

HI, WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD

A short dramedy by Kenyon Brown

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

CONNOR, male, any race, age 13. Eighth grader. Smart, wise.

LUKE, male, any race, age 14. Eighth grader. Flakey.

WILLIAM, male, any race, age 14. Eighth grader. Easy going.

ANDREW, male, any race, age 13. Eighth grader. Serious, emotional.

SETTING

Boys' locker room in a middle school gym.

TIME

The present. Morning, during a school day.

SUGGESTED PROPS

Basketball, uniforms, backpacks, cell phones.

PRODUCTION NOTES

This play is intended for middle school and high school students. It might not be appropriate for younger audiences.

(Locker room. Morning, during a school day. CONNOR and LUKE are changing into warm-up basketball uniforms. Luke is bouncing a basketball. WILLIAM enters. Connor and Luke freeze, stare at William.)

WILLIAM: What?

CONNOR: Hi...William...

LUKE: You're not dead?

CONNOR: Dude, I never believed it.

LUKE: Me neither.

CONNOR: Yes, you did.

LUKE: Well, I mean I did like for a moment. But then you didn't think he was dead. Then I thought for sure you must be right. No way William is dead. Not with the game tonight. He can't play if he's dead. We can't win if he's dead. So he must be alive.

WILLIAM: I am alive.

LUKE: Obviously.

WILLIAM: What are you talking about?

CONNOR: Dude, we thought you were dead.

LUKE: Yeah.

CONNOR: The text message from your dad.

WILLIAM: My dad? Connor, why would my dad text you?

LUKE: I got a text, too. He texted everyone.

CONNOR: He said he was texting everyone in your contact list about your accident.

WILLIAM: Accident?

CONNOR: You were walking across the street when a car hit you...

LUKE: And didn't stop. A hit and ruin.

CONNOR: Hit and run.

LUKE: Yeah, a hit and run. Totally cold.

WILLIAM: My dad just dropped me off. I was at the dentist.

LUKE: Oh, I hate the dentist.

CONNOR: Your dad said you died in the ambulance.

LUKE: I'm supposed to get a wisdom tooth removed.

CONNOR: Luke, focus. It's on Facebook, too.

LUKE: And everyone's tweeting about it.

CONNOR: Haven't you read your wall? Or seen the "Likes" on Instagram?

(Luke takes phone out of pocket. Boys gather around cell phone.)

WILLIAM: "...totally heinous act...beyond comprehension..." My dad doesn't say stuff like that. And now people think I'm dead?

LUKE: This is the most badass thing that's ever happened to us.

WILLIAM: To us?

LUKE: Well, I mean we're like bros, right?

CONNOR: William, you have to text people you're not dead.

LUKE: Yeah, William, you shouldn't pretend you're dead. It's not like pretending you're sick and you stay home playing Halo 3.

WILLIAM: Luke, I'm not pretending I'm dead.

LUKE: Well, everybody thinks you're dead.

CONNOR: People are like hysterical. They've been crying. Even teachers. Even Coach.

LUKE: Yeah, Coach led us in saying a prayer for you and your family.

WILLIAM: This is so whack.

LUKE: I wish people would say a prayer for me.

CONNOR: Dude, you need all the prayers you can get. Will you focus on William, please? How could your dad text us from your phone?

WILLIAM: My phone?

LUKE: It was definitely from your phone.

CONNOR: Did your dad take your phone away from you?

LUKE: I hate it when my parents take my phone privileges away.

CONNOR: Luke...

LUKE: I know. Focus.

WILLIAM: I misplaced it... I've been searching everywhere...

LUKE: You lost your phone?

WILLIAM: Maybe. I don't know.

CONNOR: When?

WILLIAM: Friday, I think. I thought it was in my back pocket.

LUKE: Did it fall into the toilet?

CONNOR: How could it fall into the toilet when his dad texted us with William's phone?

LUKE: Oh, right.

WILLIAM: My dad didn't text anyone.

LUKE: Never take a dump and text at the same time. What?

CONNOR: Did you check your backpack?

WILLIAM: Yes, I checked it.

CONNOR: It's a 9-1-1, dude.

LUKE: Definitely a 9-1-1.

CONNOR: Someone knows your phone password.

WILLIAM: I don't password my phone.

CONNOR: Whoa. Not good.

LUKE: Definitely not good.

CONNOR: You have to tell your parents.

WILLIAM: I am sooo dead...

LUKE: That's funny. I mean since you're supposed to be dead but you're really not.

CONNOR: You have to cancel your phone.

WILLIAM: I know...

LUKE: I hate telling my parents every time I lose my phone.

CONNOR: How many times have you lost your phone?

LUKE: A few...

WILLIAM: I can't believe this is happening.

LUKE: How else could somebody be texting everyone from your phone?

WILLIAM: And change my Facebook password. My password doesn't work anymore.

CONNOR: You can't get into Facebook?

LUKE: This is so not good.

CONNOR: Ya think?

(ANDREW enters. He sees William, freezes.)

WILLIAM: What'll people say when they find out?

LUKE: People really love you now that you're dead.

WILLIAM: But I'm not dead.

LUKE: Then people will love you even more when they find out you're alive.

(Andrew rushes over to William, hugs him.)

WILLIAM: I'm not dead, Andrew.

LUKE: See? He's loved.

CONNOR: Dude, get emotional, why don't you?

WILLIAM: You can let go of me now, Andrew.

(Andrew lets go of William.)

ANDREW: I don't understand...

CONNOR: Like none of us do.

LUKE: William, you can go to the office. Tell them to make an announcement you're not dead.

CONNOR: Just like that?

LUKE: It's faster than texting.

ANDREW: How could...?

WILLIAM: Someone's ripped off my phone and texting with it.

ANDREW: There are all these flowers and pictures of you by your locker.

WILLIAM: Really?

LUKE: I lit a candle for you.

CONNOR: Dude, you lit a candle?

LUKE: I like candles.

ANDREW: People are like shocked.

WILLIAM: I have to go to my locker and get my books.

ANDREW: If you go to your locker, you'll shock people even more...

LUKE: You mean we're the only ones who know you're not dead?

WILLIAM: I guess. When my dad dropped me off, I walked straight to the gym.

CONNOR: You should find Coach and tell him before practice starts.

LUKE: But just don't walk out of the locker room and say, "Surprise! I'm not dead!" Say it but like positively. "I'm alive! I'm alive!"

CONNOR: Are you for real?

WILLIAM: But it's not my fault.

LUKE: *(To Andrew:)* Wait. What are you doing here?

CONNOR: Yeah, this is just for the starters. We have permission from our teachers to be here.

LUKE: Yeah, you don't have permission.

ANDREW: Coach said I should come.

LUKE: But you're second string. You don't practice with us.

ANDREW: I'm starting in the game tonight.

WILLIAM: You're replacing me?

LUKE: That's cold when you're not really dead.

ANDREW: Coach is giving me a chance.

CONNOR: You can't center.

LUKE: Yeah, you're too short.

ANDREW: No, I'm not. Anyway, it's not all about height.

CONNOR: Dude, it's about having the hands.

LUKE: And you definitely don't got the hands.

ANDREW: I do too.

CONNOR: You're more a small forward.

LUKE: Definitely a small forward.

ANDREW: I'm a good center.

LUKE: For second string maybe.

CONNOR: You're not as good as William.

WILLIAM: Talk about me like I'm not here, why don't you?

CONNOR: It is so wrong you're starting, Andrew.

LUKE: So wrong.

WILLIAM: I can't believe the game's still on.

LUKE: It's not like we want to play without you. Coach said you'd want us to continue.

CONNOR: Dude, the game has to go on.

LUKE: Yeah, the game has to go on.

CONNOR: It's the best way to honor your memory.

LUKE: You don't want us to be sad, do you?

CONNOR: We're dedicating the rest of the season to you.

WILLIAM: Hel-lo-oo, I'm not dead!

LUKE: William's right. He's not dead.

(Connor starts texting on phone.)

ANDREW: I think I should still suit up. Coach told me to.

CONNOR: I'll text Coach to come to the locker room.

ANDREW: But he'll see William isn't dead.

CONNOR: Du-uh.

ANDREW: But I won't start.

WILLIAM: Connor, don't send the text. I'll go talk to Coach.

LUKE: When William walks into his office, Coach'll think it's like a miracle.

CONNOR: Only if William was really dead, dufus.

LUKE: Then actually William would be like a zombie.

ANDREW: Dead, then not dead.

LUKE: The undead, exactly.

ANDREW: I don't know how William's going to explain this.

WILLIAM: I am standing here, you know.

ANDREW: People will be really upset. Maybe you shouldn't play.

WILLIAM: It's not my fault people think I died.

LUKE: Then people will cheer when you run out on court.

ANDREW: Or they'll boo.

WILLIAM: Why would they boo me?

ANDREW: You know, like they'll think it's a hoax.

CONNOR: He's right, William. Dude, think about it. People will say you punk'd them.

WILLIAM: I'm the one who's been punk'd.

CONNOR: They don't know that.

LUKE: You'll lose all your cool points.

WILLIAM: Someone's playing a joke on me.

CONNOR: This could be a major backfire. Coach could bench you for the rest of the season.

LUKE: Or kick you off the team.

CONNOR: At least until he finds out the truth.

(William slams locker door.)

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