

# SAM Is Your Name, SAM Is Your Story

## A ONE ACT PLAY

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### CHARACTERS

SAM; a young man, early twenties, - sides p. 6-7/12-14/38-39

ARMADILLO; an intelligent man, late forties sides p. 2-3/12-14

NATHAN; a father, late fifties sides p. 50-51

ABBY; a sweet girl, late teens sides p. 30-31/35-36

TIFFANY; a widow, late forties sides p. 19-20/25-26

YBEN; brother of SAM; early twenties sides p. 38-39/42-43

# Scene One: Denial.

(A young, slender man lies on the floor in a windowless room with a table and chairs on both sides. There is one door. Upon the table there are words carved into it reading, 'Detective ARMADILLO'. The young man rises quickly and with caution and walks across the table over to the door. He reaches for the knob but the handle will not turn. He stares around the room and then realizes that there is something carved into the wall. He walks over and sees that all the walls are covered in names. It is at this time that the door opens and a large, bulky man, covered in scars and burns with a torn up red suit and a patch over his right eye walks in. He does not look dead or grotesque, but merely rough. As if life was hard and the afterlife doesn't seem to be any better. He is holding a large black, leather briefcase.)

Armadillo Sides  
↓

Please sit down so we can begin.

ARMADILLO

SAM

Who the fuck are you?

ARMADILLO

(Sighs) Forget again?

SAM

Forget what?

ARMADILLO

(Correcting) Forgotten. Apparently whatever needs forgetting but unfortunately for you, this needs remembering.

SAM

What needs remembering?

ARMADILLO

What's been forgotten.

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| What's been forgotten?                     | SAM       |
| Everything I've told you.                  | ARMADILLO |
| What have you told me?                     | SAM       |
| Nothing as it seems. (Sits down)           | ARMADILLO |
| Who are you?                               | SAM       |
| Don't you recognize me?                    | ARMADILLO |
| Why? Should I?                             | SAM       |
| I don't know. Can you?                     | ARMADILLO |
| Can I what?                                | SAM       |
| Recognize me.                              | ARMADILLO |
| I've never seen you before.                | SAM       |
| How do you know?                           | ARMADILLO |
| I'd remember a face like that.             | SAM       |
| Yes. I would suppose so. No offense taken. | ARMADILLO |
| Who said offense wasn't given?             | SAM       |
|  | ARMADILLO |

End

It has everything to do with you. I wouldn't be here if it weren't for you.

SAM

But I'm not SAM.

ARMADILLO

Is it safe to question your memory? Seeing as how you've been forgetting a lot lately.

SAM

You don't think I know who I am? I'm me. Not SAM. I don't know who he is, I don't know who you are and I don't know where the fuck this place is.

ARMADILLO

Alright it's been convivial. You're witty retorts are enthralling but we really need to get down to business so if you could please sit down.

SAM

No!

ARMADILLO

No you say?

SAM

Yes, I say.

ARMADILLO

Please, I'm asking you out of courtesy.

SAM

Shove that courtesy up your ass alright? I know my rights. If this is jail where's my phone call?

ARMADILLO

That kind of remark doesn't give me very much incentive to release any information to you nor to give you a phone call. But we've been over this; you know why you're here.

SAM

We haven't been over anything! Who are you anyways huh? A mock-up fireman's version of Mike Tyson?

ARMADILLO

Possibly. (Reciting) Whereas you look more like an albino coked-out version of Russell Brand.

SAM

Cute. You know this is illegal right? People go to jail for this kind of shit.

ARMADILLO

*Sam sides*

People go to jail for what?

SAM

Kidnapping.

ARMADILLO

Who's being kidnapped?

SAM

I am!

ARMADILLO

Who's doing the kidnapping?

SAM

You are!

ARMADILLO

When?

SAM

Right now! I don't know how I got here and obviously you do. One explanation comes to mind.

ARMADILLO

Why are you not tied up then? Where's the ransom?

SAM

Ransom really wouldn't matter. Wouldn't get anything anyway.

ARMADILLO

Poverty is a crime.

SAM

Abduction is a crime. Do you honestly think you can get away with this? The cops will find you.

ARMADILLO

I'm sure if you were to bring this up to the authorities they would crow.

SAM

What?

ARMADILLO

Laugh.

SAM

How so?

end

Sides

12

Sam/  
Armadio  
↓

Now we've wasted enough time as it is and I'm on a strict schedule so if you could please—

SAM

Let me out!

ARMADILLO

Don't make me resort to this.

SAM

Resort to what?

ARMADILLO

I'm asking you to sit down because I want you to do it willingly. But if you don't I'm afraid I will have to force you.

SAM

Fuckin' try it!

ARMADILLO

I am going to count to three.

SAM

Am I a fuckin' child now?

ARMADILLO

(Overlapping) And if you are not seated by that time—

SAM

You gunna spank me with your paddle?

ARMADILLO

(Overlapping) I'm afraid I will have no choice but to force you too. One....

SAM

(Overlapping) I think I'll just let you count to three—

ARMADILLO

Two....

SAM

Because to be honest I don't think you're gunna do anything to me—

ARMADILLO

(Overlapping) Two and a half....

SAM

Three!

(ARMADILLO jumps up, grabs SAM by the throat, picks him up and slams him on the table. He then grabs the table and throws it into the wall, knocking the chairs over and spilling the contents of his briefcase all over the floor. ARMADILLO walks over to SAM and kneels down next to him.)

ARMADILLO

You're right. This isn't Star Trek. However, the rules stay the same. Learn them. Now would you be so kind as to pick up this mess.

(SAM picks up the table and puts the chairs upright. He then begins to pick up the papers when he realizes that they're all blank. He puts the papers back in the briefcase and sets it on the table.)

ARMADILLO (CONT)

Now would you be so kind as to sit down.

(They sit down.)

ARMADILLO (CONT)

Thank you. Now we can begin.

SAM

Begin what?

ARMADILLO

The reason as to why you are here.

SAM

And what fuckin reason would that be?

ARMADILLO

Your vocabulary is highly imaginative.

SAM

Eat me.

ARMADILLO

I don't eat meat.

SAM

Fuck you.

ARMADILLO

I don't engage in sexual congress with meat either.

SAM

When can I leave?

ARMADILLO

I told you. You will leave this room when the only thing you want is to stay here.

SAM

I'm never gunna want that. You gunna tell me who you are now?

ARMADILLO

As I have repeatedly told you...you already know—

SAM

Enough with that shit just tell me!

(He points at the table.)

SAM

(Sighs. Massages his eyes). You're a detective?

ARMADILLO

Detective ARMADILLO. So now that you remember who I am—

SAM

Still don't know who you are. Why am I here?

ARMADILLO

You're here to lament.

SAM

What?

ARMADILLO

Repent.

SAM

Repent?

ARMADILLO

end



Tiffany  
↓

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**Scene Two: Anger.**

TIFFANY

Hi hun.

SAM

What are you doing here?

TIFFANY

Just stopping by. You forgot this in my car.

(She hands him the picture. It's a photo of  
SAM and ABBY.)

SAM

I left this in your car?

TIFFANY

Yes.

SAM

When?

TIFFANY

Last week. How are you?

SAM

Did he call you?

TIFFANY

Did who call me?

SAM

ARMADILLO.

TIFFANY

Who?

SAM

Detective ARMADILLO. Did he call you?

TIFFANY

I don't know who that is.

SAM

He's a detective.

Well he hasn't called me.

TIFFANY

Well who called you?

SAM

Nobody called me. I saw the picture in my car and thought I'd bring it over.

TIFFANY

How did you know I was here?

SAM

Where else would you be?

TIFFANY

Where else would I be? Anywhere else.

SAM

Why would you be somewhere else?

TIFFANY

Why would I be here?

SAM

Because you live here.

TIFFANY

What are you talking about? Where am I?

SAM

You really should cut your hair.

TIFFANY

Mom, where are we?

SAM

Stanton Island.

TIFFANY

Where in Staten Island?

SAM

Stapleton. Are you feeling okay?

TIFFANY

end

Tiffany sides → TIFFANY - Where are they?  
SAM

25

Where are what?

TIFFANY

The coke. Under your bed again?

SAM

Oh my God, get off it.

TIFFANY

Then what's your problem?

SAM

You put me here, that's my fucking problem. What is this some kind of intervention?

TIFFANY

No.

SAM

Because I quit that shit a long time ago. I told you that.

TIFFANY

Then why are you acting so—

SAM

Because you forced me in here!

TIFFANY

I haven't done anything!

SAM

Why else would I be here?

TIFFANY

Honey—

SAM

No. I'm not your honey. I'm not—I'm not your anything.

TIFFANY

You're my son.

SAM

No I'm not. (Pause) Dad was a better parent than you.

TIFFANY

Your dad—

SAM

Was a better parent then you.

TIFFANY

You think your loathing and anger gives you the market on life? You think your suffering is worse than anyone else's? Than mine?

SAM

You're not in here. And it aint his fault I am.

TIFFANY

That's because he's dead. And it isn't my fault either! You wanna sit here making up stories trying to make me feel bad because of what happened be my guest. But you have nothing to say to me about NATHAN. You have no idea.

SAM

I know enough.

TIFFANY

You're a fucking kid for Christ's sake. You only know a fraction above the surface.

SAM

He wouldn't have fucked me over like this. He wouldn't have locked me here. He wouldn't have ran out fucking half the people on the eastern seaboard—

(TIFFANY slaps SAM.)

TIFFANY

You hide here and then judge everyone else while no one can judge you in your safe, quaint little city within these walls. You're not being forced here. You're choosing it.

SAM

Just let me out.

TIFFANY

Of where? Your life? I can't do that. You leave when you wanna leave. It's a nice picture. You should take better care of it. Goodbye SAM.

SAM

Why'd you call me that?

(TIFFANY stands up and walks to the door. She opens it and walks out. SAM sits there for a moment then moves towards the door.)

Abby sides

SAM

30

ABBY? Wt - what are you doing here?

ABBY

I came to see you.

SAM

You're in on this too?

ABBY

No I'm not.

SAM

I'm supposed to believe that? Did you come in with mom? Is she still here?

ABBY

I didn't come with TIFFANY. I came on my own.

SAM

I guess I shouldn't be surprised that you helped put me in here.

ABBY

I didn't. You put—

SAM

Myself here I know. Got that part down.

ABBY

Obviously not if you think I did this.

SAM

I wouldn't have asked you to come.

ABBY

I know. But you did bring yourself here. Maybe accidentally but this is your restoration. You can't leave yet.

SAM

Yeah I've figured that part out too. So just out of curiosity...where do you think we are right now?

ABBY

Well that's a silly question. I do have eyes.

SAM

Just answer the silly question.

ABBY

Why wouldn't I know where we are?

How'd you get in here? SAM

I was called. ABBY

Someone called you? SAM

Yes someone did. ABBY

Who? SAM

Who do you think? ABBY

Dunno. That's why I asked. SAM

You don't remember? ABBY

Why would I know who called you? I've been stuck here for I don't even know how long. SAM

You're not stuck here. ABBY

Yes...I am. Otherwise I would have left a long time ago. SAM

You're not ready to leave. ABBY

How do you know that? SAM

If you were ready you would have left a long time ago. ABBY

So you know where we are then? SAM

*end*

Abby sides  
↓

35

Why did you call me that?

SAM

Because that's your name.

ABBY

That's not my name.

SAM

Then what is? (Silence) Silent treatment. Nice. Some things never change.

ABBY

Right. I'm the asshole.

SAM

I never said that.

ABBY

It's not what you say. It's what you're not saying. You suck at lying.

SAM

And you suck at pulling yourself together.

ABBY

Why are you here ABBY? What do you want?

SAM

I came for the picture.

ABBY

How'd you know I had it?

SAM

Because I gave it to you.

ABBY

And now you want it back?

SAM

I don't figure you'll have much use for it.

ABBY

Take the picture.

SAM

(She picks up the picture and hits it against the table so a small crack would form on the glass.)

SAM (CONT)

Why'd you do that?

ABBY

It looks more realistic this way.

SAM

It looks more realistic when it's broken?

ABBY

Cracked.

SAM

Is this all you came for?

ABBY

That and I wanted to see you one more time.

SAM

Why?

ABBY

To tell you that I love you.

SAM

Don't say that shit to me.

ABBY

I never expected you to believe me.

SAM

I don't.

ABBY

You will. When the end comes at least.

SAM

What end?

ABBY

Your end.

A hand-drawn signature or mark, possibly reading 'end', with a long, sweeping line extending upwards and to the right.



ABBY

And I do know where you're at. You're in a caliginous, windowless room with a table and names written on the walls of the people who have been here before you.

(She exits. He stands up and walks over to the wall as the lights go out.)

**Scene Four: Bargaining.**

(Lights are off. We hear SAM in the darkness.)

SAM

ARMADILLO! (Lights open. SAM is pacing. Torn.) ARMADILLO! This can't be real. This can't be real—fuck! Get it together man c'mon. (Starting to lose his grasp on the world.) Relax, relax—I can't do this—ARMADILLO! FUCK! C'MON you're acting like a Goddamn pussy! Control it—control it—please....WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?! (Losses it.) WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHAT HAVE I DONE? PLEASE...I don't wanna do this anymore. I don't wanna do this anymore. I don't wanna hurt anyone anymore—please let me go home. WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

(SAM screams as the door opens. YBEN walks in.)

YBEN

Nice pla—

(SAM rushes over to YBEN and pins him up against the wall.)

SAM

Shut up. Just...shut up for a second. (SAM releases him and sits down on the chair.)

YBEN

Nice to see you too.

SAM

Why are you here?

YBEN

Why are you here?

(YBEN takes a seat across from SAM. He takes out a pack of cigarettes and lights one.)

Sam, Yben  
↓

SAM

I don't know—maybe I should be thanking you.

YBEN

No need to thank me.

SAM

Someone needs to be thanked.

YBEN

Well if there was a mirror in here I'd tell you to stand in front of it and wave.

SAM

The fucks that mean?

YBEN

What the fuck that means is...maybe that little finger of yours needs to be pointing at someone else.

SAM

Like who?

YBEN

I dunno man. You've always been smarter than me. Take a guess.

SAM

Why are you here?

YBEN

To smoke a cigarette. Shoot the shit wit you. Want one?

(SAM takes a cigarette and lights it.)

SAM

How'd you know I was here? Mom tell you?

YBEN

Nah, mom's got her own little agenda goin on.

SAM

What's your agenda then?

YBEN

I don't have one. I just wanted to talk.

SAM

end

Must be horrible for you.

YBEN

You don't think it hurts!? You don't think that every fucking time we do this I don't feel a piece of my soul being ripped apart? You don't think that I would take your pain in an instant if it gave you just one single moment of peace?

SAM

Then let me out. Help me get outta here.

YBEN

You're bargaining SAM.

SAM

You have to offer something to bargain.

YBEN

You are. But I don't need to let you out to make me feel better.

SAM

I'm glad this is about you.

YBEN

No this is about you. And SAM...that's all it'll ever be about.

SAM

Why'd you call me that?

YBEN

You don't even remember. You didn't even notice.

SAM

Notice what?

YBEN

Maybe you didn't notice because you're used to it.

SAM

Notice what?

YBEN

Or maybe you're just ignoring the ignored.

SAM

What the fuck are you talking about!?

SAM

They didn't. You brought them.

ARMADILLO

You brought them here SAM. You wanted to have one last conversation with the three of them. You wanted a chance to talk regardless of what was said. Just look at it.

SAM

I am looking. We're not in a police station. We're in your house! And these names are proly how many people you've murdered.

ARMADILLO

If I was a murderer, why would I take the time to find out so much about you and then bring those whom you are closest with here just so you could talk to them? If you weren't dead, do you really think they would let you stay here?

SAM

You—you did something to them. Tricked them—

ARMADILLO

Tricked them into believing what? That you aren't stuck all alone in a room with no way to get out? Trick your mom into believing that she's actually in your apartment and not here? Trick this man who could pass as your father's twin by the way—to come here and emotionally torture you? What benefit would any of those give me? Why can't you even remember your own name?

SAM

That's too many questions.

NATHAN

Let me make this easier. You threw up m&m's at the fair all over the cart and your mother. You broke your foot playing dodge ball. YBEN hit you in the face with a hockey stick for heaven's sake and your first reaction was asking if it would still be there when you went to school because you wanted to show all your friends.

SAM

How do you—

NATHAN

Because I'm your father SAM.

ARMADILLO

See the truth. Can't you realize how bizarre this whole episode has been? How nothing has made sense yet you take it for granted. You accept the reality in which you live but I'm telling you now to question it.

SAM

Nathan  
→

It can't be.

ARMADILLO

Why not? Everybody dies, some just quicker than others.

NATHAN

ABBY said it herself; you're going to die in this room.

SAM

I thought I was already dead.

ARMADILLO

A part of you will die here. Metaphorically speaking.

SAM

Which part?

NATHAN

Guilt.

end