

Excerpt terms and conditions



This excerpt is available to assist you in the play selection process.

You may view, print and download any of our excerpts for perusal purposes.

Excerpts are not intended for performance, classroom or other academic use. In any of these cases you will need to purchase playbooks via our website or by phone, fax or mail.

A short excerpt is not always indicative of the entire work, and we strongly suggest reading the whole play before planning a production or ordering a cast quantity.

Dramatic Publishing

Our Place

Drama by Terry Gabbard





Our Place

Comedy/Drama. By Terry Gabbard. Cast: 7m., 7w. The unassuming location of a dock extending out onto a small lake serves as the backdrop for five different stories. On a cool autumn night, Jake arrives with Holly at a secluded spot. The couple feels an immediate connection to this place as if it were put there just for them. Things seem perfect until Anne and her date, Lyle, arrive. On another day, early in the morning, Beth has plans to spend the day with her dad at their favorite fishing place. She has high hopes for catching some sunshine, a few fish, and her dad's fading memories. The third story involves Al, who arrives at the dock with his family and has high expectations for their family canoe trip. The only problem is that his wife would rather stay inside, his son has a chip on his shoulder, and his daughter is really weird. In the fourth story, Cory and Liberty are having a picnic lunch out by the lake, but a realization about tuna-fish sandwiches sends a shockwave through their relationship and brings about questions of who they are and what lies ahead for them. In the fifth story, Stanley escapes the hardships of his life to blow off some steam on the dock when Sidney, his 6-year-old sister, arrives. All he wants is for her to go away, but she insists on staying with him. The entire ensemble gathers on the dock together for the final scene. In a poetic epilogue, they all discover the true meaning of *Our Place*—both comedic and tragic. *Unit set. Approximate running time: 45 minutes. Code: OA5.*

Cover design: Jeanette Alig-Sergel.

ISBN: 978-1-61959-048-9



9 781619 590489 >

www.dramaticpublishing.com



Dramatic Publishing

Your Source for Plays and Musicals Since 1885

311 Washington Street
Woodstock, IL 60098
800-448-7469

© The Dramatic Publishing Company

Our Place

By

TERRY GABBARD



Dramatic Publishing Company

Woodstock, Illinois • Australia • New Zealand • South Africa

*** NOTICE ***

The amateur and stock acting rights to this work are controlled exclusively by THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., without whose permission in writing no performance of it may be given. Royalty must be paid every time a play is performed whether or not it is presented for profit and whether or not admission is charged. A play is performed any time it is acted before an audience. Current royalty rates, applications and restrictions may be found at our website: www.dramaticpublishing.com, or we may be contacted by mail at: THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., 311 Washington St., Woodstock, IL 60098.

COPYRIGHT LAW GIVES THE AUTHOR OR THE AUTHOR'S AGENT THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO MAKE COPIES. This law provides authors with a fair return for their creative efforts. Authors earn their living from the royalties they receive from book sales and from the performance of their work. Conscientious observance of copyright law is not only ethical, it encourages authors to continue their creative work. This work is fully protected by copyright. No alterations, deletions or substitutions may be made in the work without the prior written consent of the publisher. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, videotape, film, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. It may not be performed either by professionals or amateurs without payment of royalty. All rights, including, but not limited to, the professional, motion picture, radio, television, videotape, foreign language, tabloid, recitation, lecturing, publication and reading, are reserved.

For performance of any songs, music and recordings mentioned in this play which are in copyright, the permission of the copyright owners must be obtained or other songs and recordings in the public domain substituted.

©MMXV by
TERRY WAYNE GABBARD

Printed in the United States of America
All Rights Reserved
(OUR PLACE)

ISBN: 978-1-61959-048-9

IMPORTANT BILLING AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

All producers of the play *must* give credit to the author of the play in all programs distributed in connection with performances of the play and in all instances in which the title of the play appears for purposes of advertising, publicizing or otherwise exploiting the play and/or a production. The name of the author *must* also appear on a separate line, on which no other name appears, immediately following the title, and *must* appear in size of type not less than fifty percent (50%) the size of the title type. Biographical information on the author, if included in the playbook, may be used in all programs. *In all programs this notice must appear:*

“Produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., of Woodstock, Illinois.”

Our Place was original performed by students of Ardrey Kell High School in Charlotte, N.C., at the 2014 North Carolina Theatre Conference. The play was selected as “Distinguished Play” and went on to be performed at the Southeastern Theatre Conference where it was named “Best New Play.”

Original Cast:

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| JAKE..... | Parker Stone |
| HOLLY..... | Maddie Coggin |
| ANNE | Devon Mandell |
| LYLE..... | James Clark |
| BETH | Kayla Rutledge |
| JONATHAN..... | Clay Harrison |
| AL | Will Strickland |
| BRENDA | Haley Stone |
| NICKY | Jared DeChant |
| SHERRY | Alex Woodcook |
| COREY | Devon Bucey |
| LIBERTY | Mary Grace McKusick |
| STANLEY..... | Jacob Bollacke |
| SIDNEY | Jamie Roberts |

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Director | Terry Gabbard and Brian Seagroves |
| Stage Manager | Joanna Zhang |
| Assistant Stage Manager..... | Emilie Osborne |
| Set Design | Trey Plunket |
| Technical Direction..... | Eric Duncan |

Our Place

CHARACTERS

(7m., 7w. Roles can be doubled.)

JAKE: 17 years old.

HOLLY: 17 years old.

ANNE: 17 years old.

LYLE: 17 years old.

BETH: 52 years old.

JONATHAN: 80 years old.

AL: 40s.

BRENDA: 40s.

NICKY: 13 years old.

SHERRY: 8 years old.

COREY: 20 years old.

LIBERTY: 20 years old.

STANLEY: 16 years old.

SIDNEY: 6 years old.

SCENES

Our Place is written in five scenes and an epilogue. All of the scenes take place on a wooden dock that extends out onto a lake.

Our Place:

Jake, Holly, Lyle and Anne

Flick of the Wrist:

Jonathan

Beth

Famtime:

Al and Brenda

Nicky

Sherry

Tuna Fish:

Liberty and Corey

Stay With You:

Stanley

Sidney

Epilogue:

Entire cast

Our Place

AT RISE: *There is a dock. The dock starts UC and extends downstage forming a T shape. There is one bench on the R side of the dock and a ladder on the downstage side leading to the water. There is an old canoe on the L side of the dock. It is nighttime. Other than the song of crickets and frogs, it is very still and quiet.*

Our Place

(After a moment, the stillness is broken by JAKE and HOLLY entering. They are a young couple on a date. JAKE is leading HOLLY, who seems nervous and excited. She stumbles a few times as they make their way to the end of the dock. JAKE is carrying a backpack.)

JAKE. Woah there, watch your step. This is it. Nice, right?

HOLLY. Yeah it's nice.

JAKE. No one knows it's here.

HOLLY. Really?

JAKE. As far as I know. I've never seen anyone else out here.

HOLLY. We aren't trespassing?

JAKE. No, I heard an investor built it like 50 years ago when they were going to develop all of this land. I guess they never got around to developing it.

HOLLY. It's nice. *(She looks at him.)* It's in good shape.

JAKE. Well I repaired it.

HOLLY. Really?

JAKE. Yeah. Well I come out here a lot. Swing the hammer around. It's no big deal. I love to fix things. It helps me clear my head. I come here to think.

HOLLY. What about?

JAKE. Really? You care what I think about?

HOLLY. Yeah.

JAKE. You want to know what I think about when I'm out here?

HOLLY. Uh huh.

JAKE. Do you ever feel like no one gets what you're about? Like, no one can even really see you.

HOLLY. Yeah.

JAKE. Like, what we are all doing. What is the point?

HOLLY. Yeah.

JAKE. Like at school. Mr. Forrester ... who needs it? You know?

HOLLY. Yeah.

JAKE. I don't need that.

HOLLY. You don't.

JAKE. I guess maybe I'm just lonely or something.

HOLLY. Really? Lonely?

JAKE. It's hard. It's like ... is anyone out there for me? Where's my *Romeo and Juliet*?

HOLLY. Jake? I can be the one who gets what you are about.

JAKE. Really?

HOLLY. Yeah, like Mr. Forrester at school. You don't need that.

JAKE. You do get me.

HOLLY. I do. I see you.

JAKE. You can see me?

HOLLY. I totally see you.

JAKE. I feel like this place ... this old dock that I repaired myself, is for us, you know ... put here for us ... for this moment. This can be our place.

HOLLY. You smell like the outdoors.

JAKE. You're shivering.

HOLLY. I'm cold.

JAKE. Oh, I have something. Come here.

(They sit on the edge of the dock. JAKE pulls out a blanket from his backpack.)

JAKE *(cont'd)*. This is a blanket that my grandmother made for my grandfather.

HOLLY. Really?

JAKE. While he was away at war.

HOLLY. Which war?

JAKE *(panics a little)*. The Chinese one.

HOLLY. Oh.

JAKE. She called it the love blanket.

HOLLY *(giggles)*. Really?

JAKE. No it's dumb. It has a dumb name.

HOLLY. Seriously, go on.

JAKE. My grandmother told me that as long as she and my grandfather held each other under the blanket, their love would last forever.

HOLLY. Oh wow.

(They move in to kiss but are interrupted by the entrance of LYLE and ANNE, who are also on a date. LYLE is blindfolded and being led by ANNE, who doesn't notice JAKE and HOLLY. LYLE isn't the brightest crayon in the box.)

LYLE. Are we almost there?

ANNE. A little further. Watch your step there. OK, here we are. *(Unties the blind fold.)*

LYLE. Oh wow.

(ANNE notices JAKE.)

ANNE *(first shocked, then angry)*. Oh wow.

LYLE. Yeah this ... this is ... really something.

ANNE *(looking right at JAKE)*. This is really something.

JAKE *(cover blown but trying to play it cool)*. Anne? What are you doing here?

ANNE. This is just really something.

HOLLY *(confused)*. Hi. Jake who is this?

ANNE. Hi. I'm Anne.

LYLE. Hey ... I'm Lyle

ANNE. So you must be Jake's girlfriend.

HOLLY. Yes.

JAKE. I don't want to put a label on it or anything.

HOLLY. What?

ANNE. You guys are really sweet. I bet you really get each other ...

HOLLY. I'm not sure.

ANNE *(mocking JAKE)*. This old dock is for us, put here for this moment. Am I right?

HOLLY. Jake?

ANNE. I was here with him three weeks ago.

LYLE. Woah. This is gettin kinda heavy.

JAKE. Wait, why are you here with that idiot?

LYLE. We don't want to put a label on it.

JAKE. Oh I see. *(Laughs.)* You are hilarious. You brought him to our place and you are mad at me for bringing her ...

HOLLY & ANNE. To our place!

ANNE. You are unbelievable.

LYLE. Whose place is it?

HOLLY. Apparently it is everyone's place. So I guess you know about the love blanket.

JAKE. Holly just ... oh man.

ANNE. The love blanket? *(Realizes what the blanket is and is suddenly furious.)* This is my great grandmother's blanket. You stole my great grandmother's blanket.

JAKE. She didn't need it anymore.

ANNE. You stole my dead great grandmother's blanket?

JAKE. I just borrowed it from that thing ...

ANNE. Her wake?

JAKE. Yeah, I thought it was a door prize. It was sitting on that table, by her dead body.

ANNE. That was a tasteful display of precious things she had made in her life.

JAKE. Oh, I see where I might have went wrong there.

ANNE. I thought you came to Meme's wake to support me, but clearly you were there to pillage. You are sick.

LYLE. So I guess we aren't going to see the ghost light.

JAKE. You told him about the ghost light? That was my story. You stole my story and my place.

ANN & HOLLY. Our place!

ANNE. You are a lying, cheating, blanket stealer.

JAKE *(yelling)*. I THOUGHT IT WAS A DOOR PRIZE.

ANNE. Why don't you leap off a building?

JAKE. You first!

(ANNE exits fuming, followed by JAKE. There is a quiet moment. LYLE sits next to HOLLY. They look at each other. There is something there.)

LYLE. Woah.

HOLLY. Yeah.

LYLE. Woah.

HOLLY. Yeah.

LYLE. This is a really nice place.

HOLLY. Yeah it is.

(Lights fade. Music.)