

Tuesday Night Men
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By

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Prepared with Celtex
<http://www.celtx.com/>

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Cast of Characters

Ron:

Doug:

Joe:

Andrew:

Jake:

Billy:

OVERVIEW

Six men attend a meeting. One man arrives late and is held accountable for his actions and decisions. The discussion grows beyond being late to cover many aspects of how this man and men in general live their lives. The characters hold the following energies:

Andrew - Elder, King, he is the oldest man in the group

Ron - Warrior, he is the leader, the one who keeps focus

Joe - Earth, he is grounded, patient and observant.

Doug - Sky, he is flying in his own ego until he learns a truth about himself.

Jake - Lover, he has deep emotion when he shares.

Billy - Trickster, he is the joker, and quick with the response

Props required: Six folding chairs

Background and Suggestions

My intention for this play is that it be used as a catalyst for discussion about the Man Kind Project (MKP) and Women Within (and what ever else finds it way to the conversation). The play itself is not very long and I believe those who are not familiar with this type of dialog will have questions or comments. Conversation is the gateway to community.

In addition, although it is not necessary, I believe men who have been initiated through the MKP New Warrior Training Adventure (NWTA) will understand and have fun performing this play. To that end, I believe much of the play can be ad-libbed or improvised. I do invite those performing the play to include the "Piss Break" discussion, Doug's Fear/Anger conundrum, and the poem. I judge these to be important part of the message. In the end however, it is yours to "hold and manipulate" as need be.

My other invitation is to inject the passion and emotion that I experience in men's circles into the play. This script is really just a scaffolding from which you can paint your masterpiece. I judge audiences are familiar with men yelling and I invite the other emotions to be given equal weight.

In addition, enjoy this play and have fun with it. I believe the magic, mission, and gold that is unleashed by initiated men needs to be shared.

Finally, the men depicted in this play are fictionalized characters. Their words, however, echo in the hearts of brave men with whom I have shared many a circle. Were it not for these men holding a mirror to me and to each other, my world would not be a better, safer, and more gentle place for myself and my family. So to the past and present men who sat in my local men's group, I dedicate this play to you:

David A., Greg T., Tony T., Larry F., Rich R., Wayne L., Tom, Jim D., Pete B., Glen M., Lee R., Ryan H., Patrick M., Tom L., Phil M., Joel Z., Dick S., Lee H., Ron H., Noel N., Todd L., Bruce K., Dave K., Stan S., Fred M., Jim A., John B., Del C., Rich P., Jeff C., Tony D., Bill E., Frank G., Dan G., Charlie S., Bob W., Bill G., Todd C.

With special remembrance of Andy Rennig -- who gave his blanket so others would know the way.

And to all men of the Mankind Project who have open their hearts and changed the world -- thank you I am truly blessed.

Douglas Eadline 2009

ACT ONE ARRIVAL

Five men are sitting in a circle opened to the audience (like a horseshoe) there is an empty chair in the middle facing the audience.

bantering among members

RON

Let's get started. I see Doug is not here. Did any one hear from him today?

BILLY

Belches, Nope.

RON

Well, okay, since I'm running this show, let's get started then. Let's go around and check in and say a little about your day and say what you want to accomplish here tonight. I'll start.

So I'm Ron and I just had a long day. I getting sick and tired of stupid bosses, but more on that later. Who is next?

JOE

I'll go. My day was okay. I put in a lawn sprinkler system for a client. It only took till noon, so I decided to take the rest of the day off. I wanted to get caught up on my paper work, but I went and hit some golf balls. As far as tonight, well, I'm not sure I have anything on my mind. If something comes up I'll let you know. I'll pass it over to Andrew.

ANDREW

Thanks Joe. Must be nice working outside on a day like today. Well, I was busy today. I was inside all day teaching - well kind of. Now that school is back in session, I signed up to be a substitute to help with the boredom of retirement. Funny thing. I'm trained as an illustrator, so they call me to substitute and what to they give me, a Chemistry class of all things. How the heck was I supposed to teach that stuff. So I mumbled a few things about atoms and then proceeded to draw a very cool pictures of lab explosions. Kids liked it. Anyway, tonight, I don't know, I was questioning this whole retirement thing and how I'm feeling pretty useless lately.

BILLY

I'll go next. Today was just like any other day. Sell, Sell, Sell. Keeps me busy and employed. Having some fun with a new guy at work. You would not believe how many people never heard of a Whoopee cushion.

RON

Billy, Tell me you didn't put that stupid thing in the new guys chair.

BILLY

Of course not he would see it, and besides, everyone in the office knows about it. I put it on my chair in my cubical, which by the way is next to the new guys.

JOE

I don't need to hear any more. I'm sure the new guy is questioning his decision to take that job.

BILLY

[laughing] Oh, it was great because every one else was kind of playing along with it. Until the third time, when Joan started laughing.

RON

OK, focus up men. Who did not check in. Jake?

JAKE

I didn't. And all I have to say is, how does anyone get any work done at your place -- don't answer that because I don't want to know. My day was quiet. I just got back from a traveling late last night, so I took the day off for the most part. Did some email, should have hit some golf balls with Joe over there. So tonight, I would like to talk about my sister-in-law.

GROUP

[moaning]

BILLY

Not again. I feel like I know her.

RON

Well, you know we are not going to talk about your sister-in-law, but rather about how you interact with her. This is not a "we hate our wife, boss, mother-in-law, whatever meeting". Lord knows we could spend a lot of time going down that useless path.

Okay, then we are all here and just to be sure, anyone get a call or heard from Doug?

JOE

He called me yesterday and asked a question about his yard. He said, see to you tomorrow night.

RON

Okay, well, lets hope nothing happened. Anyone sitting on anything?

JAKE

I am. As you know I'm an accountant, I have a nice car, nice house, blah, blah, blah, You know what, you know why I'm an accountant? Remember a few months ago when I talked about being molested as child by my uncle? I think my mother knew what happened, but she never said anything. Not a Freaking thing. So I learned to control things in my life. That is why I think I'm an accountant. Everything right there it is right in front of me, all neatly ordered and I'm in control. No loose ends. The only the problem was, I tried to control everything else, my first wife, my son and two daughters an you can guess how that worked out. Freaken divorce.

BILLY

So what is the point, we know all this.

JAKE

Alright, I picked my son up last weekend to go to the movies. My sister-in-law calls me right before I get there and told me, my wife wants more support money because she new I was hiding money from her all because I'm an accountant. I tell my sister-in-law that is not the case. I'm on the phone with her for twenty minutes trying to get her to tell my wife otherwise. I hang up and I'm pissed. I actually scream in the car.

BILLY

Did you hear that Mr. control is out of control.

JAKE

Yea, I'm feeling way out of control. I pick up my son and just glared at my wife. I'm holding back world war three because I don't want to have a fight in front of my son. So at one point I look at my son, he looks like he is about to burst in to tears. All I said was "Are you ready?" He must have sensed something. It was a familiar look, like everything you thought was safe and good in the world just got rolled into a ball and thrown in the fire. It rips my spirit and burns my soul. Ah, I hate that look.

JOE

So what happened?

JAKE

I leave with my son and we go to the movies. Some cartoon movie, you know happy ending and all. I kept looking at my son, asking if he was alright, telling him that Mommy and I would be okay. He swallowed hard and said he was fine. At the end of the movie, when some blue cartoon character saves the day, I look over

(MORE)

JAKE (cont'd)
and my son has a tear on his cheek. Then I start to cry. I'm watching a freaken cartoon and I'm crying. What the heck. Thank God it was dark. I was in a knot. I am always in control, I got it down, I'm like a rock, nothing phases me. I could take whatever came at me, but when I saw my kid, Ahhhh,

RON
Breath, take a breath

JAKE
(Crying) I can't believe I hurt my son like that. That is the last thing in the world I want to do. I feel like an abuser. So I take him home and he has this blank stare. Oh God, I don't want want my life to be like this.

RON
It does not have to be that way.

JAKE
What can I do to help my son?

RON
You can help yourself. You know the drill. We can't change anyone else, we can only change ourselves.

JAKE
[sobbing] I know that, but it sometimes it is hard.

JOE
Let me interrupt you a minute. You know when you say "but" in a sentence, it negates everything you just said. My interpretation of what you just said is, "I don't know that and sometimes it is hard." Keep that in mind. What we tell ourselves is important.

JAKE
Let me try again. I know that AND it is hard.

JOE
Thank you.

RON
Do you need anything from us right now.

JAKE
[still crying] No not now. In a funny way it feels good to cry and get it out. At least it is in the open.

RON

It takes energy to keep all that sadness in. Breath. Keep breathing. If you need something, ask. You are not alone here.

BILLY

I need to add something to this. My story is that same but different.

JOE

What does that mean ?

BILLY

Well, you all know my Dad used to smack me when I was little. And, even though I got bigger and stronger I am still afraid of him. So instead of going to college, my way out of the nightmare was to quit school, work, then join the army, and show the world how tough I was. Of course, all along I was drinking my ass off and getting into fights. I even hit my dad once. Then that one day I woke up in someones house I never met and ...

RON

Okay, we all know that story, it is not story time. You see everybody in here has a story, some of them tell it more than we would like [looks at Billy] and we want to help you find the truth behind the story. Because once we shine some light on the truth, the wound you feel can start to heal.

ANDREW

And you can't do it yourself, at least I have never seen anyone do it. And the other important thing is [interrupted]

Doug enters

DOUG

Sorry I'm late.

ANDREW

Nice to see you, hold on and let me finish my sentence. And the other thing is healing the past does not come from blaming parents or anyone else for that matter. Just the opposite, forgiving works better, but, I mean "and", that is another topic.

DOUG

Are you done Andrew?

ANDREW

Yes

DOUG

What about you Billy? I heard you talking when I came in.

BILLY

Not really, but I lost my train of thought when you came in. Let's move on, maybe I'll come back to it later.

DOUG

I said I was sorry.

BILLY

Dude, sorry I'm late does not cut it here. Why are you late?

RON

Let him check in first, then well get to the late issue.

DOUG

Thanks, so I had a long day. I had a customer call and ask me to talk to his boss about our product. It was really nothing the client could not have done themselves, but this guys boss calls me this morning and my whole day is shot. I was working late and lost track of time. Duty calls. So I'm pissed at my boss. I need to vent about him tonight.

RON

Thanks for checking in and you were getting into a story. Seem like it is story telling night. So why were you late?

DOUG

I told you, It was a business thing. When my job calls, I have to jump. It is that simple.

RON

Not really. When we decided to meet here tonight, you like everyone else agreed to be here and start at 7PM. Right?

DOUG

Well sure, but it was kind of an emergency.

BILLY

An emergency, working late is an emergency. Did you boss say work late?

DOUG

Well no, but I had to...

BILLY

Look dude, An emergency is when the ambulance shows up. An emergency is unexpected. A call from a client, that is just a story. I don't trust a word you are saying. So why were you late?

JAKE

Me either.

DOUG

First, it was my customer's boss, the one who writes the check. An second I had a lot to do. Stop asking me that question.

ANDREW

Maybe they keep asking you that question because you have not given them an answer?

DOUG

I'm going to leave. [gets up, is angry] I don't need this shit! I was late, I was too busy to call. It is that simple. Stop harping on me.

RON

Okay, everyone take a breath. Doug are you willing to let us help you with this?

DOUG

With what? Why can't everyone just leave me alone.

RON

With the fact that you broke a commitment to this group. And, when we started this group we all agreed we were tired of the way we as men treat each other and those that are important to us. The lies, the bullshit, the lack of commitment, the slimy backstabbing behavior we all know and seem to love. We decide enough is enough. Among ourselves at least we would do it differently. Do you remember?

DOUG

Well yes, but ...

RON

There are no "buts" or small things. Coming to this meeting late is important. Forgetting a commitment you made no matter how small sends a message. And it is these messages of "I don't care, I want attention, something else is more important than you" that rot the foundations of our relationships. And sometimes we are late or forget, then we pick up the phone and let people know. How were we to know you were not in a bad accident on your way here tonight. We are here for you bro. Try and remember that.

DOUG

[sits back down and sighs] Well, Okay, but I don't know what else to say.

JOE

Take the "but" out.

RON

We will get to that. I invite you to stay. It's time for a piss break. We'll come back to this, but right now I got to put out a fire.

BILLY

Me too.

ACT TWO PISS BREAK

Everyone is gone Doug and Andrew are sitting in circle

ANDREW

Been pretty intense, how are you holding up?

DOUG

Oh I'm fine. I can take it.

ANDREW

You need to take a leak?

DOUG

No, I haven't been drinking water all night like the rest of those guys.

ANDREW

Me either. So, let me ask you something. What do you want to see happen here?

DOUG

I want to get on with the meeting. I was late big deal, I had to take care of myself.

ANDREW

Well, that may be your reality, but the rest of the group seems to see something else. Maybe something that you don't or can't see.

DOUG

Oh don't start with that shadow shit again.

ANDREW

You know, I'm surprised that no one asked you "what is at risk?" for you to own your behavior.

DOUG

You know, I never understood that question "What is at risk". Here is what is at risk, if I don't do my job, I get fired. It is that simple. These guys want to play tough guy with me, break me down, show that they are superior. They can be real assholes at times.

ANDREW

Why not speak to that then. You were invited to address this issue.

DOUG

Because I would rather fight than do all this touchy feely mind game stuff.

ANDREW

"You would rather" or it is "easier" [Pause]

ANDREW

So what do you risk by telling these men how you feel, you know the mad, sad, glad, or scared thing?

DOUG

I don't know, nothing. What are those feelings again?

ANDREW

Mad, sad, glad, and scared, those are the core feelings. What is going to happen if you tell them the "truth" ?

DOUG

I don't know. The truth about what?

ANDREW

How many years you been coming to this meeting?

DOUG

Two years, maybe more.

ANDREW

So why do you come?

DOUG

Because it helps, I'm not as angry as I used to be, I can dump stuff here, it is safe.

ANDREW

And why is it safe?

DOUG

Because, for the first time I found some men I can trust. Not all the time, but most of the time.

ANDREW

And what makes you trust us, me for instance?

DOUG

Because you are honest, you let everyone know how you are really feeling, and you own your shit. I mean, I saw you cry when your father died. Not just cry, I mean you were wailing. It actually scared me a bit. It was when I first joined the group. I never saw a man cry like that.

ANDREW

But those were my feelings, my touchy feely stuff.

DOUG

I know and in very strange way I trusted you more after you cried. I thought I know this guy better some how, I feel more safe with him.

ANDREW

So turn it around, so how am I to trust you if you are holding back your feelings? Your truth.

DOUG

I don't know.

ANDREW

I judge that you do know, because you just told me, but, er and, you are at a place where logic lights the road and emotion has setup detours.

DOUG

What the hell does that mean. (Loudly) You and your metaphors, poems, and all that crap, just tell it like it is. You are starting to piss me off.

ANDREW

Now we are getting some place.

DOUG

[anger] There you go you bastard, just tell me what do you mean.

ANDREW

Okay. Here is the way I see it. You are afraid to share how you really feel. It is easier to put up a front and blame others for the things you don't want to do. These things, they scare you, rather, they scared you when you were child. In one sense, you were wounded and the wounds never healed. Now every time something rubs against those wounds, you feel pain. Naturally, you try to avoid exposing your wounds. Now this might work for a while, for a child, but as you grow up it deprives the rest of the world, and those that love you, of one important thing.

DOUG

What is that?

ANDREW

You. The real you. The worst possible "you" you can imagine that people still love and welcome with open arms. Do you remember that person?

DOUG

Kind of. Besides, that is easy for you to say. You have loving wife and family.

ANDREW

I would not assume that it has always been that way. It takes work to build a relationship. And the road is often bumpy, you know after you get done playing house, you still have to live with someone -- your partner. The important thing is that my wife and I used to bump into each others wounds and then all hell would break loose. Now, with some wounds healed, we can get to really know each other. I'm not sure the process ever ends, because we still have arguments, but in the end we usually "own our stuff" and don't hold on to any resentments. I like to think I'm a better husband, father, friend than I used to be.

DOUG

Oh come on, you seem to have it all together.

ANDREW

Don't make the mistake of putting me on pedestal. I'm not Yoda or some kind of Zen dude. Just ask the kid I hit while driving and talking on my cell phone. I still have to deal with that legal issue. The kid is fine and I should have known better. There are shadowy things about me I cannot see -- which is why I come here. It is the only place I found that helps.

DOUG

I thought I was healing my wounds by reading some books and seeing a counselor, and of course coming to this group.

ANDREW

You are and there is another piece. Many of our wounds cannot be seen by us -- they are in our shadow behind us. They are only visible when you have someone holding up a "mirror" for you. Like this group for instance.

DOUG

Oh here comes more of that shadow stuff again.

ANDREW

Yea, it always seems to come back to that in some way. It is kind of like, if we could step out of our skin and watch how we interact with people we could learn a lot about what is going on inside of us.

DOUG

Next you are going to tell me that is what the group is supposed to do.

ANDREW

Well, yes, the right group. You need men like we have here that can "see without ego". It is hard to do, and

(MORE)

ANDREW (cont'd)

we are no where near perfect. Our wounds may still get in the way as well. That is why a group is important. A group can be kind of self correcting in that sense. I am constantly amazed at the magic this group holds. And, as our wounds heal, we can use what we learn to help others. It is kind of like a gift to be passed on and on.

DOUG

I suppose. I sure don't feel that way. I wish it were easier.

ANDREW

Well, if were easy we would have all done it by now. If it were as easy as beating up the bad guy and saving the girl, we could all be hero's like in the movies.

DOUG

Seems to always involve a gun that never runs out of bullets, some exploding cars, and a bad guy who likes to dress in black (chuckles)

ANDREW

You noticed that to, same story different players. I'm going to let you in on a little secret. All the "macho action movies" you see, all the "come from behind underdog save world" movies that we all love, well you can have that and more.

DOUG

Yea right, I'm was going to be an international spy, but I chose plastics instead.

ANDREW

Ah, but exploding cars don't really change the world, people who change themselves change the world. Here is an example. Right now, tonight, I judge you have a chance to do something that scares you.

DOUG

What, what am I afraid of, I'm just pissed.

ANDREW

Fear likes to hide behind anger. Notice, I said "I judge", that is my mirror, how I see it. Just hear me out. If after you listen, you don't like what I say, ignore it. But listen first. Listen first.

ANDREW

Everyday you have a chance to be a victim or a hero. You may not know it, but it is there. Everyday, even on Sunday. If you want to take the easy way, the way that

(MORE)

ANDREW (cont'd)

keeps you away from being afraid, then blame someone or something for your problems or hide. If you blame someone or hide you don't have to be responsible. You are "off the hook". You know all stuff you do, but really don't want to do. Forgot your wife's birthday, blame work, drank to much last weekend, blame the your need to blow off some steam. You get the idea. You deserver special treatment because it is not your fault. Poor little boy.

DOUG

Sounds like a four year old.

ANDREW

Exactly, only the difference is a four year old child should not be responsible, but a thirty something year old man should be. Now on to the good part. Instead of being a victim, the other way to live your life is like a hero. Just like in the moves. But instead of fighting the bad guy, you fight the part of you that says "no it is too scary". You be the hero. When a group of men shines some light on that piece of you that you never see, you have a chance to be a hero. What plays out in this circle, being late for instance, plays out in your life in other ways. Now is you chance, overcome come those impossible odds and be a hero, "live where you fear to live", be a warrior, a hero. Let us see the real you. Nobody is going anywhere.

DOUG

Does it really work like that?

ANDREW

[With passion] I have seen it happen over and over again. Brave men who travel to the brink and return as hero's. The first step is you need to make a choice. Right now, tonight, you have a chance to stand up, draw your line in the sand and say "not today." I know, I know I get a little over dramatic about this stuff. Comes with age I suppose. Just do it. Just do it.

DOUG

Here comes the crew back from the can. I'm ready.

ACT THREE DEPARTURE

Men sit in the circle, look at each other

RON

So where were we?

Doug stands up clears his throat, looks around

DOUG

You want to really know why I am late? I will tell you why. It scares me and I'll do it anyway. Last night I slept on the sofa because I got pissed off and yelled at my son. I don't even remember what he did. Then my wife told me to calm down and I went off on her. Then we had a big fight. So I got up this morning and felt really bad. I tried to apologize but they would not even look at me. Then I go into work and guess what? That promotion I was promised last month, it went to someone else and I know why. That asshole boss of mine decides at the last minute that I'm too much of a hot head. [Yelling] What an asshole. So I go back to my desk jumping all over Internet job sites. I'll show all of them. I'm going to find another job make more money and everyone will like me. Next thing I know, I'm late for the meeting. So it is not my fault. Well, maybe I should not have yelled at my son.

ANDREW

Are you a victim or a hero?

DOUG

I am a God damn hero. I'm going to show them.

BILLY

You sound like a victim.

DOUG

I am not a victim. [Loud]

BILLY

Sounds like everyone else is calling the shots in your life. You seem to be reacting. What has to happen before you take responsibility for yourself? Before your wife leaves you or your son never wants to see you again.

DOUG

Don't say that.

BILLY

Say what.

DOUG
They can't leave me.

BILLY
What happens when your wife and son leave you?

DOUG
I, I [looks down starts to tear up], don't even say that. [now angry]

RON
Stay with that. What is going on?

DOUG
I don't want my wife and son to leave me?

RON
Yea, what if they do?

DOUG
I'll be alone. [tears again] No one loves me.

RON
Does anyone love you?

JOE
Can you think of anyone?

RON
Hold up, too many questions. Does anyone love you?

DOUG
I doubt it.

RON
Let me suggest something. Are you angry at people because they don't love you?

DOUG
Maybe. I never thought of it like that.

RON
Is there anything behind the anger?

DOUG
I'm just really scared I'll be alone. And sad.

RON
So when you judge your son, or your wife, or your boss, or any one else does not listen to you, what happens?

DOUG
I get (pause), I guess I get afraid because that means they don't love me and I will be alone.

JOE
Take the guess out.

DOUG
I'm afraid they don't love me. [begins crying]

RON
You are doing nice work. So how does the fear come out?

DOUG
What do you mean?

RON
When you are afraid do you tell anyone?

DOUG
No.

RON
What do you do?

DOUG
I get angry.

RON
And then what happens?

DOUG
They go away [pause, looks up puzzled] Just what I don't want them to do. It is like I'm dammed if do and damned if I don't. I hate living like that.

RON
I hear you bro, stay with me, and when they go away, what happens?

DOUG
Then I really get pissed, but I'm really scared I suppose.

JOE
Take the suppose out.

DOUG
Wow. Is that what I do? I NEVER realized that. Holy shit.

RON

So here is what I heard you say. "You get scared that people will leave you, so you get angry and your anger pushes them away."

DOUG

That is what do, I guess.

JOE

Take the guess part out.

DOUG

That is what I do. Why so picky about the words?

JOE

Because these are the messages we tell ourselves and others. When you say "I guess", "maybe", or any other wiggle words you are not owning what you say. And, if any of you men hear me wiggling with my words, tell me because I do the same thing.

BILLY

Me to, Yea, I guess, maybe, I will kind of.

JOE

[in jest] You Bastard.

RON

Okay hold up guys. Doug we can work on the fear and anger another time. This is an important first step and I judge a truth about who you are. For now, lets finish this up. So why were you late?

FRANK

A truth that you may not have known about yourself.

DOUG

(laughs) Not that question again.

RON

Yea that question. What is the TRUTH about why you were late?

DOUG

I was late because I got scared.

RON

How about this, "When I get scared ..." finish the sentence

DOUG

When I get scared, I get angry

RON
And ...

DOUG
When I get scared I get angry and push people away.

RON
Thank you. So when you came here tonight were you angry?

DOUG
Yes.

RON
And by coming late, you tried to push us away, to divert what was really going on for you.

DOUG
Yea, [louder] YES, I never looked at it that way.

RON
Is this how you want to live your life?

DOUG
No, it sucks and I'm not happy.

ANDREW
How many men trust what Doug is saying right now, raise your hands.

ALL RAISE HANDS

Look around. Do you fell the difference?

DOUG
Oh my gosh yes. I feel like I just took a load of my back. I feel like there is way out of this mess called my life.

RON
You did take a load off bro, I can see it in your face.

ANDREW
You just took the hero's path -- the hard way. It would have been easy to just get pissed and leave, but you took the hard path. It is not easy to look in the mirror or to hold it up like these men just did. You have to love someone quite a bit to not walk away. Nice work -- everyone. You inspire me. And I don't see your life as a mess.

BILLY
Me either.

JOE

Wow.

JAKE

You are a brave man.

RON

You did my work for me bro, that is my dance as well.

ANDREW

Oh, and one other thing, how many men here love Doug and are not going away no matter what?

ALL RAISE HANDS

Look around, take it in. I doubt these men are going anywhere. It would have been easy for us, well for me, to just run away from your anger. I would have in the past. We, I mean, I am doing it different. I need to remember to speak for myself.

JAKE

What he said. I like to think we are a new kind of warrior. We fight from here [touches heart]

DOUG

I could sure use a hug.

BILLY

How about a group hug.

DOUG

Just what I had in mind.

GROUP HUGS

DOUG

It seems like I wasted all the time tonight.

JAKE

I would not call that a waste of time. It is more like that is what we are here for. Thanks for showing me something about you and me. I do the same thing man.

BILLY

Me too.

RON

You learned a truth about yourself. Not many men are brave enough to do that.

DOUG

Or, brave enough to hold up a hard loving mirror. Now I remember why we are here.

JAKE

I want to call everyone's attention to the time. It is getting late and I have to get going. Plus we agreed to end on time.

ANDREW

Wait, I have a poem that I think sums up the evening.

BILLY

You and those poems.

JAKE

Oh come on I like the poems, some of them, maybe I guess. [laughter]

BILLY

Here is poem, The pay toilet by B. Movement, "here I sit lonely hearted paid a dime and only farted..." (laughter)

JAKE

A dime, where the hell do you live? (laughter)

JOE

For how much you shit it should be bank loan.

RON

Alright focus up, let's hear the poem and close the meeting. We will go around and checkout, then Andrew you read the poem, how is that.

ANDREW

Works for me

RON

Let's check out. I'm leaving with joy, I'm out.

BILLY

I'm checking out with joy as well, anybody have a dime I can borrow?

JAKE

I'll give you a dime, bend over. I'm out. I love you men.

JOE

I'm out and I'm full of hope.

DOUG

I am out, I am grateful and blessed. Thank you men. I would be honored to put the chairs away tonight.

ANDREW

Be my guest. So here is the poem, it is called Escape
by D. H. Lawrence

When we get out of the glass bottles of our ego,
and when we escape
like squirrels turning in the cages of our personality
and get into the forests again,
we shall shiver with cold and fright
but things will happen to us
so that we don't know ourselves.

Cool, unlying life will rush in,
and passion will make our bodies taut with power,
we shall stamp our feet with new power
and old things will fall down,
we shall laugh, and institutions will curl up
like burnt paper.

BILLY

Can we go now, I want to escape. [hugs, laughter,
banter]

*Doug is left standing tall happy, holding some
chairs. He stacks several, then holding a chair
looks directly at the audience and recites a
personalized version of the poem, with emotion.*

When I get out of the glass bottles of MY ego,
and when I escape
like a squirrel turning in the cages of MY personality
and get into the forests again,
I shiver with cold and fright
AND things happen to ME
so that I don't know ME.

Cool, unlying life rushes in,
and passion makes MY body taut with power,
I stamp MY feet with new power
and old things fall down,
I laugh, and institutions
curl up like burnt paper.

*Lifting the chair above his head and shouts with
joy*

YES! YES! YES!

as he walks off stage

EPILOGUE:

GROUP LEADER

Comes with cast, and reads/says something similar to the following:

If the dialog you witnessed in this play resonates with you, we invite you to start where many of us did with the New Warrior Training Adventure Weekend. (<http://www.mkp.org>). The weekend is part of the Man Kind Project, an organization devoted to Changing the World One Man a Time. There is also an organization for woman called Woman Within. (<http://www.womanwithn.org>) When the **hero that lives you is ready**, brave men and women are waiting.

Thanks for listening. Any question or comments?