

# WORDS

## By Kristin O'Malley

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### A Ten Minute Comedy Skit-Play

**SYNOPSIS:** *WORDS* tells the story of two characters, Words 1 and Words 2, as they prepare to leave the human mouth. They are encouraged to prepare for their departure by Courage, but Fear does its best to hold them back.

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

*1 FEMALE, 1 MALE, 4 EITHER GENDER, 6 TOTAL*

COURAGE (m/f)

FEAR (m/f)

WORDS 1 (m/f)

WORDS 2 (m/f)

MAN'S VOICE (m)

WOMAN'S VOICE (f)

### SETTING

A human mouth

### AUTHOR'S NOTE

At the discretion of the director, MAN'S VOICE and WOMAN'S VOICE may be spoken from the wings, or two people may actually play the parts at opposite sides of the stage, then exit following their phone conversation

AT RISE:

A phone rings.

**MAN'S VOICE:** Elena! Hi!

**WOMAN'S VOICE:** Joe? How are you?

**MAN'S VOICE:** Good. Good. I hope now isn't a bad time.

**WOMAN'S VOICE:** No, not at all.

**MAN'S VOICE:** I thought maybe we could catch up.

**WOMAN'S VOICE:** Great. I'd love that! One sec...ok, great. What's going on? How are you? We haven't talked in a while. I'm glad you called.

**MAN'S VOICE:** Me, too.

**WOMAN'S VOICE:** I have so much to tell you.

**MAN'S VOICE:** Yeah, me too.

**COURAGE:** Any minute now.

**FEAR:** Well, maybe not *any* minute.

**COURAGE:** It could be any minute.

**FEAR:** But it might not be.

**COURAGE:** But they should be ready, because hopefully it will be any minute-

**FEAR:** But-

**WORDS 1:** Are you ready?

**WORDS 2:** Yeah, are you?

**FEAR:** I don't think you're ready.

**COURAGE:** Of course, they are.

**WORDS 1 & 2:** Of course, we are.

**WORDS 1:** We've been waiting for this moment for five years.

**COURAGE:** You know what you have to say, right?

**FEAR:** I don't think they do.

**WORDS 1:** After spending the past five years of traveling between the brain-

**WORDS 2:** And the mouth-

**WORDS 1:** And back to the brain-

**WORDS 2:** For more thought-

**FEAR:** Completely necessary.

**WORDS 1:** And revision-

**FEAR:** Essential to development.

**WORDS 2:** And practice-

**FEAR:** An indispensable part of the process.

**WORDS 1:** Practice is putting it mildly.

**FEAR:** Practice makes perfect.

**WORDS 1:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**WORDS 2:** We've been through this before.

**WORDS 1:** We have to come out exactly right.

**WORDS 2:** We can't be misunderstood.

**FEAR:** It's been hard enough to let you go this far.

**WORDS 1 & 2:** We know.

**FEAR:** It's just that if you go any further-

**WORDS 1:** He's afraid he will be misunderstood.

**WORDS 2:** But there's no way that's going to happen.

**WORDS 1:** With the amount of thought and revision which has been put into us, we are absolute perfection.

**WORDS 2:** Perfection.

**WORDS 2:** It's very rare for our kind to be so prepared.

**WORDS 1:** But we have spent second after second-

**WORDS 2:** Minute after minute-

**WORDS 1:** Hour after hour-

**WORDS 2:** Day after day-

**FEAR:** I understand.

**WORDS 1:** Week after week-

**FEAR:** I know but-

**WORDS 2:** Month after month-

**FEAR:** It takes time-

**WORDS 1:** Year after year.

**FEAR:** I understand your frustrations, but-

**WORDS 1:** No, you don't get it. We've been thought. We've been revised.

**WORDS 1:** And revised.

**WORDS 2:** And revised.

**FEAR:** I know.

**WORDS 2:** We've even been rehearsed.

**WORDS 1:** I always forget that part.

**WORDS 2:** Yeah, it was nice to get out for a little while.

**WORDS 1:** Too bad we only got as far as the mirror.

**WORDS 2:** You forget about the picture of her. We got to visit that, too.

**WORDS 1:** The picture.

**WORDS 2:** And the-

**FEAR:** I get the point.

**WORDS 2:** None of them were our intended destinations, but-

**WORDS 1:** A nice vacation nonetheless.

**COURAGE:** Can we move forward please. You were saying....

**WORDS 2:** We're ready.

**WORDS 1:** Let us go.

**WORDS 2:** We've done well with our little forays thus far-

**WORDS 1:** But he has to let us go.

**WORDS 2:** Because otherwise we end up sitting-

**WORDS 1:** Here-

**WORDS 2:** Poised on the tip of the tongue-

**WORDS 1:** Ready for action-

**COURAGE:** They have a fairly rational argument.

**WORDS 1:** Yup.

**WORDS 2:** Yes, we do.

**FEAR:** But are you sure you are going to perform your feat flawlessly?

**WORDS 1 & 2:** Flawlessly.

**WORDS 1:** Like Captain America.

**WORDS 2:** Superman.

**WORDS 1:** Batman.

**WORDS 2:** God.

**WORDS 1, COURAGE, & FEAR:** God?

**WORDS 2:** Too far?

**WORDS 1:** Too far.

**COURAGE:** Definitely too far.

**FEAR:** Way too far.

**COURAGE:** Again, we really need to continue moving forward.

**FEAR:** But what if-

**COURAGE:** What if they practice for you right now?

**FEAR:** But-

**WORDS 1 & 2:** We can do it!

**FEAR:** But-

**WORDS 2:** Ready, eager, and willing!

**WORDS 1:** You're always willing.

**WORDS 2:** Well, someone around here needs to be.

**COURAGE:** Guys...

**WORDS 1:** I know. I'm just saying.

**COURAGE:** Guys...

**WORDS 1:** Sometimes you're a little too willing.

**COURAGE:** Guys...

**FEAR:** But-

**COURAGE:** All of you. We need to be prepared. I can feel it. Time is closing in on us, and we want to be ready-

**FEAR:** It's ok if we aren't. We can just wait for next time.

**WORDS 1:** But that's what we did last time.

**FEAR:** And we can do it again!

**COURAGE:** No, this is it, and if you want to ensure they are ready-

**FEAR:** I do, but-

**COURAGE:** Then, we should let them practice for you right now, because once the moment comes, there is no going back, and if that moment is close... and I believe it is... we want them to be ready.

**FEAR:** But-

**COURAGE:** Can we do this?

**WORDS 1 & 2:** Yes, sir.

**COURAGE:** Ready?

**WORDS 1 & 2:** Ready.

**FEAR:** But-

**COURAGE:** Good. Lights, camera, action.

**WORDS 1:** Ummm... Elena-

**COURAGE:** Cut out the "ummm's" please.

**WORDS 1:** Sorry, sir. My mistake.

**FEAR:** Mistake? Sir, maybe they aren't ready for this yet.

**COURAGE:** Continue, please.

**WORDS 1:** Elena, I've wanted to say this to you for a long time now.

**FEAR:** Are you sure that's the best way to begin?

**WORDS 2:** It's a classic. Can't go wrong with it.

**COURAGE:** Both of you. Shhh!

**WORDS 2:** Right, sorry, sir.

**WORDS 1:** Elena, I've wanted to say this to you for a long time now-

**WORDS 2:** But I was afraid of changing what we have, because I cherish our friendship.

**WORDS 1:** Cherish. Strong choice. Women love that word.

BY KRISTIN O'MALLEY

**WORDS 2:** I know, right? Although I admit that my thesaurus did come in handy for that one... and a couple of chick flicks.

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