Sides from "The Plot"

By Claudia Krogmeier

Instructions for Audition: Aaron Timble: One take naturally (true to how you understand the character) One take overly sarcastically and/or good-naturedly

Emma Enord: One take naturally (true to how you understand the character) One take desperate and/or depressed and/or someone has wronged you

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He storms towards the door, it's Aaron Timble on tumble dry,

and flinging open the door, his rage about to vomit into words, she clears her throat.

Rushed and bubbly:

EMMA

Good afternoon sir, and congratulations! Every month, we select families in our community to receive a free cemetery space. This month your family was selected!

She hands a blank Aaron a blank certificate from her clipboard.

He does not take it.

EMMA Fill out your certificate first and then we can get started with the details!

Behind her, Aaron sees the same GROUP OF YOUNG BOYS. They run past in the street and just barely brush his front lawn.

> AARON Get off my lawn shitheads! God damn them.

> EMMA (as if scolding a child) Do not take the Lord's name in vain sir.

As if remembering this other speck of nuisance in his day, he whips his head back to her.

She startles.

AARON. Ma'am? What makes you think-

EMMA It's Emma, Emma Enord. A pleasure, Mr...?

She extends her hand. He does not.

AARON. Mr. Aaron Timble. Listen, *Ms. Enord*, I'm not interested in (MORE) AARON. (cont'd) this...thing. Kindly step off my porch. Good day.

He's shut the front door, but only halfway.

EMMA Are you not interested in a free cemetery plot? Who will be left to pay this debt for you?

The door shuts tightly. Through walls she's faded but ever shrill, perhaps psychotic:

EMMA What do you think happens to us when we die?!

...yikes.

Never the bigger man in an argument, and walking back to his chair:

AARON (yelling) I suppose we rot just like everybody else! Some of us, in hell!

Facing his chair and away from the door, he reaches for his newspaper.

EMMA

Aaron?

What the fuck! He whips around. She is standing right behind him in the house.

How?

AARON Get the fuck out of my house woman!

EMMA Will you feel the same tomorrow?

Aaron is already at the door, opening it for her departure.

AARON Out. I want no solicitors, no one who breaks into my house, and no god damn cemetery plot. Ever. Get out! A comfortable smile spreads like butter on her loosey goosey face.

She leaves and he SLAMS the door behind her.

AARON Unbelievable.