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The Heart Has Eyes

A Short Play for Teens

by

Mike Willis

The Heart Has Eyes is dedicated to my great granddaughter, Emaleigh Sapphira who with a simple smile can brighten my day. Although she has full use of her eyes, may she always continue to see with her heart.

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The Heart has Eyes

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

3W / 1M

SARAH: *The most popular girl in the class. Sarah is an attractive cheerleader who dresses in designer clothes and is very aware of her status among her peers.*

MOLLY: *Sarah's devoted follower who understands that her own popularity ranking among the other kids in her class is because of her friendship with Sarah. Molly is rather plain in comparison to Sarah, but not unattractive.*

WYATT: *Your average-looking high schooler. He participates in sports but is not a star athlete. Wyatt's likeable manner makes him quite popular with his classmates.*

EMALEIGH: *She is an attractive teen who is blind. She wears a sweater and jeans and uses a white cane to aid her in finding her way around.*

TIME

The present

SETTING

The exterior common area of a high school

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The Heart Has Eyes is easily staged on a bare-stage with furniture props or can be used as a high school contest piece where no props or only chairs and tables are allowed.

The Heart Has Eyes

by Mike Willis

THE SETTING: *The exterior common area of a high school. A gathering place where students collect to study or have lunch on days when the weather permits. Outdoor tables and chairs cover an otherwise bare stage. The largest table capable of seating six is slightly right center-stage. The other tables will seat two or four with one of them placed down left center-stage not far from the larger table.*

AT RISE: *SARAH, enters carrying a backpack with her lunch and books in it. SHE is closely followed by MOLLY who also has a backpack. SARAH crosses to the larger table center stage. MOLLY follows.*

SARAH

Can you believe it?

MOLLY

I'm not sure I can. Believe, what?

EMALEIGH enters carrying a brown paper bag with her lunch and a backpack with her books. EMALEIGH is blind and has a white cane in her other hand that SHE uses to find her way.

SARAH

Wyatt had the nerve to ask me to go to the homecoming dance with him.

MOLLY tosses her backpack on the large table, sees EMALEIGH and starts to cross to help her find a place at one of the smaller tables. SARAH places her backpack on the large table and turns to see MOLLY is not right behind her.

SARAH, Continued

Molly, where are you going?

MOLLY

I'm just going to help Emaleigh find her way to a table.

SARAH

Now!?! You can't abandon me, I have a crisis here.

MOLLY

It will just take a second, I'll...

EMALEIGH

That's okay, Molly. I can find my own way, but thanks.

SARAH

(To MOLLY)

See... she can find her own way. That's what she has the cane for. You are such an enabler. She wants to be independent.

MOLLY

I was just trying to be helpful.

SARAH

So, come here and be helpful... tell me what am I going to do about Wyatt?

*MOLLY crosses to SARAH and
EMALEIGH uses HER cane to find HER
way to a small table stage left.*

MOLLY

What about Wyatt?

SARAH

Didn't you hear what I just said?

MOLLY

You mean about the homecoming dance?

SARAH

Yes, the homecoming dance! You're supposed to be my friend. You need to be here for me, to give me advice and emotional support... *(Looking at EEMALEIGH)* not running off to do good deeds for someone you hardly know.

MOLLY

Sarah, she can hear you.

SARAH

So, it's not like we are ever going to hang out together. Now, tell me what I should do about the homecoming dance.

MOLLY looks at EMALEIGH who is struggling out of her backpack.

MOLLY

I think I am going to ask Emaleigh to join us.

MOLLY rises.

SARAH

What!? Why would you want to do that?

MOLLY

Because she's nice, and she's all alone over there. I'll be right back.

MOLLY starts towards EMALEIGH.

SARAH

You're such a do-gooder.

MOLLY

(Shoots a look at SARAH)

Sarah! *(Crosses to EMALEIGH)* Emaleigh, would you like to join me and Sarah at our table?

EMALEIGH

Well, I don't know, I...

MOLLY

Come on, you don't want to sit here all alone, do you?

EMALEIGH

Well... all right, if it's okay with Sarah.

SARAH

(Less than enthusiastic)

Sure, whatever.

MOLLY helps EMALEIGH with her things and THEY both cross to the larger table and sit.

SARAH

Now, back to the situation at hand. What am I going to do about Wyatt?

MOLLY

I just don't see what the big deal is, Wyatt is a nice guy.

SARAH

The big deal is, he's second string. How can the captain of the cheerleading squad possibly go to the homecoming dance with a second stringer? I need Bradley to ask me to the dance.

MOLLY

Brad?

SARAH

He's the captain of the team and the star player.

MOLLY

He's also a bit of a jerk.

SARAH

That doesn't matter. As the team captain and best player, he will obviously be chosen as homecoming king. That means whoever his date is will be queen.

MOLLY

Do you really want to go to the dance with Brad?

SARAH

Whatever it takes to be homecoming queen.

MOLLY

It's your life.

SARAH

And isn't it wonderful.

WYATT is heard off.

MOLLY

(Looks off)

Oh, no. Here comes Wyatt. What are you going to tell him?

SARAH

Not a problem. Watch and learn.

WYATT enters carrying a backpack. HE seems very excited as HE crosses to SARAH. HE doesn't even seem to notice MOLLY or EMALEIGH.

WYATT

Hi Sarah.

SARAH

Wyatt.

MOLLY

Hello, Wyatt.

WYATT

(Noticing MOLLY)

Oh... uh, hi Molly and uh, *(Looking at EMALEIGH; drawing a blank)* I'm sorry...

MOLLY

Wyatt, this is Emaleigh.

WYATT

Oh yeah, right. I think we had sixth hour English together our freshman year... uh, hi Emaleigh.

EMALEIGH

Hello. That's right, it was our freshman year.

WYATT turns quickly back to SARAH.

WYATT

So Sarah, what about the homecoming dance? Will you go with me?

SARAH

Oh, the dance. I'm sorry Wyatt, but I forgot that Bradley had already asked me to go to the dance with him.

WYATT

He did?

SARAH

It just totally slipped my mind, and then you asked me and I thought how sweet of you, but then Molly just reminded me that I had already told Brad I would go with him.

MOLLY

(Shocked)

What!? I...

SARAH gives MOLLY a look asking for support.

SARAH

Isn't that right, Molly?

MOLLY

But, I didn't—

SARAH

(Cutting MOLLY off)

Didn't think to remind me at the time? You're forgiven. *(To WYATT)* Molly was as surprised as I was when you asked me, I guess we both just blanked out at the time. I'm sorry Wyatt, I wish I had remembered and told you earlier.

WYATT crosses to the end of the table and sits.

WYATT

(Deflated)

Yeah, Me too.

SARAH

(Rising)

Come on Molly, we have to go and find Brad. I need to make some plans regarding the dance. See you Wyatt, hope you find a date for the dance.

SARAH starts off; MOLLY rises and crosses to WYATT

MOLLY

I'm really sorry, Wyatt.

WYATT

Forget it. It's not your fault.

SARAH stops and calls to MOLLY.

SARAH

Are you coming? We need to find Bradley.

MOLLY

But, what about lunch?

SARAH

You can eat lunch anytime. Besides, it wouldn't hurt you to miss a meal now and then.

MOLLY

What does that mean?

SARAH

Oh, don't act so hurt, I was just kidding. Come on I need your help with Brad.

MOLLY starts to follow SARAH.

EMALEIGH

(To MOLLY)

You don't have to go, Molly.

*SARAH hears and crosses back towards
EMALEIGH.*

SARAH

What did you say?

EMALEIGH

I just told Molly that she doesn't have to go, if she doesn't want to. If she would rather sit and have her lunch, she should do it.

SARAH

She's *my* friend. Who are you to tell *my* friend what she can or can't do?

EMALEIGH

Me? I'm no one special.

SARAH

You've got that right. You're no one special. You may think not being able to see makes you special, but it doesn't. There are a lot of blind people in the world.

MOLLY

(Grabbing SARAH'S arm)

Sarah, come on. Leave her alone. Let's go, I'll go with you.

EMALEIGH

I may be blind, but I can see.

SARAH

Oh, is that so? You are not only blind, you're weird. Let's go Molly.

*SARAH starts out; waits impatiently not
far off.*

WYATT

(Alarmed at what he hears)

Sarah!

MOLLY

(To EEMALEIGH)

I'm sorry, Emaleigh.

EMALEIGH

You can stay, you know.

MOLLY

No, but thanks. It's best if I go with her.

EMALEIGH

Maybe for her, but what about you?

MOLLY

What can I say? I'm weak. *(To SARAH)* I'm coming. Bye, Emaleigh, Wyatt.

EMALEIGH and WYATT, *Together*

Bye.

MOLLY

(To EMALEIGH)

Maybe we can get together some other time for lunch, and to talk?

EMALEIGH

Sure, anytime.

SARAH

Molly!

MOLLY

I'm coming.

SARAH and MOLLY exit. WYATT moves over and sits next to EMALEIGH.

WYATT

Are you all right?

EMALEIGH

Sure, why wouldn't I be?

WYATT

Because of what Sarah said... calling you weird and all. Sarah, gets away with saying things like that because she's popular and the prettiest girl in the school.

EMALEIGH

Is she?

WYATT

Is she what?

EMALEIGH

The prettiest girl in the school?

WYATT

Oh, yeah... she's beautiful.

EMALEIGH

No, she's not beautiful.

WYATT

You can't see her. But, believe me... she *is* beautiful.

EMALEIGH

But, I can... I can see her.

WYATT

You, can? But, I thought...

EMALEIGH

Beauty transcends just being pretty. Physical appearances don't make someone or something beautiful. Beauty goes much deeper than that.

WYATT

Uh...

EMALEIGH

You're looking at me now and thinking... Sarah was right, that blind girl, she really is weird. No wonder she sits by herself at lunch.

WYATT

No, I wasn't. I...

EMALEIGH

It's okay. Maybe I am different, it's just that being blind, I find other ways to see things.

WYATT

I guess I don't understand.

EMALEIGH

I'm not sure I can explain it to you.

WYATT

You could try.

EMALEIGH

Okay, uh, let's see... hmmm, have you ever seen pictures or videos of a tornado, or actually seen one?

WYATT

Sure, I've seen pictures but...

EMALEIGH

The tornado's outward appearance may be quite impressive, even pretty to some, but inside the tornado, the destruction it causes is quite ugly. On the other hand, a cocoon can look plain or even ugly on the outside, but the butterfly growing within is beautiful.

WYATT

Hmmm... that's deep.

EMALEIGH

You mean weird.

WYATT

No, not at all... it's just that I never thought of it that way.

EMALEIGH

That's because you have the use of your eyes. You can see things and immediately make a judgement upon what you see. What would you say today is like? Is today beautiful?

WYATT

What do you mean?

EMALEIGH

Is the sun shining?

WYATT

Yes, it is.

EMALEIGH

Yes, I can see it.

WYATT

You can?

EMALEIGH

Not literally, but I can feel its warmth on my body, so I know that it is there? Do you think the sun is pretty?

WYATT

Sure, I guess so.

EMALEIGH

Do you think today is a beautiful day? No, don't answer that, let me. (*Lifts her face skyward, eyes closed*) I think, I think... today *is* a beautiful day. I see the sun shining because of its warmth on my face and I see the trees gently swaying through the breeze that I feel brushing my skin. So yes, today is a beautiful day.

WYATT

What if the sun were to go behind a cloud and the breeze would stop? Would that mean it wasn't a beautiful day?

EMALEIGH

No, not at all. If the temperature was comfortable and there was no severe weather in the forecast, it could still be a beautiful day, just not as... *pretty*. It's all about how your senses make you feel.

WYATT

Wow. Uh, well, I should leave you alone and let you eat your lunch.

EMALEIGH

I'm making you uncomfortable, aren't I? Now you're convinced that what Sarah said about me being weird is true.

WYATT

What? Oh, no not at all. I was just thinking that...

EMALEIGH

What?

WYATT

I was just thinking that you must be really... smart.

EMALEIGH

(Laughing)

Wow, I've never been called smart before. That's a new one.

WYATT

Well, I think you are.

EMALEIGH

Thank, you, but I'm not any smarter than you or most anyone else. When you're blind, or even when you cover your eyes, it makes your other senses, including your heart, make choices for you. Not just regarding the weather, or places or things, but about people and relationships too.

WYATT

I guess.

EMALEIGH

Close your eyes.

WYATT

Why?

EMALEIGH

Just, trust me.

WYATT puts his hands over his eyes.

EMALEIGH

Do you have your hands over your eyes?

WYATT

(Lying)

No.

EMALEIGH

Yes, you do. You're just messing with me.

WYATT

See, I told you. You *are* smart.

EMALEIGH

Very funny. Now, think of Sarah. Can you do that?

WYATT

Sure. That's not a problem.

EMALEIGH

Is she beautiful?

WYATT

Yes, of course. She's the most beautiful girl in the class.

EMALEIGH

I know, you've said that. Now, think of Sarah as a shapeless shadow with a blank face not as a cheerleader and the most popular girl in the class. Can you do that?

WYATT

I'll try.

EMALEIGH

Great. Now, imagine that you asked this shapeless shadow to the homecoming dance and she responded by saying the same things that Sarah just said to you and Molly.

WYATT

And to you?

EMALEIGH

Okay, me too. Can you do that?

WYATT

I'm trying.

EMALEIGH

What do you see?

WYATT

This is hard.

EMALEIGH

That's because you already had a physical image established in your mind with regards to Sarah. Blank that image out. *(Pause)* Is this shapeless shadow, still the most beautiful girl in the class?

WYATT

(After a long pause)

No.

EMALEIGH

Why, not?

WYATT

Because she doesn't care what she says or who she hurts as long as she gets what she wants.

EMALEIGH

Now, you see what I see. You used your sense of hearing to allow your heart to make a choice.

WYATT

I don't care what you say, you *are* really, really smart.

EMALEIGH

You don't have to be smart. When I was very young, I spent a lot of time with my great grandparents. Their wish for me was, that as I grew older, I would always see things with my heart. "The heart has eyes", my great grandfather said.

WYATT

Huh... that's cool.

EMALEIGH

And their advice works too, at least it does for me. You may get lucky Wyatt. Someday you may find someone who is not only very pretty on the outside, but also beautiful on the inside. I hope you do.

This is Not the End of the Play
Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes