

Characters

Adam (23) *A young adult with a methodical mind and a big heart. Struggles with vulnerability and making important decisions that affect others. Son of Keisha and Adam Sr.*

Steve (24) *Immediate family doesn't come from much, but his aspirations to become a Broadway actor keep his mind open and full of hope. Dating Adam at the start of the play.*

Dr. Xavier (50) *Eccentric therapist who is incredibly adventurous. Works out daily by walking his 4 Great Danes around his neighborhood. Adam's therapist for the past 8 years.*

Keisha(53) *Hardworking mother who understands the value of a dollar. Very faithful to those that she loves. God-fearing woman. Married to Adam Sr, Mother to Adam.*

Adam Sr. (59) *Loves attention from his family and working out in the mornings. Has a wall up that makes it difficult for him to communicate with others most times. Conservative political views.Father to Adam, Husband to Keisha.*

Setting

This show is set during the passing of HB1523, an incredibly Anti-Gay house bill in Mississippi that grants business owners the right to refuse service to those apart of the LGBTQ+ community. The social climate of Mississippi is generally conservative and not the most accepting of marginalized people. As a result, the disenfranchisement rates are very high and only a specific group of people are getting political input because they are the ones that can vote.

The Story of Adam and Steve

SCENE ONE. Lights up. ADAM and STEVE are in a bed placed in the center of the stage. STEVE is tossing and turning like he has something on his mind. ADAM is reading a magazine trying to ignore him.

STEVE: She just didn't have to be so...

ADAM: *(closes magazine begrudgingly and rolls eyes at his partner)* So what...

STEVE: So stoic... *(throws his eyes up looking for the correct words)* So heartless... It was just wrong and unnecessary.

ADAM: Well...

STEVE: Well what...

ADAM: Nothing *(turns over and pulls the covers over his body)* Goodnight. I need to sleep. I'm over going back and forth.

STEVE: *(shrugging ADAM harshly)* Wake up! We're finishing this conversation.

ADAM: How can we finish something that never even started.

STEVE: Well *(attempts to cuddle ADAM)* I want to start it...

ADAM: *(completely losing his cool and screaming)* Too bad! I'm not in the mood. Stop touching me. Goodnight.

There is a long pause. STEVE is taken back by ADAM's behavior and is thinking of something to say to break the silence.

STEVE: Ugh. Who pissed in your coffee this morning?

ADAM: No one pissed in my coffee. There's just no point in going back and forth over something we can't change.

STEVE: Damn it, Adam! If there's no point, then why won't you just say it?!

ADAM: Okay I was going to say that maybe ...

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STEVE: *(now very intrigued by ADAM)* Maybe....

ADAM: Nothing forget it. I don't have the energy.

STEVE: Oh here we go again with those weak ass excuses.

ADAM: *(triggered)* Excuses?

STEVE: Yes excuses. You act like speaking your mind is such a crime.

ADAM: Okay since you want to know so badly, I was just going to say that...

There is another long pause. ADAM takes a deep breath, gets out of bed and moves downstage right, scratching his head, then spits out his words rapidly.

ADAM: Maybe the lady at the restaurant was right.

STEVE gets out of the bed and walks downstage right to meet ADAM, appalled at the fact that he would agree with what the woman said.

STEVE: What do you mean?

ADAM: Don't make me repeat it.

STEVE: But... but how? How could she be right?

ADAM: Maybe we are in over our heads trying to make this work. Maybe the world's social climate is just too much for us right now--- *(cut off by noise)*

STEVE walks upstage to the bedside table near his side of the bed. He rumbles through the drawers, pulls out a pocket watch used for hypnosis, walks back downstage to grab ADAM, and forced him to sit on the bed.

ADAM: *(confused and annoyed)* What are you doing?

STEVE: Shhhhhh... just follow the watch *(starts swinging the watch from left to right in ADAM's face)* you should be getting veryyyyy sleeppyyy.

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STEVE tries to snatch the watch. ADAM resists.

ADAM: What is this for?!

STEVE: SILENCE! Just follow the watch. Back and forth. Back and forth. Back and forth.

ADAM: *(rolling his eyes)* You are impossible!

STEVE: *(still in the stereotypical hypnotist voice)* Are you getting sleepy?

ADAM: *(finally snatches the watch from STEVE)* Would you just stop?!

STEVE: No! I'm not stopping until I snap you out of this hallucination you must be in if you think for a second that what that lady said had any truth it.

ADAM gets up off of the edge of the bed and walks downstage left and starts to pace.

ADAM: Listen, I'm just being realistic.

STEVE: And I'm not being realistic for having faith in this relationship?! We have been at this for 5 years. You are the reason I came out in high school and finally became comfortable with myself. We are the definition of beating the odds and not giving a damn about what people have to say about us! You're seriously going to let ONE comment bother you?

ADAM: *(stops pacing, takes a deep breath and joins STEVE on the bed again)* It's not just the one comment. I wish it was that simple.

STEVE: *(defeated)* What is it then?

ADAM: Oh for God's sake, Steve! I know you are tired of people gawking at us when we hold hands in public, and the ladies at the nail salon that snicker every time you go in there and ask for blue nail polish, and don't even get me started on the stoic stares of disapproval from your Grandmother with such bad dementia that she can barely remember your name but somehow never fails to give me the stank eye when we see for holidays.

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STEVE: Woah, you don't have to come for my grammy like that.

ADAM: Oh shut up, you know that's not the point.

STEVE: Well what is the point?

ADAM: The point is that all of this is exhausting. It's tiring to be g-- never mind. I'm going to bed.

ADAM gets up off of the edge of the bed and goes to get inside it. STEVE remains at the edge looking very defeated and overwhelmed. Another long pause happens, then STEVE goes to join ADAM in bed.

STEVE: I understand.

ADAM: Do you?

STEVE: Yes.

ADAM: Good.

STEVE: Yup. It just sounds like you don't want to be gay anymore.

ADAM: *(slaps forehead)* Are you freaking kidding me?!

STEVE: *(getting satisfaction from his pettiness)* What? You said it, not me.

ADAM: Don't do that.

STEVE: *(forcing dramatic tears)* Do what? It sounds like you said you don't want to be gay anymore and if you don't want to be gay anymore, then why are we even together? Huh?!

ADAM: *(Pause. Deep in thought)* Listen, that's not what I meant.

ADAM gestures for STEVE to lay on his chest. STEVE does. ADAM kisses STEVE's forehead.

STEVE: That's what it sounded like.

ADAM: I never expected our lifestyle to be easy.

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STEVE: I sure as hell hope you didn't.

ADAM: But, I'd be lying if I said certain comments don't get to me and make me second guess.

STEVE: Second guess what?

ADAM: *(Pause)* Us. This. All of this.

STEVE: *(gets off of ADAM's chest. Turns over his side, facing away from ADAM)* I guess.

ADAM: Oh come on, don't be mad. You asked for the truth so I'm giving it to you.

STEVE: So you agree with the manager asking us to leave our favorite restaurant on our 5 year anniversary because our relationship is unnatural and it goes against her morality to serve a couple like us?

There is another silence. ADAM is extremely uncomfortable by this comment and can't find any words to make it less awkward.

STEVE: Exactly. Goodnight. I'm going to bed.

STEVE puts covers over his head. ADAM is still sitting up straight in bed. He picks his magazine back up and begins to read. After a minute of reading, he puts the magazine in his bedside table, pulls out a journal and pen, and begins writing. The lights fade)

End of Scene

Scene TWO. Bed and bedside tables are rolled offstage. A couch with pillows and a blanket on it is carried on stage and a chair is carried behind it. The couch is placed center and the chair is placed center-right on a diagonal. DR. XAVIER enters with a clipboard and pen. He sits in the chair. Lights up. ADAM enters and sits on the couch.

ADAM: Wow. It's hard to believe we've been seeing each other for 8 years, Doc.

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DR. XAVIER: Yeah well believe it. It looks like it's going to be 3,000 more if you don't get your shit together.

They both laugh.

DR. XAVIER: So what brings you in today, Adam.

ADAM: I've been having some issues.

DR. XAVIER: No shit Sherlock.

ADAM: Would you let me finish? You remember the very first time my parents brought me to see you?

DR. XAVIER: Oh how could I forget? You screamed bloody murder and wouldn't let go of your mom's hand when she told you why she brought you here and you were 15.

ADAM: No need to air out dirty laundry, Doc.

DR. XAVIER: Hey facts are facts.

ADAM: Okay but I brought that up to remind you of how scared I was... of myself, of you, of everybody and everything. I've started to feel like that again lately and I don't know what to do.

I tried writing like you made me do when I was first starting out, but it's not working how it used to.

DR. XAVIER: Okay, so what's got you so scared?

ADAM: Steve.

DR. XAVIER: Steve. Like your boyfriend, Steve?

ADAM: Yes.

DR. XAVIER: Why that young man couldn't throw a grape in a fruit fight. Why does he have your panties in a bunch?

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ADAM: I'm serious, doc.

DR. XAVIER: I am too.

ADAM: We got into a whole fight last night over a restaurant manager asking us to leave because our relationship was unnatural and it went against her morality to serve us.

DR. XAVIER: My goodness... how rude!

ADAM: Yeah well... I kinda think she's right. Maybe we shouldn't be together.

DR. XAVIER: What? Are you out of your mind? You worked so hard to get to a point where you could love again after Nathan. Are you sure you want to let it all go to shit because of one Christain's opinion?

ADAM: I don't. But I'm just over being hurt. Being in love is too risky. I don't think it's for me.

DR. XAVIER: Lemme ask you this, When the manager asked you all to leave, how did that make you feel?

ADAM: Shitty... unwanted... alone.... isolated .

DR. XAVIER: You felt alone even though you had Steve right there with you to help you feel all the pain?

ADAM: I mean yeah he was there I guess. That didn't provide me any comfort though, not like it used to. I used to think it was me and him against the world. Now it just feels like him and me facing every exhausting odd there is and I'm tired. I can't keep living like this.

DR. XAVIER: Then don't. Remember what I said to you when you first came out. You are in control of the way you think, nobody else.

ADAM: I get that but I feel like sorta jumped the gun on the gay thing. I don't think I'm meant to be like this.

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DR. XAVIER: *(looking him up and down)* Oh honey you for sure were.

ADAM: How do you know?

DR. XAVIER: Just take my word for it.

ADAM: So, what should I do about Steve? Break up with him?

DR. XAVIER: Nonsense!

ADAM: Why? I'm just now feeling it anymore.

DR. XAVIER: Yes you are. Your heart is there, but that level headed brain of yours is in the way. Love will never be logical. If it was, it'd be too easy. There would be nothing to work for... nothing to dream about.

Lights fade. DR. XAVIER and ADAM exit off stage.

End of Scene.

Scene THREE- Couch and chairs are struck into the wings. A small kitchen table and miscellaneous kitchen items are brought on stage. KEISHA enters and sits at the table, drinking a cup of coffee and reading the newspaper. Lights up. ADAM enters.

KEISHA: Well look who's here! My precious baby!

ADAM: Hey momma, how are you?

KEISHA: I'm good, and you?

ADAM: *(awkwardly laughs)* A little stressed but what's new?

KEISHA: *(boastful)* Well I'm sure the Editor-in-Chief of the *Morning Star Report* is always a little stressed!

ADAM: You don't have to brag, Ma. It's just me and you here.

KEISHA: Oh I know, I'm just so proud of my baby.

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ADAM: Ma, I'm 23! You don't have to call me your baby.

KEISHA: Boy hush! Until you die, you will be my baby, okay?

ADAM: Yes ma'am.

KEISHA: Now what brings you here so early?

ADAM: Nothing. I can't just visit with my lovely mother on a Saturday morning.

KEISHA: You could, but you don't so what do you need Adam?

ADAM: *(irritated because she knows him so well)* It's Ste--

ADAM stops mid-sentence because his father, ADAM SR. walks in the kitchen to greet his wife before he leaves for his morning run.

ADAM SR.: *(yelling unintentionally because he has headphones on with the music way too loud)* Bye, honey! I'll be back soon *(he ignores ADAM)*.

ADAM: *(under his breath)* Well Goodmorning to you too, dad.

KEISHA: *(yelling to get SR's attention)* Honey!

He doesn't hear her. He starts loudly singing the chorus to "September" by Earth, Wind, and Fire while headed towards the door.

KEISHA: *(embarrassed but still yelling)* ADAM?! *(snatches the headphones off of his head)*

Can you turn that damn music down and listen to me?!

ADAM SR.: Baby, why are you doing all that screaming? You're loud.

KEISHA: *(starts whispering "practice patience" to herself over and over again)* I just wanted to tell you that your son is sitting right here and you completely ignored him.

ADAM and ADAM SR. awkwardly stare at each other for a second. KEISHA looks awkwardly at the ground

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KEISHA: Well are you two going to say anything?

ADAM SR: Hey, son.

He turns his music back up and resumes singing "September" at the top of his lungs, then slams the door.

ADAM: *(uncomfortably)* Hey, dad.

KEISHA: *(sipping her coffee)* Y'all are so awkward. Why did you stop mentioning Steve when your dad came in?

ADAM: Because dad already can barely look me in the eye for calling Steve my boyfriend. I don't want him to have anything to say about us having problems.

KEISHA: *(nearly spitting out the coffee)* Problems?!

ADAM: Yes, Ma. Don't choke on your coffee. It's not the end of the world. Every couple disagrees.

KEISHA: You aren't still tripping over this bitch ass manager, are you?

ADAM: Yes, I am.

KEISHA: Baby, you're gonna have to let that go. Who cares what one person thinks?

ADAM: It's not just one person. Being with a man, in general, has just been so much unjustified pressure.

KEISHA: Well, I didn't bust my ass working doubles at the hospital to be able to afford a therapist to help you figure out your sexuality for you to complain about being gay. The justification for all the stuff y'all deal with is love. If you didn't love each other, then it wouldn't be worth it.

ADAM: *(standing to leave)* Well, I guess it's just not worth it anymore then, Ma.

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ADAM exits. KEISHA sits at the table baffled and starts to pray silently. The lights fade.

End of Scene

Scene FOUR-- Scene change. Back to the set up of scene one. Lights up. ADAM is packing boxes. ADAM pauses packing, pulls out his phone and facetimes STEVE. A projection appears of STEVE on the video call.

ADAM: Uhhhh.. hey. You left this sock under the bed and I know it's your lucky sock that you wear when you want something to go really well, so I wanted to call and see if you still needed it.

STEVE: (laughing) Yeah, I've gotten a new lucky sock... it has been two years since we've lived together, Adam.

ADAM: Oh right...

STEVE: You could just say that you were feeling lonely and wanted to check in on me.

ADAM: (*shocked but not really at his boldness*) Pshh! I wasn't thinking about YOU, I was thinking about your sock!

STEVE: Wow. We break up for two years and you still find ways to argue with me. I'm starting to think that was your favorite part about being together.

They laugh

ADAM: You're hilarious.

STEVE: Yeah, how's Jenna and baby Sam?

ADAM: They are both doing great.

STEVE: I've been stalking your facebook like crazy! Sam is getting so big. Too bad he looks just like his daddy.

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ADAM: Watch it now, my son is very handsome like his daddy!

STEVE: Mhm. I guess.

ADAM: You coming to town for my wedding next month?

STEVE: Yeah. Hopefully, I can find some time off. You and Jenna are a beautiful couple.

ADAM: Thanks, means a lot (*sound effect happens for when someone is calling you, but you're already on the phone.*) I'll talk to you later, this is Jenna. She's been out of town for the week so it's just been me and Sam here at home.

STEVE: Okay, It was good talking to you.

ADAM: You too.

ADAM clicks off and answers Jenna. Projection gets cut off.

ADAM: (*on the phone*) Hey babe.

Lights fade

End of Play.