

**A TEN MINUTE**  
by Tyler Salow

CHARACTERS.

[1]: Starts on stage on a couch.

[2] : Answers the door.

SETTING.

A couch sits to the side watching a TV.

There's a phone on the table near to the couch.

NOTE.

Every time the lights go out, the show starts again. Entrances are the same, positions are the same. *Everything.*

*“All of this has happened before, and it will all  
happen again.”*

*-J.M. Barrie*

*[A doorbell rings. Lights up to reveal [1] sitting on the couch watching something on the TV. [2] enters and crosses stage.]*

[2].  
I'll get it!

*[[2] exits stage and the lights go out. A doorbell rings. Lights up to reveal [1] sitting on the couch watching something on the TV. [2] enters again and crosses stage.]*

[2], *a little confused*.  
I'll get it.

*[[2] exits stage and the lights go out. A doorbell rings. Lights up to reveal [1] sitting on the couch watching something on the TV. [2] enters again and crosses stage.]*

[2], *very confused*.  
I'll... get it.

*[[2] exits stage slowly and the lights go out. A doorbell rings. Lights up to reveal [1] sitting on the couch watching something on the TV. [2] enters again and crosses stage.]*

[2].  
I'll get I-

*[[2] freezes.]*

[1], *confused*.  
Um?

[2], *very lost and confused*.  
UMMMM?

[1].  
Are you going to get that?

[2.]  
WHAT?

[1].  
The door? Are you going to get the door?

[2].  
Are you-

[1].  
Fine! I'll get it.

*[[1] exits stage and the lights go out. A doorbell rings. Lights up to reveal [1] sitting on the couch watching something on the TV. [2] enters again and immediately makes eye contact with [1]. They both see what's happening. [1] runs across stage. The lights go out. A doorbell rings. Lights up to reveal [1] sitting on the couch watching something on the TV. [2] runs across the stage. Lights out. A doorbell rings. Lights up to reveal [1] sitting on the couch watching something on the TV. [2] enters again]*

[2].  
AHHH!

[1].  
AHH!

[2].  
AHHH!

*[[1] gets up to leave and heads towards the doorbell.]*

[1].  
I'm gonna go get help.

[2].  
WAIT. Go out the other door.

[1].  
Smart idea.

*[[1] exits through the opposite door. The lights go out. A doorbell rings. Lights up to reveal [1] sitting on the couch watching something on the TV. [2] enters again.]*

[1].  
WHAT DO WE DO???

[2].  
Maybe we can get whoever is out there to come in.

[1].  
Is the door unlocked?

[2].  
I don't know! I can't make it. I exit the room and then I re-enter the room.

[1].  
Maybe we can call someone?

*[[1] approaches the phone and dials 911.]*

[1].  
It's not ringing.

[2].  
Well, who'd you call?

[1].  
911.

[2].  
And it's not ringing?

[1].  
That's what I said.

*[[1] looks at the phone and realizes- it's not plugged in! There's no wires, or cables, or anything running anywhere.]*

[1].  
It's... not plugged in?

[2].  
What do you mean?

[1].  
There's no cables.

[2].  
No cables?

[1].  
That's what I said!

[2].  
We've used this before right?

[1].  
Uh.... Yes. No... I don't know.

[2].  
Check- um- turn the TV on. Check the news.

[1].  
I can't find the remote.

[2].  
Then do it on the TV!

*[[1] pushes buttons on the TV, but guess what?  
Nothing happens! Because it's not actually  
plugged in!]*

[1].  
I was just watching something!

[2].  
Were you?

[1].  
I mean, I thought I was!

[2].  
Oh, if you were, then why isn't it plugged in?

[1].  
But- But I was- I could've sworn-

[2].  
No- You weren't.

[1].

Can- can we get out the window? If we can just get outside, maybe we can get help.

*[[1] start to exit through the stairs into the house- but then sees the audience. And slowly steps back to the stage, visibly frightened.]*

[2].

Uh- did it work?

[1], *hushed.*

Come here.

[2].

Why-

[1], *hushed.*

JUST. *Just look.*

*[[2] approaches and starts down the stairs. And then sees the audience. And backs back up.]*

[2], *scared.*

*Who were they?*

[1].

*I don't know!*

[2].

Were they watching? Waiting?

[1].

Are they the ones who took the phone cable?

[2].

I don't know-

[1].

Go back.

[2].

No?

[1].  
Ask them if they know what's going on!

[2].  
A-

*[[2] begrudgingly makes his way back into the audience. But is too scared to say anything to anyone. He notices, pinned to the wall, a piece of paper displaying information about a virtual lobby. He grabs it. Then, he notices an exit sign above a door and sneaks out it. Lights out. A doorbell rings. Lights up to reveal [1] sitting on the couch watching something on the TV. [2] enters again, but has the piece of paper.]*

[1].  
What did you do?

[2].  
I saw a door that said exit and so I went out it.

[1].  
But did you ask them?

[2].  
Them?

[1].  
The people! The ones out there.

*[[1] notices the paper in [2]'s hand.]*

[1].  
What's that?

[2].  
Uh- I don't know.

*[They look at the paper.]*

[1].  
What's a virtual lobby?

[2].  
Do you have your phone?



[1].  
I- uh- lemme check.

*[[1] whips out a cellphone.]*

[1].  
Here, let me-

*[[1] scans the QR code.]*

[1], *reading*.  
IO-WA? There's a lot of things. Um. Which one-

*[A beat. [2] looks over the phone.]*

[2].  
Ten Minute? That's- It feels like every ten minutes everything resets. I mean-

*[[1] clicks something.]*

[1].  
That's you!

[2].  
And you!

[1].  
It says your name is two.

[2].  
That's silly. It's-

*[A beat. A thought.]*

[2].  
It's...

[1].  
What is your name?

[2].  
I don't-

[1].  
Are you a part of this-

[2].  
Well it says your name is one.

[1].  
Well! At least one is a name!

[2].  
It's not! Are you a part of this?

[1].  
No! I'm not!

[2].  
What's your name then?

[1].  
That's stupid-

[2].  
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?!

[1].  
WHAT'S YOURS?!

[2].  
I'M NOT A PART OF THIS!

[1].  
GET AWAY FROM ME!

[2].  
NO YOU GET AWAY FROM ME!

[1].  
LET ME OUT!

[2].  
YOU LET ME OUT!

[1].  
YOU MONSTER! YOU LEFT FIRST. YOU STARTED THIS WHOLE THING!!

[2].  
I'M THE ONE STUCK WITH YOU!

[1].  
IF I GET RID OF YOU, MAYBE I'LL BE FREED.

[2].  
YOU'RE INSANE!

*[A fight ensues, resulting in [1] being knocked unconscious. [2] is filled with regret.]*

[2].  
No... No... this was- this was supposed to... no. Come back. Come back to me. Let me out. I'm- I'm sorry-...

*[[2] looks to the door and knows what must be done. [2] stands and exits slowly through the door. Lights out. A doorbell rings. Lights up to reveal [1] sitting on the couch watching something on the TV. [2] enters and crosses stage.]*

[2].  
I'll get it!

*[[2] exits stage and the lights go out.]*

*End of play.*