

NUKE THE WORLD

by Herbert M. Midgley
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TIME: Present

PLACE: In the South

CHARACTERS:

WENDY – A pretty girl in her late 20's. She was raised in a small Texas town and has good morals. She has on a nice maroon dress, that isn't too flashy for her old town ethics.
BERT – A regular looking guy in his early 30's. He was raised in a small Texas town and has good morals. He is dressed all in a black suit.

Playwright's note. Why burn the bridge when you can nuke the world?

WENDY is sitting on the ground sobbing. BERT sees her and walks past her, then goes back and kneels besides her.

BERT

Miss, you okay?

WENDY

No dude. I'm not okay.

BERT

Do you need any help miss?

WENDY

Dude, I don't need nothing from nobody. Just leave me alone.

BERT

It's not in my nature to leave someone in need. Do you want to share your pain with me?

WENDY

You wouldn't....understand dude. No one would.

BERT

(BERT sits on the ground near WENDY) My name is Bert, what's yours?

WENDY

My mom used to call me Wendy, but my friends called me 'Commotion'.

BERT

Well I'll call you Wendy. I always liked that name. If I ever had a daughter it would be between Sera and Wendy. I like the name Heather too.

WENDY

Dude, don't screw up your kids life by calling her Wendy. All she would get is dumb Peter Pan jokes until she comes up with a nickname.

BERT

I always liked my name. No one is named Bert much anymore. It's cool being unique.

WENDY

Well dude, I'm pretty unique. Special too. That's what my daddy use to tell me.

BERT

We're all special in some way. I'm glad that you've found what makes you special Wendy. Most people don't during their life times, and most not by your age.

WENDY

Well dude, it's been real talking to you. But I have to be leaving now. I have an important date to keep.

BERT

I hope that you'll have a fun time out. Enjoy yourself while you can.

WENDY

What about you? Do you have a wife or something?

BERT

No, I never got married. (Beat) Never found the right girl I guess.

WENDY

Dude, have you ever been in love.

BERT

(Thinks) One time...no two times. Yeah twice.

WENDY

Well dude you're lucky, I've never been in love. I've never even liked a guy before....

BERT

What's his name Wendy?

WENDY

Can you believe it's Peter? Man, Peter and Wendy, together once again! Ahh!

BERT

Did you a have a pet named Tinkerbelle?

WENDY

No dude, that's sappy. (Beat) Well me and Peter had a pretty good thing going. I was just out of an abusive relationship and he never had a girlfriend longer than a month. We made a great couple. Doing whatever we wanted, you know, kicking our heels up and living the good life. But then Peter did what all men do to me in the end.

BERT

Make you cry.

WENDY

No dude, that's the end result. He found a cuter and fluffier girl and kicked me out of the apartment. (Sobbing) And broke my little heart.

BERT

I bet there wasn't a piece of furniture that wasn't broken by the time you were thrown out of that apartment.

WENDY

(Laughing) I think that I might've broken one of his ribs too.

BERT

No fiery like a women scorn.

WENDY

Dude you had better believe it. You know, I feel a bit better talking to you. Dude are you some type of doctor or something?

BERT

No ma'am, I'm a musician. I sing and play guitar at some fancy Italian joint uptown.

WENDY

Oh, I've never been inside a real restaurant. Only Dairy Queens, you know other fast food places. I like Whataburger too!

BERT

You're not missing much. The food tastes a bit better at ten times the cost. However I've gotten use to eating at them. I eat out almost every day now.

WENDY

You rich or something dude?

BERT

(Laughs) Or something.

WENDY

My dad had a lot of money. But he never gave any of it to me. He even wanted me to work my way through college. I couldn't get no financial aid or nothing because he made way too much money. And when I told them that at the school all they did was look at me funny. No one cared. Dude, no one cares about anything. (Beat) I wish the whole planet was nuked! I just don't care about anything any more.

BERT

Nuke the world, huh? Burn every bridge and never look back. Wendy that's no way to go through life. Trust me, running away from your problems doesn't solve anything. It only delays the inevitable. One can only run away so long before you have to stop and catch your breath.

WENDY

I like to run, back when I was a kid. I used to like to do a lot of things when I was a dumb kid. You know that I was pretty good painter in High School. Not that my dad approved of my plans to be a painter. He wanted another lawyer in the family.

BERT

A painter. I knew that you were the artsy type when I first saw you. (Snaps his fingers) A painter, you could've been a poet too. I thought that you were a poet.

WENDY

How did you know that I was the artsy type?

BERT

I could see your tormented soul a mile away. See all artists, musicians, dancers, writers and actors, that are any good, are all tormented in some way. It must be because they can't cope with life and they won't kill themselves.

WENDY

Suicide. You ever think about it dude?

BERT

Not for a really long time. I guess we all have at one point thought about ending it all. Thankfully most never go through with it.

WENDY

What about the ones that do?

BERT

I wish them peace on their journey.

WENDY

Dude, you know why I'm sitting here, waiting on?

BERT

The ice cream truck?

WENDY

(Laughs) No dude, I've been waiting for a big rig to drive by so that I could jump in front of it.

BERT

That bad, huh?

WENDY

Even worst dude. (Starts to sob.)

BERT

Time...heals all wounds Wendy. That pain will go away one day. Never completely, but enough that you'll stop noticing it after awhile.

WENDY

(Stops sobbing) What was her name dude?

BERT

Tiffany. (Beat) You know that I could add her name into every song. I thought about her that much. Every day for years.

WENDY

How long until you stop singing her name?

BERT

A half of decade. I still do it from time to time, but not near as much as I used to.

WENDY

Can you see her face?

BERT

(Thinks) Not so much her face as the feelings and emotion that I have about her. It's been a long time since I've seen her for real, that in many ways she's the lost chord that I never play. Only the vestiges remain, nothing concrete.

WENDY

Tore you heart out.

BERT

Worst. She tore out my soul. Little by little, I got it back. So will you Wendy.

WENDY

I don't want my soul back. I never want to feel happy again. All I want is a black cloud around me. And for everyone to feel as crummy as I do.

BERT

Everybody does. Some can hide it easier than others. Some can't hide it all. But everybody feels crummy. Why do you think they're so many bars and drug dealers? People want to escape their pain. And they're willing to pay or do anything to make that pain disappear. Why else would anyone put poison into their bodies?

WENDY

Dude you make it sound like humanity isn't worth living.

BERT

I've had some thoughts on that issue lately. (Beat) A lot of thoughts about it. But then I put on my best suit and walk out and do something positive. Like talking to a fellow artsy soul talk about their problems. Trying to make her smile.

WENDY

Thanks dude, I do feel better. A lot better. I'm going to get up (She stands up) and go do something positive with my life! Thanks! (She kisses him on the cheek.) You're one cool dude, daddy-o! I hope you find that dream girl one day.

BERT

Thanks. Bye Wendy, and remember the sky is always blue when you need it to be. Have a great life kid. I hope you live it to its fullest.

(BERT and WENDY exit at different sides of the stage. The lights turn red and there is a loud explosion. BERT and WENDY enter the stage.)

WENDY

News flash. Terrorists set off a suitcase nuclear device at exactly 11:42 am in a small East Texas town of 30,000 people. Everyone that was in the downtown area within a radius of one half mile was killed instantly. That with the radiation, over two thirds have died.

BERT

The terrorists could've picked a bigger target, however their intent was to strike fear in the hearts and minds of Americans. To show they could strike at any place and any time.

WENDY

The nation is still in shock over the lives lost in this horrible act of terrorism.

BERT

The government still wants to assure that no matter what happens to us, go ahead and live your lives. We're sure that's what the victims of this tragedy would've wanted. For us to continue to.....live.

(BOTH exit together. The Red light turns to Blue.)

THE END?