

DOLPHIN

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By Jonathan Dorf

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Draft 2.1

## Cast of Characters

PETRA (pronounced pet-ruh), a teenage girl.  
DAVID, same age. He is just a voice...until he's not.  
KAREN, same age.  
TASHA, same age.

## Production Notes

In the line, "Everybody asks about you. Michael and Gabe and Tracy and Juanita..." feel free to substitute names that may better suit your production. One idea might be to use the names of the actors or other people associated with the production.

Feel free to find creative low-tech alternatives to the projections and sound effects. For instance, large cardboard signs (held up by people or on easels) could replace projections, and live actors could create the sounds.

## Acknowledgments

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Darkness. Footsteps. Lights up just as PETRA, mid-teens, enters running. She looks behind her, perhaps around the area in general. It's as if she's being chased. The VOICE we hear is that of a male teenager, about the same age.

VOICE

Petra. Pehhhttrrrraaa... Where are you?

Petra looks around desperately for the source of the voice.

VOICE

Come out, come out wherever you are.

Petra looks for somewhere to hide, perhaps behind a desk.

VOICE

I know you're there.

PETRA

I'm not the person you're looking for.

VOICE

You're never the person anyone's looking for.

PETRA

It wasn't my fault.

VOICE

Wasn't my fault. Couldn't you at least come up with a better cliché-

PETRA

You think I didn't do anything. That's not true.

VOICE

-or a better lie?

Petra runs off. There's a lighting shift as Petra comes back on. It's some weeks earlier. Enter TASHA and KAREN, same age as Petra. They sit at a table and pore over a laptop, tablet or similar device.

KAREN

That's hilarious.

TASHA

That is so wrong. You gotta post it.

KAREN

I can't believe he sleeps with that.

TASHA

I can't believe he sleeps *in* that.

KAREN

I can't believe there's a picture of it. I would totally die.

TASHA

Petra, come see something hilarious.

PETRA

I have to finish my math.

KAREN

Hate that class.

TASHA

Come look. Funniest thing ever.

Petra comes over to look.

KAREN

Like in the history of.

TASHA

Is he rockin' the Superman undies or what?

PETRA

How'd you get that?

TASHA

You can pretty much get a boy to do anything if you say you like him.

KAREN

Sad, isn't it?

TASHA

The stuffed dog is sad.

KAREN

At least get one that's not barf-colored.

TASHA

It gets better.

KAREN

(To Petra:)

Scroll down.

TASHA  
"Like" it first. We're tryin' to get a thousand in the first 24 hours.

PETRA  
Why?

TASHA  
He's a creeper.

KAREN  
Totally cyberstalked Tasha.

PETRA  
David?

KAREN  
Like over the line.

PETRA  
*This* is over the line. Way over.

TASHA  
Uh...I just told you he's a creeper.

PETRA  
What did he do?

KAREN  
She just told you.

PETRA  
Take it down.

TASHA  
Why?

PETRA  
Because it's super mean. No, not mean. Cruel.

TASHA  
Come on. Like you've seriously never laughed at a meme before.

KAREN  
Wait - is he like your bff or something?

PETRA  
If you don't delete, I'm gonna take my phone and all your little pictures and posts that you thought were so funny which you would because you're like a pair of three-year olds and walk right into Dr. Sherman's office.

(Beat.)

And while we're at it, yeah, David's my friend, my best friend since we were eight and he got his first pair of Superman tighties, and if you mess with my friends, I will end you.

VOICE

Stop.

PETRA

No, you need to hear what I said to them.

VOICE

I know what you said to them.

PETRA

That is-

VOICE

So not it.

PETRA

(Exiting:)

Please just leave me alone.

VOICE

Like you did?

Petra runs off, and the lights flicker. Beat. She returns. Tasha and Karen are as before with their device.

TASHA

It totally looks like he pooped.

KAREN

I know.

TASHA

Poop.

KAREN

Yeah?

TASHA

Poop is a funny word. Say poop every time there's a new view.

KAREN

Poop.

TASHA

Poop.

Poop poop poop-

KAREN

Poop.

TASHA

The actors should feel free to improvise more "poops" as needed.

Pooperman.

TASHA  
(Having an idea:)

That's hilarious.

KAREN

Pooperman would be an awesome caption.

TASHA

Yeah, and then add something like...faster than a streaking bullet.

KAREN

Yes! No - a *leaking* bullet!

TASHA

So good.

KAREN

Pause.

Petra, you've got mail.

KAREN

A text isn't mail. Duh.

TASHA  
(To Karen:)

Whatever.

KAREN

Petra pulls out her phone and looks.

That's gross.

PETRA

Funniest five seconds ever.

KAREN

Brown is beautiful.

TASHA

KAREN

I love how it goes all the way to the ground.

TASHA

*Slides* all the way to the ground.

KAREN

Bet he's wishin' he didn't creep on you now.

PETRA

You've gotta take that down.

TASHA

Uh...why?

PETRA

Because it's not real.

TASHA

Those Superman tighties are way too real.

PETRA

Yeah, but not the...

TASHA

It's funny.

PETRA

Did you ask David if it's funny?

TASHA

Seriously? Everybody does stuff like that.

KAREN

Yeah. They do it to the President.

PETRA

Yeah, I guess you know something about that, Tasha, what with the hippo and everything back when you were fat.

KAREN

You were fat?

TASHA

I was not fat.

KAREN

When were you fat?

PETRA

I remember a charging hippo on YouTube [or the website of the moment] with your face on it that would beg to differ.



KAREN

A hippo? That's hilarious.

TASHA

Shut up, Karen. You weren't even here.

KAREN

OK...

PETRA

You were nicer when you were fat.

TASHA

Yeah. I guess.

PETRA

You were.

TASHA

(Beat. To Karen:)

I really don't have time for these anyway.

KAREN

But-

TASHA

I said we don't have time.

KAREN

OK.

TASHA

(To Petra:)

Did you do the math?

PETRA

Do you mean can you see mine?

VOICE

And you hugged it out, and we all lived happily ever after.

PETRA

They stopped.

VOICE

That's not why they stopped.

PETRA

What do you want me to say?

VOICE

The truth.

PETRA

This is the truth.

VOICE

Or maybe I just like listening to your stories. You want to be a writer, right? So maybe we'll all feel better if you make up another one.

PETRA

Just stop following me.

VOICE

Then stop making me.

PETRA

(Running off:)

This is me not making you.

The lights flicker. Pause. Petra returns, and Tasha and Karen are as before.

TASHA

The whole time I'm typing, I'm like falling over I'm laughing so hard.

Ideally, the following online "chat" would be projected with the accompanying message beeps, but feel free to find a low-tech alternative like giant cardboard signs and actor-driven sounds. Tasha is 2hot4u1998 [update the birth year as needed for your production] and the Voice is thisismyname. The dialogue is written as it should appear if we see it.

TASHA

(As 2hot4u1998:)

i saw u at ashleys party

VOICE

(As thisismyname:)

i didnt stay long. it got really loud.

TASHA

i like loud  
did u hook up?

VOICE

why?

jw  
 TASHA  
 k.  
 VOICE  
 TASHA  
 who u hooked up w from our school  
 ?

Enter DAVID, who has been the  
 Voice/thisismyname all along.  
 He's the same age as the others.  
 He's sensitive and smart, but not  
 a "cool kid."

DAVID  
 does it matter?

TASHA  
 if u wont even tell me that

DAVID  
 Nobody.

TASHA  
 dont lie  
 ! !

DAVID  
 I'm not!  
 (Beat.)  
 total virgin

TASHA  
 4 real???

DAVID  
 i like you

TASHA  
 how much do u like me?

The messaging ends. If you have  
 projection, the message should  
 turn into a screenshot with  
 emphasis on the "total virgin"  
 line, accompanied by lots of  
 beeps and whistles to signify  
 "likes," texts, Tweets, etc.

David, still on stage, starts to edge away as the scene continues, but each new sound is like a body shot, and he gradually retreats into a corner.

KAREN  
My phone's going crazy.

TASHA  
We're trending.

KAREN  
OMG - look at this one!

TASHA  
A giant V - I love it! Petra, did you see Virginman?

PETRA  
What?

KAREN  
It's like Superman with a V.

TASHA  
We're going viral.

KAREN  
Your best friend is trending.

TASHA  
(Correcting her:)  
Viral.

PETRA  
Not *best*.

Like what you see? Follow the instructions on the play's page to order a perusal copy of the full script!