

Shelter

By

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Cast of Characters

Colby: A 19-year old college student

Brie: Colby's Mom

ACT I

Scene 1

Lights up on COLBY sitting on the stage. We hear the sound of a heavy metal door opening and slamming quickly.

BRIE

COLBY! HELP COLBY! HELP ME LOCK THE DOOR! COLBY!

COLBY rushes off stage and we hear the sounds of a door lock.

BRIE

Oh, that was close. Now help me with the supplies dear.

COLBY

I don't like you going out there by yourself Mom, it's dangerous. I think I should do the scavenging from now on.

BRIE

That's sweet Colby but with your asthma, IBS, and fainting--

COLBY

Mom, I haven't those problems since I was a kid.

BRIE

Yes, but that doesn't mean they are gone. You could have an attack at any minute and with those wild animals running about it's best that you stay close to home.

They begin to unpack the supplies and settle in.

COLBY

Did you see any other survivors yet?

BRIE

Not one.

COLBY

What's it like out there? I mean, it's been 7 months; does it even look like Glendale any more?

BRIE

Barely. Looks like the rioting destroyed most of the civilization we knew and the animals have started to overrun the city feeding on rotting corpses.

(CONTINUED)

COLBY

Ugh.

BRIE

Sorry baby, I know it's graphic but I'm not going to shelter you from the truth. It's just sad that no one else made it this long.

COLBY

I didn't think we were the only ones around with a Holocaust Shelter.

BRIE

Well no one else took Y2K seriously! They all thought it was just blown out of proportion and that their government would protect them. Now look at them! Serves 'em right!

COLBY

Marsala and I didn't--

BRIE

Oh Marsala! Why didn't you bring her home to meet me?

COLBY

She went back to New York to spend the holidays with her family... I hope she's okay...

BRIE

I wouldn't worry about it dear. I didn't think she was good enough for you anyway.

COLBY

You never even talked to her!

BRIE

Well, with a name like "Marsala" I can just tell. Sounds like a real *whiner*.

COLBY

And names like Colby and Brie are any less *cheesy*?

BRIE

Our names have culture!

COLBY

Cultures maybe. She wanted me to go to New York with her to meet--

BRIE

It's a good thing you came back home from college to spend the holidays with me; otherwise you'd be all alone in Jersey. What a horrible place to die.

(CONTINUED)

COLBY

I was at Princeton Mom. Some of the greatest minds in the world--

BRIE

If they were so damn smart they'd get the hell out of Jersey. What's important is that you are safe at home with me.

COLBY

This is hardly a "home".

BRIE

"Home" is where your Mother is. When you moved away I was just so distraught. Worrying about you when you didn't call every night or when I'd read about the rising crime rate, I almost had a heart attack!

COLBY

It's not a wasteland filed with criminals and low lives it's--

BRIE

Worse! It's Jersey!

COLBY

It's Princeton! It's all gone now anyway...

BRIE

No sense in dwelling on the past dear. How about some dinner? I managed to get your favorite: canned beets!

COLBY

Mom, I hate beets.

BRIE

But you loved them as a baby!

COLBY

I also liked boogers but I stopped eating those too.

BRIE

Oh when did you stop that?

He gives her a look.

BRIE

Oh you're no fun. I got some other stuff too.

COLBY picks up a can.

(CONTINUED)

COLBY

Sell by 6-2001, heh. If only they knew the fall of mankind was going to be so soon they would have labeled all the cans, "Sell by 12-31-1999".

BRIE

Alright, dinner is served. We have beans, beets, and Spam.

She passes out the plates and settles down.

COLBY

I'm glad they packaged this stuff to last forever. It's like they knew something like this would happen.

BRIE

They must have! Or why else would they keep making Spam?

They smile at each other and continue eating. COLBY rests his head on BRIE's shoulder. She picks up a beet on the fork and offers it to him. He shakes his head in refusal. She begins to wave the fork around and making airplane noises. He laughs and begins to say, "Stop" but when he opens wide she lands the beet in his mouth. They share a moment.

BRIE

Oh, I almost forgot.

She goes back into the bag and pulls out some cheese.

BRIE

And for dessert, I found some cheese. Can you believe it?

COLBY

Cheese? That can't be very good.

BRIE

Oh cheese gets better with age! And it's Colby, just like you.

She hands him the cheese.

COLBY

Well Colby isn't like other cheeses; it shouldn't be aged or else it dries out.

BRIE

It looks good enough to eat. Break me off a piece.

COLBY

Mom, where did you find this?

BRIE

I had to rummage through some supermarket rubble. I'm sure it's fine dear.

COLBY

This cheese is dated June 2000.

BRIE

Oh that's when it expires but I'm sure it's--

COLBY

No, it says, "Packaged fresh on 6-24-2000".

BRIE

Oh that's just something they put on--

COLBY

If there are no factories, no computers, no people, how did they make this cheese 2 weeks ago?

BRIE

That must be a misprint dear.

COLBY

Where did you get this cheese?

BRIE

I told you from--

COLBY

Show me. Take me there.

BRIE

You know you can't go outside Colby, you won't survive it's too--

COLBY

Take. Me. There.

BRIE

NO!

COLBY starts to exits.

BRIE

Colby Jack Pinconning!

She follows after him getting to the edge of the stage.

BRIE

GET AWAY FROM THAT DOOR!

We hear the sound of the heavy metal door opening.

COLBY

(Quietly)

Oh my God.

BRIE gasps and covers her mouth.

COLBY

Oh my God.

BRIE starts to get tears in her eyes as she begins to back away.

COLBY

Oh my GOD!

COLBY rushes back on stage to confront his mother.

COLBY

You... You kept me... You TRAPPED ME IN HERE!

BRIE

Colby-

COLBY

Seven months Mom. SEVEN MONTHS I've been stuck in here with you thinking we survived the FUCKING APOCALYPSE and it was all a lie?

BRIE

Colby dear I--

COLBY

Marsala, Princeton, Everything! Why? Why did you do this to me?!

BRIE

You abandoned me, what was I supposed--

COLBY

Oh! I abandoned you!? I went to college Mom. People go to college, they move away!

BRIE
I NEEDED YOU AND YOU LEFT ME!

COLBY
Get used to it.

BRIE
What?

COLBY exits.

BRIE
Colby wait. Colby don't leave me, I'm sorry...

She breaks down and begins to cry.

BRIE
COLBY!

She collapses on the stage as we
hear the sound of a large metal
door being slammed shut.

Blackout. End of play.