

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE UNKIND

by

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8/26/2013

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Characters

DEVIN, female, 10.

STEVIE, male, 7, Devin's brother.

MARKIS, male, 9.

Time

Present.

Setting

A hospital nursery viewing area, an empty room with a fourth wall of glass.

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Lights up on an empty hospital nursery viewing area. DEVIN enters first, but STEVIE immediately runs past her to CS, where DEVIN joins him. They wear the play clothes of the day. From the first moment and throughout, they are preoccupied with what they see as they look out through an unseen wall of glass into the audience. STEVIE presses forward, making faces as he scans the audience. DEVIN notices...

DEVIN

Cut it out.

STEVIE ignores her until DEVIN cuffs him on the head.

STEVIE

Ow! What'd you do that for?

DEVIN

You know. Stop acting stupid.

STEVIE

Don't have to hit me.

STEVIE continues to make faces intermittently, whenever he thinks DEVIN isn't looking.

DEVIN

I have to and I will. It's my responsibility.

STEVIE

Not what "putting you in charge" means. I'm gonna tell Mom.

DEVIN gives him a little push to let him know that's not going to happen. STEVIE moves out of easy reach.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

Besides, they're all making faces, why can't I?

DEVIN

They don't know any better. What's your excuse?

STEVIE

Which one's ours?

DEVIN

See if you can figure it out.

STEVIE

(Squinting.)

Can't read the names.

DEVIN

Which one looks like Mom, dummy?

STEVIE scans the audience, stopping from time to time.

STEVIE

That one's head is too pointy...That one's nose is too big...That one's ears stick out...Wrong color...Dumb-looking...Looks like he's crapping his pants...

STEVIE points excitedly.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

There, that one! The one got her foot loose and's kicking it in the air.

DEVIN

(Peering, as if at the name tag.)

Yeah. That's her, all right.

STEVIE

What you think we're gonna call her?

DEVIN

You heard Dad. They're taking suggestions.

STEVIE

(Beat.)

Black Widow.

DEVIN

You are so stupid.

STEVIE

Pepper Potts, then.

DEVIN

We're not naming our sister after some movie character.

STEVIE

Why not?

DEVIN

'Cause it's against the law.

STEVIE

No, it's not.

DEVIN

Against the Law of Normal People.

STEVIE is at it with the faces again, apparently trying to match the baby's.

STEVIE

Look. Call her Squinty. Scrunchy.

DEVIN

Redface.

STEVIE waves his arms around.

STEVIE

I'm Number One! I'm Number One!

DEVIN

Crybaby.

STEVIE

Poop-in-the-Pants.

DEVIN laughs but tries to hide it.

DEVIN

Stinky.

(Beat.)

You ready for that?

STEVIE

What? Diapers? I ain't doing that.

DEVIN

Oh, yeah, dream on, you think you won't have to touch diapers. We all going to have our hands in baby shit.

STEVIE

(Beat, as this sinks in.)

Be all right if we can say it: Shit. Shit. Baby shit. Hey, the baby's shitting again.

DEVIN

A lot of things going to happen, this baby come home, that isn't one of them. Mostly things you aren't going to like.

STEVIE

Like what?

DEVIN

Screaming, lots of screaming, with crying in between. And baby always comes first. Eats first, first one people want to see when they come over, first one to wake up in the morning.

STEVIE

I'm not ready. I want to stay here.

DEVIN

Now, Stevie.

STEVIE

I said I want to stay with our sister. I can do that if I want.

DEVIN has a firm hold on STEVIE and is strong-arming him to the exit.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

(Indicating MARKIS.)

What's the matter with him?

DEVIN

Shut up, Stevie. Sometimes you just have to shut up, even if you don't know why.

DEVIN pulls STEVIE past MARKIS, who turns away to the other side to keep his teary face from view. They exit, leaving MARKIS alone with his misery.

Fade to black.

THE END