

**TRAPPED IN THE
ART ROOM**

--

A one-act drama

by
John Glass



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👉 About Student Plays 👈

Student Plays consists of **John Glass, Jackie Jernigan,** and **Dominic Torres**. We are a group of playwrights and directors that have written scripts for middle school, high school, and the university. We are proud of the variety of ages that our scripts serve, and we are particularly proud of our *Latino-themed plays*. These are scripts that focus on Latino youth and the Latino experience. Any school can perform a Latino-themed play: it just requires a general introduction and exposure to the Spanish language, something that most schools and students already have.

To learn more, or to communicate with one of the playwrights, contact us at john@studentplays.org.

Characters

DANNY	Junior/Senior.
DARIUS	Junior/Senior. Cynical. Pessimistic.
LACEY	Junior/Senior. A leader.
JOY	Freshman/Sophomore. A person of faith. Is emotional throughout the play.
BILL	Freshman/Sophomore. Somewhat cynical.
GEORGIE	Junior/Senior.
ASHLEY	Freshman/Sophomore. Somewhat emotional.
JUJU	Freshman/Sophomore. A person of faith. Is emotional throughout the play.
NURSE	Any gender. Tiny role at the end.

The time is the present. The main setting is the art room of a high school, in a somewhat rural area. The room is somewhat set off from the main part of the campus, in a

slightly wooded area. There are chairs and a few tables, a teacher's desk and a file cabinet. Art easels and various pieces of art are strewn throughout the room.

When the gunshots begin, the cast will face the audience, as if looking through the large glass windows in the front wall of the art room.

Breakdown of Scenes

☞ **Scene One:** The art room. About 8:00 p.m., the Sunday night before spring break.

☞ **Scene Two:** The art room. About 9:30 p.m., that same night.

☞ **Scene Three:** The waiting room of a hospital, the next evening.

Notes on this play

** Each gunshot is marked as a “**crack**” in the play’s stage directions. The actual sound effect of these shots can be determined by the director. Since the shooter is shooting through windows, there should also be the sounds of breaking glass. Great care and discretion should be taken in this area since the nature of a gunshot sound is an obvious sensitive issue, especially given how common mass shootings have become. **

** It is obvious that a play involving a shooter will be sensitive and perhaps even controversial. Yet, it is my intention to bring out the heroism and faith that such an encounter can bring out in people. It is equally my intention, as a father and a teacher, to keep the discussion going on how to reach our young people that feel ignored, marginalized, bullied, or forgotten. I hope that people will take this away when viewing or reading this play. **

SCENE ONE

(As the lights go up, DANNY and DARIUS are sulking about the art room. The room is dimly lit.)

DARIUS Dude.

DANNY What?

DARIUS This is stupid. Let's go. She's not coming.

DANNY Just give it five more minutes.

DARIUS It's been *ten* minutes.

DANNY Jeez. Chill out. Just five more minutes.

(Pause. DARIUS looks at his phone, fidgets.)

DARIUS This is a joke. Her friend better be worth it.

DANNY Well, you saw her picture, right?

DARIUS Yeah. If that really *was* her.

DANNY Relax. It was her. *(A noise is heard at the door.)*

Wait. Is that them?

(Enter LACEY. Turns on the light.)

LACEY Hello?

(Pause. She sees the others.)

Oh. Hey.

DANNY Lacey Stevens?

LACEY Um. Sure.

(Pause.)

Why are you two here? Are you guys doing that painting thing?

DANNY Maybe.

(Pause.)

We're waiting on someone.

LACEY Okay. Well . . .

DARIUS What are *you* doing here? It's spring break.

LACEY Well. I'm supposed to meet somebody. You—you guys aren't with Troy, are you?

DANNY No.

DARIUS Who's Troy?

(Pause.)

LACEY Don't worry about it.

DARIUS Just asking.

LACEY He's nobody. Who are *you* waiting for?

DANNY Nobody you'd know.

LACEY Okay.

DANNY Just someone.

LACEY Okay.

(Pause. She fidgets, uncomfortably.)

So, neither one of you knows a guy named Troy?

DARIUS No.

DANNY Nope. Again, who's Troy?

LACEY I told you. Just somebody.

(Checks her phone, begins to exit.)

Okay. Later.

DARIUS Are you guys doing that art thing? Wasn't it canceled this week?

(Enter Joy, startling LACEY.)

LACEY No.

JOY Hey.

LACEY Oh my God. Why are you here??

JOY Well. I could ask you the same thing.

LACEY Joy, good grief.

DANNY What the hell's going on . . .

LACEY Did you follow me?

JOY No.

LACEY Yes, you did. You followed me up here.

JOY *(Pointing to the others.)* What are *they* doing here? Are you with them?

LACEY *Them?* Hell no.

DARIUS Excuse me? *(To DANNY.)* Dude, what are we doing? Let's go. They're not coming.

(They begin to exit.)

DANNY Yeah, it's getting weird in here.

JOY *Who's* not coming?

LACEY I can't believe you followed me.

JOY Ugghh. I didn't *follow* you.

LACEY Yes you did. You're worried about me. Come on, Joy, it's obvious.

JOY How'd you even get in here?

LACEY The door was unlocked, silly. They do that paint party thing here on Sunday nights.

(Enter GEORGIE and BILL, abruptly, from stage right.)

BILL Yo.

LACEY Okay, what the heck?? Who's next?

GEORGIE Um. Hi. Are you guys . . . with Reggie?

DANNY Huh?

LACEY No. Not us.

JOY Okay, there are *way* too many students here for it to be spring break!

DARIUS Who's Reggie?

GEORGIE Mr. Jones isn't here, is he?

DANNY No teachers are here.

GEORGIE Okay. Well . . . (*Beat.*) Why are *you* guys all here? Did Reggie contact you guys too?

LACEY We don't even know a Reggie.

DARIUS Who's Reggie?

BILL Well . . . this guy that said he had some beer.

GEORGIE (*To BILL.*) Shut up!

JOY Someone's bringing beer? To the campus?

LACEY Here? To the art room?

GEORGIE No! Don't worry about it.

BILL (*Tugging at GEORGIE.*) Come on, he must be outside.

GEORGIE Yeah. Let's roll. I don't want any trouble.

(*Enter ASHLEY AND JUJU, from stage left, carrying art pad and brushes.*)

LACEY Come on, Joy. Let's go.

ASHLEY Hi Joy.

JOY Oh. Hey.

JUJU Um. (*Taking everybody in.*) Is everybody here for the painting party?

BILL No, we're all leaving.

ASHLEY Where's Mr. Jones?

DARIUS (*Beckoning DANNY, who is still standing.*) Bro, what are we doing?? Let's go!

JUJU You guys aren't . . . here to paint?

DARIUS NO! We're not *painting!* We're not looking for *Troy!* And we're not looking for *Reggie!* This is like some wacko scavenger hunt!

BILL Tell me about it.

DANNY (*Exiting.*) Come on, man.

(Crack.)

LACEY Whaa??

(Crack. Crack. There is the sound of broken glass. Screams and chaos.)

DANNY Everybody get down!

(Crack. More broken glass and screams.)

LACEY Somebody's shooting!

BILL Get behind something!

ASHLEY Oh God!

LACEY Guys, get down! Get behind anything!

JUJU Oh my God!

(Crack. Pause. Crack. Crack. Pause. Crack. Long pause. Everyone bunkers down. There are muffled cries and whimpers.)

GEORGIE What the hell? Why did it stop?

JOY Oh dear Lord, please help us!

GEORGIE Ohhh . . .!

DARIUS Come on, man! Let's get outta here!
(Begins to exit. Crack. Crack. Crack. DARIUS stumbles backwards, realizes exit is being shot at.)
Whoaa! Aghhh!

ASHLEY Darius, get down!

DANNY What the hell are you doing, man??

DARIUS *(Ducking down behind a desk.)* Trying to get outta here!

DANNY Geez!!

LACEY Everybody just stay down for now!

DANNY Right! *Everybody!* Just stay behind something!

(Pause.)

GEORGIE He's stopped shooting again for some reason.

BILL Has he?

GEORGIE I don't know. I think.

(JOY scrambles towards the exit.)

JOY Lacey, come on!

JUJU Joy, no!

Crack. Crack. Crack. *More screams. JOY screams, scrambles back down behind a desk.)*

LACEY Stay down!

ASHLEY Oh Lord, please get us out of here! Please . . . !

BILL This is not happening, man. Ughhh . . . !

(Pause. More crying and whimpering.)

GEORGIE Everybody, use your phones!

DANNY No, don't! He's texting us.

LACEY *(Reading her phone.)* Yeah. Oh my God. He actually is.

BILL What does it say?

LACEY "Throw your phones to the front of the room. Or I'll shoot all of you"! Do it, everybody! Throw your phones up front.

(She throws her phone to the front. JOY does the same.

Crack. Crack. Crack. More screams.)

DANNY Everybody throw your phones to the front of the room!! Do it!

(Everyone but JUJU and BILL throws their phones to the very front of the class.)

JUJU I don't have mine on me!

BILL Neither do I!

LACEY He can see us if we're texting!

GEORGIE I threw mine up here!

ASHLEY So did I!

(Long pause. More whimpering and crying.)

LACEY Okay . . .

DARIUS Sheesh. He stopped again. Right?

JOY Why??

BILL This is NOT happening right now, man. It's just NOT.

LACEY Whoever it is, he can clearly see us. He must be hiding in one of all those trees outside.

BILL Guys, I think he's only shooting at the exit doors.

ASHLEY What??

DANNY Yeah. I think he wants to be sure that we can't leave.

BILL Right. Look at the doorways. That's where he's been shooting. Look at all those bullet marks.

GEORGIE Good God.

DANNY When Darius and Ashley tried to leave he took a lot of shots.

BILL For some reason, he's not shooting at us. Not *directly* at us.

LACEY Yeah.

ASHLEY How are you so sure of that?

DANNY Come on. Look around us. We should all be dead by now.

JUJU Don't say that!

DANNY It's true. Whoever this is he's wants us trapped.

JOY Who the heck could be doing this?

BILL I don't know. But I think Lacey is right. He must be up in one of those trees outside. (*Beat. To LACEY.*)
You're Lacey, right?

LACEY Yes. (*Looks around.*) Um. Well. I think I know most of you guys. Everyone here goes to Lake Leon, right?

JOY Yeah.

BILL Yes.

JUJU Yes.

LACEY Was anyone able to get a text off?

DARIUS No.

GEORGIE I didn't even try, my hands were trembling so bad.

(*Pause.*)

He was texting *all* of us. That's what's weird.

JOY Do you . . . think he *knows* all of us?

DARIUS Don't know. Gotta be a student.

GEORGIE What kind of a teenager can shoot like this? He's like a sharpshooter.

ASHLEY An ROTC student.

GEORGIE Maybe.

(Pause. Points downstage, at the large windows.)

But maybe not. He's got these giant windows to shoot through. It could be anyone.

DARIUS Got to be some kid in the ROTC. Some loser.

(Hits something in frustration.) Can't believe this crap.

JUJU Don't say *loser*.

LACEY Yeah. It's that kind of talk that maybe got this person upset.

DARIUS And how do you know that? Huh??

LACEY Everybody knows that. Isn't it obvious?

JUJU *(In tears.)* It's people that constantly get made fun of that do this kind of thing!

JOY Can we stop arguing?? Please??

DARIUS Whatever. *(To DANNY.)* Dude, I'm going for it.

DANNY Dude, don't!

GEORGIE Don't Darius! What are you thinking??

DARIUS I'm thinking that I wanna get outta here.
(Quickly moves to the exit.) That's what.

(Crack. Crack. Crack. *More screams and cries. DARIUS screams, stumbles and falls backwards, quickly hiding behind something.*

LACEY Darius, get down!

DARIUS Shit!

(Crack.)

ASHLEY Darius, please! Just stay down!

DANNY Stay down, man. Use your brain.

(Pause as he gains control over himself.)

DARIUS Okay. No more. I'm staying right here.

LACEY Everybody, just try and keep it together. Nobody should try to leave! He can obviously see us!

(Pause. More whimpers.)

JOY Help us, oh Lord. Please help us . . .

BILL So, are we just gonna sit here all night? Trapped in the art room? Sit around and *pray* for help??

GEORGIE Someone has to be hearing all the gunfire, right?

DANNY No. I think he has a silencer.

ASHLEY What is that??

DANNY It makes the gun quieter. I'm almost positive he's using one.

DARIUS The shots haven't been very loud. He has to have one.

ASHLEY Ohhh . . .

DANNY And this stupid room is also at the back of the campus, middle of nowhere . . .

LACEY We have to think, people. Focus. There is a way out of here. Everybody, think.

(Pause.)

GEORGIE I . . . don't think that this is random. Wasn't he texting *all* of us?

DANNY Yes.

LACEY Yep.

GEORGIE He had *all* of our numbers.

LACEY Ashley, did he text you guys? Did you receive any weird messages?

ASHLEY Not really. Just one from Michelle Ricks. She said they were still doing the paint party tonight.

(Pause.)

BILL Are you sure it was from her?

ASHLEY Well . . .

JUJU We're not sure, no. I thought it was kind of weird. We hardly even know her.

LACEY Okay. Well, see, right there.

(Pause.)

But whatever. We're gonna figure something out.

(Pause.)

BILL *(To GEORGIE.)* I told you this was a mistake! This is ridiculous.

GEORGIE If it was a mistake then why'd you come??

DARIUS Don't worry, Bill. I feel the same way.

DANNY *(To DARIUS)* Whatever, man.

DARIUS It's true.

ASHLEY Why *are* you guys all here? Why the art room, Georgie?

(Pause.)

GEORGIE We . . . were trying to score some beer. So . . .

ASHLEY Oh.

GEORGIE Yeah. I had somebody I didn't even know lead us here. It's spring break so we didn't think anybody would be up here.

(Pause.)

I feel so stupid.

LACEY Well, don't. I was trying to score a vape. Which is even more stupid.

JOY I knew it.

LACEY Don't, Joy. Just, *don't*.

(Pause.)

DANNY I think we're all here for the wrong reasons. Most of us. So let's go ahead and admit that.

LACEY Everybody, *think*. We're not dead for a reason. What is that reason?

(Pause.)

This person *has* to know us.

DANNY Right.

LACEY What do we all have in common? Who did we piss off?

(Long pause. They all reflect.)

DARIUS Well. I've got a feeling I've pissed off a lot of people. That's just me.

GEORGIE What about that new girl? The sophomore, Katie?

JUJU Don't know her.

GEORGIE She seems super-angry. She doesn't want to be at Lake Leon.

JOY Yeah. I've wondered about her.

ASHLEY There's that group of students that hang out at the end of C Hall. By the lockers.

BILL Yeah. Those dudes. I don't know.

ASHLEY They're always dressed in black. Off to themselves.

DANNY That's Jerry and those dudes. They're all right.

ASHLEY Huhh. I wouldn't call some of their conversations *all right*.

LACEY But I've never even talked to Jerry or anybody in that group.

GEORGIE Neither have I.

LACEY It's got to be someone that has a direct problem with *all* of us. *Has* to be.

BILL Who the hell cares?? Ughh! I just wanna get out of here!

DARIUS Oh, we will, bro. Trust me on that.

(Pause.)

JOY I turned down Pete Byers for the prom.

DARIUS Big deal. A lot of people get turned down for the prom.

JOY Well . . . still, you never know. I wondered if it hurt his feelings. I'm still wondering.

JUJU I turned down Braxton Sanders for the prom.

GEORGIE So did I.

JUJU And he muttered something when I turned him down.

JOY Did he?

JUJU Yeah. It freaked me out.

DANNY Hey, what about that grumpy substitute? Mr. Landero?

DARIUS Yeah. That guy's got some real issues.

LACEY Come on . . . that guy hardly ever subs. He doesn't know us.

JUJU Braxton comes to the paint parties sometimes. Here in the art room.

GEORGIE Does he?

JUJU Yes. He's pretty good. Some of his art is in here. Somewhere.

JOY Braxton is harmless. He's just sort of an outcast.

GEORGIE Are you sure about that??

BILL This is stupid. Who cares who it is?? And how do we even know this person even knows us?

LACEY Come on. It's so obvious. He led us here! Almost everybody in this room was intentionally brought here.

GEORGIE Yeah . . . maybe . . .

(Pause. DARIUS slowly stands and paces.)

DANNY Darran Brown was cut from the baseball team.

BILL Yep. And he was really pissed. He made a few scary comments about it.

JOY Did he?

DANNY Yep. Anybody else here have a hard time with Darran Brown?

LACEY No.

ASHLEY Nope.

GEORGIE I don't even know him

BILL Well. You know who else didn't make the baseball team?

(Pause.)

JUJU Braxton Sanders?

BILL Yep. He was cut the first day. Me and Danny were on the senior committee, and coach wanted our opinions of him.

JUJU Weren't there others, though? That didn't make the team?

BILL Well. Yeah.

JOY Hey, should you be walking around like that?

DARIUS I don't know. If he wants to kill us then he can do it whenever. You really think that these art easels and chairs and gonna stop a bullet?

ASHLEY Don't say that! Please!

DARIUS What? It's true. Geez. We're sitting ducks here.

DANNY Darius, stop!

ASHLEY Don't speak that way, Darius.

DARIUS Ughhh.

ASHLEY Please. Just . . . don't!

GEORGIE Why don't we all just chill out? Just take a huge breath and dial it back a little. Come on, people.

LACEY Yeah. Let's keep it together, ya'll. There is a way out of this. We're going to find a way out of this room.

BILL If you say so.

LACEY We will. Come on. Show some faith.

DARIUS (*Bristling*) Some faith?

LACEY Yeah.

BILL Whatever.

LACEY You know. A little faith. For now, we just have to . . . wait.

(Long pause. Everyone gradually gets a little more comfortable, still taking everything in.)

ASHLEY Um. Guys? I didn't say anything before. But . . . just so you know . . .

BILL Just so we know *what?*

ASHLEY I turned Braxton Sanders down for the prom too.

(Pause.)

JUJU Did you?

ASHLEY Yeah. He wasn't happy about it. At all.

JOY Wow.

GEORGIE Well, that doesn't mean a whole lot.

(Pause.)

Or does it . . . ?

(Pause.)

JOY So, Lacey. . . ?

LACEY Yeah?

JOY For now, we just wait?

LACEY That's right.

(Pause.)

For now. . . we wait.

(Everyone attempts to gradually relax a little. Nothing more is said. A few seconds go by. Lights go down. End of scene.)