Hangover
Two Scenes from a longer Play

Scene 1

SETTING: TESS' S apartment with three closed doors, one on stage right and two on stage left close together and the lights are out. A couch with a few things scattered around. In the back there is a small kitchen with the bare essentials. The room looks lived in, not messy but lived in. There is also a bookcase overflowing with books and random scraps of paper stuffed in and around the couch.

AT RISE: TESS and SEAMUS stumble in through the SR door kissing, touching and holding hands. They stumble over things but all they see are each other. The end up on the couch with a number of clothes removed.

TESS
Oh seamus, oh no that tickles

SEAMUS
You’re so cute when you laugh

TESS
What are you saying I’m not exceeding adorable any other time?

SEAMUS
No I just mean--

TESS
I really don’t care.

(TESS keeps going for the kiss but SEAMUS keeps pushing her away.)

SEAMUS
We can slow down if you want?
TESS
I don't-

SEAMUS
I mean I just want you to feel comfortable-

TESS
I do.

(TESS tries to straddle him but ends up pushing him off the couch.)
Oh my god! I'm sorry, are you okay?

SEAMUS (chuckling)
Yeah I'm fine.

TESS
Okay good-

(TESS gets on top of him on the floor and starts kissing again.)

SEAMUS
Do you want to move-

TESS
No.

(Continue to make out and clothes are removed. One of the doors on SL opens and lights turn on.)

RUSS
Tessy is that you? What took you so-Oh my-

SEAMUS
Oh my god!
TESS
JESUS! What did I say about staying in your ROOM?!

RUSS
Ah yes I'm sorry I just thought-

SEAMUS
I'm gonna-

TESS
You stay! *(to Seamus)* You go in your room! *(To Russ)*

RUSS
You could have been a burglar! I could be dead if I stayed in my room!

TESS
Well I'm not and you could be dead standing there in a minute!

RUSS
You are right I..

TESS
DAD!

RUSS
Oh yeah uh bye.

 *(RUSS goes back through the door and quickly closes it. SEAMUS quickly collects his clothes.)*

SEAMUS
You live with your parents?

TESS
No just my dad and he technically lives with me.

SEAMUS
What?
TESS
It's complicated.

SEAMUS
I like complicated.

TESS
Well I don't.

SEAMUS
You could tell me about-

TESS
Either shut up and leave or shut up and kiss me. Either way shut up.

SEAMUS
Wait you still want to do that...with you dad in the other room.

TESS
Nothing I haven't done before.

(TESS goes back over to him and starts kissing his neck.
SEAMUS is very flustered.)

SEAMUS
What!? I can't - no I mean- I won't- No I don't feel comfortable with this. I... Tess stop!

TESS
Ok fine! Sorry that my father ruined the night.

SEAMUS
Nothing you should apologize for I had a great time.

TESS
But it is something he will be.
SEAMUS
Can I call you sometime?

TESS
Yeah, Yeah. Bye Seamus.

SEAMUS
I can’t wait to-

(TESS shuts the door on him.)

TESS
The living room is now penis-free! You can come out!

RUSS
Sorry about that...

TESS
Don’t bull shit me, you absolutely loved that.

RUSS
Seeing my little girl in that state I definitely didn’t love, stopping it however...

TESS
I haven’t been your little girl for decades but next time I go out I’ll remember to go to his place.

RUSS
So... Who’s the guy?

TESS
No one.

RUSS
He didn’t look like no one when he had his tongue down your throat.

TESS
Sorry, I meant Seamus is no one you need to know about.

RUSS
Ahh his name is Seamus. (TESS gives a death glare.) Fine you don’t want to talk about him but what’d you do tonight?

TESS
Just a normal Friday night.

RUSS
What does that mean? I know I look young but it’s been thirty years since I was your age and I doubt even then my Friday nights looked like yours.

TESS
Fine. It was just dinner, a new play downtown and a couple of regular clubs I like to hit up. I’m sorry I didn’t get my permission slip signed before I went, daddy.

RUSS
Wow-ee sounds like a hell of a night.

TESS
It was nothing.

RUSS
Well you’re nothing sounds like a lot of something to me. It sure as hell beat my night.

TESS
Let me guess, a six pack, some cheese puffs, and the poker channel.

RUSS
I swear you’re psychic sometimes.

TESS
No you’re just a creature of habit and you need to stop eating my organic cheese puffs or at least buy some more! Those are expensive you know.

RUSS
Ok ok you know I never bought that mumbo jumbo that organic is better until those cheese puffs. They are heavenly.

TESS
Well from now on stay out of my cheese puffs and my life.

RUSS
That would be kinda hard seeing we live together in an eight-hundred square foot apartment but I get what you’re saying. No more cheese puffs in my belly.

TESS
Any progress on that?

RUSS
On what?

TESS
Getting a new place? It’s been two weeks. Any prospects?

RUSS
Well....No.

TESS
Have you even started looking?

RUSS
Um..kind of. I wasn’t in a huge rush. It’s nice living with my daughter again after all these years.

TESS
For you maybe.

RUSS
Come on Tessy, Doesn’t it bring up the good old days. Don’t you remember how we used to watch Scooby doo every saturday and cook waffles?

TESS
Vaguely. But I still want you gone.

RUSS
Okay I’ll start tomorrow I swear.

TESS
Really?

RUSS
I swear on my cheesy puff honor.

TESS
Good night.

RUSS
Good night darlin.

(TESS mumbles on her way to her room.)

TESS
I swear I’m gonna kill him.

(The lights go down on RUSS stealing just one more. cheesy puff.)

Scene 3: Drunken Honesty

(The door of the apartment swings open and SEAMUS and TESS stumble in once again. This time SEAMUS appears to be almost carrying TESS. She drunkenly sprawls on the couch.)

TESS
Thanks for helping me Mr. Pouty Lips.
SEAMUS
What else was I supposed to do, leave you to drunkenly wander home and then get mugged and left for dead? I don’t need your death on my conscious. It’s almost 4.

TESS
Other guys I’ve dated would have.

SEAMUS
Well I’m not a jerk like other guys you’ve dated which is probably why you never called me back.

TESS
Oh is Mr. Pouty Lips mad at me? Is that why your pouty? OMG I have solved the conspiracy! Now you must have your way with me!

*(TESS tries to take her top off but fails miserably. Even though SEAMUS is mad at her he can’t help but chuckle.)*

SEAMUS
No one is having their way with anyone.

TESS
But why not?

SEAMUS
Because you won’t even remember this conversation in the morning.

TESS
Huh. Maybe you’re right. It would suck to have mind blowing sex and not remember it.

SEAMUS
Yeah it definitely would but if you’re interested any other time I would definitely be up for it.

TESS
That party was fun though.
SEAMUS
So you think you remember enough to write about it? I have plenty of photos for you if need be to jog your memory.

TESS
Nope, Nope. I’ve got plenty: "The Marble Room has out glammed it self last night with it’s Thanksglitter day bash. Glitter on the walls, ceiling, people, and enough edible glitter to be pooping sparkly for a week."

SEAMUS
You can not say that.

TESS
Who died and made you my editor?

SEAMUS
Your readers don’t want to hear want to hear about your poop.

TESS
My readers love everything about me including my poop.

SEAMUS
Okay then. Why’d you get so shitfaced tonight?

TESS
I’m not shit-face, I’m sloshed it’s the more elegant version.

SEAMUS
Yeah, I’ll believe that until you start puking.

TESS
I’m not going to puke.

SEAMUS
But you are avoiding the question.

TESS
The glitini’s just tasted so good and I lost track of the number of glitter bombs...

SEAMUS
You are so gonna have a huge hangover those things were straight up sugar.

(SEAMUS goes about getting her water and helping her take off her shoes and such.)

TESS
Isn’t that sort of the point?

SEAMUS
Hangovers are the point?

TESS
Hangovers prove that you achieved your goal. You got to the right level.

SEAMUS
Is there a right drunkenness level?

TESS
Don’t you get it? People drink or do drugs to get to a certain level. A level beyond yourself. When you're buzzed enough that you can say what you feel or just feel in general. Your mind doesn’t wander and your heart doesn’t hurt. You are full of life and when you drink with others for that one time, that one time, you are all connected and not alone. You get to that level and you feel alive (moment of silence.) Which is why the next morning you have to pay for that one full night because nothing, not even living is free.

SEAMUS
Man, you are a writer. The way your mind works.

TESS
Yeah Yeah, I know I’m a freak.
SEAMUS
You're not a freak, not even a little bit, well at least not any more than the rest of us. You know, before we got assigned to events together I still read your stuff-

TESS
No you didn't.

SEAMUS
No I did! and they were amazing.

(TESS falls asleep on the couch during this)
I mean I don't care about the stupid shallow parties but I could alway tell something was hidden behind your words. There was that bite to it, that edge, I mean you do not hold back. I wish I could do that. I mean do you ever feel scared of speaking your mind? Tess? Tess? (SEAMUS finally sees that TESS is asleep.) And you are dead to the world.... Okay great.

(SENAMUS finds a blanket and places it over her. He then looks around not knowing what to do. He looks at the closed bedroom door. He goes over to it and takes a deep breath. He then holds his fist up like he's about to knock but before he can the door opens and RUSS is in the doorway.)

SEAMUS
Uh...What...How?

RUSS
Father's intuition.

(SEAMUS looks shocked while RUSS's face is stone cold.)

Nah I'm just playing with you kid. I always wake up at 4.

SEAMUS
Oh ok sir.

RUSS
Are you two having a "sleepover"? Do we need to have a talk?

SEAMUS
No sir, no. I just brought her back from a work assignment, she ..um wasn’t at her best so I thought I should walk her home. She just fell asleep on the couch and I thought I should let you know.

RUSS
So what you’re really saying is you went out partying, she drank too much and couldn’t walk straight. So you walked her home and she passed out on the couch. Then you were going to wake me up because you were afraid if you left that she would choke on her own puke but if you stayed then I would kill you. Am I close?

SEAMUS
I can see your relation to Tess.

RUSS
(Chuckles) Don’t let her hear you say that. You want some coffee?

(RUSS goes about making coffee and SEAMUS stands around looking awkward.)

SEAMUS
I should-

RUSS
Kid, My bark really is worse than my bite. I won’t kill ya just take a cup of coffee.

SEAMUS
Ok sir.

RUSS
Enough of this sir business. It’s Russ, just call me Russ. And it’s Seamus right? I think that is what Tess said but you don’t look much like a Seamus. Are you Irish?
SEAMUS
Tess talks about me?

RUSS
Man you got it bad. My girl’s gonna eat you alive Seamus. That is your name right?

SEAMUS
Yeah that’s my name and no I’m not Irish. I’m named after my dad’s best friend. He died right before I was born.

RUSS
Ahh

(SEAMUS finally relaxes and steps in the kitchen with RUSS.)

SEAMUS
Yes si-russ. Sorry it’s kinda inbred. My father’s a Lieutenant in the Navy and it was always yes sir, no sir, don’t kill me sir.

RUSS
I can get that. Never thought of joining up?

SEAMUS
No, the structured lifestyle wasn’t really for me.

RUSS
I know you work with Tess, so are you a writer too?

SEAMUS
No a photographer. They’ve been pairing us up on assignments.

RUSS
Ah an artist, bet your Naval dad wasn’t too happy about that.

SEAMUS
Well no but my two sisters followed in his footsteps so he couldn’t be too upset, plus my mother’s a designer. What do you do?

RUSS
Construction. Been doing it my whole life. You know those new lofts on Lansing?

SEAMUS
Can’t say I do.

RUSS
Well that’s my current gig. Honestly since you Hipster’s have taken over the city. Work’s been good because all you guys want it too look old or vintage and pay a shitload for way less work.

SEAMUS
That’s great.

RUSS
Milk? Cream?

SEAMUS
Milk’s good.

RUSS
So what is really going on between you and my daughter?

SEAMUS
Well...nothing I guess.

RUSS
It’s didn’t look like that when I walked in on you half naked.

SEAMUS
Well, yeah but she hasn’t returned my calls since then and anytime I try to bring up going on a date she diverts the conversation.
RUSS
Do you like her?

SEAMUS
Well yeah, what's not to like she's smart, funny and so sexy-

RUSS
Remember I am her father and I do have a shotgun hidden somewhere in this house.

SEAMUS
I'm sorry sir-

RUSS
Kid, my point is that if you really like her there is something you need to know. Though she will never in a million years admit it.

SEAMUS
What is that?

RUSS
She is too god damn much like me.

SEAMUS
I'm sorry I don't understand your point.

RUSS
We're not real touchy-feely type folks. She creates a hard shell around herself to keep her from getting hurt. If you really like her you've got to keep trying. Sooner or later you will break that shell.

SEAMUS
Thanks. I don't think I've ever gotten dating advice from a girl I'm trying to date's father before.

RUSS
Well yeah it's a first for me too.
SEAMUS
Do you mind if I ask something personal?

RUSS
I will not discuss my daughter's sex life with you-

SEAMUS
No! No! It's not about that. Tess said something about you living with her and I know you didn't always live here so...

RUSS
My wife left me a -

SEAMUS
Oh I'm sorry I brought it up.

RUSS *(Coughs throughout it)*
Don't be it was bound to happen. She left me years ago that's not the real reason. I got a little too trusting with the ponies and lost big. Tessy surprised me by being nice and actually letting me stay here in the first place.

SEAMUS
Why? She's your daughter.

RUSS
Honestly the only thing I was worse at than being a husband and a gambler was being a father.

SEAMUS
I'm sorry if this to personal by why?

*(RUSS grabs a pill bottle and pops a few.)*

RUSS
Son, no one is perfect and I don't even come close. Let's just leave it at that. You hungry? I think we have some leftover pizza or something?
(RUSS goes to find something in the fridge but is stopped by a coughing fit.)

SEAMUS
Are you ok? Let me get you some water.

RUSS* still coughing
I’m fine. I’m fine.

(SEAMUS gives him some water and he finally settles down.)

SEAMUS
So how long have you been sick?

RUSS
Oh it’s nothing just a cold maybe the flu but that’s it.

SEAMUS
I recognize the medication.

RUSS
What?

SEAMUS
My oldest sister had breast cancer. They luckily found it at stage 2 and she’s okay now but she used to take the same medication. Plus your pale and look like you lost a lot of weight recently. So what kind? And does Tess know?

RUSS
Man my girl has found a smart one. To answer your questions; Lung Cancer, I found out eight months ago and no she does not.

SEAMUS
How advanced?

RUSS
Stage 4. They estimated a year maybe two at most.
SEAMUS
And you are not telling her why??

RUSS
It's complicated.

SEAMUS
Do you not think she has a right to know that her father is dying.

RUSS
No she does but...

SEAMUS
But what?

RUSS
I know I sound crazy but I want her to talk to me first.

SEAMUS
Does she not do that everyday?

RUSS
No I mean. I want her to forgive me for real. Like I said I fucked up in that past and I know that. She's still mad about that and I don't blame her but...

SEAMUS
You don't want her to just forgive you out of pity. That's why you moved in here didn't you?

RUSS
Like I said you're one smart cookie.

SEAMUS
I get it. I really do but what happens if she never does forgive you on her own.
RUSS
I’ll tell her before it’s too late.

SEAMUS
Ok but is what you did really that bad-

(SEAMUS’s phone rings and he quickly picks it up.)

Sorry I have to take this. Hi Dennis. Yes I’m not dead. No I’ll be home soon, I had to drop Tess off again. Dennis it’s not like that. Dennis you’re making me regret telling you anything about the tongue thing! I’ll be home soon bye! Sorry stupid roommate was worried I was dead.

RUSS
That’s not stupid, sounds like a good guy. We can talk about this later. You should get home and get some sleep.

SEAMUS
I will hold you up on that talk. You need to talk to someone about this.

RUSS
I will. It was nice to get it off my chest even a little.

SEAMUS
This was definitely the weirdest conversation I have had with a girlfriend’s father.

RUSS
Ahh you said she was your girlfriend! I can’t wait to see tessy’s face!

SEAMUS
Russ I-

SEAMUS
I’m just kidding kid, you’re too easy to mess with. Goodnight.
SEAMUS

Goodnight.

(SEAMUS leaves RUSS sipping his coffee and looking at his passed out daughter still on the couch.)