

THE TOSS OF A COIN

by Shawn Deal

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THE TOSS OF A COIN

A Comedic/Dramatic Monologue

by Shawn Deal

SYNOPSIS: Wouldn't love be easier if there was a great big neon sign telling you what to do? Lamenting over whether or not he should ask out the prettiest girl he's ever seen, this boy resolves that the toss of a coin will solve his indecision.

TIME: Present.

SETTING: Bare stage.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 male)

NARRATOR (m)

PROPS: a penny.

NARRATOR: There's this girl. Her name is Sara. She's the prettiest girl in our school.

No. I didn't mean that. I didn't mean that at all.

She's the prettiest girl in our town. Maybe, even prettier than that. She may be the prettiest girl in the entire state. I'm serious. Thing is... well... there's this school dance coming up.

Should I ask her out?

(Thinking.) I should ask her out.

Beat.

I don't know if I should ask her out.

What should I do? Should I ask her out? Should I not ask her out?

I need a sign. Something... obvious. Something to push me one way or another. I don't mean a sign like one of those written real small, like on a can of peanuts that says: this may be made with peanuts. Or one of those written on the tag of a mattress that says: Under penalty of law this tag is not to be removed. Okay, Really? What kind of crazy law is that? Are there really people serving time in jail for ripping off mattress tags? Wow, I wouldn't want to meet any of them in a dark alley at night. No, I need a sign. I mean a really big sign, much bigger than a yard sign. I mean a really super big sign... like a billboard or sky written by an airplane, or better yet written on the side of one of those blimps. It needs to be specific, and preferably in some obnoxiously bright color, in a neon light and blinking. It needs to read: ASK HER OUT or maybe it says DON'T DO IT BRO. I don't want anything ambiguous like TAKE A CHANCE or GO WITH YOUR HEART. I don't want a sign that I have to scratch my head about. I don't want to have to think about it or second guess it after the fact.

Ask her, don't ask her. I need something like that. Something real simple. Very easy to understand. No, really I do. It's not that I'm not a smart guy. I am. I get good grades. I have a three-point-five grade point. I can even understand most of the ridiculous story problems in math. A train from Philadelphia left at eight a.m. going forty miles an hour, a train from Cleveland left on the same tracks at nine a.m. going sixty miles an hour. When will the trains collide in a huge explosion of fire? I understand those. It's just that when it comes to signs, I need it right in my face. Like for example a stop sign. That might be the most perfect sign. It's red and bold and easy to see. It's an obvious message: STOP. It doesn't say: maybe you should stop depending upon looking both ways and if there is someone walking or opposing traffic. No... nothing that convoluted. It is a simple, clean message: STOP.

That's exactly what I need.

Beat. Finds a penny on the ground or pulls one out of his pocket.

Hey a coin! A lucky penny.

(Beat. Examines penny.) I don't like the confusion of a lucky penny. It may be trying to trick me. What does lucky mean? Is it good luck or is it bad luck? There is a risk to that. I'm not comfortable with risk.

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