

PSYCHO THERAPIST

A One Act Stage Play

by

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Cast of Characters

Roland Stone: Male rocker turned therapist
Ruby Tuesday: Female psychology student / intern
Beau "Rock" Russey: Female state license provider
Queen: Seductive female exterminator
Floyd Pink: Male patient
Taylor James: Female patient
Madonna: Roland's girlfriend

Scene

A kitchen with a table, two chairs, and a small sofa.

AT RISE: ROLAND STONE is seated at the table.
 RUBY TUESDAY is seated across from him.

RUBY

Sir, the state investigator will be here any second. This is your one chance to get approved as a licensed therapist. What's the plan?

ROLAND

Concealment. Divert attention away from my credentials.

RUBY

Good. Forty years in a rock band doesn't exactly scream psychotherapist.

ROLAND

It's more relevant than you might think. All the life lessons a person needs are cloaked in song lyrics.

RUBY

I'm concerned they'll be skeptical with you running the business out of your one-bedroom apartment.

ROLAND

(shrugs)

Remember. Divert her attention from the facts. Did you call the exterminator? Those rats are hiding in the kitchen.

RUBY

She's on her way.

BEAU "ROCK" RUSSEY knocks on the door, and Ruby lets her in. She is holding a clipboard.

BEAU

Excuse me. I'm Beau Russey, from the Board of Psychology. I go by my middle name, Rock. Are you Roland Stone?

ROLAND

That's me. And this is my intern, Ruby Tuesday. So, you're Beau "Rock" Russey?

BEAU

That's correct.

RUBY

You do hear that, right?

BEAU

Hear what?

RUBY

It's not important.

BEAU

I'm confused about your application. You know psychotherapist is one word, right?

ROLAND

(uses hands to block out title)

Roland. Stone. Psycho. Therapist. Has a nice ring to it. Coffee?

BEAU

Thanks. Cream and sugar, please.

ROLAND

(to Ruby)

I'll take mine with my special blend.

Ruby fidgets in the kitchen.

BEAU

You could use some color in here.

ROLAND

I asked the landlord to paint it black, but you can't always get what you want. I think she's trying to give me my 19th nervous breakdown.

BEAU

I see. To the business at hand. I have some concerns.

(glances at clipboard)

You were in a band before switching careers?

ROLAND

I was. You know, song lyrics are the purest form of writing. Every lesson in life is there. I also have my degree.

BEAU

I'm not familiar with the Katy Perry Academy for Teenage Dreamers. They have a psychology curriculum?

Ruby brings two coffee cups and sets them on the table.

RUBY

It's not well known, but highly regarded. Accredited in every state except wherever Taylor Swift is living.

(to Roland)

One for you, boss, with a splash of your mother's little helper, and one with cream and sugar.

(to Beau)

We ran out of regular sugar, so I used brown sugar.

BEAU

(winces)

I'm not as thirsty as I thought.

Roland sips his coffee and gives a thumbs-up to Ruby, who sits.

ROLAND

That's how to start me up.

(confides to Beau)

Without this to start my day I just can't get no satisfaction.

BEAU

I need to evaluate this alleged education. Can you tell me who said, "If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail?"

ROLAND

Peter, Paul, and Mary.

BEAU

Abraham Maslow.

RUBY

Sir, you have your first patient in five minutes.

BEAU

I haven't approved his license. How about this quote? "When I look at the world I'm pessimistic, but when I look at people I am optimistic."

RUBY

Joni Mitchell.

BEAU

Carl Rogers. And let him answer. One more try. "The good life is a process, not a state of being. It is a direction, not a destination."

ROLAND

Keith Richards.

BEAU

Carl Rogers, again. Did you learn *anything* in school?

ROLAND

(indignant)

School is overrated. I learned from the masters. Dylan. Lennon. Springsteen.

BEAU

That doesn't impress me much.

ROLAND

Look, I confess I forget stuff. Like the seventies. I'm told I was there, but I don't really recall.

BEAU

Drugs? Alcohol?

ROLAND

(ponders)

I have to choose?

BEAU

(exasperated)

You're not taking this interview seriously. I think you're hiding something.

RUBY

He's a complex guy. A rocker, sure. But also a wise man. You need to see both sides now.

BEAU

(stands)

I've heard enough. You keep feeding me sound bites from your past.

ROLAND

So I'm approved?

BEAU

(exasperated)

Heavens, no. I forbid you to practice psychotherapy in this state.

RUBY

Can I arrange a ride for you? Maybe a big yellow taxi?

Beau exits in a huff.

RUBY (CONT)

I'm so sorry, sir.

ROLAND

About what?

RUBY

She put you out of business before you got started.

ROLAND

(waves the idea away)

She said I can't *practice*. She didn't say I couldn't see patients *for real*.

There is a knock on the door. Ruby lets FLOYD PINK into the office and points Floyd to the couch. Ruby sits in her chair.

ROLAND (CONT)

Lie down, young man. I'm Roland Stone, psycho therapist. How can I help?

Floyd doesn't fit on the couch lengthwise, and makes a scene trying to get comfortable. Eventually his legs hang over the end.

FLOYD

I'm Floyd Pink. I can't stop worrying about homeland security.

ROLAND

Great balls of fire, you've come to the right place.

FLOYD
I have?

RUBY
He has?

ROLAND
Tell me more.

FLOYD
I have this recurring nightmare. I'm building this wall, and every time I add a brick, another falls out. It's another brick in the wall, but the folks on the other side keep yelling to leave their kids alone.

ROLAND
Floyd, listen to the brilliance of Jerry Garcia. Every silver lining has a touch of gray. You need to keep truckin'.

FLOYD
I don't get it.

ROLAND
Well, it helps to have a little psychedelic to fully appreciate the Grateful Dead.

FLOYD
You want me to take drugs?

ROLAND
(perks up)
What have you got?

RUBY
No!

Another knock on the door. Ruby lets in QUEEN.

QUEEN
You call for an exterminator?

RUBY
We have rats.

QUEEN
Cool. I love rats.

Queen walks to the kitchen and notices Roland.
She is smitten with him and behaves seductively
as she goes about her business.

QUEEN (CONT)

You can call me Queen. As in the Queen of amore.

ROLAND

Roland Stone. Rock star.

QUEEN

I'd love to be your groupie. I'm an expert at a crazy
little thing called love.

Roland is enamored with Queen.

QUEEN (CONT)

Who'd you play for?

ROLAND

I once played for Sly and the Family Stone. But we got
busted for dope and I told them we should change our name
to Not-So-Sly And the Stoned Family. They kicked me out.

FLOYD

Can we get back to my problem?

ROLAND

Hang on. This may be the last time I have an exterminator.

Another knock on the door. Ruby lets TAYLOR JAMES
in.

TAYLOR

(puzzled)

Is this the psychotherapist's office?

FLOYD

With the emphasis on psycho.

ROLAND

(frustrated at the interruption)

That's me. The couch is over there.

Taylor goes to the couch and tries to lie down,
but Floyd is in the way. They jostle over the
couch until they are seated side by side.

RUBY

So, Taylor, what's the problem?

TAYLOR

I was vacationing in Mexico when I was surrounded by fire and rain, and then a handy man said he wanted to be a friend and he wouldn't let me be lonely tonight. Now he's stalking me.

QUEEN

(puts her finger under Roland's chin)

I know how to help you not to be lonely. I can go all day, and all of the night.

ROLAND

(agrees as if in a trance)

Okay.

RUBY

Boss, focus!

(to Queen)

You. Kill the rat.

(to Taylor)

You. Why are you here?

TAYLOR

I told my friends about my trouble, but nobody did anything to help.

ROLAND

Rookie mistake. Always conceal. Eighty percent of the people you tell your problems to don't care, and the rest are glad you have them.

TAYLOR

Is that all you've got?

FLOYD

I told you he's not helpful.

TAYLOR

I still haven't found what I'm looking for.

FLOYD

You, too?

RUBY

I think what Roland meant is that you have to be responsible for everything in your life.

QUEEN

There you are, you furry rodent. Feeling under pressure?

Queen wrestles with the rat.

QUEEN (CONT)

There's no escaping, you dirty rat. Because I am the champion exterminator.

Queen pulls out the rat, waves it around as they fight, then throws the dead rat to the floor.

QUEEN (CONT)

Another one bites the dust.

RUBY

Almost makes you have sympathy for the little devil.

The upstairs bedroom door opens and MADONNA appears in something alluring.

MADONNA

Roland, I miss you. You said you'd light my fire.

Roland springs to his feet.

RUBY

But, sir. What about your patients?

ROLAND

I can't conceal my true self any longer. At my core, I'm just a singer in a rock and roll band.

Roland runs up the stairs and takes Madonna into the bedroom. Taylor leaves, shaking her head. Queen snuggles up to Floyd.

QUEEN

You know, I once killed a man. Put a gun against his head, pulled my trigger, now he's dead. You want to be my best friend?

(FADE TO BLACK)