

# **Brendan's Damn Good Day**

A 10-Minute Play by

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**SETTING:**

A park.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS:**

Brendan – He's a bench. People break up on him all the time. He's not happy about that.

Boy – He has an XY chromosome

Girl – She has an XX chromosome.

**PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE:**

Brendan should be played by a live person. Probably hanging out behind a bench.

...

Well actually if people were sitting on him, that'd be pretty funny...

**RUNNING TIME:**

Approx. 10 Minutes

**Brendan's Damn Good Day**

*We're in a Park.  
There's a garden gnome.  
BRENDAN is at the park.  
He's always at the park.  
He can't leave the park because he can't move.  
He can't move because he's a bench.  
A BOY is sitting on BRENDAN.  
The BOY is pretty smug.  
A GIRL enters.  
The BOY sees her. He nods.*

GIRL

Hey!

BOY

Hey.

*The BOY stands up to give the GIRL a hug.  
After the hug, the GIRL expects a kiss.  
She doesn't get one.*

BOY

How're you doing?

GIRL

I'm good, how are you?

BOY

... I'm alright.

GIRL

Oh?

*The BOY sits on the bench.  
He invites The GIRL to sit with him.*

GIRL (*cont'd*)

Ok...

*Pause.*

BOY

Y'know...  
I've been thinking.

A lot.  
About us.

*The GIRL feels what's coming.*

GIRL

Uh huh...

BOY

And ever since we've been together I've been so happy y'know?

*False alarm.  
Phew.*

GIRL

Me too.

BOY

Really, really happy.

GIRL

Aww...

BOY

But.

GIRL

But?

*Or not.  
Shit.*

BOY

Hmmm...  
Let's see...  
I don't know how to put this.

*A brief, calculated, silence.*

BOY (*cont'd*)

I better just say it.  
I don't think this is going to work out between us anymore.  
I think we should break up.

*A long, unpredictable, silence.*

GIRL  
What?

BOY  
I think we should –

GIRL  
I know what you said.  
...  
Why?

BOY  
Well that's the thing.  
It's sort of hard to explain.

GIRL  
Try.

BOY  
Ok, well...  
You know how I said I've been so happy since I've been with you?  
Well, that's the problem.  
The way I see it, someone my age should be in...  
I don't know...  
Unhealthy relationships?  
No that's not the right word. That was dumb.  
EXCITING! That's it. Exciting relationships.  
I should be in exciting relationships at my age.  
Um. Wait. Let me think of an example...  
Oh!  
Ok!  
Here.  
Every morning, I wake up to breakfast cooked and waiting for me. Every. Morning.  
Which is great. It really is. But... where's the excitement in that? I wake up in the morning  
and I know EXACTLY what to expect. When I go to sleep the only question in my head is  
"When I wake up tomorrow morning, will I be having bacon or sausage?"  
What I want, is to ask myself, "When I wake up, will the girl I just slept with be pointing a  
shotgun to my head?"  
Now THAT is exciting.  
Look, being with you has been so... pleasant and happy and normal and... sort of boring.  
Which isn't a bad thing. It's just...  
I think I should wait a few more years before, y'know, I'm boring and happy in a relationship.  
Does that make sense?

***Wow.***  
***Did he really just say that?***

**Yes.**  
**Yes he did.**

GIRL  
No.

BOY  
Let me try that again.

***The GIRL gets up to get the hell out of the park.***

GIRL  
No need.

BOY  
Where are you going?

GIRL  
Away.

BOY  
I hope we can still be friends though!

GIRL  
That's nice.

***She leaves.***  
***The BOY sits there.***  
***He breathes and nods to himself.***  
***That wasn't so hard.***  
***He leaves.***

***By the way, BRENDAN is still at the park.***  
***He is always at the park.***  
***He's a bench.***

BRENDAN  
ANOTHER ONE!? Jesus. That's the sixth one this week. What day of the – TUESDAY!? Six in two days! Man! What's wrong with this town?

(Beat)  
What a jerk.

(Beat)  
Hey. Over here. Yeah. Hi. How's it going?  
I'm Brendan.

I'm a bench. Nice to meet you.  
Sorry you had to see that jerk break that poor girl's heart.

That happens a lot around here. On me in particular. Breakups. Yeesh.

I hate them.

The other benches tease me about it all the time.

Robert, the bench over by the swings, he calls me "Brendan the Breakup Bench."

...

...

...

Robert's an asshole.

I don't know what it is about me but when a person in this town wants to dump someone they always say, "Hey, can you meet me on the bench with the garden gnome next to it?" and then they do it.

They look at me and think *Oh that bench looks like a great place to stomp on someone's heart!*

It's the worst.

...

...

Don't ask about the gnome.

He just appeared one day.

I named him. His name is Humphrey.

Don't expect him to talk.

He's just a garden gnome. Garden gnomes don't talk.

*(Beat)*

Anyways, I don't get it. I look like a happy bench don't I? A romantic bench.

When my maker, my dad, finished building me, Rod Stewart's "Have I Told You Lately" was playing on the radio in his workshop. He heard the song was playing and said, "Lots of love will be made on you, my pal..."

You know the song –

*(Singing:)*

*Have I told... you lately... that I love you...*

*(Back to normal:)*

Have I told you lately – THAT I LOVE YOU.

He doesn't sing "Have I told you lately that I want to break up with you."

***A BOY enters.***

***He seems nice.***

***He's carrying a flower.***

BRENDAN *(cont'd)*

Oh! This is promising.

Shh! Shh! Let's see what happens!

***The BOY takes a seat on BRENDAN.***

***He waits.***

***A GIRL arrives.***

***The BOY jumps up.***

BOY

Hi! I got you something!  
This.

*The BOY extends the flower to her.  
The GIRL doesn't take them.  
She looks at the flowers.  
She looks at him.*

BRENDAN

Oh no...

GIRL

I think you should sit down.

BRENDAN

No...

BOY

You don't want the flower I got you?

GIRL

Sit first.

BOY

Oh, sure.

*He sits.  
The BOY tries to give her the flowers one more time.  
She still doesn't take them.  
He sets them to the side.*

BRENDAN

Come on, seriously? Not two in one day.

*The BOY feels it.  
Crap.  
What do you do here?*

GIRL

We need to –

BOY

I love you.

*Good plan.*



***Don't let her talk.***

A lot.

BOY (*cont'd*)

Thank you. But really –

GIRL

I think you're really great.

BOY

***Yup.  
Don't let her say it.  
Don't let her say a word.***

Reeaaaallllly great.

BOY (*cont'd*)

(*Beat*)

Really. Really. Great.

(*Beat*)

You. Are. Awesome.

BRENDAN

Poor guy. I wish there was something I could do to help him out...  
He seems so nice...

GIRL

I –

BOY

AHHHHH!!!!

***He ran out of things to say there.***

GIRL

Look!  
Maybe I should sit with you.

***The GIRL sits on BRENDAN.  
She holds the BOY'S hand.  
He forces a smile at her.  
She takes a deep breath.  
Then...***

GIRL (*cont'd*)  
(*Jumping off of BRENDAN.:*)

OUCH!!!

BRENDAN

Hah!

BOY

What happened?

BRENDAN

Yes!

GIRL

I don't know. It's like a chunk of wood was sticking out that wasn't there before. It stabbed my butt...

BOY

Are you ok?

GIRL

Yeah, I'm fine. I'm fine.

*(Beat)*

Really. We really need to talk.

BOY

Ok.

***The BOY sits back on BRENDAN  
The GIRL sees the BOY sitting, awaiting his fate.  
She sits next to him.***

GIRL

*(Jumping off of BRENDAN:)*

AHHH!!!

BOY

Again?

GIRL

Yes!

BOY

But there's nothing there.

GIRL

I felt it!

BOY

I don't know what it is.

GIRL

You know what? Let's sit somewhere else.

BOY

But –

GIRL

Please? Come on, I don't want to walk around with splinters all over my ass.

*The GIRL exits.*

*The BOY takes his flower and reluctantly follows her.*

BRENDAN

I can put splinters in people's butts. Hah! Brilliant! Self defense!  
This is great. Now, I can make sure no one breaks up on me ever again.  
How do you like that Humphrey!?  
Look at me.  
What am I talking to Humphrey for?  
Talking to a garden gnome like it can talk.  
Garden gnomes don't talk.

...

Oh. Here comes another one. I swear, if he's here to dump someone...

*A BOY enters.*

*He scopes the area.*

*He cleans BRENDAN.*

BRENDAN (*cont'd*)

Well hey, this guy seems nice.

*The BOY looks around.*

*He is nervous.*

*He checks his watch.*

*He sees the garden gnome.*

*He laughs to himself.*

*A GIRL enters.*

BOY

Hi!

GIRL

Hey!

***They hug and kiss.  
This is looking good.***

BOY

How are you?

GIRL

I'm good. It's a beautiful day.

BOY

Yeah, it really is isn't it?

***The GIRL sits on BRENDAN.***

GIRL

Yeah.

BRENDAN

Ok...

GIRL

So what's up?

BOY

Huh?

GIRL

You asked me to meet you here?

***Silence.***

***Aw shit.***

***Is something bad going to happen?***

BOY

Yeah.

GIRL

So what's up?

...

Why did you ask me to meet you here?

***Another silence.***

***The BOY drops down to one knee.***

***Wait a minute.***

BRENDAN

Oh my god. Oh my god. Oh my god. Oh my god!

BOY

...Umm...

Hi.

GIRL

Hi.

*The BOY clears his throat.*

BOY

You know, I think I want to start over.

*The BOY stands up.*

GIRL

You're fine.

BOY

Ok.

GIRL

It's just me.

*The GIRL smiles at the BOY.*

BRENDAN

This is so cute!

BOY

Right.

Ok.

*The BOY gets back on one knee.*

BOY (*cont'd*)

I've been reflecting a lot lately, on life. And, um...

And while thinking about it I couldn't wrap my head around how good my life has been recently. God knows it hasn't always been like that but I can't really remember the last time I've had something to complain about other than "We're out of cereal," or "Gas is so expensive."

...

Umm..

Well, I was trying to figure out what it was in my life that changed. What it was that made the world look and feel so different. And the only thing I could come up with... was... you.

*(Quick shift:)*

This is lame isn't it?

***The GIRL smiles.  
Maybe a little.  
She shakes her head, "It's not lame."***

BRENDAN

Is this really happening? This is really happening. I can't believe this is really happening. Oh my god. I can't breath, I'm so excited. I think I'm going to hyperventilate!

BOY

I looked for an eloquent way to put into words the way I've felt since we've been together and I know it sounds so simple but nothing felt more perfect to me than happy. I kid you not; I even looked in the thesaurus. There is nothing more accurate or beautiful than... happy. It's as simple as that. You make me happy. And I hope I make you happy too.

GIRL

You do.

BRENDAN

AWWW!!!

BOY

Ok. Rebecca. The reason I asked you to meet me here. Well the reason I asked you to meet me here is probably obvious at this point since I've been on my knee this entire time. Fuck. Shit.

GIRL

Keep going.

BOY

The reason I asked you to meet me here is because I can't imagine a life where you and I are not together and I want to make what we have right now what we have forever.

***The BOY takes a ring box out of his pocket.  
He reveals the ring to The GIRL.***

BOY *(cont'd)*

Will you marry me?

BRENDAN

Yes! Yes! Yes! Say Yes! Say Yes!

***Silence.***

BRENDAN (*cont'd*)

Why isn't she saying yes?

Girl... you better say yes. You better say yes or...

***Relax.***

***She's going to say yes.  
She's just soaking it all in.***

GIRL

Yes! Of course I'll marry you.

***Told you so.***

BRENDAN

Yay!!! Yes! SHE SAID YES!

BOY

You will?

GIRL

Yes. There's no one else I'd rather spend the rest of my life with.

***The BOY jumps up and hugs her.  
He lifts her in the air.***

BOY

Oh my god! Oh my god. Ok. We have to go.

GIRL

Where?

BOY

We have to tell everyone!

GIRL

You're right.

BOY

Let's go!

***The future husband and wife run off.***

BRENDAN

Finally! No one call me Brendan the Breakup Bench anymore! Now, I'm Brendan the Proposal Bench! And one day I'll be Brendan the Wedding Bench!

*(Beat)*

That was so sweet!

*(Offstage to the swings:)*

SUCK IT ROBERT!

*(Beat. Sigh...)*

Humphrey, Today was a good day. A damn good day.

**Fin.**