

Guilt

September 15, 2018

By Jeffrey Lo

Written as Part of THE 2018 PROJECT

To read the 365 plays in THE 2018 PROJECT, visit:

<http://www.jeffreywritesaplay.com/the-2018-project-365-plays>

CHARACTERS:

Aaron

Gemma

For Roneet Aliza Rahamim and Tasi Alabastro

If you are interested in sharing or performing this play or any of the plays in THE 2018 Project individually or in a collection, please contact the playwright at:

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Lights rise on asleep AARON in a hospital bed.

GEMMA sits next to him.

After a few moments, AARON wakes.

AARON: Gem...

GEMMA: Hey.

Brief silence.

GEMMA: How are you feeling.

AARON: Um. Like shit. To be honest.

GEMMA: I can imagine.

AARON: Yeah. Suicide will do that to you. Attempted suicide.

GEMMA: Right...

AARON: I'll be fine though. So they say.

Silence.

AARON: Um. Can I ask you a question?

GEMMA: What?

AARON: Why are you here?

GEMMA: Why am I - ?

AARON: You left me.

GEMMA: You tried to kill yourself.

AARON: But you left me.

GEMMA: But you're still someone I know.

AARON: So for every person you know that tries to commit suicide, you'll rush to the hospital?

GEMMA: If I know about it, I'd think so – yes.

Pause.

AARON: Not cause I'm special?

GEMMA: Really? Is this the time?

AARON: Fine... Fine...

Pause.

GEMMA: Can I ask you a question?

AARON: Yeah.

GEMMA: Why did you do it?

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AARON: Why did I try to do it?

GEMMA: Yeah. Sure. Fine.

AARON: Isn't it obvious?

Pause.

GEMMA: Figures.

AARON: What?

GEMMA: It figures you would do this.

AARON: You asked a question and I answered honestly. What more do you want from me?

GEMMA: I want you to... I want you to not be such a fucking idiot.

AARON: Ouch. Harsh.

GEMMA: Harsh? LOOK AT YOURSELF.

AARON: Whatever.

GEMMA: Yeah, whatever.

A nurse walks by the door to check in after hearing the loud voices.

GEMMA: I better go.

AARON: Yeah. You better go.

GEMMA packs her things up and begins to exit.

She stops at the door.

GEMMA: You cannot blame this on me. You made a choice. And regardless of whether or not it was a smart one – you will not put this on me. I will feel no guilt for the choices you make.

GEMMA exits.

AARON sits in his bed.

The sound of hospital beeping.

Lights fade.

END OF PLAY.