

TOM

by Jayden Kenny

CHARACTERS

TOM, a high school student

JOSH, his classmate, neighbour and friend

SAMANTHA, his classmate and Josh's friend

TV

LAMP

LIBIDO, animated character

Tom's mother, voice over

action takes place in Tom's bedroom.

SEE HEAR SAY

SCENE ONE

lights up on TOM's bedroom. There is a bed centre stage with adjacent set of drawers. On top of the drawers is a lamp. Stage left stands a large wardrobe with a television sitting on top. On the opposite side of the stage is a door leading to the rest of the house. Scattered around the room are the following items; bean bag, laptop, mobile phone, rubbish bin. Behind the bed is a large window, through which the audience can see the projected image of a suburban landscape. Between the projector screen and the window (positioned in the garden) is a band dressed in theatre blacks. TOM is seen lying on the bed centre stage in his underwear. It is morning.

TOM: *voice over* Is this my life? Four walls, stained sheets, Internet, television, loneliness, boredom, bean bag. Wake up at noon, eat seven weetbix, watch Guy Pierce movies till three have lunch, followed by youtube, followed by dinner, followed by two and a half men, followed by facebook, followed sleep at 2 am and the blissful fantasies I lead in my head of dreams, only to be ripped kicking and screaming nine to fourteen hours later, back into reality by gods ungracious daylight. School holidays started six days ago and all I see before me is a hopeless expanse of sobriety, virginity and an enduring lack of motivation to perform constructive, menial tasks. The situation is becoming desperate.

TV: *TV comes to life, frees itself from the cupboard and moves about the space* You self-centred prick.

TOM: Who are you?

LAMP: *LAMP comes to life, frees itself from drawers and moves about the space* It's become intolerable, listening to the way you degrade your circumstance.

TOM: What's going on?

LAMP: Have you considered the circumstances that others have to endure, in third world countries for example, against their will?

TV: Born into it.

TOM: I try not to think about it.

TV: What about the Russian sex trade-

LAMP: The Malaysian sweat shops?

TV: Hopeless situations that trap-

TOM: I'd rather not know thank you.

LAMP: Then you're cruel.

TOM: Not cruel, realistic. It would be impossible for me to contemplate these overwhelming international issues and continue to consider my own misfortune with any value. I shouldn't be denied self pity, or exchange and intensify my worrying with issues I've never and probably will never be confronted with. How can you contribute to society when you're inundated with all that worrying and anxiety? You still haven't told me who you are. Who are you?

LAMP: You need to contemplate the bigger issues to appreciate the advantages of your situation. You are free to do what you want with your life. Your experiences are thus only limited by your perceptions.

MOTHER: *from door. voice over* Tom, can you bring the washing in? I've asked you three times now.

TOM: I can't, I'm tired.

MOTHER: Don't be such a self-centred shit and contribute to the running of the household.
TOM: I am a self-centred shit Mum, and I don't love myself. I need some time to brood on it.
MOTHER: Hurry up and do it now before it rains.
TOM: Leave me alone you wench!
LAMP: You were saying something about contributing to society...
TOM: I became inundated.
LAMP: When?
TOM: Just now.
TV: Just now?
TOM: Yes.
LAMP: How?
TOM: All that talk about the Russian sex trade, the Malaysian sweat shops. Hopeless situations that trap-
TV: You look quite relaxed.
LAMP: And yet, you still feel inundated?
TOM: -with emotional stress.
TV: Then your method of rejecting the bigger picture is flawed.
LAMP: Perhaps you're worrying and anxiety is heightened when you focus on yourself, your personal issues, your insecurities. Are you concerned with the size of your penis?
TV: Are your muscles big enough?
LAMP: Are you a confident person?
TV: Do people like you?
LAMP: Do girls like you?
TV: Will you ever have facial hair?

LAMP: Will you achieve your deepest, darkest goal to become a famous, rich, sexy, successful, important person? These questions will shroud you in a shadow of doubt. You will spiral into a depressive state that is mentally exhausting, rendering you inundated, dilapidated...*Tom looks confused*
TV: Tired-
LAMP: Yes, that's right. By developing an appreciation of your own circumstance in contrast to more desperate situations people find themselves in; you can free yourself from worrying and anxiety.
TV: Think about it...you're just lazy.
LAMP: No. He's more than that. He has potential.
TV: You're telling him too much.
LAMP: He's ready!
TV: It's too soon!
LAMP: No, I think it's safe. He's the right age now. Tom, listen to this very carefully. You're at a particular age where you're going to start experiencing some physiological changes. Your going to develop something called a libido. *TV reacts with a shudder* And while a libido can cause a lot of excitement for you it is also likely to cause...tension.
TV: Tension between you and your friends-
LAMP: You and your family-
TV: You and yourself-
LAMP: Especially between you and f-f-females.
TV: Females.
LABIDO: *voice over* Females, females...
TOM: I already know this stuff. Sexual frustration, masturbation, I've adjusted quite well.

LAMP: That's a good start.

TV: But no, you don't understand. These feelings are going to intensify, and may develop into more extreme emotions; jealousy, rage, misery, love. *LAMP reacts with a shudder*

LAMP: The situation may become dangerous for you, as your libido starts to affect the way you interact with others.

TOM: What does this have to do with my self-pity?

TV: What does this have to do with it?!

TOM: Before you were talking to me about my perceptions. How does my libido fit into all of that? Or did you people just switch topic. Is there a goal here because I would really like it if some of this stuff was connected?

TV: It's a strategy!

LAMP: If you can control your perceptions, maintain a positive disposition, never degrade your circumstance, you may have a fighting chance against your libido. If not, your libido may end up taking control.

TV: In a few moments your phone is going to ring. Josh from down the street will be on the other line with plans for this evening. Comply, and your first test will ensue.

TOM: What if I don't like Josh?

TV + LAMP: Comply!

TOM: This is bullshit. This is so crazy. *phone rings, he picks it up* Talk to me.

the band starts to play 'Whole world on'. During the song TOM gets dressed and performs everyday actions that are typical of an adolescent male

Lyrics:

How many more days must I wait? How many more years is it going to take, until, I feel like I can deal with the world? Ma ma, say's its not easy to understand why I get so sad when I have every. Reason to be glad, So she tells me to take it slow, don't go to fast, there's so much more you need to know. Don't try to take the whole world on, on your own. Rich white boy, lazing around in a quite suburban town. Got nothing to worry about but, whether or not he gets enough love. Issues in the world news say it clear and loud, I have nothing to complain about. So when I'm down I get my friends around and they tell me to take it slow, don't go to fast there's so much more you need to know. Don't try to take the whole world on, on your own.

SCENE TWO

transition into scene two is seamless. The band stops playing while TV and LAMP return to their respective hiding places. It is afternoon. TOM's friends JOSH and SAMANTHA are sitting on stage, rolling cigarettes

TOM: I think you need a new hobby. Smoking will kill you.

JOSH: My Pop's been smoking he's whole life and he's 80 something. And by the time we're that age, they'll have

machines to fix all the damage we do to our bodies now.

TOM: What about all the taxpayers' money that will be spent on your medical care? You'll be taking up hospital beds, perhaps denying care to someone who didn't smoke.

JOSH: I'll give them my bed, I don't mind. Did you know that the huge tax our government puts on each pack of cigarettes, spread over a lifetime of smoking is more than sufficient to cover our hypothesized medical care in the future.

TOM: I don't understand why you enjoy smoking in the first place. It's not like it does anything for you other than look cool.

JOSH: I don't know man, I enjoy a cigarette. It's a nice smell. It's relaxing. It gives me something to do with my hands. It helps when initiating social interaction with strangers. And every time I light one up it feels like I'm coming face to face with life and death, and I'm kicking them both in the dick. It's liberating.

TOM: And is that enough to warrant risking your health, nay your life?

JOSH: Yea, at this stage of my life I think it is. I'll stop smoking eventually.

TOM: How can you make that decision now?

SAMANTHA: I'm quitting at thirty.

TOM: You'll be addicted at thirty.

JOSH: I'm already addicted.

TOM: So you'll just quit?

JOSH: Just quit. Everyone's addicted to something, like you and being depressed.

TOM: I'm not depressed.

JOSH: But you think it's cool.

TOM: It is cool.

JOSH: So is smoking.

SAMANTHA: What are you guys doing this weekend?

TOM: My Mum's away from tonight till next Monday.

Josh produces liquor from his bag

TOM: But I don't want too many people coming over. You guys can stay over if you want.

SAMANTHA: You should have a party.

JOSH: Can I smoke a dart in here?

TOM: Yes, but smoke it by the window.

JOSH: Your Mum knows we smoke, doesn't she?

TOM: She does.

JOSH: Do you mind if I roll a splif?

TOM: No.

JOSH: Why don't you have a something on Saturday night?

We could invite all the kids from the street around.

TOM: I was thinking about it, but I was really looking forward to wallowing in solitude and losing weight from gross inactivity.

SAMANTHA: You can do that all week. Just have a party on Saturday.

TV: Oh God, it's happening already!

LAMP: Be strong, remember the strategy.

TOM: As long as you help me clean up.

SAMANTHA: Good, let's sink piss.

TOM: Are you working these holidays Sam?

LAMP: She's got booze!

TV: And she's a massive babe.

LAMP: His libido is growing in strength.

TV: His ego diminishing.
LAMP and TV simultaneously: No!
SAMANTHA: Just at Lilydale Safeway. But I hate it, I'm going to quit.
TOM: Do you like the people you work with?
SAMANTHA: They can be interesting.
TOM: That's good. Nothing passes the time at work like good conversation. Are you drunk-
JOSH: In the end, it's people that define our experience of the world; if we hang with good people, good time, bad people, bad time.
SAMANTHA: Do you know what an energy sucker is?
TOM: Energy sucker?
SAMANTHA: You know you've met an energy sucker when at the end of every conversation you feel like shit. People who talk about themselves a lot are a good example.
TOM: That's just some people's nature. I don't think people intentionally enter conversations to 'suck energy'.
JOSH: Have some cheeky man. *Samantha has a cheeky, Josh exits*
SAMANTHA: I just try to distance myself from energy suckers and boys.
TOM: What's wrong with boys?
SAMANTHA: All boys want is a warm body they can have sex with, so that for a moment they can forget about the fact that one day they are going to die. (work on this line)
TOM: Suffering from ache of the heart?
SAMANTHA: What?
TOM: My guess is you've been rejected by another guy you barely know. That's why you're so dejected tonight.

You can't let a guy get you down because he doesn't want an emotional relationship with you...
SAMANTHA: Excuse me?
TOM: I hate it when people make love and relationships such a big deal. There's too many people trapped in desperate situations all over the world with real shit to worry about, like child soldiers in Africa and starvation for you to be getting miserable over a boy. You can't treat every relationship you have so preciously. If you do you're always going to get hurt, because love and men will come and go like everything else in life, like life itself. You have to be malleable to your changing circumstance, but keep you feelings hard, like a rock-
SAMANTHA: What about you?!
TOM: What? What about me?
SAMANTHA: You're always depressed when a girl rejects you or when you're not getting any attention. And when a girl does take interest in you, suddenly life becomes great again. You rely on sluts for validation!
TOM: Don't talk like you know me! You don't know me-
SAMANTHA: And you don't know me! *they take a moment to gaze into each other's eyes before making out furiously*

Lyrics:

Here in my arms, is a wasted girl, the girl worth her weight in gold, silver painted circles round her eyes. She wants to talk about why we love each other while we sit in the dull light, on my street. Together we confer about why, and which is the right way to live our lives. She say 'I'm wasting my time, with or

without you'. She says 'I'm wasting my time, with or without you'. She thinks life, life is a fire and we are burning out. I said 'life, life may be once but I'll be your only one forever'. Driving in my car I take her home. The girl, she throws up her darkest thought. She says ' I, I am the same as all of the other girls. And you, you are the same as all of the other boys.' Together we are a cliché love affair, and is it worth it when there's so many more fish in the see, birds in the park. She says 'I'm wasting my time, with or without you'. She say's 'I'm wasting my time, with or without you boy'. She thinks life, life is a fire and we are burning out. I said 'life, life may be once but I'll be your only one, forever'.

in this dance Samantha and Tom continue to make out. they continue to drink, Samantha and Tom start to undress each other awkwardly considering Samantha is 'greening out'. Samantha throws up, Tom looks after her, gives up on making out and undressing her and puts her to sleep in his bed. Tom goes to sleep on his bean bag

SCENE THREE

SAMANTHA: Did you want to have sex with me last night?

TOM: Good morning.

SAMANTHA: Did you?

TOM: At first when we were making out, and my hips were between your thighs, yes. But then you got too messy.

SAMANTHA: You were drunk too...

TOM: I've heard good things about drunk sex, and I've heard bad things.

SAMANTHA: What if I wasn't drunk... You're a virgin aren't you... I won't tell anyone. It's ok, honestly...

TOM: It's not that I haven't had the opportunity. I've just that I've never been in a situation with a girl where it felt appropriate.

SAMANTHA: What do you mean by appropriate?

TOM: I've never been in a relationship with a girl for more than a week and one night stands seem a bit intense for me.

SAMANTHA: So you're saving yourself for someone special?

TOM: I wouldn't say that. I'm sexually driven just like every other male. I'm constantly thinking about sex, I have fantasy's about it, idealise it, despise it. I'm always getting erections at inappropriate moments. Sometimes I visualise cutting my own penis off with a knife until it goes down. It's my greatest hope that one-day some gorgeous babe at a party will let me ravage her in a vacant room. But when the veil separating fantasy from reality is lifted, and I'm confronted by a gorgeous girl, on my bed, between my sheets, all I can think about is my perception of right and wrong, and how the decision that I make today will affect tomorrow.

SAMANTHA: You think too much. Come over here...lie down.

TOM: I'm not used to physical displays of affection.

SAMANTHA: Do you want something to drink?

TOM: This is definitely not how I envisioned this. *knock on door, rush to separate, Josh enters*

JOSH: The plan is underway, invites to this Saturdays celebration have been sent to the appropriate people via facebook. Did you two have sex last night?

TOM and SAMANTHA: No / Yes.

JOSH: I think you guys would make a good couple, I really do...I'm going to get some breakfast. *Josh exits*

SAMANTHA and TOM: I'll be down in a minute / Good idea, we'll get up.

SAMANTHA: I'm going to give you until Saturday.

TOM: To do what?

SAMANTHA: Have sex, with me. You're obviously not very comfortable about it. I'll live here for a week, and on Saturday, after we've both had a long hard think about it, we'll have sex. This way it will be, appropriate.

TOM: I'm not sure that these things can be planned.

SAMANTHA: Why not?

TOM: Doesn't that kill the romance, the spontaneity of the whole thing, the passion?

SAMANTHA: You have six days. *Samantha exits*

TV: You're doing remarkably well.

LAMP: You're starting to realise your potential. Even though the odds were stacked against you, you dealt with your desires responsibly and maintained a positive disposition.

TOM: Thanks, I really think I'm getting the hang of it. If I use your strategy I can over come my emotions and control the situation, you guys have been a great help, so thanks a lot for everything.

LAMP: Steady now, I'm afraid it's not over yet.

TV: No. Remember, last night was just a test. Your libido is not something you conquer once and then it's defeated. It's a war that is ongoing, and while you've shown that you have what it takes to hold out, your libido will always try to find a way back inside.

TOM: I say hold off with the lecture, I think I'm getting pretty good with your strategy and everything.

SAMANTHA: *from outside* Tom, are you coming?

TOM: I'm going to have breakfast-

LAMP: But you must stay alert, the carrot has been dangled, that girl has offered you her body.

TOM: Don't worry, I have this under control; it's like another test. *Tom exits*

TV: This isn't a test! Your libido is more likely to strike now then any other time!

Lyrics:

Put me on file, don't ask why its easy. Give me a number, lover our day will come. If you say so, I'll be your rising star, don't come home tonight wait for the sunlight, then you can come home. Time wasting girl, why you coming home? Don't say that it's easy, honey nothing is free. I tried taking the easy way out. Don't say that I'm cold; I've been a fool, once, twice, three times before. Don't satisfy me, you don't know what I need. I see that look on

your face, when you turn away. I've tried, taking the easy way out. Don't say that I'm cold; I've been a fool one, twice, three times before.

this dance is a montage of Tom, Samantha, Josh and Micheal interacting with each other through out the week

SCENE FOUR

JOSH: The sober first kiss is better than the drunk first kiss. You have to think about how to instigate the sober kiss, feel for the right moment. And just before it happens you can take full advantage of the sexual tension, staring into each others eyes, then leaning in without words. Or you can be creative and drop a sweet line.

TOM: Like what?

JOSH: I once said to a girl, 'This is going to hurt you a lot more than it's going to hurt me.'

TOM: Did she like that?

JOSH: She thought it was interesting. At least its more creative than a drunk kiss.

TOM: What's a typical drunk kiss?

JOSH: You're at a party, bar, club, gig, you see a member of the opposite sex you think is hot. You spend fifteen to thirty minutes trying to be funny and asking each other questions. Then at around 1:30 in the morning when everyone is drunk and or stoned you find a dark corner and make out. If your lucky you might actually enjoy each others company, exchange numbers, and the next day one of you might asks the other out for coffee via a text or facebook message. I'm happy you two found each other, and I hope you have a long lasting relationship, romantically rich and mutually gratifying until death do you part. I'm going to get another drink.

TOM: You should take your bedding stuff with you.

JOSH: Nah, I was going to sleep in here with you guys, if that's alright. All the other rooms are full of kids partying, and I was thinking about going to sleep pretty soon, I've got a really bad head ache.

SAMANTHA: That's alright; I'll come get a drink with you.

Samantha and Josh exit, Tom looks furious, Josh re-enters

JOSH: Hey man, why are you still cooped up in here, the party's going really well. Some more kids from school just rocked up. Are you alright? *Samantha re-enters with extra bedding*

SAMANTHA: Here, have a rest on Tom's bed for a while.
You'll feel better if you drink some water.
TOM: Hey, because Josh is sleeping in here now, maybe we should sleep in the garage tonight.
SAMANTHA: What? On a concrete floor? It's freezing in there, we'll just make a shag pile and sleep on the floor.
JOSH: Shag pile? Can I join in on that? Oh, and can Pat, Tim and Sarah sleep in here with us too, because Pat drove but he want's to drink, so they're just going to-
TOM: No!
JOSH: What?
TOM: No, it's not alright for them to stay in my room. It's not alright for you to stay in my room tonight either. I'd rather you slept in one of the other rooms. Only me and Sam are sleeping in this room tonight.
JOSH: That's a bit stiff mate, all the other rooms are full up. Can't we just-
TOM: No, you can't. If you can't find any room then go home.
JOSH: Fine, it's your house. *Josh exits*
SAMANTHA: What was that all about?
TOM: What? *Josh enters*
JOSH: James Flynn just crashed his car, down the street.
SAMANTHA: What? Is he all right?
JOSH: I hope so, I'll call him. *Josh exits*
SAMANTHA: Don't you care? Why are you being such a dick?
TOM: I am being a dick, aren't I.
SAMANTHA: Are you alright?
TOM: No, I think it's my libido, it's taking control.
SAMANTHA: What?
TOM: My libido is taking control, I have to stop it.

SAMANTHA: Control of what?
TOM: My head, I should have listened to the furniture.
SAMANTHA: What are you talking about?
TOM: Samantha I need you to do something for me. It's important.
SAMANTHA: What's going on?
TOM: Knock me out.
SAMANTHA: What?
TOM: It's important; I need you to knock me out, now.
SAMANTHA: That's crazy!
TOM: Do it Samantha, please! *Samantha knocks Tom out, Tom wakes up to find furniture and his Libido*

animated scene starts, setting = inside of Tom's mind

TOM: You're my libido.
LIBIDO: Yes.
TOM: What did you do to them?
LIBIDO: What did they do to you?
TOM: What are you talking about?
LIBIDO: They've been trying to stop you from achieving you ultimate goal.
TOM: To have sex.
LIBIDO: Yes, and they've been trying to stop me from helping you. By showing you how to shut me out.
TOM: No, your lying, they warned me about you, they said that you'd do this; you're just a manipulator. How were you supposed to help me? By making me jealous, lustful, frustrated-
LIBIDO: Yes, you must learn to use your emotions, let them intensify and guide you to fulfil what it is you truly

want. Your morals and over bearing sense of responsibility has always held you back from truly being alive. Don't you see, a real man takes what he wants; he takes it for himself, no matter the consequences. Because a real man knows that life's too short to be disappointed, to feel regret, to go without satisfaction.

TOM: No. A real man makes choices in life based on what he thinks is wrong and right and he chooses what is right, despite the sacrifice. I am free to choose and do whatever I want, as long as its not hurting me or anybody else. There are child soldiers in Africa, Russian sex trade, the Malaysian sweatshops, starvation in the third world.

LIBIDO: You will always be a virgin!

TOM: We're done talking. *they fight, Tom wins and wakes up*

animated scene ends

SAMANTHA: Are you all right? What happened?

TOM: Just another battle in the war. I don't want to kick those guys out anymore, I was being a dickhead; they can sleep in here with us. I can loose my virginity another time.

SAMANTHA: They left Tom. James Conner was high on dope while driving some girls home and crashed his car just up the street. There's police all over the place, so everyone went home.

TOM: So, it's just you and me here?

SAMANTHA: Just you and me.

Lyrics:

My first love is myself, my second love would be anybody else who gives a damn about me. As selfish as this seems, you need to love yourself before you can let anybody else in. It's a frame of mind, if I'm happy, if I'm sad, if I'm delirious I can change it. I am not nothing, you ain't got nothing on me. I am not nothing, you ain't got nothing no, but you mean something to me. Don't get me wrong, I know I have some flaws, I strive for a perfection that is unobtainable. I build a world, a world inside of my head in which I am the king and I get o boss around all the men and women. It's a frame of mind, if I'm happy, if I'm sad, if I'm delirious I can change it. I can change it, when nothing feels fine in my mind. I am not nothing, you ain't got nothing on me. I am not nothing, you ain't got nothing on me. I am not nothing, you ain't got nothing on me. I am not nothing, you ain't got nothing no, but you mean something to me.

song plays, dance sequence. Tom and Samantha make love. other characters enter