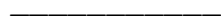


YOU AGAIN



A One-Act Play

By

Tyler Robinson

Cast of Characters

Sage: Male. 18. Very emotional with black, medium length hair. Dressed in the college uniform. First year college student. Wishes for his childhood back. No family in the play. He is scared of himself and who he is. Lives in the dormitories of the college. He is very close to his parents. He is always thinking about what life would be like with him complete.

Autumn: Female. 19. Sweet town girl with short, brown hair. Dressed in the college uniform. Second year college student on the track team. Wishes to give her best in everything. No family in the play. She is scared of losing anyone close to her. Lives in the dormitories of the college. She is roommates with Skye. Upbeat personality.

Skye: Female. 19. Tough with short, black hair that still covers her eyes. No family in the play. Autumn's friend. Lives in the same dorm as Autumn. Second year college student. Plays bass for her band. Fears hurting people emotionally. Wishes to become a professional musician. Mysterious persona.

Mr. Raine: Male. 42. Always tries to act cool. Short, balding, brown hair. Teaches the class Sage and Autumn are in. Casual and friendly with students. No family in the play. Has a wife. Wishes for a 100% passing percentage for the year. Fears feeling old. Lives a mile off of campus. His wife is the best thing in his life.

ACT ISCENE 1

TIME: The present. 5:58pm. Class is coming to an end.

SETTING: The stage is set up with the white board cheating towards the house (left). 16 desks are semi-cheated towards the house. Desks are lined up in four horizontal lines of four desks each (on center stage). Windows are built into the wall that is on upstage center. Another wall is located on right stage center behind the last row of desks.

AT RISE: It is 5:58pm. MR. RAINE has just finished the lesson. SAGE is seated in the last row desk next to the window. AUTUMN is seated in the front row desk, second from the window. All the rest of the class has been let go.

(Black out when curtains rise.
Sound of a car horn and a car crash play.)

(Lights come on in a classroom)

MR. RAINE

So, you two are the last ones? Seems that everyone wanted to hurry to the festivities. Are you going to the festival Miss...?

AUTUMN

(Begins packing up her books)

Autumn. Yes sir! I just wanted to get as much out of class as possible today since it, technically, IS the first day of class. I'm going to the festival after this. I went last year and it was just like my old high school's Festivals.

MR. RAINE

Sounds like a high school that has good taste. (Slowly walking towards SAGE) What about you? Going to the festival after this?

(SAGE shakes his head without looking up)

MR. RAINE

It's the Fall Festival. You are a first year, aren't you? Don't you want a fun, new experience? This is a great chance for that!

(SAGE doesn't pay any attention to MR. RAINE)

MR. RAINE

(Walking back to the front of the class)

I remember my first time going to the Fall Festival. It was my first day teaching here. The dancing, creations, and singing by the students were amazing. I didn't think it would be much but it exceeded all events I have been to in years and it only gets better with each passing year.

(SKYE walks in the classroom with a guitar case on her back)

SKYE

Autumn! What's taking you so lo-... Oh. Sorry.

(SKYE begins to back out of the classroom slowly)

MR. RAINE

(Looks at his watch)

That's alright. You can come in. Class is over. I have to get to the festival right away before my wife gets tired of waiting. Don't want THAT to happen.

(SKYE walks to AUTUMN and sits in the seat behind her)

(MR. RAINE puts his paper into his bag and walks to the door then stops suddenly)

MR. RAINE

Oh! Young man near the window. I'm sorry but what was your name?

SAGE

Sage.

(AUTUMN stops packing suddenly
and looks back at SAGE)

MR. RAINE

It was nice to meet you both. See you in class next week.

(MR. RAINE waves as he exits stage left)

SKYE

So. Are you ready to go to the festival?

AUTUMN

(While still looking at SAGE)

Y-Yeah... Let's go!

(SKYE and AUTUMN begin exiting stage left)
(AUTUMN stops at the doorway while SKYE exits)
(AUTUMN looks back at SAGE then exits quickly)

SAGE

(SAGE gets up, and walks to downstage center)
Why does it have to be like this? It's not like I want to be alone but what's the point of getting close to people? Getting to know people then forgetting about them. It's just too much to handle. This is the only way... Isn't it?

(BLACKOUT)

ACT I

SCENE 2

TIME: It is 7:00pm. Dark outside.

SETTING: There is a few stands setup with party games and food along upstage. Light illuminates from inside the stands. Trees are placed behind the stands.

AT RISE: SKYE and AUTUMN are standing in front of the stands. AUTUMN is holding a pizza box. SKYE is eating chocolates with one hand and has a balloon guitar in her other hand. SKYE's pockets look stuffed with other candy.

AUTUMN

Why am I the one carrying the pizza? You're the one that wanted it. I don't even like pizza.

SKYE

(raises hands with her mouth full)

I-doh-haf-any-roo!

AUTUMN

It's like you only came for the food.

(SKYE continues eating not hearing AUTUMN)

Ugh! I'm going to go play one of these games. You just...

(AUTUMN looks at SKYE eating ferociously)

Just keep doing what you're doing.

(AUTUMN walks over to the stand and stretches. SAGE enters stage left and continues walking towards stage right.)

(AUTUMN notices SAGE walking in her direction)

(AUTUMN stops stretching and stands facing SAGE)

AUTUMN

Hi, Sage! You decided to come to the festival?

SAGE

(SAGE stops in front of AUTUMN)

Um. No. I was just heading to my dorm... from class.

AUTUMN

This late? Well, you could hang out with me and Skye!

(AUTUMN points at SKYE still eating and slowly lowers her finger)

SAGE

No. I'm okay. I don't really wa-

AUTUMN

You will absolutely love it! Why not just check it out? I can show you around the campus while we are here!

SAGE

No. I really have to go.

(SAGE begins to walk away but
is grabbed on the arm by AUTUMN)

AUTUMN

It will be a lot of fun. Just try it out.

SAGE

PLEASE! Why are you trying so hard to get me to agree?! Do I owe you something?!...NO? Just leave me alone then!

(SAGE snatches his arm from AUTUMN
and quickly exits stage right)

AUTUMN

WAIT! Sage...

(AUTUMN begins to cry)
(SKYE gets up and walks over to AUTUMN)

SKYE

(with a lollipop in her mouth)
Wha-wub-dat-abou?!

AUTUMN

(wipes her eyes)
I just wanted him to be able to smile again... To feel alive.

(SKYE looks at where SAGE exited)

SKYE

Hmmm... Go ahead and sit down. I'll be right back I have to-
um-get something from my room.

(AUTUMN sits down in the chair next to the stand.)
(SKYE exits stage right)

(BLACKOUT)

ACT I
SCENE 3

TIME: 7:20pm. Same night.

SETTING: There are two doors next to each other. One on stage left center and the other on stage right center. Two crowd control barricades are lined up next to each other on downstage in front of the doors.

AT RISE: Sage is walking in from stage left and stops in front of the door on stage left center.

SAGE

(Leans on the barricade and looks towards the house)
I didn't mean to yell. How am I supposed to go to class next week? "Hey I'm the guy who got angry at you being nice. Sorry for being an ass!" Why is she trying to get so close to me though? (Thinks) It's not like she knows me. She has no clue what I'm like. Well, now she has the wrong idea... JEEZ!

(SAGE walks slowly to his door and takes out keys)

(SKYE enters stage left quickly walking towards SAGE. SAGE quickly turns when SKYE gets close to him. SKYE pushes SAGE against his door.)

SAGE

OW!

SKYE

Why are you being such a dick to Autumn?!

SAGE

(SAGE looks away)

I told her that I didn't want to go to the festival and she kept pushing me to come.

SKYE

Let me get this straight. You yelled because she wanted you to have a good time?

(SAGE looks down. Still held against the door)

Look, if you want to be alone and feel bad for yourself then fine! But don't drag others down with you. You caused a kind girl to cry. (SAGE winces and bites his lip) You really need to rethink the way you interact with people who care about you. You are going downhill quickly and there will be nobody waiting at the bottom to catch you.

(AUTUMN enters stage left. AUTUMN stops for a second then rushes to where SKYE and SAGE are)

AUTUMN

SKYE! Stop. (AUTUMN grabs SKYE's shoulder)

SKYE

Remember this!

(SKYE gives one last shove to SAGE and lets him go)

(SAGE hits his head on the door
and sits down rubbing his head)

AUTUMN

I'm so sor-... OH MY GOD! Did she make you bleed?

(AUTUMN points at the back of SAGE's head)

SAGE

(Waves his hand "no")

This is a scar from high school.

(AUTUMN touches the back of SAGE's head)

(SAGE flinches a little AUTUMN pulls her hand back)

(SAGE looks up)

(SAGE sees SKYE and SKYE shoots SAGE a "look")

SAGE

It's okay. It just stings a little bit.

AUTUMN

I'm sorry! My hand just moved on its own...

SAGE

That's fine.

SKYE

Well, I have to go back to the festival. I want to try some more food before they sell out. What about you, Autumn?

AUTUMN

I'm just going to go back to my room. Do you need any money?

SKYE

No, I have my own for emergencies like this. (SKYE begins jogging off stage left) SEE YA! (SKYE exits)

SAGE

She sure is... something?

AUTUMN

(laughs a little and helps SAGE stand)
Yeah. I suppose that's a good way to describe her.

(AWKWARD SILENCE)

SAGE

Do you want to come in for some coffee or something?

AUTUMN

Are you sure? I thought you had something to do?

SAGE

No... Not exactly.

AUTUMN

Okay. Well I will take you up on your offer.

(AUTUMN and SAGE enter through the door)

(BLACK OUT)

ACT I
SCENE 4

TIME: 7:35pm.

SETTING: A bed is placed diagonally with bottom facing downstage right on stage right center. A table is located next to the bed on center stage with a coffee maker and Styrofoam cups on top of it. The chair is next to the table also on center stage. A bookshelf is on upstage left. It is with books and a picture of SAGE and AUTUMN hidden in one of the books. The door is on downstage right facing offstage.

ON RISE: AUTUMN is browsing the books and SAGE is sitting on the bed. Both have a Styrofoam cup in their hand.

AUTUMN

Wow! You have so many good books! You have the Sherlock Holmes books? I love the stories these books tell. I used to read them all the time when I was in high school.

SAGE

You can take them. I don't really read them. I think my mother gave them to me when I came here.

(AUTUMN takes one of the books from
the shelf and sits down in the chair)

SAGE

I'm sorry about before at the festival. It's just... I don't like getting too close to people.

AUTUMN

"Don't like getting close to people"? Why?

SAGE (ASIDE)

I can't tell her about myself. I don't want sympathy. Is there any way to explain why I feel like this without

telling her about the accident though? What am I so afraid of? Will she think differently of me if I tell her? Think I'm crazy? I'm just going to do it. It's just too much to bottle up and all I'm doing is hurting people by keeping it a secret.

SAGE

Autumn, I-

(SAGE notices the book AUTUMN is grasping has an item sticking out and takes it out to look at it)

(As SAGE turns it to look at the item
, it is a photo of AUTUMN and SAGE)

SAGE

What... What is this!?

AUTUMN

What's wrong Sage?

(SAGE shows AUTUMN the photo)

SAGE

WHY DO I HAVE A PICTURE OF US? I only met you today...

AUTUMN

Sage-

SAGE

Autumn, we met for the first time today, right?

(AUTUMN says nothing)

RIGHT?

AUTUMN

N-no. (AUTUMN takes a deep breath) We met about four years ago. First year of high school.

SAGE

What? No. That can't be. How...?

AUTUMN

It's true Sage. We were both born in the same small town. We went to the same schools. We were both on the track team.

SAGE

Track team? I don't even like running. If you already knew me, why didn't you say that you did?! You just strung me along thinking you knew nothing about me. Why?!

AUTUMN

It's a long story. Sage, let me explai-

SAGE

Please leave. I want to be alone. This is just too much.

AUTUMN

Let me-

SAGE

LEAVE! Please...

(AUTUMN gets up, places the book on the chair
and exits stage right through the door)

SAGE

Why is this happening? It was finally going well. I was finally getting used to being close to people again. Now THIS happens?! What does she mean "We went to the same school"? How can she say it so casual? Wouldn't she know what happened with me if we were so close? She lays all this on me now? I can't keep this up. Getting to know someone I should already know? IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! I don't know anymore. Maybe some sleep would help calm me down and I will wake up with answers. (Awkward laugh) I wish it was that easy...

(SAGE lays down in his bed)

(BLACK OUT)

[Lighting (50%) comes up on Sage's bed]

(SAGE rolls off his bed and hits his head on the table)

(SAGE grabs his head and sits up)

SAGE

Where am I? (SAGE begins looking around. Frightened) HELLO?
MOM? DAD? ANYONE?

(Full stage lighting)

SAGE

... Autumn. Autumn? AUTUMN?

(Knocking)

SAGE

AUTUMN IS THAT YOU? (SAGE walks to the door and opens it)

(SKYE enters through the door, closes the door,
and SAGE stumbles backwards then falls)

SKYE

(Yawning)

What are you screaming about? It's 2 in the morni-

SAGE

WHO ARE YOU? WHERE AM I? I've got to get out of here!

(SAGE gets up quickly and pushes SKYE out of the way as he
runs to the door. SAGE opens the door and stops when he
sees AUTUMN standing at the door)

AUTUMN

Sage?

SAGE

(Scared)

Autumn! Where are we? What's happening?

(AUTUMN walks through the door and pulls SAGE along)
(AUTUMN sits SAGE in the chair and AUTUMN sits on the bed)

AUTUMN

Calm down. Now, what do you mean? We're at your dorm,
remember? I live next to you with Skye and heard you
yelling.

SAGE

Dorm? No, I was just on the bridge next to our High School. Please... Why are we here? Let's go back.

AUTUMN

Sage?... What's the last thing you remember? Do you remember coming here? Anything at all about our college?

SAGE

College? S-Stop playing around. (Awkward Laugh) We only just graduated last night. How could we already be in college?

SKYE

I'm going back to bed. (SKYE walks over to AUTUMN and whispers) Sometimes our biggest problems are ourselves. See ya!

(SKYE exits through the door)
(SAGE holds the back of his head)

SAGE

Ouch! What is this?
(SAGE rubs the back of his head)

AUTUMN

Sage. (AUTUMN kneels in front of SAGE and grabs his hands) Do you remember the accident that gave you that scar?

SAGE

No. Accident? What do you mean? What happened to me?

AUTUMN

I can tell you what I know about it and what I saw. It may clear up a lot.

(BLACKOUT)

ACT I
SCENE 5

TIME: 8:00 pm., 12:00 am, 12:15am

SETTING: Set divided in three parts. Stage right portion has a sign set on downstage right with "Congratulations Graduating Class". Center stage portion has a wall on upstage center with movie posters hung up. A wall is lined up next to it diagonally on stage center right. A bed is on center stage lined horizontally parallel with the back wall. A table is on the side of the bed closer to the audience, the table has a clock facing the audience with 12:00 am showing. Stage left portion has two thigh-height walls on stage left middle and downstage left. A cushion is located behind the stage left middle wall (Out of the audience's sight).

ON RISE: Stage right portion, AUTUMN and SAGE stand stage right facing each other. Both wearing graduation gowns and caps. Center stage portion, AUTUMN is laying on her bed face up in casual clothing. Stage left portion, SAGE is sitting on the stage left middle wall in casual clothing.

(FADE IN on stage right portion)

AUTUMN

Hey! We finally graduated! Can you believe it? We are finally finished with high school!

SAGE

It still doesn't feel real somehow. After four years here we never will come back as students. All the great times we had here. They will just become memories. Like me always beating you in our track practice races.

AUTUMN

Don't think we won't have any more races now that we graduated, we still have summer and I WILL beat you. You can bet on that!

SAGE

Yeah, sure. The only way that is happening is if I lose a leg. No, even then I will still be faster than you.

AUTUMN

Whatever! (AUTUMN pulls out a camera) Let's take a picture together. It's our graduation, might as well have as much pictures to look back at.

SAGE

Yeah! Just make sure to get my good side.

(AUTUMN holds up the camera and takes a picture)

(AUTUMN looks at the picture taken,

SAGE peers over)

SAGE

Looking as good as ever!

AUTUMN

You're so full of yourself...

SAGE

I meant you too!

AUTUMN

(Laughs)

Oh yeah! Why did you ask me to meet you out here? You sounded nervous.

SAGE

The reason I asked you to come out here is to tell you something I have been holding back for a while.

AUTUMN

What is it?

SAGE

Autumn, we have spent a lot of time around each other. Ever since we got on the middle school track team. Walking home together from practice, helping each other study for tests, and going over each other's house to hang out. I didn't notice these feelings until a year ago.

AUTUMN

Feelings?

SAGE

I love you, Autumn. I love being around you and hope to stay around you for a very long time. I wanted to get this off my chest and let you know how I feel. I would like to know what you feel towards me. Do you see me as something more than a friend?

AUTUMN

Sage... I don't know what to say. I haven't really given it much thought. I enjoy being around you but... love? I don't know what that feels like. Are these feelings towards you love or just usual? I need to think about this more. Can you wait for my answer?

SAGE

Sure. I don't want you to feel forced or anything.

AUTUMN

Thank you. Could you wait on the bridge next to our house tonight? I will be there at 10 to answer after I have given it a good amount of thought.

SAGE

Okay, I will wait for you there! I have to get going, my parents are waiting and you know how they can get. See you later!

(SAGE jogs off stage right)

(BLACKOUT)

(FADE IN on center stage portion)

AUTUMN

He loves me. I've been thinking about my feelings for a while since I came home and still can't figure myself out.

Do I love him back? Do I just want him as a friend? What are these feelings? It made me feel good when he said he loved me but that isn't enough to go on and say it back. He's a great guy. He's always there when I'm sad. He can put a smile on my face whenever he is around. It makes me happy when he tries his hardest to get me to notice him. Sharpening his pencil too much, making his erasers get small, and hiding his notebook just to ask me for an extra. He's so cheesy and easy to see through. He's also a crybaby. He would always cry when something is too difficult for him but keeps trying at it. He's so hard-headed. I noticed all of this about him. When I am talking about him I feel bubbly inside. Is this love?

(AUTUMN picks up the clock and looks at the time)

AUTUMN

Oh my god! I'm SO late! I'm two hours late... He wouldn't be at the bridge still would he? He IS pretty hard-headed... Let me just call him just in case.

(AUTUMN takes out her phone and calls)

AUTUMN

He's not answering. He might not have his phone. I've got to get to the bridge to check. I don't want him getting a cold because of my forgetfulness.

(AUTUMN runs out stage right)

(BLACKOUT)

(FADE IN on stage left portion)

SAGE

It's such a nice night. I wonder where Autumn is. She might just be held up with something. I can't go back on my word. Anyways, when I leave she might get here and I won't be there for her. What might she answer? We spent a lot of time together. It would be okay if she declines my feelings but I have to say, I am fully wishing for her to say "I love you, Sage". Just thinking about it makes me smile. Well, thinking about it won't make it happen. The only thing I can do is wait. Wait for her to say what she needs to say.

(SAGE leans back a little and closes his eyes)

(Lighting flickers like lightning and a car moves onto the bridge from stage left crashing into where SAGE is then going behind the center stage set)

(SAGE loses his balance and tries to grab the wall but can't get a grip)

(SAGE falls over the wall and yells for a few seconds)

(AUTUMN jogs in from stage left onto the bridge)

AUTUMN

(Looking around) Sage! Sage are you still here!

(A gasping for air is heard)

AUTUMN

What's that noise?

(AUTUMN looks behind the wall)

AUTUMN

OH MY GOD, SAGE!

ACT I

SCENE 6

TIME: 7:50pm.

SETTING: Same as ACT I SCENE 4

ON RISE: AUTUMN is sitting on the bed and SAGE is sitting in the chair. AUTUMN has her palms on her eyes.

AUTUMN

When I got down to you, you had blood coming from your head and from your mouth. I called 9-1-1. Then let your parents know what happened. When the ambulance got there, they took you into the ambulance on a stretcher. They said that you weren't breathing anymore. You had no pulse. They had to try bringing you back to life and, after a minute, got your heart beating again. As I watched your pulse on the

monitor, I knew I had to leave you alone. If it wasn't for me none of this would have happened. You wouldn't have been on the bridge, wouldn't have forgotten everything, and you wouldn't have to go through any of this. You would have had a normal, happy life without me in it. I am only at this college with you because it was too late to apply for any other colleges. I'd rather had just let you live your life. To be happy.

SAGE

Oh my god...

AUTUMN

If you want to yell at me go ahead. I deserve it.

(AUTUMN closes her eyes and looks down)

SAGE

That's terrible! That all happened to me? Because of you?

(AUTUMN nods)

(SAGE picks up AUTUMN's head to face him)

SAGE

This is not because of you. No one would have known this would happen. What happened was a random act. If I wasn't so stupid as to be so close to the edge of a bridge it wouldn't happen. Many things happen just out of nowhere. Sometimes there is no person that is to blame. Chances, both bad and good, exist to be taken. There may be a bad outcome or a good one. We may never know unless we try. You not being in my life would be a life I wouldn't want to live. You ARE what causes most of my happiness. None of my feelings have changed. The only thing I have forgotten is a college life without you in it... (SAGE thinks) How about we try it again?

AUTUMN

Try it again? What is "it"?

SAGE

Autumn, I still love you. I would like to know the answer you had on graduation night. How do you feel about me?

AUTUMN

Sage...

SAGE

Whether I am the old me or a new me I want you by my side. I want to be able to find you even if I lose my memories again. I'm not sure when my current memories will be replaced again. HELL, I could revert at any second. Autumn, I'm not asking for a life promise or to hold you down so the answer is up to you.

AUTUMN

My answer...I've thought about my feelings every day since graduation night. I always kept coming up with the same answer that I came up with THAT night. Sage, I love you. I don't care if you go back to not knowing me, I will still stay in your life, I will get to know you all over again if I have to. I believe that is what it means to love. You will stay with that person no matter what happens.

(SAGE embraces AUTUMN tightly, putting
his head on her shoulder)

SAGE

We will get through this together. As long as my heart beats my love for you is still living inside me, so please help me find it when the time comes.

(AUTUMN nods)

AUTUMN

OH! I have an idea!

(AUTUMN runs out the door)

SAGE

Huh?

(AUTUMN returns after a few seconds
with a camera in her hand)

SAGE

Where did you go?

(AUTUMN holds up the camera)

AUTUMN

I got my camera.

SAGE

What is the camera for? Taking some more pictures?

AUTUMN

No, dummy. I'm going to record us talking about "us".

SAGE

Like how we are dating and going to the same college?

AUTUMN

Everything about us. Now come on, get into frame.

(AUTUMN sits on the bed and SAGE sits beside AUTUMN)

(BLACKOUT)

ACT I

SCENE 7

TIME: 9:00am.

SETTING: A bed is placed diagonally with bottom facing downstage right on stage right center. A table is located next to the bed on center stage with a coffee maker and Styrofoam cups on top of it. The chair is next to the table also on center stage. A bookshelf is on upstage left. It is with books and a picture of SAGE and AUTUMN hidden in one of the books. The door is on downstage right facing offstage. A television is placed stage center right cheating towards the house and facing the bed.

ON RISE: SAGE is sitting on the bed in different clothing than ACT 1 SCENE 6. He is going to play a video on the television.

SAGE

So that girl from my class gave me a tv and only one video to watch? Gee, thanks... (Fiddles with the remote) So I just press play? (Presses a button)

(Television plays a video of AUTUMN and SAGE)

VIDEO:

AUTUMN

Okay, go.

SAGE

H-Hey me!

AUTUMN

Hey Sage!

SAGE

What? Did I mess something up?

AUTUMN

I said "Hey Sage!"

SAGE

Yes, and I answered.

AUTUMN

No, I'm saying "Hey" to your other self. Not you...

SAGE

Oh, yeah!

(AUTUMN laughs)

AUTUMN

Anyways, to the Sage watching this video you may be wondering "I don't remember this"

SAGE (NON-VIDEO)

That's exactly what I'm wondering.

AUTUMN

Don't worry this isn't you. Well, this is you but just not you as you are now.

SAGE

What she is trying to say is that you and I are the same person but as me and you know, we are missing some memories. It's like a split personality but to the extreme. I have all the old memories but don't remember anything after the accident up until now. You have all the post-accident memories but hardly any old ones. So, I am going to let you know what you are missing and Autumn will help.

AUTUMN

Yes! I will help him know if he misses anything, which he will, and let you know what I know.

SAGE

As you are right now Sage you have no closeness to Autumn and no recollection of the past. That is why we made this video. This video is to let you know of some important events in the past. To start off we will need to go back to middle school where we met Autumn. When we met Autumn (LIGHTS and SOUND begins to FADE OUT SLOWLY) we were on the track team and both of us were so competitive. I think that's what made us get as close as we are, actually.

(BLACKOUT)