

Block the Writer

(The scene takes place in a room. Mindy is working at the desk while Character sits with her.)

Character: Hey Mindy, do you want to go to the movies?

Mindy: I can't, I need to finish this.

Character: What are you working on?

Mindy: I'm writing a play.

Character: That sounds exciting! I'm sure it is going to get a lot of attention.

Mindy: It already has. I announced it on Facebook and got 6 likes.

Character: What's going to happen when it is done?

Mindy: Well, it will be produced I guess.

Character: Where?

Mindy: I don't know. Broadway? London?

Character: How about a bankrupt mall?

Mindy: Seems like a weird place to produce a play, but sure, that is an option.

Character: Can I read it? Whatchu got so far?

Mindy: I guess.

Character: Act 1 Scene 1. Two characters sit...where is the rest?

Mindy: That's all I have so far.

Character: That's all you have so far?

Mindy: Well I have that, and a big case of writer's block.

Character: You still need to write an hour or two of content!

Mindy: It, actually, only has to be about ten minutes.

Character: How long have you been working on this?

Mindy: About 8 years.

Character: What are the characters' names?

Mindy: Well, one is Mindy.

Character: Named after yourself?

Mindy: Of course. And the other is...character.

Character: Character?

Mindy: Yeah, named after you.

Character: My name is Character? What kind of name is that?

Mindy: I told you, I have writer's block.

Character: Wait, is this play just some sort of meta commentary on the fact that the writer can't think of anything to write about?

Mindy: Of course not. That wouldn't make any sense. The writer is male while I am female.

Character: Maybe the writer didn't want to make it obvious.

Mindy: Then why would we be discussing it out in the open like this?

Character: I don't know. I think I am just still a little upset about being named Character.

Mindy: It's better than being named Big Customer.

Character: Yeah, that was a little problematic, wasn't it?

Mindy: Honestly, as times change, this play too may become problematic. So I should probably write something safe so it can be performed again in 25 years.

Character: I don't think anyone is going to perform this again.

Mindy: Why not?

Character: It will probably already be outdated in a few years. I referenced a bankrupt mall earlier.

Mindy: Well, you can replace that with pretty much anything. Historic building downtown, library basement, outdoor amphitheater.

Character: As long as it doesn't rain.

Mindy: It would never rain on show day.

Character: Maybe I can help you with your play. What do you want it to say?

Mindy: I am kind of going back and forth with that. I think I want it to be funny.

Character: Again?

Mindy: What do you mean?

Character: You normally do funny.

Mindy: That's because the audience enjoys funny.

Character: But not if it is always the same thing. They know what to expect by now. You want belly laughs not a polite chuckle. You got to change it up a little bit.

Mindy: But how?

Character: I don't know. Maybe try political satire?

Mindy: I thought it would be a great idea to respond with a witty political joke, but I have been thinking about it for 8 days and still have not come up with anything. I'm starting to think this script will never come to life.

Character: It can't be that hard to come up with a political joke.

Mindy: If I keep thinking about this, the play will never be written.

Character: Well maybe we can find a different type of humor.

Mindy: Part of me doesn't want to do humor at all. What if I came up with something important to say?

Character: What do you want to say?

Mindy: Something important?

Character: Like, what?

Mindy: Like the most important thing you ever heard.

Character: I still don't hear you saying anything.

Mindy: I am trying to think of something!

Character: You can't write about something deep if you have nothing to write about.

Mindy: But wouldn't that be great? Writing something that connects to the audience on an emotional level where you really get them to feel something.

Character: That would be great.

Mindy: And it takes them back to a time, maybe when things were better. Maybe when they were worse. But it takes them back somewhere.

Character: Like to a favorite childhood memory.

Mindy: Or a life-defining first.

Character: It really resonates with them.

Mindy: But even though they can relate to it, they hear it in a way they've never heard it before. So it reaches them in a way that art has never reached them before.

Character: It sounds nice but also seems a little unobtainable.

Mindy: It would just be great to write something that makes people excited. Makes people want to be a part of this. Is that too much to ask?

Character: Well good luck with that. That's not going to happen.

Mindy: Why not?

Character: Because you don't even have a topic to write about. We are literally just talking about anything to fill up time.

Mindy: That's not true. I think I am really getting somewhere.

Character: So what deep topic are you writing about?

Mindy: How about.....

Character: You still have nothing, don't you?

Mindy: Why don't we introduce a new character.

Character: We don't need any new characters

Mindy: I think that would spice things up a little bit. Make the play dynamic.

Character: What gender is this character?

Mindy: It doesn't matter. It depends on what actors we get to be a part of this.

Character 2: Well hello everybody.

Character: Who is this?

Mindy: Character 2.

Character 2: It is a pleasure to meet both of you.

Mindy: They are French.

Character 2: Bonjour mademoiselle.

Mindy: Actually, British.

Character 2: Well 'ello poppets.

Mindy: Actually, Australian.

Character 2: Good day mate.

Mindy: That actually also sounded British.

Character 2: I'm sorry, we didn't have a dialect coach.

Character: Making fun of different accents may be problematic in the future.

Mindy: We will cross that bridge when we get to it.

Character: So what is the point to this character?

Mindy; I'm not sure yet.

Character 2: What? I have no point? There is no meaning to my life? What is my purpose?
WHAT IS MY PURPOSE?

Mindy: I...I don't know.

Character 2: So why create me? Why bring me into this world if I don't have meaning?

Character: It is important to treat all of your characters with respect. If you don't, you are really doing everyone an injustice.

Mindy: All of them?

Character: All of them.

Mindy: Even Nesbitt? And Byron the Substitute Mailman? And Bromaid?

Character: Especially Bromaid.

Character 2: So if I don't have a purpose, why am I here?

Mindy: You are here to make people smile. To entertain the audience.

Character 2: Are they entertained?

Mindy: I don't really know. I can't really tell. I told you I needed those belly laugh moments.

Character 2: So I may not even be fulfilling my purpose?

Mindy: You are giving me content, so that is good.

Character 2: So what happens when the play is over?

Mindy: Well, then our story is over.

Character 2: What happens to us?

Mindy: Nothing, it's done.

Character 2: Why would you bring me into this world and let me experience all of these emotions if it is just going to end when the story is over?

Mindy: I think that is just life.

Character 2: And there is no hope for another chance at this?

Mindy: I guess the writer could bring you back for another show. Other than that, I suppose not.

Character: Well Mindy, I think you did it! I think you got your show.

Mindy: I did?

Character: Sure, there was some humor in it. And it had some meaning to it...if you dug really deep.

Mindy: I think you are right.

Character: So are you feeling good about it?

Mindy: Absolutely not!

Character 2: But are you going to roll with it anyway because the show is in less than two months?

Mindy: Of course! Thanks for your help characters. It has been fun. (Character and Character 2 exit.) Oh great, only four more to go.

End.