

The Piano Starts Playing at the Party

A short dramatic play about a sociable outcast at a college house party.

CHARACTERS

Misty - Main character. Quiet yet sociable girl. Knows many people at the party, but is not close with any of them, including the person that invited her.

Sasha - Misty's friend. Outspoken and occasionally abrasive, but has her kind intimate moments. One of Misty's only friends at the college house party.

INT. Spacious House Basement

There are upwards of 12+ people packed into a house basement for a birthday party. There is a mini drink and food section, along with an electric piano and several musical related implements adjacent to each other on one side of the room. A bar separates the drink section from the music section, and an L-shaped couch separates both from the circles of people talking. There is a big main group playing Truth or Dare, and a few people farthest away from the drink and music section sitting closer together and laughing looking at their phones. These people are only half participating, while the main leader—the birthday girl— sits closest to the instrument section, though is facing away. Misty and Sasha are closest to the mini-group, though are much more participatory in the conversation the main group is having.

Misty is listening along, and we start with her asking Sasha a Truth or Dare question, presumably because she had answered something beforehand.

Misty

Okay, truth or dare.

Sasha

Truth.

Misty

Dinner with your ex, or skinny dipping in broad daylight?

People around

Wo-hoah. Good question.

Sasha

Shesh, I don't know. I hate my ex, so probably skinny dipping in broad daylight.

(Halfway through Sasha answering, a person from the circle who was obviously chatting in another circle goes to play the piano out of boredom. The couch everyone is sitting on separates them from everyone else. He's isolated, and plays a melancholic tone, perhaps Chopin's Nocturne Op 2 No 8 in E-flat major).

Misty

Lol. That's funny.

Your turn Sasha. Ask someone in the group.

Sasha

Hmm, okay. Hey, truth or dare?

Person (in the circle, in the main circle but not the closed off circle where
people are laughing at their phones)

Hmm, I'd say... (line continues with Person and Sasha but Misty interrupts
just at this moment) Dare! Gimmie a dare!

Sasha

Alright hotshot, can you do 40 pushups?

Person

Fourty?? I thought we were only doing 21 for the birthday girl's age? What's
up with that?

Sasha

It's supposed to be a dare, no?

Misty's Inner Voices (just as soon as Person mentions the word "Dare")

You should take a drink.

Misty, quietly, so as not to interrupt too heavily

Sorry, just going to get a drink. One second.

(Misty leaves the group to grab a drink. She's a little tense about it, but she's positioned at the house's drink and food area, which has a little mini bar that separates her and the current pianist. She pours a bit of alcohol, listens to the piano piece for a bit, and sees a vision of a person she talked with briefly that lead to no interesting conversation, and then pours a lot more. She puts in soda as a mixer, then walks back to the circle of where people are talking. She sits down on the floor. After a brief period of people still continuing to play Truth or Dare without her, she excuses herself again.)

Misty's Inner Voices

Take a hit.

Misty

Sorry, just have to use the washroom. One sec.

(Misty takes a big glug of her drink and winces at the taste. She goes to the bathroom, and takes a glance of the gift she gave the birthday girl, lying casually on the sofa next to the piano. We cut to a vision of the birthday girl receiving the gift and placing it lackadaisically and just sits on the toilet, listening to the music being played by the college pianist and the sounds of the party. She secretly takes out a vaporizer and starts smoking with it. We see the vision of her talking to people who had smoked while on a walk she wasn't invited to, with her being surprised people were smoking. After finishing a few hits, she opens the toilet quietly, flushes the toilet, and washes her hands).

(As this is happening, people slowly stop playing Truth or Dare to talk with their friends more intimately, and the songs continue, still with a melancholic vibe. People start sitting down onto the floor where everyone else is sitting, though the seat where Misty's drink is placed is still open, with Sasha sitting next to it. There's a marked gap in the circle between this drink and the next person sitting in the circle, and the same with Sasha, who was sitting next to the current pianist. Misty returns to her seat, but the pianist remains seated).

Misty

Hey. Did everyone stop playing Truth or Dare?

Sasha

Yeah, heh. Seems like people just wanna talk now.

Misty

Ah, nice.

(Silence stands for a while as Misty and Sasha listen to the party and the music).

Misty

It's nice when he plays the piano like this, huh?

Sasha

Yeah. It's very soothing. I was sleeping for two hours cuz I was so blackout drunk. I could go for another nap after hearing him play.

Misty

Haha, me too.

I saw you sleeping. You definitely looked like you were drunk.

Sasha

Totally.

Did you get to talk to anyone?

Misty

Uh,

(We cut to a vision of her experience at the party as Sasha was asleep. She attempts to talk to a girl, but she seems uncomfortable, and prefers to play games with the group when Misty is seated near a couch next to the piano. She attempts to talk to a graduate student, but has no idea what she or they are talking about. She tries to talk to an old friend of hers, but doesn't really know what to say, though they talk of accomplishments and complement each other. She talks with a new person, though the conversation is slightly short-lived, even as they are cordial. She gives the birthday girl her gift, though she doesn't receive it as well as another gift a friend gave her. She makes conversation with people at the party, but they all share superficial information).

Misty

Yeah. I talked with quite a few people. It was nice.

(Just as she says this, the group starts quietly talking about playing Just Dance).

Sasha

Heh, sounds like you didn't really get to talk with anyone at all.

Misty

No no, I did. I just didn't really think about it is all.

Person

LET'S PLAY JUST DANCE!!

(The pianist continues to play as they set-up Just Dance on the television. Misty and Sasha start talking to separate people that sparked a conversation, though they're still sitting next to each other as other set-up the TV. As the first song plays, Misty, Sasha, and the two they were talking with along with two other people start looking at the TV

and dancing. The pianist stops playing and sits down to watch, as do several other people, either on their phone or watching the people dance awkwardly to the video game dance instructions.)

(Misty dances with Sasha dumbly as well. We cut to her first-person perspective, and Sasha is smiling, though looking down cuz she feels awkward. Misty laughs a little bit as they dance briefly. As the song changes, Misty decides she needs to use the washroom).

Misty

One sec. Going to get a drink and use the washroom.

(Misty gets up, and places her attention on the gift she gave to the birthday girl. She places it in its bag and back in the gift section, next to the musical instruments. She goes over to the bar, and picks up the alcohol bottle, and places it back down once she realizes it isn't as full, and decides to pour herself a glass of orange juice instead. After drinking it, she goes to the washroom, looks at her vape, and places it back in her pocket. She actually uses the washroom this time, cleans her hands, and returns back to the party. We cut to her looking at Sasha having fun, the group leader talking with others, and then all the people at the party, not including herself, as if it was taken from a movie set camera. The camera stills, as if she placed it on the table, and we see her join in on the fun of the video game dancing. Fade out.)