAYED #2: Martins?

ANDREW: Right. I'm Andrew Martin. This is my wife, Ellen, and our kids Nick and Tanya.

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