

The Nerds  
A ten-minute play  
By Alexi Smith

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

VINCENT, hot head, bitterly sarcastic, curious  
RANDALL, alone but not miserable, quiet but endearing  
JAMES, jock, enough said  
CRONIES, 2-4 exist to serve James

## SETTINGS

Supply Closet of Rosendale Middle School

## SCENE 1

*Lights up on a cluttered supply closet. Mops, brooms, shelves of chemicals, rags, and wet floor signs crowd the space. From the back of the house, we hear a door slam open and VINCENT runs in yelling for help. His backpack is haphazardly slung around his shoulders. He may run through the audience asking for help. We hear JAMES and a few cronies run in after VINCENT calling after him.*

JAMES

Come on, Vinny!! We only want to talk!!

*JAMES and his friends circle around the audience and corner VINCENT in front center.*

VINCENT

Guys, please, the bus is gonna leave in like 5 minutes!

JAMES

Oh, we know. We're keepin' a very close eye on the time, aren't we boys?

*JAMES' minions grunt in agreement or laugh and begin to close in on VINCENT*

VINCENT

Ok, guys, look!

*VINCENT pulls out his wallet*

VINCENT (CONT.)

I've got like 15 dollars in here if you just want that.

*JAMES holds up a hand, and his cronies stop their approach*

JAMES

Woah, let's hear him out guys. That's a whole pizza's worth he's offerin' there.

*JAMES slowly walks over to the cowering VINCENT and snatches the cash. JAMES' subordinates quickly run up behind VINCENT and grab him, dragging him onstage. JAMES stays behind in the house counting the cash.*

VINCENT

HEY! WE HAD A DEAL!!

JAMES

Noooo! You offered money! Which we gladly accepted!

*JAMES' cronies throw VINCENT through a door leading into the supply closet on stage and quickly lock it before VINCENT can get back up*

JAMES (CONT.)

*calling through the door*

Have fun in there, Vinny! We'll see you Monday! If you don't starve before then! You know how lazy the cleaning staff is over the weekend!!

*JAMES and his cohorts exit laughing while VINCENT throws himself against the door yelling for them to come back. After a while, VINCENT is exhausted and gives up. He yells and kicks a shelf which falls over, sending a mop and a bucket flying*

RANDALL

Owwwwww...

*VINCENT jumps at the voice. RANDALL, who has been here unseen the entire time, rises from underneath the fallen shelf*

VINCENT

RAYMOND?!

RANDALL

Randall...

VINCENT

RIGHT! RANDALL! Sorry... Wait, what are you doing here??

RANDALL

Hiding. Or, at least I was hiding.

VINCENT

Hiding from what??

*Beat. RANDALL gives him a look*

VINCENT (CONT.)

Oh. Ok. That makes sense. How long have you been in here?

RANDALL

Since 3rd period.

VINCENT

That's half the day!

RANDALL

Yeah...

*Awkward beat*

VINCENT

Well... The bus is long gone by now. Aren't you worried?...

RANDALL

I typically wait until all the other kids have gone home. Then I walk. I assume the door is locked now.

VINCENT

Huh? Oh, yeah. Those jerkwads locked us in here!

*VINCENT kicks the door*

RANDALL

Yeah... I figured...

VINCENT

Well, do you know some way out of here? Can you call your parents or something?

RANDALL

I don't have a phone. Mom says I don't need one until high school.

VINCENT

Well we see how that's working out.

RANDALL

Where is your's?

VINCENT

In my locker. Those idiots chased me away from it right after 7th period.

RANDALL

So, we're trapped...

VINCENT

No! We can get out of here. We're two of the smartest kids in this dump. We can find a way out of a broom closet. Help me look for something.

*VINCENT begins frantically searching for something. Anything. RANDALL doesn't move as quickly.*

RANDALL

So, what are you in here for?

VINCENT

Didn't help the apes with the biology quiz. I passed, and they didn't. Surprise, surprise. You'd think they'd understand evolution more than anyone. They're the missing link, after all.

*RANDALL gives a small chuckle*

RANDALL

Ha. Funny.

VINCENT

Thanks. So, what do you do in here all day?

*RANDALL has started to move some items around to help look*

RANDALL

Read. Mostly.

VINCENT

*Uninterested*

Oh, cool.

RANDALL

Yeah, a lot of Stephen King. Do you like Stephen King?

VINCENT

I read Misery a couple years ago. I think.

RANDALL

Kind of reminds you of the situation we're in now, huh?!

*RANDALL awkwardly guffaws. VINCENT doesn't respond. Beat. After another moment of searching, VINCENT groans and slumps to the ground.*

VINCENT

It's hopeless. We're never getting out. We're going to die in here.

RANDALL

I'm sure someone will come along soon.

VINCENT

Ha! Please. I ran past dozens of people yelling for help before I got thrown in here. They all just watched and laughed as it happened. No, we're gonna die in here. And no one will care. God, I'm gonna haunt James and his idiot friends for eternity!

*RANDALL sits down next to VINCENT and hugs his knees to his chest*

VINCENT (CONT.)

I'm gonna ruin his life. Like when he's about to have his first kiss or something, I'm gonna drop a book on his head! Ha! Or when he's abou--

RANDALL

He has already had a kiss.

VINCENT

Oh great. Of course he has. That's just icing on th-- Wait. How do you know that?

RANDALL

He and Stacy Martin snuck in here during 5th period and made out.

VINCENT

Alright, ignoring the fact that you were here for that without them knowing, that's impossible. All he does is make fun of Stacy. He'd never do that.

RANDALL

There are pictures on his phone. He insisted. He wanted to “cherish the memory forever.”

*A huge grin starts to spread over VINCENT’s face. He begins to crack up laughing*

VINCENT

RANDALL, THIS IS BRILLIANT! We can crush him with this!

RANDALL

How?

VINCENT

We hack his phone, print out the pictures and the next time he threatens to beat us up, we threaten to post them all over the school or even worse! Facebook!! We blackmail him with this lovesick puppy-dog stuff and his precious “cool guy demeanor” is ruined!

RANDALL

What about Stacy?

VINCENT

She never has to know! We can hold this over James without her getting hurt!

RANDALL

How do we get into his phone?

VINCENT

His password is BOOBS for pity’s sake! Y’know, 80085? I told you, he’s the king of the missing links. It couldn’t be easier! That moron will rue the day he messed with the nerds!

*VINCENT laughs like an evil mastermind. RANDALL, relaxing some is grinning along with VINCENT*

RANDALL

Yeah! And then we’ll drop books on his head!!

VINCENT

*Just going with it*

Yeah, Randall. Why not? We'll drop books on him! Show him some misery!

*They share a laugh.*

VINCENT (CONT.)

But first, how do we get out of here??

RANDALL

I may have something...

VINCENT

What?

RANDALL

I was saving it, but I think it could be useful now...

VINCENT

What is it?

RANDALL

Hang on.

*RANDALL retrieves his backpack and rummages around in it.*

RANDALL (CONT.)

It's not really finished yet. I was saving it for the next science fair, but considering we might die, now might be a good time.

VINCENT

I'd say! What is it, some automatic lock-pick?

RANDALL

Ha no. Nothing so simple.



*VINCENT shrugs and rolls his eyes*

RANDALL (CONT.)

Did you play the Batman video games?

VINCENT

Of course. IS IT AN EXPLOSIVE BATARANG?!

RANDALL

No!... Well sort of.

VINCENT

WHAT?! THAT WAS A JOKE!

RANDALL

It's not a batarang! It's an experimental explosive epoxy. Like the explosive gel.

*VINCENT watches in stunned silence as RANDALL pulls a spray can out of his bag and grins proudly. Beat.*

RANDALL (CONT.)

What do you think?!

*More silence from VINCENT*

RANDALL (CONT.)

Um... well... Just stand over there...

*RANDALL walks over to the door and sprays the gel around the handle. VINCENT scurries to the other end of the room. RANDALL quickly walks over toward him*

*Beat.*

*Beat.*

*Beat.*

VINCENT

When is it suppo--

*An explosion rocks the stage and sends the door flying open. VINCENT and RANDALL cover their heads. The smoke begins to settle as VINCENT and RANDALL peek around to make sure they're still alive.*

RANDALL

Huh. Smaller than I anticipated.

*RANDALL spins around grinning*

RANDALL (CONT.)

So, what do you think!?

VINCENT

I think I'm glad that we're friends and not enemies.

*Beat.*

RANDALL

*Flabbergasted*

Friends?

VINCENT

Ha. Yeah. You just saved my life. I think that officially makes us friends.

RANDALL

*Never been happier*

Ok! Let's get out of here and make those guys rue the day the messed with... THE NERDS!!!

*RANDALL rushes out the room and through the house maniacally laughing. VINCENT shakes his head and smiles as he climbs over the wreckage of the door and exits.*

*BLACKOUT*

Alexi Smith is a playwright, actor and voice actor based in Norman, Oklahoma. His ten-minute plays include *The Nerds*, *Might Delete Later*, and *Finding Prince*. His work has been developed by the University of Oklahoma Student Playwrights' Festival and 24-Hour Play Festival. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. He is 25 years old and dreams of pursuing playwriting and voice acting professionally. He likes to focus on plays concerning African American and minority stories. His hobbies include reading, running, video games, and writing campaigns for his Dungeons and Dragons group.