

THE DISAPPOINTMENTS

A short dramedy by
Laura King

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

ELI, a high school male with limited dancing ability, Amy's brother.

AMY, a high school female with limited musical ability, Eli's sister.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Disappointments premiered at the Moonlight Stage Company, Raleigh, North Carolina, October 11-12, 2014, in ECLIPSE: An Evening of One Act Plays.

(Lights up on a city rooftop. ELI has earbuds in and is dancing. He's not very good at it. AMY enters with a guitar. She watches Eli and bursts out laughing. Eli spins, sees Amy, and pulls the earbuds out of his ears.)

ELI: What are you doing up here?

AMY: I'm not sure. Watching you have a seizure?

ELI: Very funny. Get out of here.

AMY: You don't own the roof.

ELI: It's the only place I can get any privacy. Or so I thought. Now go.

AMY: Can't. Dad said I had to find someplace other than the apartment to practice or he was going to pawn my guitar.

ELI: Doesn't he ever go to the office anymore?

AMY: He thinks he has to be here for us now.

ELI: Even when he's here, he's not here.

AMY: I know.

ELI: Well, I got here first, so I have dibs on the roof.

AMY: It's probably for the best.

ELI: Why?

AMY: Because up here there's less chance of people seeing those moves you're trying to make.

(Amy jerks her body around in imitation of Eli.)

ELI: I don't look like that.

AMY: You look worse.

ELI: I dance better than you play.

AMY: I'm still learning.

ELI: I think you're learning impaired.

AMY: Very funny. Why are you up here on the roof dancing all by yourself anyway?

ELI: None of your business.

AMY: Come on, Eli. Tell me.

ELI: You'd just mock me.

AMY: Isn't that what sisters are for?

ELI: I don't know if I can take it right now.

AMY: What's wrong?

ELI: I did something really stupid, Amy.

AMY: What else is new?

ELI: I mean really stupid.

AMY: What?

ELI: I don't know if I can say it.

AMY: You're starting to scare me.

ELI: I don't know what I was thinking.

AMY: Eli, what did you do?

ELI: I...

AMY: Say it!

ELI: I signed up for the school talent show.

AMY: You?

ELI: I know. I must have been out of my mind. I have no business being in a talent show. I have no talent to show.

AMY: Why did you do it?

ELI: You have to ask?

AMY: Kimberly Mahoney.

ELI: We were in the hall together.

AMY: Together?

ELI: Okay, I was following her down the hall.

AMY: That's more like it.

ELI: She stopped outside the auditorium to sign up for the talent show. I heard her tell Mary Beth how excited she was about it. I thought if I signed up too we could spend time together and she would get to know me and, well, you know.

AMY: She would fall desperately in love with you?

ELI: Yeah, that. I'm an idiot. Just push me off the roof.

AMY: Don't tempt me.

ELI: (*Peering over the roof:*) How bad could it be? We're only 12 floors up. I'd probably die before I hit the ground.

AMY: Don't do it. You'd give the doorman a heart attack.

ELI: At least somebody would notice me.

AMY: Seems a bit extreme.

ELI: Do you think anyone would miss me? I mean, if I fell off the roof.

AMY: Probably not.

ELI: Do you think Kimberly would miss me?

AMY: She'd find a way to move on. The school is full of boys with subpar dance skills.

ELI: And Dad?

AMY: What about him?

ELI: Would he miss me?

AMY: I don't know.

ELI: For someone who says he wants to be here for us, he sure doesn't want to spend much time with us.

AMY: I know. I tried to play him the new song I was working on and he got really mad.

ELI: He used to like when Mom played.

AMY: She was better than me.

ELI: You just need more practice.

AMY: If I lived with Mom I bet I could practice all the time.

ELI: Not an option.

AMY: I know.

ELI: (*Mimicking their mother:*) Amy, Eli, you know how much I adore you, but there's so many things I need to do with my life and I can't do them here. This city, your father, it's not working. You'll understand when you're older. You only get one life, my dears. Make the most of it.

AMY: She's not wrong.

ELI: She's not right.

AMY: I don't know. It might be nice to go someplace where people want to hear me play.

ELI: What about your group? I thought you all were playing in the talent show together.

AMY: I've gone solo. Amy and the Electric Cheese Sticks is now just Amy.

ELI: How come?

AMY: Let's just say they were about as impressed with my playing as Dad is.

ELI: I'm sorry, Ames.

AMY: It's just me and my axe now. Toiling together to get ahead in this lonely business we call show.

(Amy takes out her guitar. She starts to play. She's not very good at it.)

ELI: What are you playing?

AMY: Three guesses.

ELI: I may need a few more.

AMY: I know. I suck.

(Amy stops playing.)

ELI: Let's face it, Amy. Neither one of us inherited Mom's artistic ability.

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