

LOOSE AND MISSING TEETH

A short drama by
Laura Lundgren Smith

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

TAYLOR

JESS

The characters are written to be gender-flexible and are open to non-binary actors.

SETTING

Present day. A park bench at varying times of day and night.

(Lights up on TAYLOR and JESS, who enter from stage left and talk excitedly.)

TAYLOR: That drum solo was amazing!

JESS: Right? And people were furious when the original drummer left!

TAYLOR: Wasted anger! This guy is amazing. You know he trained with those Japanese drummers – what are they called?

JESS: Oh, um...yeah, um...Kobe?

TAYLOR: *(Laughing:)* No, that's the beef.

JESS: Oh, yeah, you're right. Kava? Covfefe? Killer Klowns?

TAYLOR: *(Laughing:)* You idiot.

JESS: Kimchee. *King Kong.* KLINGONS!

TAYLOR: *(Laughing:)* Will you shut up? I can't think.

JESS: ...Could it be... Koda?

TAYLOR: That's it! He trained with them. Wait, you knew that all along, didn't you?

JESS: You know I'm the Trivia Boss. The fact you thought I didn't know that already wounds me. Deeply.

TAYLOR: *(Flatly:)* Yeah, yeah, whatever, whatever. Koda. Wow, I'd love to play with them.

JESS: Me too!

TAYLOR: Those huge drums they play are amazing.

JESS: Yeah, you can feel those things in your bones.

TAYLOR: Hey, good idea about cutting through the park. Everyone is going out the front toward Renton. We can beat them to the bus stop.

JESS: I have good ideas sometimes.

TAYLOR: Yeah, like the time you put ketchup on ice cream to see how it tasted.

JESS: Okay, that was a fail, but now we know.

TAYLOR: Well, some of us never wondered in the first place.

JESS: Well, though, you know, the Heinz definitely had a kind of dance on my palate with the Rocky Road.

TAYLOR: Oh, gross. GROSS. Marshmallows, chocolate and tomato? You, my friend, are a freak of nature.

JESS: Hold up a sec—I got a rock in my shoe or something.

(Jess sits on the bench.)

TAYLOR: *(Looking up:)* It's really clear tonight. You can really see the stars.

JESS: *(Taking off their shoe and looking in it:)* It really is. The rain really cleared out the smog.

TAYLOR: The moon is almost full.

JESS: No rock. Sock bone?

(Jess examines their sock.)

TAYLOR: Look! Look! A shooting star!

JESS: *(Jumping up and turning to look:)* Where? Where?

TAYLOR: There!

JESS: That's a really slow-moving shooting star.

TAYLOR: How do you know?

JESS: You've never seen one?

TAYLOR: Just in movies and stuff.

JESS: They usually go really fast. Look at that thing. It's still going.

TAYLOR: Maybe it's farther up in space or something?

JESS: I don't know.

TAYLOR: Wow!

JESS: It stopped.

TAYLOR: It's just sitting there.

JESS: I don't think it's a shooting star.

TAYLOR: What else could it be?

JESS: I don't know. Satellite maybe? Space junk.

TAYLOR: Weird.

JESS: Yeah.

TAYLOR: Man, we should have taken a video or something!

JESS: It's so far away, it probably wouldn't have shown up very well.

TAYLOR: True, still...I wonder if anyone else saw it?

JESS: Surely they did. We will have to check the news later.

TAYLOR: Maybe someone else got video.

JESS: Yeah, maybe.

(The lights dim and pulse. Jess and Taylor freeze. Lights back up.)

TAYLOR: That drum solo was amazing!

JESS: Right? And people were furious when the original drummer left!

TAYLOR: Wasted anger! This guy is amazing. You know he trained with those Japanese drummers – what are they called?

JESS: Oh, um...yeah, um...Kobe?

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JESS: Kimchee. *King Kong*. KLINGONS!

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JESS: ...Could it be... Koda?

TAYLOR: That's it! He trained with them. Wait, you knew that all along, didn't you?

JESS: You know I'm the Boss of Trivia. The fact you thought I didn't know that already wounds me. Deeply.

TAYLOR: (*Flatly:*) Yeah, yeah, whatever, whatever. Koda. Wow, I'd love to play with them.

JESS: Me too!

TAYLOR: Those huge drums they play are amazing.

JESS: Yeah, you can feel those things in your bones.

TAYLOR: Wait.

JESS: What?

TAYLOR: You already said that.

JESS: No, I didn't... Did I?

TAYLOR: You did. I remember.

JESS: (*Thinking for a minute:*) Yeah, I did, didn't I?

TAYLOR: I think we said all this before.

JESS: (*Frowning:*) Yeah...but how, I mean ...

TAYLOR: Maybe somebody drugged us or something.

JESS: Wait. Wait. Wait. I know what you were going to say next.

JESS & TAYLOR: (*Haltingly:*) Hey, good idea about cutting through the park. Everyone is going out the front toward Renton. We can beat them to the bus stop.

JESS: I have good...

TAYLOR: ...ideas sometimes...

JESS: Yeah, like the time you put ketchup...

TAYLOR: on ice cream to see how it tasted.

JESS & TAYLOR: Okay, that was a fail, but now we know.

TAYLOR: Well, some of us never wondered —

JESS: — in the first place.

TAYLOR: What is going on?!

JESS: It has to be drugs, right? Right?

TAYLOR: We only had bottled water. How could that be drugged?

JESS: I don't know!

TAYLOR: Wait, wait. What time was the concert over?

JESS: After 10:00 — like 10:30 or something?

TAYLOR: Why is it light out? It should be dark. Right? Right?

JESS: Yeah, it should be dark. What time is it?

(They pull out their phones.)

TAYLOR: Mine is dead.

JESS: Mine too.

TAYLOR: I have a watch in my backpack.

JESS: Apple Watch won't work either, will it?

TAYLOR: No, like an actual watch. You wind it.

JESS: Wow, old school.

TAYLOR: It's part of a compass thing my dad gave me.

JESS: Okay.

(Taylor digs out their watch/compass.)

TAYLOR: It's ticking, but this can't be right.

(Jess takes the watch/compass.)

JESS: 6:00 a.m.?!

TAYLOR: That's eight hours.

JESS: That can't be right. Maybe you forgot to wind it or whatever?

TAYLOR: It's ticking. It's working.

JESS: Maybe you didn't set it right.

TAYLOR: I did! It isn't the watch. What is going on?

JESS: There has to be an explanation.

TAYLOR: Then you explain it!

JESS: I'm trying!

TAYLOR: Something happened!

JESS: What?

TAYLOR: I don't know. Something!

JESS: *(Grabbing their lower back:)* Ow!

TAYLOR: What is it?

JESS: My back. I think something bit me.

TAYLOR: Turn around. Let me look.

(Taylor lifts Jess's shirt.)

TAYLOR: You're bleeding.

JESS: What?!

TAYLOR: There's this mark, like, right over your spine.

JESS: A mark? Like a bite?

TAYLOR: No. It looks like — I mean, it looks like a hole.

JESS: A hole?!

TAYLOR: It's bleeding.

JESS: Do something!

TAYLOR: Okay, I think I have some napkins in my backpack.

(Taylor bends over to look in their backpack and grabs their back.)

JESS: What's the matter?

TAYLOR: I think you should look at my back.

JESS: *(Pulling up the back of Jess's shirt:)* No way. You're bleeding too!

TAYLOR: What does it look like? Does it look like a hole?

JESS: Hold on. Yeah, like somebody drilled into you.

TAYLOR: Is there some clear liquid too?

JESS: Yeah. Did I have that too? What is it?

TAYLOR: You don't want to know.

JESS: Yes, I do! Tell me!

TAYLOR: I think it's spinal fluid.

JESS: What?!

TAYLOR: I saw this documentary on TV. This lady had to have a spinal tap. I remember the fluid was clear, like water.

JESS: No, no, no...no. This isn't real. *(Touching their face:)* Okay, okay, hold on. Ow.

TAYLOR: What's the matter?

JESS: I don't know. My tooth just started hurting.

TAYLOR: Which one?

JESS: A back one. *(Reaching in their mouth:)* No way. No way. This can't be happening.

TAYLOR: What?

JESS: It's loose. Really loose.

TAYLOR: What? How?

JESS: I don't know, do I? How am I supposed to know?

(Taylor frowns, moves their tongue around in their mouth and then reaches in their mouth.)

TAYLOR: My tooth isn't loose.

JESS: *(Relieved:)* Oh, that's good. That's good.

TAYLOR: It isn't loose. It's gone.

JESS: What?

TAYLOR: My very back tooth. There's just a hole now.

JESS: What? What? Oh man. This is unbelievable. What is freaking going on?!

TAYLOR: *(Pulling their phone out of their pocket:)* My phone just came back on.

JESS: What?

TAYLOR: My phone. *(Looking at it:)* No way. No freaking way. NO WAY.

JESS: What is it?

TAYLOR: The concert was on the 20th, right?

JESS: Yeah.

TAYLOR: My phone says it's the 23rd.

JESS: Let me see. That's wrong. It's gotta be.

TAYLOR: Why would the date just spontaneously change?

JESS: Wait, I think mine just vibrated.

(Jess pulls out their phone.)

TAYLOR: What does it say?

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