

TALKING
a play

by
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DRAFT 1.0

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Dana

Stan

Susan

2 men in business suits

A woman with a stroller

The play takes place on the street. Down left there are a couple of benches and a few feet farther left is a bus stop and a garbage can. Upstage there is a row of doors/shops, each perhaps represented by a doorway with a sign above it. A screen for projecting supertitles/text is above the stage.

SCENE

(One businessman stands at the stop with earphones in and a smart phone. He talks too quietly to be heard. The woman with the stroller and the other business man sit on a bench and both look down at handheld devices and read or text or whatever. DANA and STAN sit on the other bench. DANA is talking on the telephone. STAN is throwing bread for the birds. Both have takeaway coffees. SUSAN enters stage right, consults a slip of paper, and/or a smart phone, looks around, and walks left, then stops and consults her phone.)

TRAFFIC NOISES, CARS
GOING PAST, HONKING,
SIRENS, ETC

DANA

Stop procrastinating already! Why don't
you just rent a car, go early, get it
done and then make a day of it.

(pause)

You're always saying you want to get out
of town. So go! Go for a drive in the
country, take a walk in the woods—

(pause)

Okay so don't. Noodle around town
instead.

TING

(STAN pulls out a smartphone and looks at it.)

(msg: **Dev**): Are you online?

DANA
You work for the wrong party,

(pause)

(STAN types something into the phone.)

BLIP BLEEP

(msg: **Stan**): No, my phone. Still waiting for the bus. Are we okay? Can we talk or FT?

(msg: **Dev**): No, I probably can't talk or video now cuz I'm in a small room with George, who is listening to the news... would later be better?

TING BLIP BLEEP TING

(msg: **Stan**): No, this is okay. BRB.

(msg: **Dev**): ok:)

(STAN gets up, throws the coffee cup in the trash and walks over to front stage right. Then continues texting.)

DANA
No. I meant it.

(pause)

DANA
German expressionism was NOT invented by lunatics in the united states of america

(pause)

DANA
What's the certificate for?

SOUNDS OF TEXTOS COMING
AND GOING

(msg: **Stan**): okay

(msg: **Stan**): I'm back

DANA
That's fine. Did I already tell you about last week?

(msg: **Stan**): ?

(msg: **Stan**): Don't forget to call the insurance.

(msg: **JH**): Done!

DRING DRING DRING DRING
DRING

DANA
It wasn't pretty but the cops were very
efficient. We already fixed the wall.

(Susan answers her phone.)

SUSAN
Hi! How are you holding up?

(pause)

DANA
So, uh, left field question: any chance I
could buy you a beer this evening?

SUSAN
Good, glad to hear it. And how is she
holding up?!

(pause)

DANA
I meant after you get back. Anyway, you
can say no.

SUSAN
oh really. Well I imagine she's relieved
it's all over..

(pause)

DANA
Are you sure?

(Susan talks and walks to exit stage left.)

SOUNDS OF TEXTOS COMING
AND GOING

DANA
So call me when you get in.

(pause)

DANA
Me too.

(DANA hangs up. Stands and looks in the direction of the
bus, then dials another number.)

(msg: **Stan**): Tx

(msg: **Dev**): Sorry. I'm back.

(msg: **JH**): I can't find my papers re: the federal tax info
and the disciplinary actions initiated against me by my
university... did you put them somewhere?

(Susan re-enters stage left and walks back toward the row of buildings and scrutinizes them while speaking.)

SUSAN

I dunno. I think it must be better than just waiting for the inevitable.

(pause)

(msg: **Stan**): Nope. Look in the hall. Or ask Tali.

(msg: **Stan**): U there?

SOUNDS OF TEXTOS COMING
AND GOING

SUSAN

You must be glad it didn't happen until after the big do?

(msg: **Dev**): I'm here.

(msg: **Stan**): Where?

(pause)

SUSAN

un hunh. It went well though didn't it!

(pause)

SOUNDS OF TEXTOS COMING
AND GOING

(msg: **Dev**): Still with George. Breakfast time here. We're eating eggs now.

(msg: **Stan**): So...

(msg: **Dev**): So I think I owe you an apology. I am really sorry for being edgy and rude with you last night - you certainly did not deserve it.

(msg: **JH**): I found them! Tx. xox

SUSAN

Sure but those were just a few minor deviations from the plans here and there. Overall it was an amazing result. You should feel proud.

(pause)

(msg: **Stan**): Good. Have a great day sweetie. Let me know how it goes.

(msg: **Dev**): Forgive me?

(msg: **JH**): Tx. u hv a gr8 day too. LvU!

SUSAN

Good. Will you be around later?

(pause)

(msg: **Dev**): I can make it up to you...
 (msg: **Stan**): Nothing to forgive.
 (msg: **Dev**): please

SOUNDS OF TEXTOS COMING
 AND GOING

SUSAN
 So call me afterward okay?

(pause)

(msg: **Dev**): hello...?

SUSAN
 Ciao.

(Susan fiddles with the phone some more)

(msg: **Stan**): You sure you want to make it up?
 (msg: **Dev**): please

(Susan looks around, hesitates, and then walks over to the bus stop and looks like she is going to speak to DANA but Dana is still on the phone so Susan takes a few steps away and looks around some more.)

(msg: **Stan**): The usual place. 12:15. Yes?
 (msg: **Dev**): Yes!
 (msg: **Stan**): I have a 1:30 so don't be late.
 (msg: **Dev**): I promise!!

(STAN puts the phone away and walks back over to the bus stop.)

SUSAN
 S-stan? IS that YOU?

STAN
 Susan? Wow! Long time. Last I heard you were in Vancouver. What brings you to this neck of the woods?

SUSAN
 I'm here for a conference.

STAN
 Oh, something interesting?

SUSAN
 Y-yes, well, it's the 17 International Conference on New opportunities for Thermoplastic Elastomers. I'm supposed to present but -

DRING DRING DRING DRING
 DRING

(SUSAN answers the phone.)

SUSAN
Hi!! Sorry I'm a little lost... did i miss
it? Good... yeah, hang on okay.

(Susan speaks to STAN)

Sorry Stan! Great talking with you,
really, but I so have to run... any idea
where

(SUSAN consults the paper and then thrusts it toward
STAN.)

SUSAN
The Centre D'Innovation is... here, it's at
8291 St. Jacques and I-

STAN
Sure, we're on Notre-Dame so just
continue thataway and turn left - it
isn't more than a 3 minute -

SUSAN
Thanks Stan!!! Here take my card, I'm
here until Monday. Maybe we can grab a
drink or something.

(Susan gives a little wave and rushes off stage left
while talking into the phone.)

SUSAN
... hey, you still there? Good. So tell
them I'm on my way... 3 minutes... if you
have the spec sheet just tell him that
the commercialized Santoprene TPV 8291
TB/TL and /TL series will fill the gap.
It's adhesion coefficient is..

TRAFFIC NOISES, CARS
GOING PAST, THE
EXHALATIONS OF A BUS
PULLING UP AND DOORS
OPENING.

(Everyone stands or goes to the bus stop and lines up.)

(Lights Fade to Black: End)

THE NOISE OF BUS DOORS
CLOSING AND A BUS
PULLING AWAY FROM THE
CURB.