

WELCOME TO THE HUSH!

By

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28 Plays Later 2019

Day 15

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ACT I

SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP - A NIGHTCLUB.

ON A DIAS AT THE BACK OF THE STAGE IS DJ QUIETUDE. BEHIND THEM IS A GIANT SCREEN THAT READS "Welcome to the The Hush!"

THE DANCE FLOOR IS FILLED WITH PARTY GOERS. THEY START CROUCHED ON THE FLOOR, AND WHEN THE LIGHTS COME UP, THEY SLOWLY BEGIN TO RISE, ALL EYES ON DJ HUSH.

EVERYONE WEARS HEADPHONES, CLOTHES THAT ARE IN BLACKS AND GREYS WITH ACCENTS THAT WILL SHOW UP UNDER A BLACKLIGHT, AND NEON SOCKS.

THE WORDS ON THE SCREEN FADE OUT AND ARE REPLACED BY A COUNTDOWN FROM 10. WHEN THE COUNTDOWN GETS TO 5, THE CROWD SLOWLY STARTS TO TURN DOWNSTAGE. AFTER 1, THE WORD "DANCE!" APPEARS ON THE SCREEN, AND EVERYONE'S HEADPHONES LIGHT UP IN A RAINBOW OF COLORS.

EVERYONE BEGINS TO DANCE. DJ HUSH LOSES HIMSELF IN MAKING MUSIC THAT NO ONE IN THE AUDIENCE CAN HEAR.

THE FIRST SONG STOPS, THE LIGHTS ON THE HEADSETS GO OUT. EVERYONE FREEZES FOR A MOMENT BEFORE MOVING BACK TO A NEUTRAL POSITION. DJ QUIETUDE LOOKS UP. THE CROWD TURNS TOWARDS HIM, AND AS ONE, THEY RAISE A FIST INTO THE AIR IN APPRECIATION. HE RETURNS THE GESTURE AND TURNS BACK TO HIS EQUIPMENT. WITH A GRANDIOSE GESTURE, HE BEGINS THE NEXT SONG. THE HEADSETS LIGHT UP AGAIN. THE DANCING RESUMES.

THE DISORGANIZED DANCING BECOMES OBVIOUSLY VERY CHOREOGRAPHED, AND THE DANCERS BEGIN TO MOVE AROUND THE STAGE IN A FIGURE 8 LIKE PATTERN, WITH THE CROSSING POINT DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF DJ QUIETUDE. AS THE DANCERS CROSS, THEY EMBRACE AND SPIN EACH OTHER OFF IN THE DIRECTION THEY WERE ORIGINALLY TRAVELING. THE PATTERN OF MOVEMENTS AS THEY TRAVEL SLOWLY BECOMES MORE COMPLEX, UNTIL, ONCE AGAIN, THE SONG ENDS, THE HEADSET LIGHTS GO OUT, DJ QUIETUDE LOOKS UP, THE DANCERS FREEZE, AND TWO DANCERS (GENDER, AGE, RACE IRRELEVANT) ARE FROZEN IN AN EMBRACE LOOKING INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES.

BEFORE THE AUDIENCE CAN UNFREEZE, DJ QUIETUDE MAKES ANOTHER GRAND GESTURE, HEADSETS LIGHT UP, AND THE DANCE BEGINS AGAIN. BUT THE TWO EMBRACING DANCERS REMAIN FROZEN, STARING AT EACH OTHER.

THE OTHERS MOVE IN CHOREOGRAPHED PATTERNS AROUND THEM, AND EVENTUALLY THEY ARE PULLED APART. AS THEY ARE MOVED AWAY FROM EACH OTHER THEY REACH OUT, LONGINGLY, BUT ARE EVENTUALLY REABSORBED INTO THE DANCE.

THE CHOREOGRAPHY BECOMES MORE COMPLEX AS IT PROGRESSES, AND EVERY SO OFTEN THE TWO DANCERS COME IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO EACH OTHER DOWN CENTER, AND REACH LONGINGLY TOWARDS EACH OTHER, BUT AS THEY ARE SEPARATED BY OTHER DANCERS.

EVENTUALLY THEY MANAGE TO COME TOGETHER. THEY HOLD EACH OTHER TIGHTLY FOR A MOMENT, DISRUPTING THE DANCE. THE OTHERS FORCIBLY PULL THEM APART AND GRACELESSLY CONTINUE THE CHOREOGRAPHY.

THEY PASS EACH OTHER AGAIN AND AGAIN, BECOMING MORE FRANTIC WITH EACH CLOSE ENCOUNTER. FINALLY, THEY DEARLY TOUCH

FINGERS AND SOMEONE BURSTS BETWEEN THEM, PUSHING THEM APART. THEY BOTH STOP DANCING AND CONTINUE TO STARE AT EACH OTHER, AN ARM EXTENDED. THE DANCE CONTINUES AROUND THEM UNTIL DJ QUIETUDE LOOKS UP. THE MUSIC CONTINUES AS HE COMES DOWN OFF THE DIAS AND JOINS THE DANCE, EVENTUALLY GETTING CLOSE TO, AND EXAMINING EACH OF THEM BEFORE RETURNING TO THE DIAS WHERE HE STOPS THE MUSIC. HEADSETS GO DARK, AND THE REST OF THE DANCERS LOOK CONFUSED. THEY BEGIN TO MEANDER SILENTLY ABOUT THE STAGE.

DJ QUIETUDE RAISES HIS HANDS AND SLOWLY LOWERS THEM, STOPPING WHEN HE IS POINTING TO THE TWO. HIS POINTED FINGERS BECOME FLAT HANDS, AND HE SWEEPS THEM OUTWARD, PARTING THE SEA OF PEOPLE LIKE MOSES, LEAVING THE TWO STANDING SURROUNDED BY OTHERS.

HE RESTARTS THE MUSIC, BUT THE ONLY HEADPHONES THAT LIGHT UP ARE THE TWO. THEY UNFREEZE AND BEGIN TO CIRCLE EACH OTHER, SLOWLY COMING TOGETHER. WHEN THEY ARE WITHIN ARMS LENGTH, THEY CLASP HANDS AND PULL EACH OTHER CLOSE, EMBRACING.

WHEN THEY KISS, EVERYONE ELSE'S HEADPHONES LIGHT UP, AND THE DANCE RESUMES AROUND THEM.

DJ QUIETUDE: (whispering) Fuck yeah.

FADE TO BLACK.