

THEN WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

By
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28 Plays Later

Day 2

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ACT I

SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP - A THERAPIST'S OFFICE.

We find ourselves in a stereotypical therapist's office. Small, neutral tones, a couch and matching chair, a bookshelf, and a small desk.

RICHARD sits in the chair with a notepad, and JIM lies on the couch, heads towards RICHARD.

There is silence for several uncomfortable moments.

JIM: I'm not sure what else to say.

RICHARD: You don't have to say anything.

JIM: Then what am I doing here?

RICHARD: I don't know, what ARE you doing here?

JIM sighs.

JIM: I'm not sure. Maybe I just want to believe someone is listening to listen to me.

RICHARD nods.

LIGHTS OUT.

ACT I

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP - A THERAPIST'S OFFICE.

We find ourselves in the same office.

RICHARD sits in the chair with a notepad,
and SARAH lies on the couch, heads towards
RICHARD.

There is silence for several uncomfortable
moments.

SARAH: I'm not sure what else to say.

RICHARD: You don't have to say anything.

SARAH: Then what am I doing here?

RICHARD: I don't know, what ARE you doing here?

SARAH sighs.

SARAH: I'm not sure. Maybe I just need to talk it out with
someone impartial.

RICHARD nods.

LIGHTS OUT.

ACT I

SCENE 3

LIGHTS UP - A THERAPIST'S OFFICE.

We find ourselves in the same office.

There is silence for several uncomfortable
moments.

KIM: I'm not sure what else to say.

RICHARD: You don't have to say anything.

KIM: Then what am I doing here?

RICHARD: I don't know, what ARE you doing here?

KIM sighs.

KIM: I'm not sure. I guess I just need to confess this stuff to someone who won't judge me.

RICHARD nods.

LIGHTS OUT.

ACT I

SCENE 4

LIGHTS UP - A THERAPIST'S OFFICE.

We find ourselves in the same office.

There is silence for several uncomfortable moments.

STEVE: I'm not sure what else to say.

RICHARD: You don't have to say anything.

STEVE: Then what am I doing here?

RICHARD: I don't know, what ARE you doing here?

STEVE sighs.

STEVE: I'm not sure. I think I just want to be sure that I'm not the only one going through this. You know? That I'm okay.

RICHARD nods.

LIGHTS OUT.

ACT I

SCENE 5

LIGHTS UP - A THERAPIST'S OFFICE.

We find ourselves in the same office.

SULLY: I'm not sure what else to say.

RICHARD: You don't have to say anything.

SULLY: Then what am I doing here?

RICHARD: I don't know, what ARE you doing here?

SULLY sighs.

SULLY: I'm not sure. But I don't want to be angry anymore. I
need to control this... part of myself that's so...
difficult.

RICHARD nods.

LIGHTS OUT.

ACT I SCENE 6

LIGHTS UP - A THERAPIST'S OFFICE.

We find ourselves in the same office.

LUCY: I'm not sure what else to say.

RICHARD: You don't have to say anything.

LUCY: Then what am I doing here?

RICHARD: I don't know, what ARE you doing here?

LUCY sighs.

LUCY: I'm not sure. I spent so long thinking I was the one
that was wrong... I don't know how to stop doing it.

RICHARD nods.

LIGHTS OUT.

ACT I SCENE 7

LIGHTS UP - A THERAPIST'S OFFICE.

We find ourselves in the same office.

CHRIS: I'm not sure what else to say.

RICHARD: You don't have to say anything.

CHRIS: Then what am I doing here?

RICHARD: I don't know, what ARE you doing here?

CHRIS sighs.

CHRIS: I'm not sure. Everyone I know is seeing a therapist, I guess I just want to fit in. No, I just NEED to fit in...

RICHARD nods.

LIGHTS OUT.

ACT I SCENE 8

LIGHTS UP - A THERAPIST'S OFFICE.

PAT: I'm not sure what else to say.

RICHARD: You don't have to say anything.

PAT: Then what am I doing here?

RICHARD: I don't know, what ARE you doing here?

PAT sighs.

PAT: I'm not sure. I just can't stop thinking about it. Every moment that I'm not DOING something, it's right there, in front of me.

RICHARD nods.

LIGHTS OUT.

ACT I SCENE 9

LIGHTS UP - A THERAPIST'S OFFICE.

KELLY: I'm not sure what else to say.

RICHARD: You don't have to say anything.

KELLY: Then what am I doing here?

RICHARD: I don't know, what ARE you doing here?

KELLY sighs.

KELLY: I'm not sure. But I know that I won't be happy until I understand WHY I do it.

RICHARD nods.

LIGHTS OUT.

ACT I SCENE 10

ERIN: I'm not sure what else to say.

RICHARD: You don't have to say anything.

ERIN: Then what am I doing here?

RICHARD: I don't know, what ARE you doing here?

ERIN sighs.

ERIN: I'm not sure. I need... hope?

RICHARD nods.

ACT I SCENE 11

ROBIN: I'm not sure what else to say.

RICHARD: You don't have to say anything.

ROBIN: Then what am I doing here?

RICHARD: I don't know, what ARE you doing here?

ROBIN: I'm not sure. But I'm afraid to not be here right now.

RICHARD nods.

GARY: I'm not sure what else to say.

RICHARD: You don't have to say anything.

GARY: Then what am I doing here?

RICHARD: I don't know, what ARE you doing here?

GARY: I'm not sure. I feel so alone, but I have dozens of friends. I can be in a room full of them and still feel completely alone.

RICHARD: You don't have to say anything.

SUE: Then what am I doing here?

RICHARD: I don't know, what ARE you doing here?

SUE: I'm not sure. I don't feel like a functioning member of society anymore. I'm alone. Reclusive. I don't want to be this way anymore.

KEITH: Then what am I doing here?

RICHARD: I don't know, what ARE you doing here?

KEITH: I'm not sure. But my marriage is falling apart more and more every day.

RICHARD: I don't know, what ARE you doing here?

LISA: I'm not sure. There just doesn't seem to be a point anymore.

BARRY: I'm not sure. I just need reassurance.

PHIL: I just need to know I'm not crazy.

MARY: I want to not hate him every time I look at him.

PHIL: I want to understand what they DID to me.

KAREN: (overlapping) I have to stop feeling this way.

KURT: (overlapping) I can't stop crying.

AARON: (overlapping) I just want to not be scared anymore.

PETE: (overlapping) I need to figure out how to believe in myself.

HARRIET: (overlapping) I can't believe that anyone truly loves me.

SILENCE. Spotlight on RICHARD.

RICHARD: Then what am I doing here?

RICHARD: (to himself) What ARE you doing here?

RICHARD: Trying to help.

BLACKOUT.

It's Groundhog Day!!!

Yes, it's certainly is. And if yesterday we were stuck in the past, today we're stuck in the present!

So whether you want to write a play that loops the same day, or you want to write a play that loops the same day, or you want to write a play that loops the same day, or you want to be all zen and write about living in the moment, or about lots of presents, or about groundhogs. Or about days. Or just write a monologue about how underrated Andie MacDowell is, and whether she was better in Hudson Hawk, Short Cuts or in her incredible monologue in Sex Lies and Videotapes... spoiler!), or you want to write a play that loops the same day.

**But what is the present anyway?
Is it this second? Has it already ended?
Is it this year? Is it far or is it near?
Is it this millennium? uhm... does it fit inside your cranium?**

Woah... getting far too metaphysical for our second day, I'll leave my philosophical rantings to where they belong - in week 4!

OK, let's get us some bonus points... add a surprising character halfway through the play. Somebody you didn't expect when you set off writing - the bigger the surprise, the more bonus points you can get.

And here's to not having 6 more weeks of winter! (is that what they indicate?)