



ONE SEPTEMBER'S NIGHT

by Beverly Andrews

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One September's Night

By

Beverly Andrews

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CHARACTERS:

Amir: English from Indian origins, Moslem, early thirties, graphic designer

Star: Amir's wife, English, white, bohemian woman in her early thirties

Busker: Young, female, homeless New Zealander

Margrette: French film student mid - twenties

Deborah: Afro-American woman in her mid-thirties

Shaz: A young Iraqi mother

Damon: Irishman in his late twenties

Fireman 1 American (voice-over)

Fireman 2 American (voice-over)

Tube Train Announcer: English (voice-over)

Production History

One September's Night

One September's Night was produced with the assistance of a Grant for the Arts from Arts Council England. The play was first staged as a rehearsed reading in 2004 at the Arcola Theatre, the play was then produced as part of LIFT (London's International Festival of Theatre). The piece, was filmed and appeared in the documentary "Did I Tell You What Happened". One September's Night, was subsequently selected by the Women's Playwright International for a showcase in Jakarta for their 2006 conference. In 2010 One's September's Night was selected for Lost's Theatre's Festival of One Act Plays.

OPENING:

The sound of two planes crashing into the World Trade Center Towers and their subsequent collapse. . . .

The date is the evening of September 11, 2001. The place is London, England. The sound of a tube train is heard as the lights come up on the set of a train on London's District Line. A young couple enter the train where a black woman in her mid-thirties (Deborah) is already seated reading a book. There is also a young Irish white man also there. Across from him, there is a young white French woman seated. The couple enter and find seats. The woman is pretty, white, English is or could be, either Asian or Middle Eastern. Both are in their early thirties.

Sound: The sound of the Tube train can be heard throughout.

Amir

That makes the third time you've done that.

Star

Done what?

Amir

Looked through your bag.

Star

I know, I know. I just keep thinking I've left something behind. You know what your parents are like.

Amir

My parents are fine.

Star

No, I didn't mean it like that. Of course they'll be fine, they always are. It's just that's the whole point. They'll be fine which will make me feel even worse if I've forgotten one of their presents.

(The sound of Star now frantically looking in the bag.)

Where is the box with the necklace for your mom? I thought I put it . . .

Amir

Star, look, for God's sake if you forgot it, you forgot it. We can give it to them another time. Besides if you don't say anything they won't know anyway.

Star

(The sound of Star pulling a box out of the bag.)

Star (continued)

Found it.

(Star puts it back)

Star (continued)

It doesn't matter if they don't know, I'll know.
That's the whole point.

Amir

Honey, you didn't have to get all this
stuff for them.

Star

I know I didn't have to, I wanted to.
I just wanted tonight to be special for them.

Amir

Well, there you found it.
Look it's great you want them
to have a lovely time tonight
but please just don't worry
so much about it.

(He turns to see her staring into space.)

Star

You didn't finish the story.

Amir

What story?

Star

You know. When you got lost,
when you were little.

Amir

Haven't I told you that before?

Star

Don't think so.

Amir

I thought I had. Oh, it was nothing really. When I was little my father was obsessed with all things English. It's funny to think of him that way now. But then he was. Anyway he use to like to take us to visit English Heritage houses. I don't know why, I think maybe he used to fantasize about being an English gentleman living in one of them. Anyway, it had this garden maze and somehow I managed to lose my parents and I ended up wandering into the maze, not realizing how hard it might be to find my way out again. Gradually it started to get darker and I realized I was lost.

Star

How old were you?

Amir

Oh I don't know. I guess maybe about eight.

Star

You must have been terrified.

Amir

I guess I was. I can't remember now.

Amir (continued)

All I can remember was coming to this section where I seemed to have two choices. One I somehow knew would take me deeper into the maze and the other would get me back to my parents.

(Amir notices Star isn't really listening anymore and seems distracted.)

You're not listening.

Star

Yes, I was.

Amir

No, you weren't. I can always tell when you're not listening. You get that glazed look in your eyes.

Star

Okay, I guess I wasn't. I was just thinking about all those poor people.

Amir

Oh, that.

Star

All those people falling or jumping from those buildings. Can you imagine what it must have been like inside to make jumping better?

Amir

I thought we said we weren't going to talk about it.

Star

I know, I know. I just can't get it out of my head. It was almost like watching a film caught in some kind of awful loop where the same thing keeps happening in front of you again and again. God, I wish I

hadn't seen it.

Amir

To be honest, so do I. Look
maybe we should just get off
and call Dad and cancel. I'm sure
they'll understand.

Star

You can't do that. Your mom has
been planning this dinner for ages. It's
their fortieth wedding anniversary, for
Christ's sake. We couldn't just not
turn up. Besides, you know what your
parents are like, they would be . . .

Amir

That's the second time you said that tonight.
They're just like anybody else's parents.

Star

Amir, of course they are, they're lovely. It's just . . .
It's just that your mom . . . your mom will probably
say it's fine when it blatantly isn't. Your mom is
so lovely but she always does that. I just wish . . .

Amir

That's just how you see her, nobody else says
that.

Star

I'm not criticizing her for that.
All I'm saying is . . .

Amir

. . . is that to be perfectly honest, you don't
like her very much.

Star

Amir don't do that. Don't tell me what I'm saying. You know that's not true. I love your parents. It's just that they have a different way of . . .

Amir

Different from what?

Star

Amir, what's wrong with you tonight? This isn't like you to just pick a fight over nothing.

Amir

I'm sorry. I don't know what's gotten into me. I guess it's just I'm so tired.

Star

You do this to yourself, you know. You always wait to the last minute on a job and then work straight through the night to get it finished.

Amir

It's the only time I get any ideas.
I . . .

(Star notices a woman staring at them both, Amir notices Star's reaction..)

Amir

What. . .

Star

Nothing, It was just . . . I just couldn't stand the way that woman was looking at you . . .

Amir

Which woman?