

HAPPINESS

by

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

MOUTH..... the narrator
FELICITY..... a rich, materialistic woman
MERILYN..... a successful businesswoman
LISA..... the psychologist

TIME: Evening – The spring of 2014

SETTING: Empty at first, then a desk and three chairs being brought out suggest a psychologist's office and a waiting room. In another scene, they also suggest the businesswoman's office, along with a white board, a lamp and some books on the desk.

MOUTH 1

(A WOMAN'S mouth can be seen, the rest of her face covered by a black paper, on a dark stage. The only light source is the MOUTH.)

MOUTH

Everyone has 1 self. Everyone has 2 selves.

Everyone has 3 selves. Everyone has 4 selves.

Everyone has 5, 6, or even 7 selves.

Everyone has 8 selves and for sure everyone has 9 selves.

Everyone has 10 selves.

Which self are you today? Which self are you today?

Are you your happy self? Are you your happy self?

Put on your happy self. Open the closet and put on your happy self.

Two women...

The business-oriented one.

And the material lover.

Which self are they today? Are they their happy selves?

Are they happy?

SHOPPING THRILL

(Two mannequins enter the stage from left. FELICITY enters from right, holding a purse and some bags. She admires the “window” of the shop, when something catches her attention and she hurriedly goes in. She exclaims at various objects when finally she is absorbed with a blue bead necklace. She tries it on and after admiring herself in the mirror, she buys it, throwing away her credit card. Leaves the “shop.” The lights dim to evening light and the mannequins go away.)

FELICITY

Ah! What a wonderful feeling! What could go wrong now that I have a new necklace?

(The video starts playing and thunder is heard.)

FELICITY

Ah! It's raining?

(Her disbelief turns into a smile. She extends her arms, palms facing up, her head thrown back.)

It's ok though! Everything is perfect when I've just bought a new necklace!

(She twirls and puts her bags down. A man enters dancing and hands her an umbrella. She starts dancing. The light is focused on her, the rest of the stage dark. She finishes the dance, picks up her bags and leaves the stage the way she came.)

FRENZY IN THE OFFICE

(MERILYN is sitting at her desk, her head down, her face hidden in her arms. The stage is dark. A lamp and some books are on the desk. The video starts playing and a phone can be heard ringing. At some point she starts awake and switches on her desk light. She rearranges her books in a frantic way. Suddenly she stands up and walks to the white board. She writes success and wipes it away again and again. Then she goes back to her desk, checks her phone and collapses on her books, asleep once again.)

THE WAITING ROOM

(LISA is seen saying goodbye to a client and then lets herself lazily enjoy a piece of cake. MERILYN enters the waiting room and sits down. After a while, FELICITY walks in and sits down, too. The three of them create various noises, making a kind of melody. When it's over, LISA puts away her cake and calls the next client in.)

BUSINESSWOMAN

LISA

Come in!

MERILYN

Finally!

(Walks in the office)

LISA

Hello, I'm Lisa Mills.

MERILYN

Hello, Dr. Mills. I'm Marilyn Rush.

(Handshake, then they sit down)

LISA

How are you Mrs. Rush?

MERILYN

I'm...fine. I'm fine.

(Nervously puts strands of her hair behind her ears)

LISA

Did you come here straight from work?

MERILYN

Yes, I did. I have a very busy schedule so it's hard to find time to, you know...to do other things. So let's be brief, ok?

LISA

These things need time, Mrs. Rush. I'm afraid you need to relax for a minute.

MERILYN

(Surprised)

But I am relaxed!

(Glances at her watch)

LISA

Are you?

MERILYN

Yes.

(Starts clicking the floor with one of her heels.)

LISA

Would you like to lie down?

MERILYN

I...I think it's better this way.

(Keeps clicking her heel.)

LISA

Very well. So how was your day, Mrs. Rush?

MERILYN

Great. I sealed two deals with the Chinese representatives just one hour ago and saved four unnecessary trips to the economic department.

LISA

What exactly do you do, Mrs. Rush?

MERILYN

(Proudly)

I have a lot of fingers in a lot of pies. You can say that I pretty much handle the company on my own.

LISA

Is it tiring?

MERILYN

Of course but it's worth it. I'm a very successful and independent businesswoman. I'm rather well-known in my circles. My achievements are reward enough.

(Checks her cell phone)

LISA

Do you enjoy your work?

MERILYN

It's my reason for living. It's always been my dream to own my own company. After so many years of hard work I have finally reached my goal.

(Absently stares)

But...

(Starts clicking her pen rhythmically)

LISA

But?

MERILYN

But.... I could be even more successful. You know, the sky is the limit.

LISA

And when do you know you have reached the sky?

MERILYN

I don't know...I guess...I'll know when it happens. Till then.... Three things are important in life; work, work and...work!

LISA

What about friends, family?

MERILYN

Well, of course I have family and friends. My colleagues were the ones who suggested I come here in the first place.

LISA

Who is your best friend?

MERILYN

Um...um...um.... My best friend is Jessica. I've known her forever.

LISA

What does Jessica do in her life?

MERILYN

Well, it's been a long time...I guess I should catch up with her because I don't know her recent news.

LISA

Is she married?

MERILYN

Um...wouldn't she have invited me if she was?

LISA

I see.... Are you married?

MERILYN

(Spacing out)

Wouldn't she have invited me if she was?

LISA

Mrs. Rush, are you married?

MERILYN

No. Yes, I'm married to my job. I'm telling you, it's the best companion and the most rewarding partner.

LISA

I see...so, our time is up. Will I see you next week?

MERILYN

I will have to check my schedule first and then I will get back to you.

LISA

Have a nice day.

MERILYN

You, too.

MATERIALISTIC WOMAN

LISA

Come in!

(FELICITY walks in.)

LISA

Hello, Mrs....

FELICITY

(Handshake)

Banks. Felicity Banks. Hello!

LISA

Please, have a seat.

FELICITY

Thank you.

LISA

How are you Mrs. Banks?

FELICITY

Please, Felicity is fine!

LISA

How are you Felicity?

FELICITY

I'm perfectly ok. In fact, I don't think there is any reason for me to be here.

LISA

So, why are you here?

FELICITY

Because my husband forced me to come! He thinks I spent too much money and that I need to see a doctor. Well, I don't need a shrink!

LISA

I'm not a shrink! I am a psychologist!

FELICITY

What's the difference?

(Raises eyebrow mockingly)

LISA

(Sighs)

Moving on, do you think you spend too much money?

FELICITY

Well, of course! Is there anyone who would have so much money and wouldn't spend it? Who am I, Scrooge? I know there are people that don't have such privileges. Should I waste mine? In fact, whenever I am able to, I do care for the less fortunate in any way I can.

LISA

What do you mean?

FELICITY

It's called charity. And even if it seems strange to you, I enjoy it almost as much as shopping.

LISA

Do you like shopping?

FELICITY

Obviously.

(Smirks)

LISA

Why is that?

FELICITY

Anything you buy, every piece of clothing or expensive jewelry, is something that you can use to show to others what they want to see. Have you ever thought of how superficial people are? They don't see who you are but what you look like. And it all comes down to what you wear. So, basically, you are what you wear. Plus, shopping makes everyone happy.

LISA

So, are you happy?

FELICITY

Yes, I am. Why can't my husband see that? Why can't you see that?

(She addresses the audience. The
stage goes dark, the only light on her.)

Why can't *you* see that? What can't *anyone* see that? Who are you to put a frame on happiness? Who are you to *judge* me? Who are you to say what true happiness is?

LISA

How is your relationship with your husband?

FELICITY

Aside from our differences on this matter, things between me and Frank are good, really good.

LISA

How did you meet?

FELICITY

Oh, it was the most romantic thing! We were both in this fabulous yet outstandingly boring cruise. I was by the pool when some drunk guy came to bother me and *bam!* My future husband came to my rescue! I gave him my sincerest thanks but Frank said not to mention it. He later told me he had his eyes on me since earlier, at dinner. I further challenged him to a game of table tennis, which I won without a sweat. It was love at first sight. Or lust. I'm not sure anymore. The point is, next thing I knew, we were married by the end of next summer and lived happily ever after.

LISA

When was that?

FELICITY

Five years ago. We have two children now, one boy and one girl.

LISA

How is your relationship with your children?

FELICITY

Oh, it's perfect! I adore them! I buy them stuff and kiss them goodnight and always make sure they have *everything* they need. Without spoiling them though.

LISA

So are you satisfied with the way things are?

FELICITY

Indeed, I am. I see no problem because there *is* no problem. Everyone is happy doing their own thing. My husband is just worried about his credit cards.

LISA

Don't you have your own credit cards?

FELICITY

No, I don't work. But it's ok, seriously. I mean, even if I spent one million a year for a decade, we would still have more than the Queen of England.

LISA

I see....

(Glances at the clock)

Time is up. Would you like to continue our sessions, Felicity?

FELICITY

I don't really think there is a point.

LISA

I understand. Have a nice day, Felicity.

(Handshake)

FELICITY

Thank you. Have a nice day, too.

REMINISCENCE

(LISA sits by her desk, while the video plays, recollecting previous cases of people searching for happiness and questions what happiness truly is.)

MOUTH 2

MOUTH

What is happiness?

Can you put a frame on happiness?

Can you see who is happy?

Can you say who is happy?

Two women....

Which self are they today? Are they their happy selves?

Are they happy?

(Pause)

Everyone has 1 self. Everyone has 2 selves.

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THE END