

PERFECT IS THE ENEMY OF GOOD

By
Clay Robeson

28 Plays Later 2019

Day 12

February 12, 2019

ACT I

SCENE 1

A SINGLE SPOTLIGHT ILLUMINATES ALPHA, WHO HAS A BODY, STAGE CENTER.

ALPHA: Wikipedia says, "Body positivity is a social movement rooted in the belief that all human beings should have a positive body image, and be accepting of their own bodies as well as the bodies of others. The movement sets forth the notion that beauty is a construct of society, and poses that this construct should not infringe upon one's ability to feel confidence or self-worth."

ALPHA STEPS OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT, AND BETA, WHO ALSO HAS A BODY, STEPS IN.

BETA: It goes on to say, "Some people base their sense of self-worth heavily on their physical appearance, and how good they perceive themselves to look. This is referred to in the field of psychology as appearance-contingent self-worth, and can be highly detrimental to an individual's body image. The degree to which one feels proud of their physical appearance is referred to as appearance self-esteem. People who fall under the appearance-contingent self-worth umbrella put great effort into looking their best, so that they feel their best. This is only good when an individual feels that they look good, but is extremely negative and anxiety-inducing when they do not.

BETA RELINQUISHES THE SPOTLIGHT TO GAMMA, WHO ALSO HAS A BODY.

GAMMA: The ideal body for both men and women has changed over the centuries, and also varies drastically between cultures. In some poorer countries, being overweight is a sign of wealth. In others, it's a sign of good breeding stock. Regardless, it's always someone else's idea of beauty imposed on someone else.

ALPHA LEANS BACK INTO THE SPOTLIGHT.

ALPHA: Fuck someone else.

BETA LEANS IN FROM THE OPPOSITE SIDE.

BETA: Because the only one whose opinion matters is yours.

GAMMA: And your opinion should be based on your own perception of the world, not on someone else's ideals.

ALPHA: Because society's ideals influence us from childhood.

BETA: And we end up hating ourselves because that's what we were taught to do. Hate people who are imperfect.

GAMMA: So let's talk about that for a moment.

ALPHA: Perfect is the enemy of good.

BETA: Voltaire said that.

GAMMA: And in this case, it seems extremely apropos.

ALPHA: Because if we strive too hard to look perfect, what's inside us can become shitty.

BETA: But nothing we can say on a stage, in the dark, can change what people feel about themselves.

GAMMA: Or how hard they strive for perfections.

ALPHA: So how about this:

BETA: As cliché as it sounds, before you will ever think that you are perfect, you have to like who you are.

GAMMA: And that can be truly hard for some of us.

ALPHA: Especially when we've been brought up to think that what we are is bad...

BETA: And when we also think that **what** we are defines **who** we are...

GAMMA: There isn't a magic fix that will make you love your
body.

ALPHA: There's not switch we can throw to make society less
abusive to EVERYONE in terms of whether or not they
are too fat, too skinny

BETA: Too tall, too short.

GAMMA: Too smooth, too hairy.

ALPHA: We are who we are.

BETA: Do what you do for YOU.

GAMMA: Because in the end, you are the one living in your
body.

ALL: So try to be happy there.

BLACKOUT.