

Lost Toys

i.e. What's for Breakfast?

(A short play)

By Christine Williamson

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Synopsis

A quiet portrait of one of life's small, daily moments of bereavement. Carey fixes breakfast for herself and Twinkle, remembering when she used to feed two cats.

Characters

TWINKLE	A cat, (no longer a kitten, but not-yet middle-aged)
CAREY	Twinkle's owner, (Any adult age)

Setting

The kitchen of Carey's apartment. Important acting spaces include the counter with cupboards, (where Carey prepares breakfast), and a small kitchen table set for one. The table must have a space beside it for Twinkle to eat near Carey's chair.

Time

Present. Morning.

Minimal Setting Options

This piece could be performed black box, but the major props pieces should be used.

Approximate Running Time: 7-10 minutes

(Lighting/Sound: Lights up, revealing CAREY moving about her kitchen. A pot of coffee is percolating on the counter. A cylinder of Quaker Oats rests nearby. A covered pot simmers on the stove. Off to one side, a small table with a single place setting waits. A wipe-clean pet mat rests on the floor beside it.)

Enter TWINKLE

TWINKLE

(Chases a toy into the kitchen and across the floor. Loses it. Scrabbles to retrieve it. No success.)

...

CAREY

(Opens a cupboard. Pulls out a cat bowl.)

TWINKLE

(Runs to CAREY, brushing up against her leg.)

What's for breakfast?

CAREY

Jelly fish.

TWINKLE

(Brushes up against CAREY's other leg.)

What's for breakfast?

CAREY

(Pulls out a can of cat food.)

Jellyfish.

TWINKLE

(Stretching up to look at counter.)

My toy's lost.

CAREY

Take it easy.

(Pulls out a spoon.)

TWINKLE

What's for breakfast?

CAREY

Just hold your horses.

TWINKLE

Jelly Fish. Jelly Fish, Jelly Fish.

(Drops down. Brushes up against CAREY's leg.)

CAREY

(Opens can.)

TWINKLE

(Goes nuts.)

Breakfast! Breakfast!

CAREY

(Spoons cat food into bowl.)

TWINKLE

(Dances around CAREY as she spoons.)

That's for me! That's mine right? Right?! Breakfast time!

CAREY

(Finishes spooning.)

TWINKLE

Breakfast! WHOO HOO!

CAREY

(Gets another bowl.)

TWINKLE

Hey!

CAREY

(Starts preparing her oatmeal.)

TWINKLE

...

Hey! Hey, hey! Can I have it?

CAREY

Just wait.

TWINKLE

Aw, wait! Wait, wait! I hate wait. Wait, wait... Wait. Wait. ...Can I have it?

CAREY

(Sprinkles some dried fruit on her oatmeal.)

Yuck.
TWINKLE

CAREY
(Starts pouring her coffee.)

Oh, c'mon! Stop fussing.
TWINKLE

CAREY
(Gets cream for her coffee.)

TWINKLE
(Tries to steal the breakfast.)

Hey! Uh, uh. Down.
CAREY

Down. Down, down, down, down, down, down, down. I'm down.
TWINKLE

CAREY
(Adds cream to her coffee, then carries coffee and oatmeal to table.)

TWINKLE
(Twines about her legs. Jumps up on chair.)

Uh, uh. Down.
CAREY

Seriously? I don't want that. ...Whatever.
TWINKLE
(Jumps down.)

CAREY
(Gets TWINKLE's bowl.)

WHOO HOO! Breakfast!
TWINKLE

Here ya go.
CAREY
(Sets TWINKLE's bowl on the mat near her chair.)

TWINKLE

Yay! Thank you, thank you! FOOD! I love you! I LOVE YOU!

(Digs in.)

CAREY

(Sips her coffee and eats, watching TWINKLE.)

...What do you think about...?

TWINKLE

(Between bites.)

I think about food. And you. And birds. And toys.

CAREY

I wish you could tell me...

TWINKLE

I wish you would listen!

CAREY

I like sitting here with you.

TWINKLE

I like it too. And toys.

CAREY

What do you do when I'm not here?

TWINKLE

There's a squirrel outside. He comes and stares at me. Jerk. I can't get at him. ...Stupid window.

CAREY

I bet you miss him...

TWINKLE

...

CAREY

I miss your brother...

TWINKLE

Why're you sad?

CAREY

It must be so lonely without him... When I'm out.

TWINKLE

Don't be sad... Hey. Don't be sad.

CAREY

No one to play with...

TWINKLE.

Shh... Don't be sad. I'm here. I like you. You like me. Don't be sad.

CAREY

It's not fair...

TWINKLE

(Sits with CAREY.)

CAREY

...You must miss him so much...

TWINKLE

Um... You're squishing me. Carey...?

CAREY

Do you miss Davy, Twinky?

TWINKLE

Davy?

...

Is Davy back!?

(Jumps down, looking around the kitchen.)

Davy?! Davy?

Exit TWINKLE

CAREY

(Cries.)

Enter TWINKLE

TWINKLE

Davy's not here. Where's Davy? When's Davy coming back?

(Notices CAREY)

Why're you sad? Don't be sad.

(Sits with CAREY.)

I like you. Don't be sad. See? I'm warm and fuzzy... You like fuzzy. You like warm.

Davy was warm and fuzzy too. I like you. I'm here.

(Purrs.)

CAREY
(Hugs TWINKLE.)

TWINKLE
Don't be sad...

CAREY
I love you, Twinky.

TWINKLE
I love you, Carey.

CAREY
...You haven't finished your breakfast.

TWINKLE
Breakfast!

(Jumps down.)
Jelly Fish, Jelly Fish!
(Finishes eating. Stops... Looks offstage. ...Looks up at CAREY.)
...I lost my toy.

(Sound/Lighting: Fade to black.)

FINIS