

EVERSON
COLEMAN

Finding Andrew



Bambi Everson

FINDING ANDREW

One act, approximately 22 minutes

CHARACTERS

VIRGINIA (12) – Pragmatic, honest, carrying a heavy burden.

MAX (12) – Virginia’s best friend. Wisecracking, protective.

CATHERINE MARSHALL (40s-50s) – Friend of Max’s family. Struggling with severe loss.

PLACE: Brooklyn, NY.

TIME: The present.

SYNOPSIS

Twelve-year-old Virginia’s peculiar connection to Andrew is met with uncertainty and doubt by her best friend, Max.

SCENE ONE

VIRGINIA and MAX are walking together, just enjoying each other's company, and taking in the sights.

VIRGINIA

I used to live here.

MAX

Brooklyn?

VIRGINIA

No. Here.

MAX

This is a graveyard.

VIRGINIA

I know.

MAX

It's been a graveyard for... I don't know... a hundred years, maybe.

VIRGINIA

I know!

MAX

You are creeping me out. When did you go goth?

VIRGINIA

Never. I just like black.

MAX

Then what are you talking about?

VIRGINIA

You're going to think I'm weird.

MAX

I already do. But, "good weird."

VIRGINIA

I wanted to tell you for a while, but I wasn't sure myself. Something keeps drawing me back here. Sometimes, when I get close, I get a pain in my chest. Like I am heartsick. But other times, I just sit and... I don't know... have a silent chat. It's over here.

VIRGINIA shows MAX a particular grave,

MAX

Andrew Marshall? Not even funny, Virginia. His mom is one of my mom's best friends. Come on, let's go.

VIRGINIA

He was 11, right?

MAX

You can see that right here. 1998-2009.

VIRGINIA

I was born in 2009.

MAX

So was I. So were a billion other kids. What are you getting at?

VIRGINIA

I know him.

MAX

You couldn't possibly.

VIRGINIA

But I do. Brown hair, Green eyes. Everyone loved his eyelashes. His room had a giant Ramones poster. His mom hated it. I love the Ramones!

MAX

Everyone loves The Ramones. They're awesome.

VIRGINIA

So, here's the thing. I never really felt connected to my mom. That mother/daughter bond... We don't even look alike, really. I always felt like an outsider. Like I was adopted or something, but I wasn't. I know I came out of her body because my dad took a video of my birth. Well, most of it anyway. It went black at a certain point.

MAX

So you think something happened? An alien abduction? Soul transference?

VIRGINIA

No. My dad just fainted is all.

MAX

Did you ever think you were one of those kids switched at birth? I mean, it used to happen every so often in the old days. I think hospitals are more careful now, but you never know. Did you ever think about investigating that? That would make a heck of a lot more sense than... this!

VIRGINIA

I couldn't. My mom is uber-sensitive. I think that would really hurt her feelings. That's not it, anyway. I know I'm connected to Andrew in some profound way that I don't fully understand. I am accessing his feelings and thoughts. They are flowing through me... pumping my heart. I know he wants... I want... to let his family know. Do you think it would give Andrew's parents some comfort to know some part of him is still here?

MAX

I don't know. How am I supposed to know? You're telling me - what? That you are some kind of reincarnated soul?

VIRGINIA

I don't know what or who I am.

MAX

The Marshalls are good people. I don't know their views on the afterlife or reincarnation. It doesn't exactly come up in dinner conversations, but this kind of stuff would certainly mess with someone's mind, don't ya think? It's certainly messing with mine. My mom told me she was pregnant with me when Andrew died. They still came to her baby shower. Can you imagine?

VIRGINIA

He was shot, right?

MAX

Yeah. By a stray bullet. He was just going to the Bodega for bread and milk. His mom sent him out. All this time and you can still see the sadness in her eyes. I don't think she's ever forgiven herself.

VIRGINIA

He didn't feel anything. It was instant. He didn't even know what hit him.

MAX

How do you know?

VIRGINIA

I told you. I just know. I need to meet them. If a part of me is their son, then they might be my parents.

MAX

You know this sounds completely nutso, right?

VIRGINIA

Why do you think I've never ever talked about it before? I felt crazy for years. Afraid I'd be put in a psych ward if I told anyone. You are my best friend. If I can't trust you, who can I trust?

MAX

I think I should talk to my mom about this.

VIRGINIA

No. Your mom will talk to my mom.

MAX

Not if I...

VIRGINIA

Not for nothing, Max, you know I love your mom, but she can't keep a secret. Remember your "surprise" party?

MAX

Haha. Right. That was some good acting, though, on my part.

VIRGINIA

Award winning. Remember when Kate's dad had a thing with our music teacher? News spread quicker than a firecracker fuse, once your mom got wind of it.

MAX

Ok, ok. My mom is a blabbermouth. How do you remember this stuff?

VIRGINIA

My brain is an overflowing file cabinet. Problem is... not all the files are mine. I thought about going by their house, but that felt kinda stalker-y and weird.

MAX

It's pretty darn weird any way you slice it.

VIRGINIA

Will you take me?

MAX

Jeez, Virginia, You 're really putting me in an awkward position.

VIRGINIA

Just introduce me. Let me see if I feel anything at all. Maybe this is all in my head.

MAX

And then what?

VIRGINIA

Then... Nothing. If I feel nothing, if they feel nothing... I clearly need professional help. Please, Max? Just a quick hello. I can't keep this inside anymore.

MAX

I think this is a mistake. You are really serious, right?

VIRGINIA

Dead serious.

MAX

OK, fine. Just let me do all the talking, OK?

VIRGINIA

Thank you. Thank you so much.

MAX

Anything to get out of this graveyard.

END OF SCENE