

AMANDA FREEZES TIME

by Scott Mullen

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AMANDA FREEZES TIME*A Comedic Duet***by Scott Mullen**

SYNOPSIS: Sometimes, when you like a boy, the easiest way to deal with it might be just to freeze time and talk to him there.

TIME: Present.

SETTING: A party.

CAST OF CHARACTERS*(1 male, 1 female, 0-30 extras)*

AMANDA (f).....A shy teenage girl. *(56 lines)*

CADEN (m).....An outgoing teenage boy. *(55 lines)*

PARTYGOERS (m/f)Any number of extras at the party.
(Non-Speaking)

SET: A bare stage.

PROPS: A cell phone. (Optional: party decorations.)

AT START: *Music. People dance, talk (unheard); it's a party. AMANDA stands at the outskirts. Shy. Not engaging. On the other side, CADEN dances. Alone, but completely free and relaxed.*

Suddenly everyone freezes. The music stops. It's silent. Still. Then AMANDA moves. Through the party. Careful not to touch anyone, who stay in the exact same position throughout.

AMANDA stops at CADEN, frozen in the middle of a dance move. AMANDA hesitates, nervous. Then pulls out a cell phone, and takes a photo of CADEN.

AMANDA tucks away the phone, and finally reaches out and touches CADEN, who spins back to life—and quickly reacts to the lack of music and the fact that everyone is frozen. CADEN cries out, and takes a step backward.

AMANDA: Shhh. It's fine, everything's fine.

CADEN: What's happening?

AMANDA: I froze time.

CADEN: You froze time!?!

AMANDA: Yeah.

CADEN: Put it back!

AMANDA: I will. Soon.

CADEN reaches toward a frozen person.

AMANDA: Don't touch anyone!

CADEN: Why not?

AMANDA: Because you'll bring them into frozen time. And then they'll be freaking out, and they'll touch more people, and there will be yelling and chaos and no one likes that. So don't.

CADEN: Who are you?

AMANDA: My name's Amanda. You?

CADEN: Caden.

AMANDA: That's a nice name.

CADEN: How are we frozen in time!

AMANDA: It's just something I can do.

CADEN: Freeze time.

AMANDA: Yeah. I just sort of... think about it.

CADEN: So you're like a superhero?

AMANDA: I don't know. Maybe.

CADEN: Maybe??? If you can stop time... you can stop bad stuff.

AMANDA: I can only stop time for nine minutes. And that's nine minutes that I'm experiencing while time is frozen. So unless something is happening in front of me, it's really hard to change it. I mean, I've tried... you don't know how much I've tried. Going out in the world. Waiting for something to happen. Most of the time, nothing happens. Ninety-nine point nine percent of the time. But sometimes.... Do you remember the story about the baby who fell off the twentieth floor balcony, and wasn't hurt?

CADEN: That was amazing.

AMANDA: I was there. I heard the screams. Falling baby. And I froze time. Just in time. I mean, that baby was like three feet off the ground. It was terrifying. I plucked the frozen baby out of the air, I laid him on the ground, and I got out of there. Started up time again. Everyone was so happy.

CADEN: You should have stayed. You were a hero.

AMANDA: I don't want people to know I can do this! It's enough responsibility now. Plus, you know the government would stick me in a lab somewhere, and cut into my head. I don't want anyone cutting into my head!

CADEN: So, it's a big secret.

AMANDA: Yes.

CADEN: That you're telling me.

AMANDA: Sometimes I just need to talk to people about what is going on.

CADEN: How do you know I won't talk to the government?

AMANDA: Would you?

CADEN: No, but you don't know that. You don't know me.

AMANDA: You won't tell anyone. Because you won't remember.

CADEN: I definitely think I'll remember this.

AMANDA: No one I talk to remembers what happens in frozen time.

I mean, I can remember, but everyone else... no.

CADEN: Wow.

AMANDA: Yeah.

CADEN: So why did you pull me into this? Why are you telling me?

AMANDA: You seemed interesting.

CADEN: Go on.

AMANDA: I was watching people at the party, but my eyes kept going to you. You were dancing all by yourself. You didn't care that you didn't have a partner, or what you looked like. You were just dancing, free. It was awesome. I would never dance alone, not in front of people. I would never even talk to you, ordinarily. It's terrifying.

CADEN: Talking to me.

AMANDA: Yes! But in here, when everything is frozen... it's so much easier. Everything is so much easier. Talking to boys...

CADEN: Oh my God.

AMANDA: What?

CADEN: You're using your ability to freeze time as a dating app!

AMANDA: No!

CADEN: You totally are!

AMANDA: That sounds bad.

CADEN: Are you interested in me like that? Attracted to me? Tell me the truth.

AMANDA: ...Maybe.

CADEN: Maybe!

AMANDA: Well, that's sort of the point of this. I get to talk to someone I'd be terrified of approaching in the real world, and see what kind of person they really are, and if we have any chemistry. If we click. With no real downside.

CADEN: Because I won't remember anything.

AMANDA: You don't know how much that matters. I mean, right now I'm regretting this, but really, I don't need to, because nothing bad's going to happen. When the nine minutes are up, you'll go back to dancing, I'll be over there, and we'll never have to speak to each other again.

CADEN: Wait—you're regretting this?

AMANDA: Well, it's weird! We're not meeting like two normal people. So it's hard to know if we really have chemistry. Because you have that judgey face right now.

CADEN: I do not have a judgey face!

AMANDA: I do this because I'm trying not to be scared of talking to people. I'm sorry. I'll put you back now.

AMANDA pulls out the cell phone. Shows CADEN the photo.

AMANDA: This is the position you were in when I froze you. With your arm weird like that? And your face scrunched up? See if you can be in that same pose when I put you back, so no one will notice you were gone.

CADEN: No! We're not done yet! How many times have you done this?

AMANDA: You're number... six.

CADEN: And did you have any chemistry with the first five?

AMANDA: Not really.

CADEN: So I'm the first?

AMANDA: You think we have chemistry?

CADEN: I think you're fascinating.

AMANDA: Really.

CADEN: Someone this neurotic—

AMANDA: Great.

CADEN: That's the wrong word. Let me try again. Someone who can do something as awesome as you can, but you don't think you're awesome?

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