

# THE TIE

CAST: 2 males

INTENT: Pacing. Careful use of understatement. Introduction to a dramatic and emotional role for young men.

STAGING: Paul - seated. Mike - standing.

Mike: Are you all right?

Paul: Yeh, sure.

Mike: Are they gone?

Paul: Yeh.

Mike: I was going to come back right away, but I thought I should wait until they had left.

Paul: They've been gone for a long time.

Mike: It's only been since seven. They were here pretty fast.

Paul: Seems like forever.

Mike: Did you make the call?

Paul: Yeh.

Mike: How's your mom?

Paul: She's in the kitchen.

Mike: Do you have to go over there now?

Paul: No, why?

Mike: Well, you have a shirt and tie...

Paul: Oh, I was going to the movies with Katie.

Mike: Oh yeh, I forgot. Did you call her?

Paul: Yeh, she knows.

Mike: What she say?

Paul: Nothing really. What could she say?

*(Paul takes out a pack of cigarettes.)*

Paul: I've been waiting to see that movie, too.

Mike: What are you doing with them?

Paul: Plans have a way of breaking up.

Mike: Paul, where'd you get them?

Paul: I went for a walk.

Mike: To buy cigarettes? If your father...

Paul: Yeh, so.

Mike: I can't see you smoking.

Paul: Why not? You do.

Mike: Yeh, but that's different.

Paul: What's different about it?

Mike: My old man doesn't care.

Paul: Doesn't care if you drink either, does he?

Mike: What's that supposed to mean?

Paul: He gives you beer.

Mike: Yeh, but...

Paul: I've been at your house when he pops a bottle for each of you from the refrigerator.

Mike: Yeh, but that's different. We're at home, watching the game,.... you know.

Paul: My dad never drank anything. Don't even have a bottle of beer in the house.

Mike: So?

Paul: That's why Im wearing this tie.

Mike: What are you talking about? .

Paul: You know why I've got this tie on? You know why? Because I'm not allowed out of the house on a date unless I have a tie on and either a jacket or sweater. Do you have any matches?

Mike: Come on Paul. Not today.

Paul:Why not? Do you have a match or not?

Mike: Here's a lighter.

Paul: Pretty cool. Where'd you get this?

Mike: My old man gave it to me.

Paul: You know, he's a pretty cool guy, your father.

Mike: Yeh, he's all right. At least when he's not martinied up.

Paul: Did you ever get drunk with him?

Mike: Nah, why would I do that?

Paul: Cause he's your dad.

Mike: So what, your dad doesn't even drink.

Paul: I know that. That's what I mean. He didn't drink. He didn't smoke. He made me wear this tie.

Mike: What's the tie got to do with anything?

Paul: Why couldn't he have shared a beer? Why couldn't he give me a smoke? Why did he leave me like this? What kind of a man was he. To leave me alone. Leave me with nothing (He rips off the tie) This is all I got. I'll smoke my lungs out if I want to. I'll get so drunk I'll spit up my guts. I'll make myself a man. I don't need him to do it. I don't need him.

Mike: Calm down man. Calm down.

Paul: You have a father, Matt. You have someone who treats you like a man. A guy who drinks with you. Who buys you smokes. Who hangs around. Who doesn't leave you.

Mike: You're hurt Paul. You're just talking. You're hurt.

Paul: I hate him. I hate him for what he did.

Mike: Come on man, I know it's tough.

Paul: All I have is this tie. What will I have tomorrow?

Mike: More than me.

Paul: You too, You too. Why can't I be like you? Be like you and your father? Screw you man. (He starts punching at Mike) Screw you!

*(The punching continues. Mike grabs Paul's arms.)*

Mike: No, not like me. Not the bruises, the hits, the fists, the kicks, the burns. I need to drink his beer. I need to share his cigarettes. To watch his games. I need them to be his son. To be his friend. To be near him. You don't need anything. You've got yourself now. You're your own man.

*(Pause)*

Paul: He left me alone. He left me alone. (Cries out and embraces Mike) He left me alone!!

Mike: What time will it be?

Paul: Saturday. Saturday at ten. Will you come with me to the cemetery?

Mike: Sure. *(Exits)*

*(Paul puts the tie back on)*