

Wave

A Ten Minute Play by

Jeffrey Lo

Copyright © 2019 by Jeffrey Lo. All Rights Reserved

Jeffrey Lo
3184 Whitesand Dr.
San Jose, CA 95148
(408) 627-5253
Jeffreyjflo@gmail.com

SETTING:

A School

CAST OF CHARACTERS (Gender is Fluid, Cast as you see fit):

Max – 17

Sammy – 17

Addie – 17

Jack – 16

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE:

If you need to re-type the script in any way for production purposes, please keep to the format in terms of punctuation, spacing between stage directions and lines, or placement of ellipses. I want the director, actors and designers to interpret the script as it is presented on the pages here.

RUNNING TIME:

Approx. 10 Minutes

Wave

*An empty space.
The sound of a spotlight.
A light shines on JACK.
JACK looks at us.*

*It's hard to read JACK's face.
It's not happy.
Definitely not happy.
Is it sad?
Maybe?
Hard to say...*

*JACK puts a hand in the air.
JACK waves.*

*Lights out.
Beat.*

*The sound of a spotlight.
A light shines on MAX.*

*The sound of a spotlight.
A light shines on SAMMY*

*The sound of a spotlight.
A light shines on ADDIE.*

MAX

Here's the thing.
I didn't really know him.

SAMMY

I didn't really know him.
But maybe that was the problem.

ADDIE

I didn't really know him.
But somehow, I can't stop thinking about him.

MAX

He looked at me that day –

SAMMY

He looked at me –

In the eye –
ADDIE

And he just... -
MAX

Anyway –
SAMMY

Did it mean anything?
ADDIE

It didn't mean anything.
SAMMY

How could it have not meant anything?
MAX

He just –
ADDIE
(Starting to raise her hand:)

MAX
So that day started like any other day.
I went to leadership.
Zero period.
7 in the morning. Early, right?
And I'm rushing to the B building because my phone's alarm didn't go off or I didn't hear it or whatever. Point is, I'm running late and I'm rushing over to the building.
I jump out of my mom's car and rush through the parking lot and past the cafeteria.
It's at this point WHAM!
I don't realize it but someone was standing right in my path and I run them over.
Like a football player, practically, just plowed right through him.
Upon impact, I stop and turn around to see who it was and there he was –

SAMMY
Jack.

MAX
On the ground.

ADDIE
Jack.

MAX

And I thought. This is weird.
I don't usually see him on campus this early.
There's only a handful of kids that have zero period so we all kind of recognize each other at this point. But he was never someone I saw.
If I'm being honest, I didn't really remember his name at the time.

ADDIE

Jack.

MAX

But of course... now I do.

SAMMY

Jack.

MAX

Anyways, I looked at him, on the floor.
And I kinda want to go over to help him but I'm also kinda late so I hesitate.
He sees me look at him.
But he gets himself up so I'm like – good – he's not hurt. You know?
He stands there.
Looking right at me.
And I'm thinking, ok, what are you just looking at me for?
So I say, "You alright?"
And he says nothing.
He just stares at me.
So I say, "Ok, well, my bad."
And he says nothing.
And I just stare at him.
Then next thing I know he raises his hand up which sorta startled me cause I'm like, what the fuck are you doing?
But then he just starts waving at me.
And I don't know what to do.
And so I say, "... alright man. Bye."
And I rush off to class.
You know?

SAMMY

I don't know.
I tried to talk to him sometimes.
Not that day but others.
We weren't friends or anything.
But it wasn't out of the ordinary for me to like – say hi. I guess.
In Mrs. Chang's class she likes to switch up who sits at what desk every couple of weeks so you don't really get to talk to anyone consistently but we sat with each other every now and again and I tried to talk with him.

He was always real quiet but seemed nice enough, you know?
Thing is, I honestly think he might've had a bit of a crush on me.
Is that terrible to say?
Or.
Weird to say?
Or.
Why am I saying any of this.
It's not important.
Or not about me.
But I'm –
Anyway –
My point is. We weren't sitting next to each other that day.
The way Mrs. Chang assigned the seats.
We weren't supposed to be next to each other.
So I walked into class and I walked up to my desk and he was sitting there with his head
down. Like, resting on his arms. You know the way someone falls at their desk?
But he wasn't asleep, his eyes were open.
Face buried in his arms.
So I go.
“Hey –“

MAX

Jack.

SAMMY

“Um –“

ADDIE

Jack.

SAMMY

“You're in my seat.”
And he slowly raised his head up.
And he just looks at me.
And I look at him back.
And I don't know what else to say.
I look around the class and everyone is getting their books out.
And I look at Mrs. Chang and she's writing a late pass for some other kid.
And I look back at him.
And he's still looking at me.
Blank?
Is that how he was looking at me?
I don't know.
Is that the right word?
Cause like, he was looking at me.
But it didn't totally feel like he was looking at me.

He was almost looking past me.
But at the same time –

ADDIE

Jack.

SAMMY

Had to be seeing something.
It was me.
Right in front of –

MAX

Jack.

SAMMY

And it was me looking at –

MAX

Jack

SAMMY

And his blank stare.

...

And so I repeat myself.
“You’re in my seat.”

...

And this time it registers.
I think.
Cause he stands up from my seat.
Stands up from my desk.
But then he raises his hand up a bit.
Still staring right at me.
Or right at my direction at least.
And he begins to wave.
And again, I look around.
At the class.
At Mrs. Chang.
At anyone.
And no one seems to notice.
And I don’t know what to do.
So I pretend not to notice.
Until –

ADDIE

Jack.

SAMMY

Stops waving.
Puts his hand down.
And walks away.
So I can sit down.
Take out my book.
And begin class.

ADDIE

The bell rang.
It was lunch period.
“Finally” I thought
Not knowing that –
...
...
I work in the cafeteria.
My mom can't really afford a lunch for me every day so the school has me work as a way to
get one for free.
I work the lunch line.
The a la carte section, they call it.
I sell the popular food.
The junk food.
Can of soda.
Bagels.
Hot Cheetos with the cup of cream cheese meant for bagels.
My line always end up the busiest.
I like it, to be honest.
I get to interact with different people.
I try to remember what they order.
Or guess their order.
All in my head, though.
I don't ever tell anyone I'm guessing their order or anything because...
I don't know.
They'd think I'm weird or something.
...
Anyways.
Thing is –

SAMMY

Jack.

ADDIE

Was the easiest to guess.

MAX

Jack.

ADDIE

Was the most consistent.

He ordered the same thing every day.

A bag of ghardetto's trail mix and a can of orange soda.

I'd see him every day only eat the rye chips in the bag which was odd because we also sold a bag of ghardetto's that was *just* rye chips.

But he always ordered the bag of trail mix.

...

I found it so weird but I never asked why.

Yesterday, actually, he came up to buy his trail mix and soda but we were out of trail mix.

I told him this but then offered up the bag of all rye chips.

He just looked at me.

And smiled.

And I remember at this moment thinking to myself – *wow, he has a nice smile...*

“Would you like the bag of rye chips?” I asked.

He smiled again with that nice smile and shook his head.

Then he walked away.

...

Last night I thought about him again.

I thought about his smile.

And I thought maybe I'd actually tell him he had a nice smile.

I don't know.

Maybe he was someone I could talk to in the line more than just *here's your change*.

...

But today I noticed he didn't come to my line.

We had the trail mix and everything.

Then I noticed, there was no one in my line.

The people in my line were walking away from the line.

Running.

SAMMY

There was all this commotion.

MAX

And I stepped away from setting up the PA system to see what was going on.

SAMMY

Kids were yelling.

MAX

Screaming.

ADDIE

I couldn't see out my window.

I couldn't see past the people.

SAMMY

So I rushed up the big steps in the quad.

MAX

I ran to the side of the building.

SAMMY

I ran out of the cafeteria to see –

ADDIE

Jack.

ALL

Standing on the rooftop.

SAMMY

Jack.

ALL

On top of building B.

MAX

Jack.

ALL

How did he get up there?

ADDIE

People were screaming.

SAMMY

Hollering.

MAX

They didn't know what was going on.

ADDIE

They thought it was so cool that he got up that high.

MAX

“CAREFUL!”

SAMMY

Someone yelled.
I remember someone yelled Careful...

ADDIE

Like he was playing some sort of trick?
Or stunt?

MAX

Making so much noise.

ADDIE

But I saw his face.

SAMMY

Just staring out.

MAX

Blank?

SAMMY

At all of us.

MAX

Past all of us.

SAMMY

Then –

MAX

I think he smiled.

ADDIE

Then –

MAX

He raised his hand.

SAMMY

Then –

MAX

*The sound of a spotlight.
A light shines on JACK.
JACK looks at us.
JACK puts a hand in the air.*

JACK waves.

SAMMY

Everyone got quiet

ADDIE

Everyone looked up at –

ALL

Jack.

ADDIE

But no one said a word.

MAX

Then –

*The sound of three spotlights going out.
Lights out on SAMMY, ADDIE and MAX.*

*A light shines on JACK.
JACK continues to look at us.
JACK continues to wave.
We see JACK in silence for quite some
time.*

*The sound of a spotlight going out.
Lights out on JACK.
Darkness.*

Fin.