

LITTLE BROTHER



A Ten-Minute Play

Cast of Characters

Actor 1: Big brother. An African American youth

Actor 2: Little brother. A younger African American youth

Scene

Although the action of the scene takes place in a convenience store, there is very minimal scenery. The stage can be bare. The actors occupy different sides of the stage except for a few brief moments. The other characters are very real to the brothers but we do not see them onstage. Some of the lines will overlap each other.

Time

The present.

ACTOR 1

Man you crazy...That girl
was looking at me...not you...

ACTOR 2

My brother was with me

ACTOR 1

My brother and I were
hanging out

ACTOR 2

We went to the store

ACTOR 1

In fact, the police should
have a record of it...

ACTOR 2

Yes. We were buying snacks at
the Texaco on South Post Oak.

(they come together and place things on the counter.)

ACTOR 1

Man hurry up. My ice cream
is melting. T.C. This is my
last 10 bro. (pays)

ACTOR 2

I told you not to buy that junk. Why don't you come work out with me if you are going to eat that stuff.
(crosses to soda fountain)

ACTOR 1

Coming from the man at the soda fountain. The girls like my fluffy face.

ACTOR 2

It's mostly diet, fool...I am burning my extra calories.

ACTOR 1

(to clerk) Yes... I paid your wife for the Snickers ice cream bar, both drink refills, and the Now and Laters, man. Here is the change she gave me back

ACTOR 2

(crossing back to them)
What's up, Junior? I am ready. You still have time to make J.V. Football this year.

ACTOR 1

What? (drops his ice cream)

No...Ma'am, we paid...the receipt's
right here...You gave me this receipt...

ACTOR 2

Ma'am, my brother paid.. can
you please put the gun down...
(sees the cop) What did you
call the cops for? Please put
the gun down...(turns)Officer
we didn't do anything...

ACTOR 1

Turn around for what? For
what?

ACTOR 2

I'm getting down on my knees

ACTOR 1

What did we do? Officer...

ACTOR 2

Junior, stay calm. Some
male cops are coming. They
got shot guns... Junior!!!

ACTOR 1

T.C. just stay down! Why am
I being handcuffed?

ACTOR 2

Let him go...What did we do?
We paid!

ACTOR 1

How can I empty my pockets if
my hands are cuffed? Yes, you can
empty my pockets, No I don't have any
weapons or needles

ACTOR 2

Candy...we paid for the candy,
soda and ice cream.
Peppermint? I AM down... where
are you taking my brother?

ACTOR 1

Peppermints!?! We got them
from home

ACTOR 2

Our mom has a candy dish on
the wet bar... (pause) Can you
arrest us then? She shops at
Sam's Wholesale...for candy and
junk

ACTOR 1

Do they even sell
peppermints here?

ACTOR 2

That's not the kind we have.
Can I reach in my pocket,
please? (pulls out money and
round, wrapped peppermints)

ACTOR 1

(Pause)

Oh...we can go? Yes, that's
my receipt... I did show it...
she's the one who gave it to me.

ACTOR 2

Told you we didn't steal
anything... Un-cuff my brother
please... Can I get up?

ACTOR 1

Why would we pay for sodas
and ice cream but steal
peppermints? I know you are letting
us go but why did you...

ACTOR 2

Oh she thought we stole some
peppermints last week... Oh... We

ACTOR 2 (con't)

look like the men who stole
last...

No...sir... My brother has never
been to jail... We started
high school a year early ...
both of us... We make straight
A's... Lucky? Yes, sir... We are
very lucky we didn't get our
selves shot over... Peppermints

ACTOR 1 and ACTOR 2

Arrested over peppermints that our mom had sitting out...
That was the first time I had a gun drawn in my face.

ACTOR 1

That was the first time...

I was 14 years old

ACTOR 2

My brother was 14 and I was
12, almost 13...

ACTOR 1 and 2

Sadly, it wouldn't be the last time... A cop and gun in my
face... Just life in the hood...

ACTOR 1

I never stepped foot in that
store again

ACTOR 2

A few years later that same owner shot my friend in the back over two 40 ounce beers, said he was stealing them. They found a 20 dollar bill on the counter. He was asking our other friends what kind of 40 did they want. Killed Erick with a shot gun over a forty-ounce beer and all I could think about was how close T.C. and I came to dying...
Over a peppermint...

(Lights fade to black)

