



multiplay
drama

The Multiverse is Gay!

Lewis Hetherington



N
H
B

Characters

OUR REALITY

AMBER

BENNY

CAZ

DAZ

JESSIE

CAMERON

ROBIN

THE BIG NOWHERE

THE AMBERATE

BAMBER

AMBER 602

AMBER 603

GLAMBER

CHILLY

OTHER AMBERS

Author's Note

Every character in the play can be played by a person of any gender identity and of any sexual orientation. That character is then rooted in that identity, and it will be for you as a company to explore how your lived experience shapes and defines the character.

The only exceptions to this are Jessie and Amber. Those parts should be cast in such a way that their blossoming relationship would be perceived as a queer relationship.

For this reason I have used 'they' pronouns throughout, but once you have cast the piece, alter the pronouns that address each character to match the chosen pronouns of that performer.

This is written to be an ensemble piece. All the different versions of Amber form a sort of chorus and they have the potential to appear throughout the play. At various points they may speak/echo/foreshadow Amber's lines.

Also: the beaver statue featured in the show is real. There really is a statue in the Dean Gardens, sitting in the Water of Leith. Some say it's an otter, some say it's a beaver, but it really does live there, sparkling in the light, as the water rushes past.

Notes on the Text

A slash (/) marks an overlapping line. After the slash, the next person's line should come in (over the rest of the other person's line).

A dash (–) marks an interruption. The next person's line should interrupt straight away.

Italics mark an emphasised word or phrase.

Prologue

An endless space. We don't know where we are.

AMBER is there. Dressed in a special outfit all ready for prom.

There is ambient noise, like a black hole, swallowing all light and sound.

AMBER. And in this moment

I begin to fade
into nothing
not just gone but never was
not an intake of breath
not a hair down the drain
not a glance between two strangers on different trains
not even the kiss of two blinking eyelids
but absolutely nothing
gone
never was
never will be
nothing

and there is a peace in that

And suddenly!

As though coming up for air, AMBER is back in what we know as reality.

ONE

i.

AMBER is on the north side of Dean Bridge. Passing cars and people. Regular urban bustle.

AMBER is increasingly uncomfortable standing alone on the street in the middle of the day, all dressed up for the prom. Waiting for their pals to arrive.

The ambient sound of the traffic and city seems to build until a voice cuts through as AMBER's friends appear, BENNY, JESSIE, CAMERON, ROBIN. None of them are in prom outfits.

BENNY. Oh my big gay god, Amber, what are you wearing?

AMBER. What?

CAMERON. Why are you dressed like that?

ROBIN. You look amazing, Amber!

AMBER. I thought this was a pre prom picnic? So I'm dressed for the prom.

I look like an idiot.

BENNY. No no, you look amazing!

AMBER. Aren't we going straight to the prom after this?

CAMERON. No. We're boycotting prom!

BENNY. Cameron.

CAMERON. It is a patriarchal, antiquated, repressive construct.

ROBIN. Here we go.

CAMERON. What's that supposed to mean?

ROBIN. Nothing, just.

AMBER. I'm going to go home and get changed.

BENNY. No don't do that. I'm going to prom. Just getting into my outfit later.

AMBER. Right.

CAMERON. You're what? We all agreed not to –

BENNY. You didn't actually ask us. I didn't agree to anything.

AMBER. I thought we all agreed that we were going, and that we'd come to this picnic in our prom stuff.

ROBIN. Yeah but remember then we all went to Pride and after the march we met that amazing activist from Shetland who does the research about the gay whales who have pansexual orgies, and then Cameron made the big pitch about how prom is anti-nature and how we should make a stand and not go. You don't remember?

AMBER. I wasn't there.

BENNY. You weren't? Oh yeah you weren't.

AMBER. Nope.

BENNY. Oh crap. I forgot.

AMBER. It's okay.

BENNY. Look we're all here and it's gonna be super fun,
I promise.

AMBER. Yeah I'm sure but –

BENNY. I promise. This is going to be fun and you look great. Don't listen to Cameron they're just
overexcited.

CAMERON. I'm just disappointed that you're all selling out on your principles.

ROBIN. Maybe some people just want to go to prom and have a nice time. People are allowed to
have their own minds.

CAMERON. But going to prom isn't having your own mind, it's being submissive.

BENNY. How's that?

CAMERON. You're submitting to a normative structure which controls how we behave in our
interpersonal relationships, conditioning us to become submissive to and controllable by,
authoritarian regimes.

BENNY. Oh my god shut up, Cameron.

AMBER. I'm going to go home.

BENNY. No, Amber. Stay please. We'll go into the gardens and I'll put, I don't know, flowers in my
hair and make a dress out of leaves if it helps. But don't go home. We're all here now.

AMBER. I don't know.

JESSIE. I think you look great. Stay.

AMBER. Okay.

BENNY. Okay! Let's hope it doesn't get torn when you jump over the railings.

ROBIN. What?

BENNY. They're private gardens

ROBIN. I know I thought you had a key or –

BENNY. Follow me. This way!

ROBIN. Benny!

JESSIE. Come on!

JESSIE grabs AMBER's hand and together they run after BENNY.

CAMERON begins to follow.

ROBIN. Cameron, wait a second.

CAMERON. What's up?

ROBIN. That was just, a lot, to Amber.

CAMERON. I'm just saying what I think. What, cos Amber is super-sensitive I'm not allowed to speak my mind?

ROBIN. Forget it.

CAMERON. You always do this.

ROBIN. What?

CAMERON. Say you want to talk and then just say 'forget it'. You always did it when we were together. It's so annoying.

ROBIN. Then I guess it's a good thing we broke up, isn't it?

ROBIN *follows where BENNY, JESSIE and AMBER went.*

ii.

BENNY, JESSIE and AMBER *are climbing over the garden wall. They all land on the ground. No one is hurt – just about! Adlibs of 'careful', 'watch it', etc....*

JESSIE and BENNY *laugh.*

JESSIE. You're batshit, Benny.

BENNY. Well batshit got us in here. Look at it.

The garden is lovely. The sun is shining.

JESSIE. It's beautiful.

BENNY. Amber, you okay?

AMBER. Yep.

BENNY. Look all Cameron did was make me want to go to prom. I'm coming with you, to prove a point!

AMBER. Great.

ROBIN (*from the other side of the wall*). How did you get over this?

BENNY. You've just got to, sort of, fling yourself.

ROBIN. Fling myself?

BENNY. Yeah.

ROBIN. Okay sure. No problem.

BENNY. Where's Cameron? Sulking?

CAMERON. No, I'm here too.

BENNY. Oh right, sorry.

ROBIN. Right, we're coming.

ROBIN *and* CAMERON *fling themselves over the wall.*

It's beautiful.

JESSIE. Feels like another world.

BENNY. I wanted to do something we'd remember. When we're old and shuffling about eating food through tubes it'll be the memories that keep us going. When we're sat in the old people's home –

CAMERON. I don't want to be in an old people's home, I want to be in a pansexual commune in the woods.

BENNY. Okay well, when we're there we can look back to today and think, that was a day, that was a great day.

JESSIE. That's nice, Benny.

BENNY. Let's find a place for the picnic.

BENNY, ROBIN *and* CAMERON *wander off.*

JESSIE. Everyone's pretty wired up today aren't they?

AMBER. Seems so.

JESSIE. Lots of emotion.

AMBER. Totally.

Are you?

JESSIE. What?

AMBER. Coming to prom?

JESSIE. Yeah, aren't we, I mean?

AMBER. What?

JESSIE. Sort of going together, yeah, like we said we might, like.

AMBER. Yeah! I mean, yeah. Just like.

Another voice from over the wall.

CAZ. Hello? Is this where you jump over? Benny?

JESSIE. That you, Caz?

CAZ. YEAH! IS THAT JESSIE?

JESSIE. Yes.

CAZ. HEY HOW DO I DO THIS? BENNY MESSAGED AND SAID TO FLING MYSELF?!

JESSIE. Yeah that's pretty much the tactic.

CAZ *flings herself over the wall.*

CAZ. So where's the party then?

JESSIE. It's a picnic.

CAZ. Wow. Snazzy outfit.

AMBER. Thanks.

CAZ. Where we meant to be like dressing up or –

JESSIE. There's a whole thing about going to prom, or not going to prom... doesn't matter. Amber, you know Caz right?

AMBER. No.

JESSIE. Ah so this is Caz. The older and wiser sibling of Benny.

AMBER. Hi.

CAZ. Don't know about wiser.

JESSIE. Amber moved here like a year ago.

CAZ. Oh I moved loads as a kid, it's a nightmare, trying to settle and meet people –

AMBER. Yeah no, it's fine. We should go find the rest of them and...

JESSIE. Let's do it.

iii.

ROBIN *and* BENNY *have found a good spot. They are setting up the blanket. BENNY trying to get it all just right.*

ROBIN. It's fine. The other two places were also fine.

BENNY. I don't want fine. I want perfect. We're making memories here!

CAZ, JESSIE *and* AMBER *arrive.*

CAZ. This looks great.

ROBIN. There you go.

BENNY. Caz! You're here.

CAZ. Of course. Mum sent me to keep an eye on you.

BENNY. What?

CAZ. I'm kidding. She'd be down here herself if she had any idea there was a party happening.

ROBIN. I wish I had a cool family.

BENNY. So do I.

CAZ. Watch it.

BENNY. You know Caz right, Amber?

CAZ. Not till just now.

BENNY. No you must have met before now! We had that bonfire on the beach last year. With the kites. We saw dolphins!

AMBER. I wasn't there.

BENNY. Oh well, it wasn't that good really.

CAZ is taking their jacket off.

ROBIN. Oh wow look at your new uniform.

ROBIN references CAZ's T-shirt, which bears the logo of the company that CAZ runs, 'Super Marrow Brothers'.

CAZ. Oh yeah. Daz got them. They are going to make all the difference, apparently.

JESSIE. They're nice.

BENNY. Caz runs a business. Organic produce delivered by hand. It's amazing.

CAZ. We sell dirty carrots to rich people.

BENNY. They grow everything themselves. No chemicals. They do this thing. What is it, like, cooperative something

CAZ. Companion planting.

BENNY. Companion planting. It's like an ancient technique where you grow plants together that help each other out. Like they make each other stronger by being next to each other. The bright flowers of one attracts insects which pollinate others. Together they make each other happier and stronger. It's kind of profound.

AMBER. Sounds nice.

CAZ. We should be paying you.

BENNY. I know. I keep saying I'll come work for you.

CAZ. Yeah right.

BENNY. I think it's like people isn't it? The planting thing. Like us, this raggle taggle band of gays and theys and straights and queerdos and don't knows and everything in-between. Our own little garden of companion plants. It's inspiring.

CAMERON. Sounds cheesy.

ROBIN. I think it sounds nice. And your company, Caz. I'd love to do something like that. Something meaningful.

CAZ. We've got one allotment. We can barely afford to pay ourselves.

BENNY. Yeah, but you're not all about money.

CAZ. No but my landlord is.

BENNY. You're being too modest.

CAZ. Look, it's very sweet you being a cheerleader but, I don't know. I don't know how long I can do this for. It might be nice to just get a proper job and buy a house and then just happily destroy the planet like everyone else.

BENNY. You don't mean that.

DAZ appears from a distance and calls.

DAZ. Hey hey hey!

CAZ. Don't say any of that to Daz.

ROBIN. What?

CAZ. Daz thinks everything is great. They are somehow always bouncy and hopeful and I just can't tell them this stuff.

DAZ arrives!

DAZ. Hey you guys!

CAZ. Partner! This is Daz for those of you who don't know.

DAZ. Buddy!

They have a special handshake which DAZ does really enthusiastically, CAZ less so.

What you all talking about?

CAMERON. Er...

ROBIN. Well...

BENNY. The new uniforms.

DAZ. You like them?

ALL. Yeah/yes/brilliant, etc....

DAZ. They're amazing, right?

BENNY. They're brilliant.

DAZ. It's just like. It makes it feel real, having a uniform. We're doing it you know. Changing the world. Baby steps. But still. We're doing it.

CAZ. We're doing it.

DAZ. Veg bro's for life!

CAZ. YEAH!

DAZ. Is everything okay? There was like a weird vibe when I arrived.

CAZ. They are all having a whole thing about whether to go to prom.

DAZ. Oh right, I did wonder about the outfit.

BENNY. It's not a thing. Amber really wants to go to prom, others don't –

AMBER. I don't know that I *really* want to –

CAMERON. If you don't want to go then why are we talking about going?

AMBER. I just want to –

CAMERON. Like it does surprise me that, as a queer person, you'd want to go to prom.

AMBER. I, er.

DAZ. I think the outfit is amazing.

AMBER. I'm going to go and...

JESSIE. Are you okay?

AMBER. I'm fine. I just, er. Need to phone my mum.

BENNY. Parents, eh?!

AMBER. Yeah.

AMBER begins to go.

That noise again. The ominous one. A voice.

CHORUS. This is the moment.

AMBER. What did you say?

BENNY. What did who say?

AMBER. I thought someone said something.

ROBIN. Don't think so.

JESSIE. Are you sure you're okay?

AMBER. Yeah, definitely. Just need to call my mum. I'm going to go down the hill a bit.

BENNY. Don't fall in the river.

AMBER. Ha. Yeah. I won't.

AMBER walks away from the group. Walks down to the water.

A Nick Hern Book

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