

TWO MEN AND A HOLE

written by
Kris Thompson

Kris Thompson
1710 S. Main Street
Georgetown, TX 78626
281-253-3488

kriskt@outlook.com

www.kristhompsonplaywright.com

Cast of Characters

- MARVIN: WWII soldier who has become best friends with Robert. He is, unbeknownst to Teddy and the service, gay.
- TEDDY: WWII soldier from the South who has become best friends with Marvin. He is married to Suzie.
- SUZIE: Pregnant wife of Teddy, anxiously waiting at his mother's home for his safe return.

Place

Foxhole, Germany
Suzie's mother's house front porch swing

Time

WWII

Synopsis

Two soldiers in WWII have become best friends and now trapped in a foxhole and facing probable death, make promises and reveal truths about themselves.

ACT I
Scene 1

Setting: The stage is set with two distinct areas...One a cold foxhole in Germany, the other a warm front porch of a Southern rural house.

At Rise: Lights are on Teddy and Marvin are tired, dirty, and cold, holed up in their foxhole. Suzie, visibly pregnant, is on the porch swing with a pen and notebook, but in the dark and not noticeable to the audience.

TEDDY

I can't hardly feel my toes anymore.

MARVIN

(loud whisper) Shhh...The Germans.

TEDDY

(With gun in hand, climbs to the edge of the hole and carefully peeks over. Then climbs back down and sits, propping his gun against the wall of the hole and rubbing his hands for warmth.)

Nothin. (long pause) Feels like I'm goin crazy here, Marv.

MARVIN

Why don't you read one of her letters again.

TEDDY

Yea, ok.

(Reverently removes a small stack of well-worn letters from inside his shirt/jacket and begins to carefully thumb through them.)

Which one?

MARVIN

Um...Meatloaf.

TEDDY

Alright. (pause) Here it is.

(Picks out one letter, puts the rest carefully back in his jacket, takes it out of envelope, unfolds, and begins to read.)

TEDDY (Cont.)

OK here we go. (long pause) Dearest Teddy. I miss-

(Lights come up slowly on Front Porch as SUZIE's volume comes slowly up. She has pen or pencil and paper in hand and is writing a letter, or reading the letter she's just about done writing, speaking aloud. TEDDY'S volume slowly fades out as lights on Foxhole dim, but do not go out.)

TEDDY (decreasing volume) & SUZIE (increasing volume)

-you so much. More than I can say with these-

(Once lights on Foxhole are low and TEDDY'S volume is all the way down, he continues to mouth the words, as though reading to MARVIN. Both men can make slight gestures during SUZIE'S monologue.)

SUZIE (Cont.)

-pointless words on this silly paper. (pause) It all seems so wrong here, without you. (pause) But your mother's being so much nicer to me since we found out about the baby. She completely stopped criticizing my cooking which I so appreciate. But...even with the baby on the way and even with your mother being nice, I am lost without you, Teddy. (long pause) Course, I'm being such a crybaby. Complaining while you're over there fightin. (pause) I'm sorry. I guess that's all for today. I'm making dinner tonight. Your favorite. Meatloaf. Suppose I should get busy. I love you, Teddybear. Come back to me.

(Lights start to come up on Foxhole. SUZIE signs letter at the exact time TEDDY speaks her name, just as lights are going down on Front Porch.)

TEDDY

Love, Suzie.

(Smells letter, then carefully folds and puts it away during the dialogue.)

Mmmm. Suzie's meatloaf. She makes it with these mashed potatoes, but she leaves the skin on, which drives my mama crazy, but I love 'em. (pause) That Suzie. She sure can cook.

MARVIN

So you keep saying.

TEDDY

(sigh) God, what I wouldn't give for a taste.

MARVIN (joking)

Suzie or the meatloaf?

TEDDY (chastising)

Marvin! (pause) Still can't believe you don't have a girl back home. Good lookin guy like you?

MARVIN

Yes, well.

TEDDY

Yea well nothin. When we get outta here, me and Suzie, we're gonna set you up with one of her friends. She's got all kind of good lookin girlfriends.

MARVIN (chuckling)

We'll see. It's a long way from New York to Alabama.

TEDDY

You'll come visit. Meet a girl. Fall in love. Maybe even decide to stay. I tell you, it's God's country. You'll never wanna leave.

(The sound of far-off gunfire or explosion causes both TEDDY and MARVIN to grab their guns as TEDDY goes to edge, peeks over, and then sits again.)

MARVIN

That was closer. See anything?

TEDDY

Nothin but nothin. (long pause) Listen, Marv, I have a favor to ask.

MARVIN

Name it.

TEDDY

It's a big one.

MARVIN

Anything, Teddy. You know that.

TEDDY

If I don't make it outta here, you gotta take care of Suzie for me.

MARVIN

You're going make it out of here.

TEDDY

But if I don't. Please. Promise me. I'm serious, Marvin.

MARVIN

Alright. If something happens to you, I promise I'll go to Alabama and make sure Suzie's alright.

TEDDY

No, I mean marry her.

MARVIN

Marry her? Are you crazy?

TEDDY

You've seen her picture. She's a beautiful girl. She cooks, cleans. And she's real funny. Funny and smart, just like you.

MARVIN

Teddy, I can't marry Suzie.

TEDDY

Only if I die.

MARVIN

You're not going to die!

TEDDY

But if I do. Promise me you'll marry her, take care of her.

MARVIN

I can't, Teddy.

TEDDY

Well, not if you don't get on together, but I know y'all would. Y'all are perfect for each other.

MARVIN

Even then, I can't marry Suzie.

(The sound of closer gunfire or explosion causes both TEDDY and MARVIN to cover their heads and then grab their guns again as TEDDY goes to edge, peeks over, then retreats, and sits again.)

TEDDY

It's thick out there.

MARVIN

How close?

TEDDY

Still can't tell for sure. (pause) Where were we? Oh yea. I was practically giving you the perfect wife and you were busy tellin me why she wasn't good enough for you.

MARVIN

It's not that at all, Teddy.

TEDDY

I don't get it. You said you don't have anyone back home.

MARVIN

(long pause) I said I don't have a girl back home.

TEDDY

I don't get your meaning.

MARVIN

I do have someone. (long pause) (clears his throat) His name is Stewart.

TEDDY

(snorts) You're joking, right? (pause) You're not a queer. No way.

MARVIN

(loud whisper) Wait. Shhh. (long pause) Did you hear that?

TEDDY

(loud whisper) What? I didn't hear-

(The sound of far-off short burst gunfire.)

MARVIN (Cont.)

(long pause) That was further away. I'd say at least-

(The sound of up-close gunfire or explosion, flash bang of lights, smoke, and raining down of shrapnel.)

TEDDY (screaming in pain)

Ahhh!!!

MARVIN (shouting)

Teddy!

(TEDDY is writhing in pain, MARVIN slides over to him to examine.)

TEDDY (shouting)

Oh God. I'm hit. Oh Jesus.

(The sound of up-close gunfire or explosion begins again, and MARVIN protectively throws himself over TEDDY'S body. As sounds fade, MARVIN gets off of TEDDY and begins to examine him.)

MARVIN

Teddy. Ok. Oh God. Teddy? Teddy? I got you. I got you, Teddy.

(The sound of far-off gunfire as though battle has receded.)

TEDDY

Marv? Marv. I...I don't...I can't...

(MARVIN begins to tend to TEDDY'S wounds.)

MARVIN

You're ok. You're going to be just fine. Hold still.

TEDDY

Marv? Marv. It hurts. It hurts so bad...

MARVIN

Shhh...Don't think about it Teddy. Think about Suzie. (voice fading out) Just think about Suzie.

(LIGHTS quick down to black on Foxhole and slowly up to not quite bright on Front Porch where SUZIE is standing, looking distraught. You can no longer see TEDDY, but you can still hear him.)

SUZIE

Teddy?

TEDDY

Suzie?

SUZIE

Teddy, where are you? I can't find you.

TEDDY (close to crying)

Suzie. I'm here baby. I'm right here.

(LIGHTS slowly down on Front Porch and slowly up on Foxhole during dialogue.)

SUZIE

You promised you'd come back to me, Teddybear.

(As lights come up on Foxhole, MARVIN is holding TEDDY having already patched him up best he could.)

TEDDY

I'm trying. Baby, I'm trying so hard.

MARVIN

Teddy.

TEDDY

Marvin?

MARVIN

I'm here Teddy. I'm right here. Oh, thank God. Thought I lost you.

TEDDY

Can't get rid of me that easy. God damn, that hurts. (long pause)

MARVIN

Be still. Try not to move. The medics will be here soon.

TEDDY

I can't believe you're a queer.

MARVIN

I can't believe that's what comes to mind, considering you just took a direct hit. Now stay still.

TEDDY

You said you're my best friend and now I find out you're a queer?

MARVIN (starting to anger)

Teddy, save your energy.

TEDDY

So...all those times we were in the showers, and bathrooms, and barracks. All that time, you were queer then?

MARVIN

It's not something you turn on and off.

TEDDY

So, you were just lusting after me while we...

MARVIN

No, Teddy. Never.

TEDDY

(long pause) Well, what the hell does that mean?

MARVIN

It means I've never thought of you that way. I think of you like a brother.

TEDDY

I don't understand.

MARVIN

Teddy, you're not my type.

TEDDY

I'm I not your type. Why the hell not?

MARVIN

Well, for one thing, you're not a homosexual.

TEDDY

Maybe I am. You don't know.

MARVIN

I know. Now please. Be still until the medics get here.

TEDDY

(long pause) We don't have homosexuals back home.

MARVIN

Yes...You do. You just don't know who they are.

TEDDY

(long pause) I just can't believe it.

MARVIN (angry)

Can't believe what? That I'm a homosexual? Is that really what's important to you right now? Listen up...If you die, before I kill you myself that is, I'll take Suzie your letters. I'll tell her how much you loved her. I'll make sure she's ok. Believe that you idiot.

TEDDY (chuckling)

No, I was gonna say, I can't believe you don't find me attractive. I mean geez, take a look at this face, would ya?

MARVIN (chuckling)

Teddy Randolph Williams you are an Ace One Jerk.

TEDDY

(chuckling) That's fair. (long pause) Hey Marv. You know what?

MARVIN

What's that Teddy?

TEDDY

I can't really feel my legs no more. Or my hands.

MARVIN

Hold on Teddy. (shouting) Medic!

TEDDY

Tell Suzie I love her.

MARVIN

You can tell her yourself when we get you out of here. (shouting) Medic! Just hold on Teddy.

TEDDY

You don't gotta marry her but...promise me. Promise me you'll tell her I love her.

MARVIN

I'll tell her.

TEDDY

I love you too, brother.

(TEDDY goes limp in MARVIN'S arms.)

MARVIN

Teddy. Teddy? Hold on Teddy! (yelling frantically) Medic! Medic!

(Lights down fast on Foxhole and slowly up on Front Porch. SUZIE is holding baby wrapped in blanket patting and singing or talking to baby. She eventually exits screen door. OS sound of tires on a gravel and then MARVIN, dressed in civilian clothes, enters and knocks on door. SUZIE comes to door without baby, opens door, and steps out.)

SUZIE

You must be Marvin. I'm Suzie. It's such a pleasure to finally meet you.

(MARVIN extends his hand but SUZIE hugs him big and he hugs back.)

SUZIE (Cont.)

How was the trip?

MARVIN

Long. (pause) I have something for you.

(Gets the bundle of letters out and gently hands to SUZIE.)

SUZIE

Oh. (choaked up) Thank you.

(Smells the letters.)

Thank you so much.

(Hold letters to her chest. Peers beyond MARVIN, seeing someone is waiting in his car.)

You got somebody waitin on you?

MARVIN

My friend Stewart. He made the trip with me down from New York.

SUZIE

Well fetch Stewart and y'all come on in. It's about supertime and I make a mean meatloaf.

(SUZIE exits screen door and Marvin faces audience.)

MARVIN

So I've been told. (looks up to the sky) So I've been told.

END