

ZOMBIE?

by Sean Abley

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ZOMBIE?

A Comedy Play

by Sean Abley

SYNOPSIS: Chris and Darby, two high school seniors, suspect their classmate, Jamie, has returned from cheer camp a zombie. Will Chris chop Jamie's head off and save the town from their brain-eating ways? Can their friendship be saved?

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 either, 1 extra; gender flexible)

CHRIS (m/f)..... Teenager, son/daughter of the town Sheriff, conspiracy theorist and zombie expert, popular at school, a natural leader.
(41 lines)

DARBY (m/f) Teenager, easily convinced to do ridiculous things, a natural follower, a bit of a nerd but not a stereotype, school is important to them. *(34 lines)*

JAMIE (m/f)..... Teenager, cheerleader, possibly a zombie, but popular and cool otherwise. The kind of person who becomes a brand ambassador because they have so many online followers.
(22 lines)

NICKY (m/f)..... Teenager, always in the wrong place at the wrong time, zombie bait. *(Non-Speaking)*

CAST NOTE: All characters are gender-neutral. For ease of reading genders have been chosen for the script, but feel free to change pronouns as needed.

TIME: Present day, night.

SETTING: A park.

SET: Bushes, park bench.

PROPS

- Axe
- Triscuits Box
- Can of Soda
- Cough Drop in Wrapper
- 4 Cell Phones
- 3 Backpacks
- Printout from the Internet
- "I Can't Believe It's Not Human Flesh" Container

COSTUMES

CHRIS – Typical high school student attire, or camouflage outfit.

DARBY – Typical high school student attire, or camouflage outfit.

JAMIE – Typical high school student attire, or cheerleader uniform.

NICKY – Typical high school student attire.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The moment in the play when Chris and Darby are watching a video of Jamie chasing Nicky on their phones can be staged live, without video. Just indicate with lights, sound and blocking that the action playing out onstage – Jamie chasing Nicky – is being watched on a phone simultaneously.

PREMIERE PRODUCTION

Zombie? was developed at the Playwrights Lab at Hollins University, Roanoke, VA. The play was first presented in a public reading on July 6, 2017 under the direction of Taylor Gruenloh, with the following cast:

CHRIS Megan Ward
DARBY Mayme Todd
JAMIE Madisin Witt
NICKY Stephen Baltz

Stage directions read by Water Dodd

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AT START: *A park, late at night. CHRIS and DARBY are hiding behind some bushes or a park bench, on the lookout for... something.*

CHRIS: Is that her?

DARBY: Uh... no. I'm pretty sure that's a dog.

CHRIS: But maybe that's her thing. Running around like a dog and then bam! She gets you!

DARBY: Whose thing? Why are we out here? I'm missing the Homecoming Dance Committee meeting. I'm on the Cake Sub Committee. We have some very important decisions to make about frosting.

CHRIS: I told you, we have to protect the town.

DARBY: Why do you have an axe?

CHRIS holds up his axe.

CHRIS: I have an axe because—Wait. Don't you have an axe?

DARBY: I don't have an axe.

CHRIS: I told you to bring an axe!

DARBY: You did not tell me to bring an axe.

CHRIS: It's in the text! Make sure to bring a sharp axe.

DARBY: *(Pulls out her phone and reads a text.)* "Meet me at the park at 11 p.m., make sure to bring snacks." *(Pulls a box of crackers out of her backpack.)* So I brought Triscuits. They're healthy and stuff...

CHRIS: Stupid autocorrect! You're not gonna kill a zombie with Triscuits!

DARBY: Whoa, back up!

CHRIS: So, you know how Jamie was gone all summer, supposedly at cheer camp? Well, there was an incident at that cheer camp that the government is totally covering up. But I was on the dark web and I found this.

CHRIS hands DARBY a printout from the Internet.

DARBY: Why were you on the dark web?

CHRIS: Just read.

DARBY: *(Reading, skimming.)* "Camp Holla-Back-Yo... nuclear power plant... meltdown... nuclear waste..."

CHRIS: Nuclear waste got into the camp, and now all those cheer squads are zombies.

DARBY: That's ridiculous.

CHRIS: I have proof. First of all, look at her most recent status update.

DARBY: *(Pulls out her phone and reads.)* "Brains! Braaaaains!!" Okay, that could be about anything.

CHRIS: There's a photo of her eating a brain! Didn't you see the video I posted online? Here.

SPLIT SCENE – Video plays out on stage as CHRIS and DARBY watch it on CHRIS'S. JAMIE and NICKY enter. JAMIE is walking like a zombie, slow, deliberate, while NICKY is fleeing as if in a horror movie. NICKY keeps tripping, looking around, wasting time, not running, taking photos with his phone, basically acting like a terrible horror movie cliché, which lets slow-walking JAMIE keep up to him. They eventually cross the stage and exit.

CHRIS: See? She's totally walking like a zombie.

DARBY: Who's she chasing?

CHRIS: Somebody named Nicky or whatever. Junior, I think. Can you believe she's trying to eat the brains of someone not in our social circle? We have to stop her!

DARBY: But why us? Shouldn't you tell your mom? She's the Sheriff. I'm sure she has some zombie contingency plan.

CHRIS: When my mom appointed me District Eleven Junior Sheriff for the Kids Fight Crime Anti-Littering Campaign, I pledged to keep Anytown, USA safe. Jamie is one of our besties, we've known her since fourth grade, she'd do anything for us, so I'm sure you'll agree we need to chop off her head.

DARBY: What?!

CHRIS: It's the only way to stop a zombie.

DARBY: That seems really harsh.

CHRIS: Look, if she bites somebody, they turn into a zombie, and then they bite somebody, and they turn into a zombie, and pretty soon the entire town will be zombies...

DARBY: I'm in pre-calc. I understand zombie math.

CHRIS: ...and everyone's brains will get eaten...

DARBY: Okay...

CHRIS: ...and then they'll cancel the homecoming dance.

DARBY: Oh, my gosh, we totally have to chop off Jamie's head!

CHRIS: Okay, I'll watch this way, you watch that way. She always walks home this way after cheer practice. Signal me when you see her.

DARBY: Okay.

CHRIS and DARBY settle in, each watching one direction. DARBY takes out the Triscuits box and slowly, noisily, eats Triscuits for an extended beat.

CHRIS: What are you doing?

DARBY: Having Triscuits. I'm not going to be able to chop off Jamie's head if my blood sugar is low.

CHRIS: Be. Quiet.

A beat. DARBY takes out a can of soda, opens it noisily, and takes several loud sips from it.

CHRIS: Seriously.

DARBY: My mouth is dry from the Triscuits.

A beat. DARBY takes out a cough drop, unwraps it noisily until CHRIS snatches it from her hand.

CHRIS: Gimme that! If you don't keep it down—

NICKY enters racing across the stage, screaming and exits.

CHRIS: She must be close!

JAMIE enters from the bushes between CHRIS and DARBY, leaping out, taking them completely by surprise. CHRIS brandishes the axe and DARBY brandishes the Triscuits as they scurry away.

JAMIE: I caught you!

CHRIS and DARBY scream in fear.

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