Excerpts from

**She Was the Sun**

**Synopsis**

After losing her secret girlfriend of two years to a horrific accident, Sadie struggles to get her life back on track. Juggling her overbearing mother, wonky best friend, and her own guilt, she searches for a way to move on without forgetting the woman that she loves.

**Cast**

**Sadie**  
A closeted lesbian who has recently lost the love of her life. Formerly an uptight rule-follower and people-pleaser. Currently a stone-faced well of emotions.

**Nancy**  
A nurse at the rehab facility. Very loving. Definitely has won “Best Grandmother of The Year” a time or two. The person Sadie has let closest to her during her stay.

**Elizabeth**  
Sadie’s overbearing mother. She wants what’s best for her daughter, even if it doesn’t always come across that way.

**Roger**  
Sadie’s father. He’s a factory worker who doesn’t have a lot to say. He and Sadie are more similar than different. Neither know how to have or handle emotions.

**Sam**  
Sadie’s little brother. He’s a teenage boy and doesn’t let you forget it. He has always secretly looked up to Sadie

**Jamie**  
Sadie’s long-term, recently-deceased girlfriend. She was fun-loving and carefree -- everything Sadie was not when they first got together.

**Jack**  
Sadie’s best friend. Gay in every sense of the word. Often misdirected, always loveable.
ACT ONE, Scene One

(LIGHTS UP on a white room. Against the middle of the far wall is a woman lying on a cot. She is wearing drab, loose-fitting clothes. Her back is to the audience. We hear only her side of the conversation as she talks to what appears to be no one.)

SADIE
I’m going home today. To our apartment. My apartment. It’s not home anymore. Not without you. I don’t know if I’m any better off after being here, but I know if they hear me talking to you, they’ll want me to stay longer, so I have to keep it short. I just miss you. So much. And I don’t know what it’s going to be like outside of here without you, but I know that I don’t want to know. And I know that I really don’t get a choice because no matter how much I scream to the heavens about how fucked up this all was, you’re still not coming back and--

(There’s a knock at the door. NANCY enters.)

NANCY
Sadie?

(SADIE clears her throat and rolls over, sitting up.)

SADIE
Yes?

NANCY
Your family is here. Are you all ready to go?

SADIE
As ready as I can be.

NANCY
Great. Your mother is just discussing some things with Doctor Mellin and then you’ll be all set. It shouldn’t be too long.

(SADIE sighs. NANCY laughs lightly.)

You sound very excited to be going home.

SADIE
Don’t tell Doctor Mellin, but I don’t know if I’m ready to leave.

NANCY
Oh?
SADIE
I’m not, like, going to hurt myself or anything. It’s just been really nice to not have to face…

NANCY
I know what you mean, sweetheart. When my Donnie passed, the house was just so quiet. I
wasn’t sure I’d make it. Retirement is sweeter when you have someone to spend it with, so I
came here and picked up a few shifts a week, and I haven’t looked back. Seeing you kiddos fight
through the worst life can throw at you has inspired me to keep pushing right along, too.

SADIE
I’m going to miss you, Nance.

(They embrace. It’s cut short by ELIZABETH entering the room, speaking loudly
on her phone.)

ELIZABETH
Yes, Roger. We will be out in just a moment. Well, I had to talk to her doctor first. Oh hush. We
will be out when we’re out. I don’t know why you’re so antsy. Goodbye.

SADIE
Hi, mom.

ELIZABETH
Oh, sweetie.

(ELIZABETH is overcome with emotion. She embraces SADIE. SADIE does not
reciprocate. After a moment, ELIZABETH pulls away and pulls herself together.)

Are you all set?

SADIE
Uh, yeah. Yeah I am.

ELIZABETH
Good, your father is getting antsy. You know how he is around these places.

(To NANCY)

No offense.

NANCY
None taken. Lots of people get nervous around rehab facilities, but it’s entirely unnecessary.
ELIZABETH
Yes, well, let’s get going before he drives off and we’re both stuck here!
(The joke falls flat. NANCY breaks the uncomfortable silence.)

NANCY
Let me help you with your bags, honey.

SADIE
You really don’t have to do that.

NANCY
Nonsense! It’s the least I can do for my favorite resident.

SADIE
Thank you.

NANCY
You’ll have to write to me and keep me updated on all your adventures outside of here. You’re going places, sweetheart.

SADIE
(Quietly, to herself.)
I’m glad someone thinks so.
(They exit.)
ACT ONE, Scene Two

(LIGHTS UP on a kitchen. Sitting at the table are SADIE, ELIZABETH, ROGER and SAM. The room is tense. SADIE hardly touches her plate.)

ROGER
What did you say this was, Liz?

ELIZABETH
Penne a la vodka with broccoli and tuna.

ROGER
Whatever that means, it’s great. Right, Sadie?

SADIE
Uh, yeah, it’s really good, Mom.

ELIZABETH
Sam? Do you want any more?

SAM
We sat down two seconds ago. I haven’t even tasted it yet.

(Beat. Everyone picks at their food.)

SADIE
So, Sam, how’s school?

SAM
It’s been cool. Basketball started last week. I made varsity this year.

SADIE
That’s awesome!

SAM
You should come to a game or two.

SADIE
I’d love to.
ELIZABETH
You can sit with your father and I in the family section.

ROGER
It gets a little rowdy sometimes.

SADIE
I’ll see what I can do.

(A long pause. No one knows what to say.)
So… what else is new?

SAM
Dad got a promotion at work.

SADIE
You didn’t mention that.

ROGER
It’s nothing, really.

SADIE
Well you were a shift manager before. Are you in charge of the whole place now?

ROGER
No, nothing like that. I’m just the operations manager. I order whatever materials they need on the floor.

SADIE
Does that mean you’re not working the line anymore?

ROGER
Sometimes I do.

(Another long pause.)

SADIE
Well, Mom, everyone else seems to have big news. What’s new with you?

ELIZABETH (beat. Then, rushed)
Your father and I have been talking and we think you should stay here for awhile.
SADIE
What?

ELIZABETH
We think it would be best.

SADIE
What about my apartment?

ELIZABETH
Well, Jamie’s family has been through it and I’m not sure what kind of mess they’ve left for you.

SADIE
Jamie’s family went through the apartment?

ELIZABETH
They had to clear out her stuff.

SADIE
They took her stuff?

ELIZABETH
Not all of it. They want you to go through and keep what you want.

SADIE
Do you know what they took?

ELIZABETH
It’s not like I had an itemized list of your apartment.

SADIE
I just mean--

ELIZABETH
You hardly ever let me come over there, anyways.

ROGER
Liz.
ELIZABETH
What? She never wanted us over there.

ROGER
It’s her first day home.

SADIE
I just want to sleep in my own bed, if that’s okay.

ELIZABETH
That’s fine. Your father can go pick it up after work tomorrow and we can set it up in the spare room for you.

SADIE
I’m not staying here.

ELIZABETH
I’d rather have you here.

SADIE
Why?

ELIZABETH
We like having you around.

SADIE
I live fifteen minutes across town. Fifteen minutes. I’m still “around.”

ELIZABETH
Fifteen minutes can be a lot if I’m having a busy day.

SADIE
Are you planning on stopping every day?

ELIZABETH
I said you’re staying here. That’s final.
SADIE
That’s not final. I am not a child. You don’t get to make these decisions for me.

ELIZABETH
It’s better for all of us if we have you here.

SADIE
Why? Why does it matter so much?

ROGER
For Christ’s sake.
(Beat. SADIE hears what no one is willing to say.)

SADIE
Oh. Oh, I get it. You want me here so you can stand guard 24/7 in case I try to off myself.

ROGER
Sadie.

SADIE
Well, I won’t.

ELIZABETH
And we’re just supposed to believe you?

SADIE
I just spent ten weeks in a tiny white room on a tiny white cot, being watched every single second of every single day. I’m going home. To sleep in my bed. Alone.
(SADIE stands. She exits. Beat)

ELIZABETH
Roger, go after her.
(ROGER stands, grabs his keys and jacket.)
What are you doing?

ROGER
I’m not going to make her walk.
(He exits.)
ACT TWO, Scene Two

(Lights up in a park. It’s late at night. SADIE lies in the grass next to her childhood friend, JACK. They are both staring up at the stars, quietly reflecting on the events of the last year. A swing set squeaks in the background.)

SADIE
Jack?

JACK
Yeah?

SADIE
Have you ever seen the Sun?

(JACK leans up on his elbows and turns to stare at SADIE. His brows are knitted in confusion.)

JACK
Ummm… maybe I looked at it when I was little, but I try not to do that too much anymore because it could make me blind… You do know that makes you blind, right?

(SADIE laughs.)

SADIE
Yes, I know.

(Beat. JACK levels her with a disbelieving look.)

I didn’t mean that. I meant…well…

(SADIE trails off, trying to think of a better way to say it. The words elude her. She sighs, frustratedly.)

You know what I mean!
JACK
I really don’t. And I know you’re, like, a college graduate, and way smarter than me, but I don’t even think Einstein would be able to figure this one out.

SADIE
You’re just not thinking about it right!

JACK
I’m thinking about it, and I just keep getting distracted by the fact that it would literally fuck up your eyes.

(SADIE shoves him. They lie in silence for a moment.)

What even made you think about the sun right now? It’s the middle of the night. We came out here to talk and watch the stars. The sun’s probably in… China or something by now.

SADIE
It’s a tragedy.

(JACK turns and stares at her in confusion.)
The sun, I mean.

JACK
A tragedy?

SADIE
Yes. The Sun is a tragedy.

JACK
Okay, Copernicus.
SADIE
Really, Jack. It’s science. The sun is a tragedy.

(JACK shoots SADIE a sideways glance.)
The surface of the sun is… a hot mess. It’s all million-degree plasma that just keeps moving all the time. And in the core, there’s so much heat and so much pressure that the hydrogen inside turns into helium and the fusion sends the electromagnetic radiation back to the surface and it creates this brilliant, blinding light and so much heat. And it just keeps going under all of that heat and all of that pressure. And it’s just going to keep on going until it finally uses its entire supply of hydrogen and then it will implode into nothingness. The Sun is a tragedy. In order to keep everyone else alive, it has to use its entire life supply, and my God, Jack, I just....relate to it more than I probably should. One big, hot mess that’s always under pressure and constantly moving and never slowing down or stopping because then everything around me would cease to exist.

(There’s a long silence on stage as JACK unpacks the implications of SADIE’s words.)

JACK
Are you… feeling what I’m feeling right now?

SADIE
Are you feeling a deep state of depression?

JACK
No, I just… Nevermind.

SADIE
What?

JACK
It’s nothing.

(SADIE punches JACK in the arm.)
Ow! What was that for?

SADIE
I just poured my heart soul out to you and you can’t even tell me what you’re feeling.

JACK
It doesn’t matter.

(SADIE hits him again.)
SADIE
Yes it does.

JACK
It was dumb.
(SADIE hits him again.)

SADIE
Tell me.

JACK
No.
(SADIE hits him again.)

SADIE
Tell me.

JACK
I’m not going to tell you.
(SADIE hits him again.)
Ow! Would you stop hitting me? Jesus!

SADIE
I’ll stop hitting you when you tell me what you were thinking.
(SADIE begins hitting and poking at him quickly. They are laughing. JACK finally relents.)

JACK
Fine! Fine. I was thinking that I should kiss you.

SADIE
What? What!
(SADIE fake gags.)

JACK
Oh, okay. Thank you for that.
SADIE
In what fucking world should you have kissed me after that, Jack?

JACK
I don’t know! It was just so poetic! And- and beautiful!

SADIE
I’m gay, Jack.

JACK
It was a moment!

SADIE
You’re gay, Jack!

JACK
It seemed like the right thing to do!

SADIE
Kissing me after I give this depressing ass speech about being a mess because my girlfriend died? That seemed like the right thing to do?

JACK
It was a moment!!

(Beat. They stare at one another. They laugh.)

SADIE
You are so fucked up.

JACK
And you’re not, Little Miss Sunshine?

SADIE
Oh, fuck you.

(Jack rolls onto his side, cuddling into SADIE. He drops his voice, trying to sound seductive.)

JACK
When, where and how hard?
SADIE
Oh my God. Gay, remember?!

JACK
Oh, c’mon. I’m just trying to lighten the mood, Sade! I love you and all, but you really know how to put a damper on a nice, romantic evening.

SADIE
Romance is dead.

JACK
The sun, dead. Romance, dead. You’re starting to make me nervous. Are you sure you’re ready to be out of the center?

(SADIE gives JACK a hurt look. He rushes to recover.)

That was supposed to be a joke.

SADIE
I’m not going back there.

JACK
It was a joke, Sadie, I swear.

SADIE
A bad one.

JACK
I’m not good with these things.

SADIE
No kidding.

JACK
What’d they do to you in there to make you hate it so much?

SADIE
I don’t want to talk about it.
JACK
You know you can tell me anything, right?

SADIE
I said I don’t want to talk about it.

(Beat. SADIE lies back down in the grass. JACK continues to stare at her.)
Look, I brought you out here to get away from all of that. Can we please just watch the stars or something?

(JACK lies back down. Blackout.)