

A Lovely Day for a Boating Trip
(and to escape your own wedding)

A LOVELY DAY FOR A BOATING TRIP (AND TO ESCAPE YOUR OWN WEDDING)

Synopsis: Two best friends, one wedding and only one means of escape. A bride will test the limits of friendship and learn some hard truths in the process.

A twenty five minute piece for two characters.

Characters:

Sadie - the bride. Spontaneous and emotional. Not the best with following through.

Gwen - the bestfriend and Maid of Honour. Clever and determined. She is the Ying to the bride's Yang.

Setting:

The play is set on a beach at an island resort. There is a single row boat in the middle of the stage, perched on the edge of the beach. It has a large blanket stuffed in the front, as well as a 'just married sign' and various paraphernalia attached to it.

SCENE ONE

The play begins with a panicking Sadie running on stage wearing a wedding dress. She heads straight towards the row boat. After quickly hitching up her dress and checking she hasn't been followed, she tries to push it forward into the water. It won't budge.

SADIE

Come on. Come on!

She tries again, but it still won't move.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Why...wont...you...move!?

Suddenly the blanket in the boat lifts up, revealing Gwen in her bridesmaids dress, hair all a mess, half in curlers.

GWEN

Because you're not going anywhere.

SADIE

Holy shit, Gwen! What are you doing? You scared the life out of me.

GWEN

I'm stopping you from making the biggest mistake of your life.

SADIE

You look like a witch.

GWEN

Thank you.

SADIE

No, you really do.

GWEN

Well, excuse me for not having perfect hair and makeup. But some of us had to rush out and rescue YOU.

SADIE

By jumping out of a boat?

GWEN

By blocking your only option of escape.

SADIE

I wasn't-

She is cut off with a look that says don't even try.

SADIE (CONT'D)

(pause)

How did you even know I'd be here?

GWEN

Oh, give me some credit. "Oh no! I have nothing for my something blue. I just need to go to the gift shop quickly". Rubbish. You were running with your train between your legs.

SADIE

I don't have something blue. It's bad luck.

GWEN

So is running away! But now you can't, because there's no way out.

SADIE

I'll just rent another boat.

GWEN

Really? From where? As far as I can see the resort boats are all booked up this afternoon.

SADIE

But...but there's meant to be heaps of them?

GWEN

Oh, I know.

SADIE

(catching on)

You!

GWEN

Yes me. And you can pay me back once your married.

SADIE

Oh, I'll pay you back alright. Now give me that boat.

GWEN

No.

SADIE

Gwen. I'm not kidding around.

GWEN

Neither am I. Do you think I enjoyed forking out \$500 on a bunch of crappy rowboats?

SADIE

\$500?!

GWEN

Yes. But I did it to save YOUR butt.

SADIE

Well, you wasted your money.

GWEN

Did I? You're here aren't you.

She looks at her smugly.

SADIE

Oh, stop looking at me like that. You had no idea I was going to do this.

GWEN

Of course I did. It's what you do.

SADIE

What do you mean 'it's what I do'?

GWEN

You run.

SADIE

I do not.

GWEN

Yes you do. You run from everything.

SADIE

Like what?

GWEN

Where do I start? You run from jobs you don't like. Flatmates that annoy you. Countries whose weather changes too quickly,-

SADIE

That's rid-

GWEN

Any form of relationship. Oh, and let's not forget the police.

SADIE

I did not know peeing in public was an offence.

GWEN

I'm not letting you run today, Sadie. Not from Mason. He's too perfect for you.

SADIE

I know he is.

GWEN

Then what are you doing?

SADIE

I'm...oh, you won't understand.

GWEN

Try me.

Before Sadie can answer there is a noise off stage.

SADIE

Oh God, someone's coming!

GWEN

It's okay. It's...it's just a couple of staff members.

SADIE

I've got to get off this island. I can't stay here.

GWEN

You have to.

SADIE

I can't!

She moves possessively towards the boat.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Get off the boat.

GWEN

No.

SADIE

I NEED it.

GWEN

You NEED to get married.

SADIE

Don't make me throw you out. You know I'm stronger.

GWEN

Just try it.

Sadie moves in again. Gwen suddenly holds up a small spray bottle and sprays some right at Sadie's face.

SADIE

Shit, Gwen!

GWEN

Oh, settle down. That's just Evian water. But I've got hairspray too, so consider yourself warned.

Gwen swaps to the hairspray bottle and sprays a bit in warning, forcing Sadie to back up.

SADIE

You're such a cow sometimes. A complete utter COW.

GWEN

Moo.

(pause)

So what was your plan? Row all the way back to the mainland in this old thing?

SADIE

Of course not. I'm not that stupid. I'm going to row to the yacht we hired for our honeymoon and then sail for the mainland.

GWEN

You don't know how to sail.

SADIE

I've been learning.

GWEN

Really? Because I would have thought the first thing you learnt was that your yacht requires two crew members.

SADIE

It does?...damn it.

Pause, then Sadie looks at Gwen as if in request.

GWEN

Not a chance.

SADIE

Fine. It doesn't matter anyway, because I have a back up plan. I can row to the ferry we hired to bring people over here. It's only sitting there waiting to take them back. And since we're the ones paying for it, the captain will have to take me.

GWEN

So you'd just leave your guests stranded here? When you know full well the resort's full?

SADIE

I'd send it back. I'm not that selfish.

Gwen just looks at her.

SADIE (CONT'D)

I'm not!

(pause)

So there. That's my plan.

GWEN

Shame it won't work.

SADIE

Yes it will. The captain-

GWEN

The captain's at the resort having lunch. On you.

SADIE

But-

GWEN

I also booked her in for a massage this afternoon. So she's not going anywhere.

SADIE

You...how...-

GWEN

I told you. I know you. Closer than a sister...unfortunately.

SADIE

Damn it, Gwen!

(pause)

You know what? I'm firing you from being my maid of honour.

GWEN

So you ARE getting married?

SADIE

No!

GWEN

Really? Because I'd say you're full out of options to leave.

They face off. Sadie breaks first.

SADIE

Ahhh. I hate this island. I hate it!

(turning on the beach
accusingly)

Do you hear that island? I hate you. I hate your stupid golden sand. Your perfect, swimmable water. I even hate those stupid launches floating a-

She suddenly stops talking and looks more intently at the launches. Gwen looks on worriedly.

GWEN

Sadie...? What are you-

SADIE

I'll get a ride back on one of those.

GWEN

No launch owner's going to let you on onboard. You're a psycho in a wedding dress.

SADIE

They will if I pay them.

GWEN

With what?

Sadie realises she has no bag with her.

SADIE

With...with...with this!

She triumphantly holds up her engagement ring finger.

GWEN

You wouldn't dare?

SADIE

I will if I have to.

Barely. SADIE

Pause.

Please. Just go back. GWEN

I'm not talking to you. SADIE

Sadie- GWEN

No. You tried to kill me. SADIE

Oh, stop being such a drama queen. GWEN

And you probably ruined my makeup. SADIE

It looks fine. GWEN

I'm not going back, Gwen. SADIE

You have to. GWEN

No. Going back means ruining my life. And I refuse to do that. SADIE

Well, I refuse to give you this boat. GWEN

Pause. Then, Sadie starts heading to the other side of the beach with renewed energy.

Where are you going? GWEN (CONT'D)

I'm going to swim. SADIE

What?! GWEN

I'm going to swim to that launch over there. SADIE

Don't be a fool. GWEN

SADIE

It's not that far. I was school swimming champ, remember?

GWEN

More than a decade ago.

SADIE

So?

She moves closer towards the water

GWEN

Sadie, you can't. Your dress!

SADIE

Stuff my dress.

GWEN

NO. Listen. If you try and swim in that thing, it will pull you right under. Think of all the layers.

SADIE

Then...then I'll take it off.

She starts taking off her dress. But it's done up at the back and she can't do it alone.

GWEN

You're being ridiculous.

SADIE

I'm not. I just...

She continues to struggle but it's no use.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Why can't it...Ahh! WHY DID I PICK THIS DRESS!

She makes one last unsuccessful effort then drops down in frustration.

GWEN

Your hair's stayed in nicely.

SADIE

Oh, piss off.

Pause.

GWEN

I'm not doing this to hurt you.

SADIE

Aren't you?

GWEN

No. Getting married to Mason is the right thing for you to do. You're just scared.

SADIE

Scared? That's an understatement. I can't breathe, Gwen. When I think about walking down that aisle I literally can't breathe.

GWEN

It's called cold feet. Everyone gets them.

SADIE

It's NOT cold feet. It's more than that. It's...it's a feeling. A premonition.

GWEN

Oh, come on-

SADIE

Listen! This feeling, it clutches at my throat. Squeezing tighter and tighter. My mouth dries up. I can't speak. I'm shaking. I'm sweating. I want to throw up. I want to...to scream!

GWEN

So you run again.

SADIE

I have no other choice. I -

She suddenly stops.

GWEN

What? What is it?

SADIE

My...my ring.

GWEN

What?

SADIE

It's gone.

GWEN

It can't be gone?

SADIE

It has. Look.

She holds up her empty engagement finger.

GWEN

Oh, Sadie.

SADIE

It must have come off when I was trying to take this stupid dress off.

GWEN

But it was his grandmothers!

SADIE

I know!

Sadie starts searching frantically around her.

SADIE (CONT'D)

I can't see it.

GWEN

It must be somewhere.

SADIE

Where? It could have fallen anywhere. What if it's in the water? Oh shit. Shit. What am I going to do? I'm such a horrible person. Gwen...?

GWEN

(pause)

Okay. I'll help you.

She reluctantly starts getting out of the boat. Sadie looks at her gratefully.

GWEN (CONT'D)

You search that side and I'll check this one.

They search their respective sides of the beach.

GWEN (CONT'D)

Were you even planning on telling anyone?

SADIE

I left a note.

GWEN

A note?

SADIE

Yes. At the bar. I told them to give it to someone from the bridal party at the reception.

GWEN

What reception?

SADIE

I thought maybe you could still have a party or something.

GWEN

Without the bride?

SADIE

It's all paid for.

GWEN

Sometimes I wonder what world you live in-

SADIE

There it is!

She races to a spot further up the beach. Gwen follows.

GWEN

Oh, thank God.

SADIE

Wait. No...false alarm. Just a very shiny shard of glass.

She goes to drop it back.

GWEN

Don't leave it! That will rip through someone's toes.

SADIE

Settle down.

GWEN

There's kids who run around this beach. We need to check if there's any more.

Gwen searches for any remnants of glass. Sadie slyly moves back towards the boat.

GWEN (CONT'D)

Glass should not be allowed on the beach. I'll talk to reception after the wedding. They should put up a sign or something.

Sadie has reached the boat and starts pushing it into the water. Gwen finally sees her.

GWEN (CONT'D)

Sadie?!

SADIE

I'm sorry, Gwen. But I can't go through with it.

GWEN

But the ring?

SADIE

It's okay. I still have it.

Sadie holds up her hand to show she is wearing the ring again. She gives the boat a final shove and jumps in.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Please don't hate me.

GWEN

You can't keep doing this.

She starts rowing before Gwen can stop her.

SADIE

You can keep all the presents.

Sadie. Sadie!

GWEN

I love you.

SADIE

Gwen sighs angrily.

I'm getting too old for this.

GWEN

She runs to the side of stage, coming back pulling a blow up row boat and oars.

What the-

SADIE

I knew you'd have more tricks up your sleeve, you stupid cow.

GWEN

But-

SADIE

I had this stashed behind a pile of deck chairs.

GWEN

She gets it into the water and starts rowing.

It doesn't matter. You'll never catch me.

SADIE

You may have been the swimmer, Sadie, but I was in the rowing team and we were regional finalists. Squad co-captain, remember?

GWEN

The race is on. Gwen is clearly faster.

Leave me alone.

SADIE

No.

GWEN

Gwen!

SADIE

I will not let you screw this up.

GWEN

It's my life.

SADIE

They keep rowing until Gwen has caught up. She reaches out her oar and tries to block Sadie's boat.

Stop it.

SADIE (CONT'D)

GWEN

Sadie!

SADIE

I'm desperate, Gwen. Can't you see that? DESPERATE.

GWEN

(to herself)

I don't know what else I can do?

SADIE

Don't DO anything.

GWEN

I planned for everything. Everything. Except you being a FUCKING PSYCHO!

SADIE

It's my life.

GWEN

I can't keep doing this.

SADIE

Then don't. Just leave. LEAVE ME ALONE!

Pause.

GWEN

Okay then.

SADIE

What?

GWEN

You win. It's your life. I'll leave you to screw it up.

She picks up her oars and starts rowing back.

SADIE

Where are you going?

GWEN

Back to shore. Like you asked.

SADIE

You are?...I mean...good. I want you to go.

GWEN

A complete fucking nut job.

SADIE

I'm making the right decision.

GWEN

I don't care.

SADIE

I know I am.

GWEN

I told you. I don't care anymore.

She keeps rowing. Sadie is forced to shout after her.

SADIE

So that's it? You're just going to leave me here?

GWEN

Aha.

SADIE

But-

GWEN

I recommend getting onto one of those launches soon, though, because all that shiny stuff will be attracting the sharks.

SADIE

What? No it won't.

GWEN

If you say so.

Pause then Sadie tries to frantically tug off the wedding paraphernalia from the boat. It wont come off.

GWEN (CONT'D)

Oh, look. I think that's one over there.

SADIE

Where?!

GWEN

It's gone now. No, there it is.

Sadie tries once more to tug it off, then gives up, picks up the oars and follows Gwen into shore.

SADIE

Gwen, wait. Wait!

They are both racing their way back to shore.

GWEN

You think you're so tough, but you can't even handle a single beach shark. They're harmless.

SADIE

Not always. I heard about that rich couple who got eaten last year. And that water wasn't even warm.

GWEN

They were great whites. And it was a whole family of sharks that got them... not imaginary ones.

SADIE

What? Imagin-...oh, shut up you.

(pause)

This doesn't change anything. When I get back on land I'm finding a way out of here.

GWEN

I told you. I don't care.

SADIE

Why are you being like this?

GWEN

Because I'm done, Sadie. I'm done rescuing you.

Gwen reaches the beach first. She climbs out and starts storming off stage.

SADIE

Where are you going?

GWEN

To tell your guests that the wedding is off. Then I'm packing my bag and lining up for the next ferry to the mainland. Whenever that might be.

SADIE

It's six o'clock. I checked.

Gwen continues walking.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Gwen!

GWEN

No, Sadie. Mason is a great guy. A fantastic guy. And he would have made you SO happy. I know he would have. But you want to throw it away, like everything else in your life, because you are too chicken shit to grow up.

SADIE

I am not!

GWEN

Do you know what my first thought was when I woke up this morning? Yes. YES. Sadie is getting married. And FINALLY someone else would be responsible for you.

SADIE

I'm not a child.

GWEN

Aren't you? Really? Because adults face life. They don't run. Now if you'd excuse me, I have a wedding to cancel.

Gwen has nearly exited.

SADIE

Fine! I run. Okay? I run. When I realise I've made a mistake I get out of dodge. But...but at least it's better than being YOU. At least I'M not afraid to live.

GWEN

What?!

SADIE

It's true. The only time you've ever done something exciting in your life is when you've followed me.

GWEN

Rescued you, you mean?

SADIE

Same thing. You moved out of home because of me. You travelled the world because of me. You changed careers because of me. Heck, you went to a nudist colony in FRANCE because of me. You've LIVED because of ME.

Pause.

GWEN

Well, now it's time I lived for someone else.

She walks away.

SADIE

(shouting after her)

Oh, piss off then, and enjoy your boring life. Oh...and maybe keep off the pies. That dress was a lot looser when I first bought it.

GWEN

What did you say?

SADIE

I said keep off the pies.

GWEN

How dare you!

She suddenly charges right at Sadie, attacking her.

SADIE

What are you doing?

GWEN

You stuck up, self centred cow!

SADIE

Get off me!

Being the stronger of the two, Sadie manages to flip her over and pin Gwen down. Gwen resists.

GWEN

Let go of me. I hate you. I HATE YOU.

SADIE

Who's the psycho now?

GWEN

You want to know why my dress is tight? Why I'm wearing THREE pairs of excruciating spanks? Because I'm pregnant, you imbecile. I'm fucking pregnant.

SADIE

What?!

GWEN

I said I'M PREGNANT!

SADIE

Oh my God.

Shocked with the revelation, they both stop fighting. They slowly unravel themselves. Pause.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Are...are you okay?

GWEN

No, I'm not okay.

SADIE

Did I-

GWEN

No. You didn't hurt me. Much.

SADIE

Sorry.

(pause)

Why didn't you tell me?

GWEN

How could I?

SADIE

I'm your best friend. Closer than sisters... remember?

Gwen says nothing. Pause.

SADIE (CONT'D)

How long? How long have you known?

GWEN

About a month.

SADIE

A month?! You should have told me.

GWEN

And distract from your big day? Given you another excuse to run?

SADIE

That's not fair.

GWEN

Isn't it? Look where we are.

(pause)

I'm not blaming you, Sadie. I'm not. It's what you do. But I knew that the best thing was to not say anything.

SADIE

Where you ever going to tell me?

GWEN

Of course I was. The second you got back from your honeymoon.
(she stands)

Now I better go.

SADIE

Where are you going?

GWEN

I told you. To cancel your wedding. Then I'm catching the next ferry home.

SADIE

But-

GWEN

I can't rescue you anymore. I mean it. I'll sort out your guests, but then you're on your own.

SADIE

Gwen.

GWEN

No. You need to grow up.

SADIE

Please don't go.

Gwen keeps walking.

GWEN

Gwen.

(pause)

Wait. Wait!

(with final desperation)

I'LL GET MARRIED IF YOU STAY!

Gwen turns back.

SADIE

I will. I'll get married if you stay. I wont run anymore. I promise.

Sadie- GWEN

SADIE
No. You say I run from everything. But I don't. I don't run from you.

GWEN
You can't get married just because of me.

SADIE
Yes I can! I want to get married. Mason is perfect for me.

GWEN
I know he is. But this isn't the answer.

SADIE
Then WHAT do you want me to do?

GWEN
Sadie-

SADIE
Please. Just tell me.

GWEN
I can't-

SADIE
TELL ME!

GWEN
(pause)
I wish I could. I really do. But you have to decide this for yourself.

SADIE
I'm...I'm so scared of getting it wrong.

GWEN
We all are.

SADIE
But what if-

GWEN
Sadie. What do you want in life?

SADIE
I don't know.

GWEN
Yes you do. I know you do.

SADIE
I don-

GWEN

Close your eyes.

Sadie just looks at her.

GWEN (CONT'D)
(more firmly)

Close your eyes.

Sadie reluctantly closes her eyes.

GWEN (CONT'D)

Now, what do you see?

SADIE

Nothing. I don't see anything.

GWEN

That's because you're not trying.

SADIE

I am.

She scrunches up her eyes a bit more.

GWEN

When you picture where you are in five, ten years time, who's there with you?

SADIE

You are.

GWEN

Who else? Who else is there with you?

SADIE

...no one.

GWEN

Really? Look harder.

SADIE

...no. No one's there. And this is stupid.

She opens her eyes.

GWEN

Then I'm sorry. But I can't help you.

She goes to leave.

SADIE

Wait!

She scrunches up her eyes to try harder.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Ask me again. Ask me!

GWEN

(pause)

What do you see?

SADIE

I see...a...a...oh my God. Is that a...I see a baby...

GWEN

Go on...

SADIE

I see a baby! A baby girl. No it's twins. I see twins!

GWEN

You can't run from-

SADIE

I know that.

(pause)

I also see a dog...and a spa pool.

GWEN

Of course you do. Anyone to share it with?

SADIE

I'm...I'm not sure.

GWEN

Who's in the spa with you?

SADIE

Umm...me. It's just me-...no wait. Mason is. Mason's there. He's playing with the girls. He's making them laugh. He's-

GWEN

He's not there.

SADIE

Yes he is. He's making faces. He's...-

GWEN

No, Sadie, he's not...you left him at the altar.

Realisation hits.

SADIE

Oh my God. What have I done? Gwen, what have I done!?

GWEN

You ran away.

SADIE

But I didn't want to. I didn't. I just...I get so scared. I can't control it. I can't control anything.

GWEN

I know.

SADIE
And now I've lost him.

GWEN
No. You haven't.

SADIE
I have! Why am I such a stupid idiot? Until today, I never even thought about running. Not once. That's how perfect he was.

GWEN
He IS.

SADIE
What?

GWEN
How perfect Mason IS. Sadie, it's not too late. He hasn't gone.

SADIE
Yes he has.

GWEN
No, he hasn't. I'm the only person that knows that you tried to run.

SADIE
But-

GWEN
Are you listening? ONLY I KNOW. It's not too late.

SADIE
But...I...I...I have to go!

She starts to rush out.

GWEN
Where are you going?

SADIE
To get married.
(checking her watch as she runs)
I'm only half an hour late. Maybe-

GWEN
(chasing her)
Wait. You're early, Sadie. You're still half an hour early.

Sadie stops, confused.

GWEN (CONT'D)
I changed your watch. I figured we might need the time.

SADIE

Jesus, Gwen!

GWEN

Well, I was right, wasn't I? So you've still got at least half an hour to get tidied up. And by the looks of you, I'd say you're going to need every second of it.

SADIE

Have YOU looked in the mirror lately?

GWEN

Yeah, okay. No need to rub it in.

Pause. They acknowledge their rumped states.

GWEN (CONT'D)

We look a right mess.

SADIE

You look worse.

They laugh. Pause.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Thank you.

GWEN

I know.

SADIE

And I'm sorry. I should never have said that stuff...about your life being boring. I didn't mean it.

GWEN

Yes you did.

Sadie goes to disagree, but Gwen cuts her off.

GWEN (CONT'D)

It's okay. You were right. I do live more because of you. You take me out my comfort zone. Constantly. And although you drive me insane, completely insane, I know my life is better having you in it.

SADIE

Really?

Gwen just nods. Sadie looks as if she's about to cry.

GWEN

Don't you dare start with the tears. We don't have time to sort out smudged mascara.

She too, however, is also bordering tears. Sadie hugs her. Pause.

GWEN (CONT'D)

Oh, look at us. One of us too afraid to start anything, and the other too afraid to finish. We're a complete write off.

SADIE

No we're not.

GWEN

Sadie, we-

SADIE

Don't you see? We balance each other out. Like Ying and Yang. So together, we're perfect.

GWEN

That's one way to look at it. If Yang was a crazy psycho.

She hugs her once more then starts to shoo her away.

GWEN (CONT'D)

Now off you go. It's time to get you married.

SADIE

You're not coming-

GWEN

Of course I am. I just need to get a few bits and pieces.

She heads down towards the boat.

SADIE

Weapons you mean?

Gwen just laughs. Sadie starts to leave then remembers.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Gwen...what about the baby?

GWEN

Let's talk about it tomorrow.

SADIE

Are you sure?

GWEN

I'm sure.

Sadie still doesn't leave.

GWEN (CONT'D)

What is it, Sadie?

SADIE

It's just...you will get your hair done before you walk me down the aisle, wont you? There's going to be lots of photos.

Gwen pulls out the hairspray and sprays some in warning.

SADIE (CONT'D)

I'm kidding!

Gwen gives an extra spray as Sadie exits, laughing.

GWEN

As if I'm going in the photos like this. Who does she think she is? In fact...

She then starts to lift up her dress and tugs off a small fat suit underneath.

GWEN (CONT'D)

We don't need you anymore.

She pats her no longer pregnant belly.

GWEN (CONT'D)

One day. But not today. In the meantime...

(looking back towards the resort)

It's wedding time.

She collects up the hairspray and fat suit into a bag and smugly holds it up.

GWEN (CONT'D)

And THAT is how you get a bride down the aisle.

She is interrupted by an off stage shouting Sadie.

SADIE

Gwen. Gwen!

GWEN

What is it now?

SADIE

I still don't have my something blue. Gwen!

Gwen just shakes her head.

GWEN

I need a drink.

(shouting back)

Coming, Sadie. Coming.

*She exits as the lights go down. **THE END.***