

TWO WOMEN ON THE SHORE (2020)**CHARACTER LIST**

EVIE / GRACE: a blind woman in her twenties / a young painter

MAUD / LEE: Evie's mother / a young painter

OWEN / FRANK / JACKSON: a beachcomber / a poet / a painter

SETTING

The play is set on the shore of a remote beach.

TWO WOMEN ON THE SHORE

Scene 1

(EVIE stands center stage, facing the audience. She wears a white dress and dark sunglasses. She is blind and takes in the sound and scent of the sea. MAUD, dressed in black, is crouched close behind her, watching in silence. Their positioning should resemble the figures in Munch's woodcut print of the same title and should appear as if they were one connected shape. After a moment, EVIE begins fidgeting with her wedding ring, slipping it off and on her finger.)

MAUD

What are you thinking about?

(MAUD's voice alarms EVIE and she drops the ring. She stoops and rakes the sand with her hands, trying to find it.)

EVIE

I told you, leave me alone.

MAUD

You know I can't do that.

EVIE

Then help me find my ring.

(MAUD remains still, watching EVIE.)

MAUD

Remember when you were a little girl? You used to spend hours on the shore searching for the perfect shell. Nothing too broken or too pale. And when you finally found it, you would hold it with both hands, close to your heart, and you'd make a wish. Then you would cast it into the waves.

EVIE

I can't find it.

MAUD

I never understood why you'd throw it away after investing so much time searching for the perfect one.

EVIE

Why aren't you helping me find my ring?

MAUD

For a moment I thought you were going to throw your wedding ring into the sea.

EVIE

Why would I do that?

MAUD

Because you used to do the same thing with shells.

EVIE

I was a child then. Shells are worthless.

MAUD

You believed they held the power to make your wishes come true.

EVIE

Obviously, I was wrong.

MAUD

You're not happy with your life?

EVIE

I wouldn't know.

MAUD

What do you mean?

EVIE

You're always distracting me. I don't have a chance to experience my own life.

MAUD

That's not true. I help you get around.

EVIE

I don't need your help.

MAUD

Why did you come out here?

EVIE

To be alone.

MAUD

But why here?

EVIE

I've never been out this far.

MAUD

How do you know?

EVIE

I'm blind, not stupid. I know where I've been.

MAUD

Do you?

EVIE

What's that supposed to mean?

MAUD

I think we should go back.

EVIE

I can't leave without my ring. Can you see it?

MAUD

Everywhere I turn there's someone in my way.

EVIE

No one around for at least a mile. It's just us and the sea.

MAUD

And the sea gulls.

EVIE

They wouldn't be here if it were up to you.

MAUD

Hear them laughing?

EVIE

I hear the waves crashing into the sand.

MAUD

Brutal.

EVIE

You would think so.

MAUD

What's that supposed to mean?

EVIE

You have a violent imagination.

MAUD

That's not all.

EVIE

No. That's not all.

MAUD

Someone's coming.

EVIE

No one's there. Help me find my ring.

MAUD

Does it pain you?

EVIE

Losing my ring? Yes.

MAUD

No, not that. The sand.

EVIE

Not until you brought it up.

MAUD

I don't know why you find the sea romantic. Look at the way the waves pummel the shore. You can almost see how it comes apart under the weight of the water.

EVIE

I can hear the rocks and shells breaking into sand.

MAUD

No, you can't.

EVIE

How do you know?

MAUD

Please. It's time to go.