

Acting Lessons

By A.C. Williams

Cast:

Melissa
Maddy

Props/Set:

A script

(MELISSA enters and stands midstage, holding her script. She clears her throat and takes a deep breath.)

MELISSA, *almost monotone*: Romeo! Romeo! Wherefore art thou, Romeo! (*Her shoulders drop.*) No. That's just not right. (*She clears her throat again and repeats, over dramatically.*) Romeo! Romeo! Wherefore art thou, Romeo?

(MADDY enters and listens on the side, wincing at MELISSA's attempts to be dramatic.)

MELISSA: No, no, no. It's just not right. (*Readies herself and screams*) Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou, Romeo?

MADDY, *approaching*: Melissa. Melissa! Stop. Stop.

MELISSA, *pleasantly surprised*: Oh, hey, Maddy.

MADDY: What are you doing?

MELISSA: I'm rehearsing for the play I'm going to be in. It's Shakespeare.

MADDY: You're murdering it.

MELISSA, *sadly*: I know. Isn't it awful? I'm terrible at acting.

MADDY: Well—uh—Yeah.

MELISSA, *scowling*: Thanks.

MADDY: Hey, you said it.

MELISSA, *sighing*: I'm just not a good actress. (*She straightens as an idea comes to her.*) Hey! Maddy! You're a *great* actress! From a family of great performers!

MADDY: Well—uh—Yeah. I am.

MELISSA: Could you help me?