

## **The Smiler**

### **The Writers of this script:**

**Natalie Novella, Adrienne Santa Romana, Hanna Nopar, Robert Yahne**

\*NOTE: Anything in red is optional. Doesn't have to be in script\*

#### Main Characters

ETHAN QUIMBY - A 27 year old, male patient, is emitted into a mental institution. 2 split personalities - Nice, friendly, and loved by others and is the main character as well as part of the duo of detectives (Ethan and Steve); Insane sociopath (Second personality isn't revealed till end). Ethan is also the detective of the story.

STEVE UDELHOVEN - (Narrator) Breaks the fourth Wall throughout the performance; In the beginning of the play he gives background. He gives a family friendly feel to the story so it's not so intense. Steve ends up as the actual detective in the end. Volunteers at the mental hospital.

TOBI - Has a short term memory, VERY observant, smart, intelligent

#### Sub-Characters

STACY THE NICE NURSE - The only kind nurse in asylum. She's a potential suspect because of her temper.

MARY - Mary gives off the creepy feel because she seems to be able to predict murders and has screaming fits.

BETTY THE BAD NURSE - Nasty, mean and abusive to the patients, Russian.

ROSE-OF-SHARON - Betty's right hand nurse. She's mean, too.

GUS - First patient killed during Ethan's stay.

SID - The meanest nurse, hated every one of the patients

Random Patient - Minor speaking line

The Smiler - Yeah

Act 1

Scene 1

SCENE:

*The front hall in Cane Hill Asylum. Late afternoon. Patients are milling around aimlessly. It's blatantly obvious that they are mentally unstable. Some are mumbling to themselves, some are rocking back and forth looking paranoid. On stage left there is a small table with two chairs and on it is a worn out Checkers board. Behind the table is a couch. To the right of that is the front desk with an old dinosaur of a computer set on it. Sid sits at the desk looking mean. The walls are cracked and the feel is very ominous. On the wall is a window with rusty bars blocking patients from trying to escape. Outside it looks gloomy.*

*(The stage is dark, then someone's [possibly even a child to make it creepier?] voice starts reciting this nursery rhyme)*

*Don't you ever laugh as the hearse goes by,  
For you may be the next to die.  
They wrap you up in a big white sheet  
From your head down to your feet.  
They put you in a big black box  
And cover you up with dirt and rocks.  
All goes well for about a week,  
Then your coffin begins to leak.  
The worms crawl in, the worms crawl out,  
The worms play pinochle on your snout  
They eat your eyes, they eat your nose,  
They eat the jelly between your toes.  
A big green worm with rolling eyes  
Crawls in your stomach and out your eyes.  
Your stomach turns a slimy green,  
And pus pours out like whipping cream.  
You spread it on a slice of bread,  
And that's what you eat when you are dead.*

*(The stage goes dark)*

ETHAN (Sounds of struggle)

No! No, Please! Oh God, no! Please don't make me go to that place! I'm not crazy! Please, I'm telling you-I'm not crazy! I'M NOT CRAZY!!!!!!!

*(a thud is heard then all is silent)*

STEVE (Narrating from off stage)

This story is about a war hero known as Ethan Quimby...

*(A bright light flashes)*

*[Ringing noise]*

*(Ethan wakes up with a pounding headache on the couch in the front hall. He sits up looking confused and then a look of dread crosses his face. Stacy realizes her patient is awake and rushes over from the front desk where she was trying to have a conversation with Sid)*

STACY(A fake smile crosses her face)

I assure you Mr. Quimby, your stay here will be absolutely delightful! Even though you don't want to be here, You'll be glad your ex-wife checked you in! Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is easily treatable! Definitely because your's is a very mild case!

ETHAN

Thanks. *(sits up in the couch he's laying on)* I'm sure I'll adjust to the place in no time. *(laughs nervously)* Though I really don't think it's necessary for me to be here. So, about what happened before... I hope I didn't hurt anyone.

STACY

Oh, nothing really happened, you just... Didn't want to be here that's all. It happens to most patients when they're brought here. At first it will be tough to adjust but soon you will be able to overcome your disorder and go back to your normal life. *(Stacy said reassuringly)*

*(Mary suddenly screams. She starts freaking out-- she throws herself onto the floor as if something was trying to attack her, she knocks over a table kicking and screaming. Betty and Rose-Of-Sharon run on from Stage left and pin her down. She suddenly stops and points at Ethan)*

MARY *(says in a demonic voice)*

The Smiler is coming for you next!

*(She goes still as she's injected by a shot)*

SID *(Says from where he's sitting at the desk reading a magazine)*

Mr. Udelhoven! Take the newbie to his room! It's room 5b. Go! Now!!

*(Steve walks up to Ethan)*

STEVE

Well, I guess I'm taking you to your room. Oh, and that's normal around here by the way.

ETHAN

Really? *(Ethan looks at Mary)* That's going to be really hard to get used to. What's, um, well... What's her reason for being here?

STEVE *(looks at Mary while he speaks)*

Mary is... schizophrenic.

ETHAN

Oh.

*(Steve exits stage Right Ethan following him through the door marked 5b. Steve opens the door and enters the room, Ethan following closely behind)*

ETHAN

Um. Why did that nurse call you Mr. Udelhoven? By the way my name is Ethan Quimby.

STEVE (*Turns red in the face and down at his shoes*)

That's my name. Steve Udelhoven, I intern here, I want to be a doctor so I thought this kind of experience would look good on my resumé. I've come here every summer for the past 2 years. Your name is Ethan Quimby? (*Realization crosses Steve's face*) ... Ethan Quimby, as in the decorated war hero? I read about you in the paper. What are you doing here? (he said excitedly) Didn't you like, save your entire squad from being bombed? And you like dragged your injured comrades out of the firing line? Dude you're a hero!

ETHAN

Yeah. (*chuckles and scratches his head awkwardly*) That's me.

(*Stacy walks into Ethan's room while Steve is in the middle of his sentence*)

STEVE

Of all people, I wouldn't expect you to be in a mental hospital. (he said questioningly)

STACY

Well, we all have secrets, you know.

ETHAN

What's wrong with that girl? Why did she start screaming? And yelling at me saying "You're next"? What's... The Smiler?

STACY

Mary is a little unstable at the moment. But don't worry, she'll calm down soon enough. And As for The Smiler, well... you don't have to worry about that, it's nothing. (*Stacy says defensively.*) Anyways, it's time for your daily pills.

(*Stacy gives Ethan a paper cup full of three small multicolored pills*)

STEVE

The Smiler is this insane killer who runs around at night and murders patients, we find them laying on their beds with a creepy smiley face on the window drawn out of their blood. Isn't that something? Only a lunatic would do something like that, but then again this place is full of 'em so it could be anybody. (*Steve smiles all crazy like*)

STACY

Steve! Don't say things like that! Ethan swallow those pills now! (*Stacy frantically walks out the room*)

(*Ethan swallows the cup of pills, then looks at Steve*)

ETHAN

What-

STEVE

I'll see you tomorrow at breakfast. Good night.

ETHAN

Woe! Wait! (*Steve walks out the door*)... Good night.

*(Ethan sits up in bed creeped out of the Smiler)*

*(Steve opens the door suddenly [after like 10 seconds] giving Ethan a heart attack)*

ETHAN

What the heck dude!?!

STEVE

This was on the outside of your door. *(gravely)*

*(Steve hands Ethan a smiley face sticker)*

*(Stage goes dark)*

Scene 2

SCENE:

*Steve and Ethan walk on from stage right and sit at the table.*

*(All lights turn off, spotlight on Steve)  
(The other characters freeze on stage)  
(Steve stands up and talks to the audience)*

STEVE/NARRATOR

The next day, Steve and Ethan are in the common room playing checkers. Let's see what happens next.

*(Steve sits down)  
(Lights turn back on, resuming the scene)*

ETHAN

Are you sure?

STEVE

*(Steve makes his move on the checkerboard)* Yeah dude, I swear I was doing my nightly patrol when I saw the sticker. That usually means the person in that room is going to be killed, happens everytime. So how come you aren't dead yet?

ETHAN

I don--

*(Rose-Of-Sharon runs through audience, screaming her line)*

ROSE-OF-SHARON

Sid's been murdered!!!!

*(All the patients in the common space gasp dramatically)*

BETTY

Sid?! The Smiler's never gone after the workers here at the institution.

*(All stage lights go off and a spotlight shines onto Steve as the narrator)  
(Everyone freezes in place except Steve)*

STEVE/NARRATOR

Sid was the longest employed nurse at Cane Hill Asylum. Lasting 10 years of helping, or not helping, patients get better. Sid is also the first staff to be killed by The Smiler.

*(Steve walks back into his previous position)  
(Spotlight disappears and all lights come back up)  
(Everyone unfreezes)*

ETHAN *(whispers to Steve)*

Hey! We should check out the crime scene!

STEVE *(whispers back)*

Fine by me!

*(Ethan and Steve walk off stage left)*

Scene 3

SCENE:

*Steve, Ethan, Betty, Rose-of-Sharon, and Stacy walk into the room of the crime. A dead body lies on the bed that's stained with blood. On the wall a creepy smiley face with fangs and Xs as eyes drawn on the wall of the of the victim's room.*

STEVE

Oh my God, I think I know who did this... It was the...the...

ETHAN

Who?

STEVE

The Smiler.

ETHAN (Worried look on face)

Really?! That's the kind of person the Smiler is? . . . That's... insane.

STEVE

I know right. I'm really surprised that I'm still alive.

ETHAN

Okay, We now know, the Smiler paints a smiley face with fangs and Xs on the wall using it's victims blood.

*(Steve, Ethan, Stacy, Betty, and Rose-Of-Sharon start walking around and inspecting the scene. Steve and Ethan go off in a corner Stage right and start talking, the nurses converse stage left on the other side of the room, they don't seem to be very affected)*

STEVE

The nurses never seem to be affected when a death occurs, do you think it could be them? They are really vicious sometimes, they don't care at all for the patients.

ETHAN

I mean maybe, but this is a nurse why would a nurse kill one of their own?

STEVE

Who do you think it is? What's their motive, why are they doing such a thing?

ETHAN

I don't know, but whoever it is this isn't the last time they'll kill. This is the work of someone who loves the sight of someone suffering. This is sick.

*(Steve, Ethan, Rose-Of-Sharon, and Betty exit stage left)*

*(Stacy stays behind and looks one last time at the dead body and smiley face)*

STACY *(deadpans)*

Good bye Sid.

*(Stacy then exits stage left)*



Scene 4

SCENE:

*Ethan paces back and forth while Steve is sitting on the couch eating a piece of ham, looking frustrated. Steve seems calm about the situation at hand.*

ETHAN

This is starting to freak me out. I don't know what to do first.

STEVE

Well, this has been going on for about 2 years, and here we just try to roll with it.

ETHAN

You're saying, you don't care?! You don't mind if they die, as long as you're alive?!? You can just watch all of these innocent people die with a smile on your face? Why hasn't anyone done anything about this? 2 years? 2 YEARS Steve, and people are still getting killed!? Why hasn't the police been involved? Why are you so careless about The Smiler?

STEVE

I - - - *(cuts off by TOBI who walks in [stage right] but seems to have been listening)* Oh hey Tobi... *(Steve's voice suddenly becomes gentle)*

TOBI

There's a simple solution for that my friend, it's quite discernible actually. The nurse's don't care squat about us. The only reason they are here is because they're paid oodles of money, oodles. Even-even-even-even-even *(Stutters)* nurse Stacy. Oodles.

*(Ethan stares at Tobi, astonished. Steve shifts uncomfortably.)*

And you were wondering who the killer is my friend? Weren't you my friend? Yes, yes, *(He rubs his lips together)* I know who the killer is, or was, that is, and I can tell you it's, he's.... *(Tobi suddenly looks lost and frustrated, he clenches his hands and rubs his lips together)* What...? What am I doing in your room my friend? What the oodles?

*(A scream is suddenly heard from the lobby)*

*(Ethan, Steve, and Stacy rush to see what's going on)*

*(Gus rocks back and forth on the couch looking petrified. Suddenly he jumps up and bangs on the window)*

GUS

No! I don't want to be here! I don't want to die yet! Somebody help me! Somebody help!

*(Gus yells hysterically. Rose-Of-Sharon runs in and tackles him to the floor, she then drags him out while he's whimpering.)*

*(A piece of paper is found on the ground)*

*(Ethan picks it up)*

*(Finds it a letter made of magazine letters)*

*(Steve reads it aloud)*

STEVE

"I know you are trying to find out who I am, and that's great and all. But stop. It's best if you stay out of my business and let me do my job. You are all going to die anyway so what's the point?" -- *(interrupted by Ethan)*

ETHAN

Their JOB!?! What job involves murdering people!?! Well I mean being in the military, and being a hit man oh and also- - - *(Ethan is cut off by Steve)*

STEVE

Wait! Let me finish, geez... *(he looks at the paper for a couple seconds and then flips it over)* there's a poem. *(Steve take a deep breath)*

STEVE

It's a nursery rhyme!

*"Don't you ever laugh as the hearse goes by,  
For you may be the next to die.  
They wrap you up in a big white sheet  
From your head down to your feet.  
They put you in a big black box  
And cover you up with dirt and rocks.  
All goes well for about a week,  
Then your coffin begins to leak.  
The worms crawl in, the worms crawl out,  
The worms play pinochle on your snout  
They eat your eyes, they eat your nose,  
They eat the jelly between your toes.  
A big green worm with rolling eyes  
Crawls in your stomach and out your eyes.  
Your stomach turns a slimy green,  
And pus pours out like whipping cream.  
You spread it on a slice of bread,  
And that's what you eat when you are dead.*

*Rest peacefully,  
The Smiler."*

*(Ethan and Steve stare at the paper)*

ETHAN (Gravely)

My mom used to tell this nursery rhyme to me. It's called The Hearse Poem.

STEVE

What a loser. This is what he's threatening us with? Everyone dies anyway. Creepifying it won't make it any scarier!

ETHAN

The Smiler is trying scare us. This lunatic is trying to tell us that this is what's going to become of us anyway, so we shouldn't resist because there's no

point. If he thinks Ethan Quimby is just going to let this happen then The Smiler's got another thing coming! We'll- - -  
(Betty storms in angry at Steve and Ethan)

BETTY

What are you doing here!? You're supposed to be in bed! It's past lights out! What do you have there? (She crossed over to them) What's this? (Takes the note) Are these cut outs from Sid's magazines?? You freaks! Now go to your room, Mr. Quimby. And Steve, find something else to do!

(Ethan walks into his room on Stage Right)  
(While Steve is about to exits stage left he turns back to look at Betty)  
(Betty appears with a strict look on her face)  
(All lights turn off, spotlight on Steve)  
(The other characters freeze on stage)  
(Steve talks to the audience)

STEVE

She's so mean!

(Lights turn back on, resuming the scene)  
(Steve quickly turns around and exits)  
(Stage goes black)

Scene 5

SCENE:

*Steve's head pops out Stage Left. Spotlight on Steve.*

STEVE

Three days have past and no sign of the Smiler. Dun Dun DUNNN!!!

*(Lights turn on)*

*(Scene begins with Ethan and Steve readings books in the main lobby with the other patients)*

*(Steve suddenly stops and turns to Ethan)*

STEVE

You know, 3 days and no sign of The Smiler after his cute little stunt with that gross nursery rhyme. I'm starting to think all he is is a big wimp, a really stup- - -

*(Steve is interrupted with a scream from from off-stage)*

*(A patient runs in from stage left and yells frantically)*

RANDOM PATIENT

Oh my god! Gus is dead!

MARY

I knew it!!!! I kn-kn-knew it. *(Mary then starts laughing hysterically and Betty comes up behind her and injects her with a shot. Mary then passes out. Betty and Rose-Of-Sharon carries Mary of stage left)*

STEVE

Well then... *(as everyone stands up and Ethan runs off stage left to go see the crime scene, Steve then follows, along with Tobi, exiting stage left also, the boys run back in on stage left to a set up murder scene, almost identical to Sid's.)*

*(At the crime scene)*

*(Ethan and Steve stand looking at the smilers face)*

*(Ethan pulls Steve aside to talk one-on-one. The others talk with only their mouths{no voices are heard from them} only Ethan and Steve's conversation can be heard in the audience)*

ETHAN

I've been having some suspicions about who the Smiler is. Everyone here is a suspect and we need to go more in depth with our evidence. I think we should interrogate some of the nurses. After what Tobi said, it makes sense that they'd want to murder some lunatic patients, I mean we are the reason they are stuck here 24/7.

*(All lights turn off, spotlight on Steve. The other characters freeze on stage. Steve talks to the audience)*

STEVE

Now he thinks of this. *(Rolls eyes and head)*

*(Lights turn back on, everyone unfreezes, resuming the scene)*

STEVE

But what about Sid? He was a nurse, and he was killed.

ETHAN

Yeah I know, but we need to start from somewhere, and the nurses are the most mysterious. We should talk with Stacy first. Have you seen her temper? she seems nice and all at first, but if you don't do something she wants right away, she gets angry, like when she wanted me to take my pills on the first day of my stay!

STEVE

I noticed that. That didn't seem like Stacy, not at all.

ETHAN

Come on. Stacy's right over there. Let's go talk to her.

*(Ethan and Steve walk over to Stacy and pull her aside)*

*(Stacy has a fake smile on her face like she's trying to hide something)*

STACY Hey boys. How can I help you?

STEVE

We need to talk to you. Like, right now. It's urgent.

STACY *(Her face turns angry for a split second then changed back so fast it was almost demonic)*

Well, it's lunch time. You should be eating. But if it's urgent, let's talk.

STEVE

Not here. In the main room.

STACY

Lead the way.

*(Ethan and Steve look at each other then exit Stage Left, Stacy following close behind)*

*(Stage goes dark)*

Scene 6

SCENE:

Stacy enters and walks over to the nurses desk. After a couple seconds go by Ethan and Steve storm in from stage left. Ethan walks up to the desk in serious mode.

ETHAN (*angrily*)

ALRIGHT, STACY! WE KNOW YOU ARE UP TO SOMETHING BAD, AND WE WANT TO KNOW WHY!

*(Everyone turns their head to the front desk. Steve goes up to Ethan, gently holding his shoulder)*

STEVE

That is not the way to interrogate someone. You need to be respectful.

ETHAN (*whispers to Steve*)

Who knows, what if she is the Smiler.

STEVE

What if she isn't?

ETHAN

I guess y (*talks quietly*)ou have a point. But I wanna play good cop-bad cop!

*(Steve give Ethan an annoyed look)*

ETHAN

Alright! Alright. *(Ethan turns back toward Stacy)* Can you please sit down?  
*(gestures to the table with the checkerboard)*

STACY

Sure.

*(Stage lights go out, spotlight on Steve, all actors freeze except Steve.)*

STEVE

She can be SOO annoyingly polite sometimes!

*(Spot light disappears, stage lights come back on, play resumes: Stacy moves to the checkerboard table and sits in the chair that's next to the table Stage Right. Ethan and Steve follow her but Ethan goes to the chair on the opposite end of the table {Stage Left of the table}. Ethan picks up the checkerboard and puts it on the ground. Steve moves to the right of Ethan and crosses his arms.)*

STACY

So...

ETHAN

We are beginning to have suspicions about you.

STACY

About what?

STEVE

About you as The Smiler.

STACY

What?! Are you crazy?!? Why would I ever kill someone?

ETHAN

You don't get to ask questions here.

STEVE

That's why we are asking. Do you know who The Smiler is?

STACY

If I knew that I would have told everyone, including the police.

*(Stacy, Ethan, and Steve are silent for a moment. Steve starts to speak when he is cut off by a bloodcurdling scream. Stacy's face turns frightened)*

STACY *(mumbles a whisper)*

That's Rose-Of-Sharon.

ETHAN

What?

STACY *(louder)*

That's Rose-Of-Sharon.

*(Ethan and Steve look at each other that run of Stage Left at the same time. Stacy, Betty, Tobi, and a random patient follow Ethan and Steve shortly after. The stage goes dark.)*

### Scene 7

SCENE:

Rose-Of-Sharon walks over to Mary's room to give her her daily pills when she sees her dead on the ground with a puddle of blood below her seeping out from a knife wound in her chest. A blood curdling scream arose from Rose-Of-Sharon when she saw the dead patient.

ROSE-OF-SHARON

Oh my God... Not Mary... Oh my God.. *(Rose-Of-Sharon stumbles and hits the wall behind her crying.)*

*(lights go off, spotlight on Steve who enters Stage Left, all actors freeze except for Steve)*

STEVE

Mary was Rose-Of-Saron's patient since the very first day Mary was checked into Cane Hill Asylum. Mary had been at the Asylum for 9 months, and Rose-Of-Sharon had been with her the whole way. Mary never got better, she only got worse. Rose knew that her day would come but she didn't want it to be so close. You

could say that Rose felt like a mother to Mary so to see her dead really hit hard for Rose.

*(Spotlight disappears and all lights turn back on. Steve exits Stage Left. Play resumes. Ethan, Steve, Betty, Stacy, Tobi and a random patient rush to the scene Stage Left. Rose-Of-Sharon is on the ground against the wall crying heavily. Ethan and Steve walk over to Rose-Of-Sharon and help her stand up.)*

STEVE

What's wrong Rose?

ROSE-OF-SHARON

I... I just walked into Mary's room and she was dead with a chest wound in her.. Oh my God she's... she's dead.

*(They walk her to the place they interrogated her {the main lobby that they all had just left} They exit Stage Left.)*

ETHAN

Alright Rose we'll be back very soon. We have to go see what exactly happened to Mary. Here drink some water and try to keep calm.

STEVE

We'll be right back I promise.

*(Steve and Ethan walk back over to Mary's room where Betty, Stacy, Tobi and a random patient are looking at the crime scene.)*

ETHAN

So... how did Mary die?

BETTY (says emotionlessly)

Someone stabbed her in the chest and then drew an incomplete smiley face on the wall out of her blood.

STEVE

That means that The Smiler took another victim.

ETHAN

Yeah, the killer could be anyone at this point.

BETTY

Well, I never liked her anyways! I'm going to go do paperwork in my office.

*(Betty exits Stage Left)*

STACY

Do you know how long ago she was murdered?

TOBI

'Looks like it was about 30 minutes ago.

RANDOM PATIENT

I'm going to finish eating. I just came because everyone else was.



*(Random Patient exits Stage Left.)*

ETHAN

Does any know who that guy is? I'm starting to think he doesn't have a name.

STACY

Oh my goodness! I'm late for Rick's feeding!

ETHAN

Who's Rick?

STEVE

A disabled patient.

*(Stacy exits Stage Left)*

ETHAN

I'm going to go to the bathroom then go check on Rose-Of-Sharon.

STEVE

Okay. I'm gonna bounce ideas off of Tobi here. *(Steve patted Tobi on the back lightly.)* When you get back we'll tell you what we've come up with.

ETHAN

Okay.

*(Ethan exits Stage Left.)*

STEVE

So. What do you make of this Tobi? Who is this guy?

TOBI

Oh yes, my friend. This is very serious, my friend. But you should not be asking why, but how. You see, there are oodles of things I notice. Oodles *(Tobi says this urgently)*. First oodle, there-there-there are no signs of struggle, so who ever did this did it very very very fast, oh yes. In an' out, yes. Second oodle, the smiley face isn't complete, yes? Yes. So who ever did this was in a hurry, my friend. Third oodle--

*(Tobi is cut off by Ethan who comes running back in the room Stage Left.)*

ETHAN

Guys! Rose-Of-Sharon is dead!

*(All stage lights turn off. Spotlight appears on Steve. All actors freeze in place.)*

STEVE

Oo, baby! This is getting good!!

*(Spotlight disappears. All stage lights reappear. All actors unfreeze. Play resumes.)*

Well, come on!

*(Ethan, Steve, and Tobi exit Stage Left and stage goes dark to set up Rose-Of-Sharon's place of death in the main lobby: Rose-Of-Sharon is dead sitting up on the couch but resting back on the back rest {not lying down}. A line of blood runs from the corner of her mouth and there is a knife wound to the chest. A Smiley face with fangs and X's for eyes is drawn on the wall in the space between the couch and the front desk. Ethan, Steve, and Tobi enter Stage Left and go straight towards Rose-Of-Sharon's body.)*

STEVE

Oh my God! They're dropping like flies!!

TOBI

Flies have oodles.

*(Ethan and Steve ignore the comment.)*

ETHAN

When I came in to check on her she was dead.

TOBI

There's blood coming from her mouth. She was poisoned. Then she stabbed, oh yes, that's how it happened. That's how all-- *(Tobi clenches his fists and looks at the ground irritated. His face clears and looks up with a confused look on his face.)* What? Wait, where am I? Why am I here? What's going on?

*(Steve turns toward Tobi and grabs his shoulders; not urgently, but not necessarily gentle.)*

STEVE

Tobi, Rose-Of-Sharon was just killed by The Smiler. I need you to go find Betty and tell her this.

TOBI

Rose died? Woe, okay. Why doesn't anyone tell me anything that's going on around here?

*(Tobi exits Stage Left. Steve turns back toward Ethan.)*

STEVE

Well, he's right about one thing. Rose-Of-Sharon did die of poison. But if she was dead, then why did The Smiler stab her?

ETHAN

Well his signature mark is a smiley face drawn in blood, then he probably just needed the blood. *(He shivers.)* This is so sick. Why would anyone want to do this?

STEVE

I've been asking this question the whole time but I can't seem to find the answer.

*(Ethan and Steve are silent for only a moment. Just then Tobi comes back on stage entering from Stage Left with Betty following behind. Betty Looks scared as if she didn't quite believe what Tobi had said. When she sees Rose-Of-Sharon's body she starts to sniffle.)*

TOBI

I found Betty.

*(Betty chokes back a sob then speaks.)*

BETTY

I didn't want to believe it was true.

*(All lights disappear. A spotlight appears on Steve. Steve turns toward the audience. All actors freeze.)*

STEVE

Rose-Of-Sharon was the one Betty was closest to the most. They had instantly bonded when they first met, ironically that was giving a shot to a crazed patient. Betty felt like a sister to Rose, so to see her gone pulled at her heart. Betty was hurt to see her *sista' from another mista' go.*

*(Spotlight disappears. All lights turn back on. All actors unfreeze. Play resumes.)*

BETTY *(says teary eyed)*

Go to bed.

ETHAN

But it hasn't even been dinner time yet.

BETTY

I said go!

*(Steve, Ethan, and Tobi exit Stage Left, leaving Betty alone. Betty turns towards Rose-Of-Sharon and cries. The stage goes dark.)*

### Scene 8

SCENE:

Tobi, Steve, and Ethan are sitting in Ethan's room discussing.

STEVE

This all doesn't make any sense! Why are nurses being killed off all of a sudden!?

TOBI

The best educated guess could be that nurses were getting suspicious of who The Smiler is, so he's killing them all the oodles off!

ETHAN

I think The Smiler is someone that we all don't suspect. Someone like Nurse Stacy. Do you see how she gets easily angry but she hides it behind this facade of a nice and caring nurse? But really it could be any one of us. We are in the looney bin for a reason.

STEVE

... Thats... well that's true.

ETHAN (*Sighs and stands up*)

Well we are getting nowhere. lets just go to bed and think about it tomorrow.

*(Steve and Tobi walk out Stage Left and Ethan lays down in his bed, the lights go off when theres a shriek and the audience can hear the voices of Betty and Stacy outside Ethan's door Stage Left)*

BETTY

Don't tell anyone! Just say he left early this year!

STACY

Make sure everyone stays in their room for the night. Especially Ethan.

BETTY

Right. Ethan and Steve got really close, we can't let him know that Steve has been murdered.

STACY

Where do we put his body?

BETTY

Just throw it out back with the others.

Scene 9

SCENE:

*Ethan sits in the corner of his room, it's dark but still light enough for the audience to see. Ethan is mourning the death of his dear friend Steve, he was killed by The Smiler.*

ETHAN *(talking to himself)*

*It should've been me. Why did he have to die? This is like the war all over again. (Ethan rocks back and forth and starts hyperventilating. When all of a sudden the audience can hear a door creaking open. Slow footsteps are heard on the stage. Ethan has no clue what's going on. A pair of hands reaches out and grabs Ethan, there's a struggle and Ethan is thrown to the floor.)*

THE SMILER

*I put that sticker on your door for a reason. (In a creepy voice)*

*(Ethan tackles the killer to the ground and then runs out of the room to the front lobby. His clothes are disheveled and his hair is messed up. The only person in the lobby is Tobi)*

ETHAN

*Tobi! Oh thank god, Tobi! (Ethan looks behind him) I'm so glad to see you!*

*(Steve pops out from back stage)*

STEVE

*Not Dead! Winkk!!*

ETHAN

*I need help! The Smiler just tried to kill me, but I got away!*

TOBI

*The Smiler?*

ETHAN

*Yes! I think he's still in my room! We need a nurse, NOW! (Ethan starts to run off Stage Left but Tobi catches his arm and pulls him back.)*

TOBI

*The nurses will do you no squat, no squat at all my friend. Just check the surveillance cameras.*

ETHAN

*The surveillance cameras... THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS!? WE HAVE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS AND NO ONE BOTHERED TO CHECKED THEM!?*

TOBI

*The nurses do no squat for us, not even half of one. They, they they, (Tobi looks around.) Why am I talking to you?*

ETHAN

*(Ethan shakes Tobi) Where are the surveillance cameras?!?*

TOBI

*(Tobi glances at Ethan in confusion)* How do you know about the surveillance cameras??? Wait! We have surveillance cameras? What the oodles?!

ETHAN

YAH! You just told me about them! Tobi where are they!? (urgently) You know, look around, find them for me! Remember! Please remember!

TOBI

Well, *(mass confusion on his face)* those nurses seem to always be staring behind those computers back there. *(Points to the front desk)*

ETHAN

The computers! Tobi! Why didn't anyone think of that!?  
*(Ethan runs to the computer with Tobi in tow. Stacy walks in stage left suddenly. She notices Tobi and Ethan behind the computers right away and briskly walks towards them.)*

STACY

What are you two doing!?

ETHAN

We are looking at the surveillance cameras!

STACY

Why? Either way, you guys can't be back there and the surveillance cameras are off limits. No! I'm not letting you look at those!

TOBI *(Tobi walks in front of Stacy, face to face and with a flat tone Tobi begins to speak)*

Ms. Stacy Rebecca Smith, *(Stacy pulls a surprised look)* I don't give a squat about what you think, what's the password?

STACY

*(Stacy murmurs)...* Oodles.

*(Ethan types in the password. Projector screen rolls down to display what's being shown on the laptop. Film being played. Before the Smiler's identity is shown Steve jumps up in the audience and the stage goes black, actors freeze. Spotlight on Steve)*

AUDIENCE INTERACTION:

STEVE

Do we really want to know who the murderer is? Is it that important? If you want the play to continue shout out the password as loud as you can!!! On three, ready? One! Two!! Three!!

*~AUDIENCE SHOUTS OUT PASSWORD~*

STEVE *(gesticulates wildly)*

You can do way better than that! Come on! Again! One! Two!! Three!!!

*~AUDIENCE SHOUTS OUT PASSWORD AGAIN~*

STEVE (*gesticulates wildly again*)  
Much better! Let the play continue!

*(Lights on stage turn back on. Steve returns to backstage)*

#### AUDIENCE INTERACTION ENDS

*(Screen resumes film of surveillance. It shows Ethan walking into the room with a knife in his hand, and then walks out with a bloody knife and a malicious smile on his face. Ethan pauses the film, and gasps in shock)*

ETHAN

Oh my god! That can't be possible! That just can't be me. I don't believe this.  
*(Ethan backs up looking at his hands, terrified and trembling with fear.)* But!  
But I was attacked by Th-The Smiler! How - - -

TOBI

Probably a hallucination my... friend.

*(Stacy backs away from Ethan looking horrified. Tobi just stands there)*

It's possible, oh yes. There's this disorder called DID. Dissociative Identity Disorder, also known as Multiple Personality Disorder, is thought to be an effect of severe trauma during early childhood, usually extreme, repetitive physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. Did you know anything that that that could have triggered this disorder? Oodles.

ETHAN

Well, my mom used to read my this nursery rhyme every night when I was younger. My brother was really aggr- - - *(Ethan cuts himself off and just stares blankly at the floor. He then starts smiling and looks up again. He starts talking, but his voice is different, it sounds blunt and malicious.)* So you found us out. You deserve a cookie! But you know, I don't deserve all the credit, our door Ethan Sid was the original Smiler. The night she left the sticker on Sweet little Ethan went out and searched The Smiler and well when we found him with a knife, I came out and killed him first. *(Laughs)* You know the rest, poor Steve! *(Killer Ethan's sneer starts trembling until the real Ethan's personality starts showing through again. Ethan shudders violently and looks to Tobi, horrified.)*

TOBI

I guess that's how this all came to be.

ETHAN

What do I do now? How do I cure this? *(His voice all shaky)*

STACY

*(While the boys were talking Stacy had snuck up behind Ethan with a syringe)*  
The cure is to live the rest of your miserable life in this asylum. *(Stacy stabs Ethan with a shot and Ethan goes down.)*

*(The stage goes black)*  
*(Footsteps on stage)*  
*(Bloodcurdling scream)*

THE END