

# THE BEGINNING MEETS THE END

By Jack Honeyman

## Characters

Monica-struggling writer, tries to go with the flow, scared, tries to make her voice heard but doesn't want her face melted off

Beginning-she is the start of it all, highly energetic, straightforward, the nicer of the two

End-he ends everything, aloof, authoritative, derisive

Character-a physical character whose only job is to mime the story that is being told

## Setting

The setting is modern day in Monica's office.

## Note

This play is mostly about the process of writing. Many famous stories are referenced like Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz however this play is not about them. Celestial Beings may cause property damage so be wary.

## Props List

Paper

Writing utensils

Spotlight on MONICA at her desk writing and spotlight on CHARACTER who portrays whatever is said.

**MONICA**

Once upon a time there was a fair maiden who was picking apples from a forest near town. This was no ordinary forest as it was secretly enchanted by the evil witch Agatha. Agatha had been in these woods for many years and tended to prey on naive, powerless fools like this young maiden, but this girl was special. Her name is Dorothy and she could-

**BEGINNING**

*(enters)*

Boring!

Lights up. BEGINNING slowly comes out shrouded in fog.

**MONICA**

*(dazed)*

Who...what...who are you?

**BEGINNING**

I am the Angel of all Beginnings.

**MONICA**

What?

**BEGINNING**

Beginnings, Monica. That thing you're torturing at your desk. I'm here to help you. *(takes paper)* Is this seriously what you're writing? "This girl was special. Her name is Dorothy." C'mon that's a bit trite, don't you think?

MONICA in shock fails to respond.

**BEGINNING**

*(gives a look)*

I know. My generosity is overwhelming. Don't worry, we'll have this 'story' fixed in no time.

**MONICA**

W-what do you mean?

**BEGINNING**

Allow me.

BEGINNING swats at MONICA.

**BEGINNING**

Eh Ehm.

MONICA in shock fails to respond.

**BEGINNING**

And this is why you're struggling. Just get up. (*pushes MONICA, takes her seat and starts writing*) Once upon a time there was a fairy kingdom.

**BEGINNING**

And in that fairy kingdom there were no other species. The ogres and trolls were violently boiled, the goblins and dwarves were forced underground, and the humans were extinct. Until one day lightning struck the land. Now this wasn't your regular lightning strike that happens whenever the sky decides to thunder. This bolt scorched the Earth and a baby girl appeared. She had luscious black hair and beautiful brown eyes and her name was Mulan.

CHARACTER portrays the scene as it unfolds and Mulan's battle pose.

**MONICA**

Wait. I don't understand. What is this?

**BEGINNING**

A brilliant beginning.

**MONICA**

This isn't my story. What happened to the witch and the forest?

**BEGINNING**

Monica, Can I be honest? I have to tell you something.

**MONICA**

No.

**BEGINNING**

Your writing is mediocre at best. There's no substance, the characters are very one-dimensional, and the plot is running in circles, but, don't worry, I'm here to help.

**MONICA**

With a story about Mulan?

**BEGINNING**

It's an excellent name.

**MONICA**

No it's not. (*beat*) Listen, thanks for the offer, but I've got the beginning. Maybe you can help with the end? That's where I'm stuck.

**BEGINNING***(recoils)*

Let's... not focus on that right now. *(recovers)* The beginning is the most important part of the story.

**MONICA**

No, I have it just over here.

MONICA grabs a piece of paper from her desk and reads it. CHARACTER portrays Monica's ending.

**MONICA**

Dorothy was never seen again for she was swallowed whole by Agatha's enchanted forest. If only she had listened to everyone else she might have survived, but we'll never know. The end.

END enters clap slowly and unenthusiastically. Blueout on stage with a spotlight on him.

**END**

A little constructive criticism, Monica. That was god awful. How could you mess up the most important part?

END taps CHARACTER and motions them to go. CHARACTER exits. Monica faints. BEGINNING goes to wake her up.

**BEGINNING**

What are you doing here?

**END**

We're talking about the end.

**BEGINNING**

No, we're talking about the beginning.

MONICA wakes with a gasp and backs up in panic.

**MONICA**

I'm sorry, but who are you?

**BEGINNING**

End, Monica. Monica, End. *(to Monica)* End's always trying to mess up stories.

**END**

*(to BEGINNING)* It isn't my fault you start them so badly. *(to Monica)* She killed Bambi's mother!

**BEGINNING**

That was a great start, End. You don't get to have all the deaths just because you end the story.

END snatches the paper from Monica's hand and reads it.

**END**

Let's see what we're working with. Humm, Dorothy. Not exactly a show stopper name. But I'll work with whatever Beginning gives me. After all, I'm a professional.

**BEGINNING**

End, can you just exit?

**END**

We're not done with the end.

**BEGINNING**

We're not done with the beginning.

**MONICA**

I'm not done with any of this! And I think my sanity is hanging by a thread. Now get out! I'm writing.

**END**

Monica I don't know if you could call this writing.

**MONICA**

Get. Out.

**BEGINNING**

I hate to agree, but End has a point. We're here to help.

**END**

Do you even know who we are?

**MONICA**

You're the beginning of my headache and the end of a nightmare.

END and BEGINNING exchange glances.

**END**

Writers. So oblivious sometimes.

**BEGINNING**

And a bit hyperbolic. Fine I guess we'll do introductions again.

Dramatic lighting on BEGINNING.  
 MONICA buckles to the ground and  
 watches with awe.

**BEGINNING**

I am the Beginning. My parents are Sun and a star. I was born on the brink of a black hole, but became the shining light that saved the constellations. I am a saint to everything that ever started.

Dramatic lighting stops.

My dad got tired of me sitting around the house all day and partying, so he kicked me out of the house, took the credit card he gave me, and told me to get a job. Now I actually have to work to pay my Starbucks order. Like that's insane. This over here is End, but he's no one special.

**END**

Not special? My job is very necessary!

**BEGINNING**

A story can go on and on. You're not needed like me.

END scoffs and snaps fingers and  
 all lights go out leaving a  
 spotlight on him.

**END**

I'm the End. The Moon and my father, a meteor from the cosmos, are my parents. Billions of years ago my father crashed on my mother. The loss burned a hole in her heart. This was the start of me. The devil that ends all things.

Lights back up.

My mom sent me down to Earth because she said I couldn't live in her beach house for the rest of my life. She said that to be a well-rounded celestial I had to explore the world.

**BEGINNING**

End, I never knew your parents dumped you here too.

**END**

Well you never asked.

BEGINNING grabs END's hand.

**BEGINNING**

I'm sorry I know how that feels.

**END**

*(starts crying)*

Then you know that centuries of therapy can't help your Mommy issues.

**BEGINNING**

*(hugs End letting him cry on her)*

It's not our fault that our parents live in the past, refuse to drive us everywhere we want, force us to clean, make our own food, and want us to have jobs.

**MONICA**

*(snaps out of daze)*

I'm sorry I need to process this. I have two celestial beings made from the cosmos, in my room. I think I'm losing it.

**BEGINNING**

Your instincts for pacing and characterization? Maybe, but don't worry, you didn't have a lot to start with.

**MONICA**

Why isn't there a middle person? Or have I not seen them yet?

**BEGINNING**

Oh Middle?

**END**

Why would anyone care about the Middle?

CHARACTER enters.

**CHARACTER**

Can we get back to work? I'm only paid for ten minutes.

**BEGINNING**

Right. So Mulan is the only human in this fairy land. The only non fairy.

CHARACTER portrays the iconic characters when mentioned.

**END**

Mulan? Seriously? Couldn't you have thought of something better?

**BEGINNING**

Monica thought that Dorothy was a good name so I had to make one up on the fly.

**MONICA**

But you didn't make up anything. Mulan has been around for ages. Walt Disney has a movie about her.

**END**

This Walt guy seems fascinating. Maybe you should try something fierce like Wednesday Addams.

**BEGINNING**

Ooh I actually like that one. Maybe you are good at this End.

**END**

Maybe I am.

BEGINNING and END share a moment.

**MONICA**

Beginning, End, these stories have already been told.

**END**

*(scoffs)*

By who?

**BEGINNING**

Does it matter?

**MONICA**

It matters to me. I want something original, unique. How many stories do y'all actually know.

**END**

Monica! How dare you disrespect us like this!

**MONICA**

I'm not trying to disrespect y'all. It's just- You don't really have any new ideas. I think as the gods of storytelling y-

**BEGINNING**

You think it's easy helping all the struggling writers. Do you know how many ideas we have to come up with in a week? So what if we borrow a little here and there. I'm sorry if to you we seem unhelpful or that we don't know anything, but we're here to help you with this story.

**END**

However, it appears that you feel that we're not needed. You're lucky that our parents aren't here to melt your face off. *(gestures to BEGINNING)* C'mon Beginning.

**BEGINNING**

I'm sorry Monica.



BEGINNING shrugs in agreement and they move to exit.

**MONICA**

Wait!

BEGINNING and END stop.

**MONICA**

I need y'all to write. I wouldn't know where to start.

BEGINNING turns around and takes the spotlight.

**BEGINNING**

Well the best place to start is the beginning!

CHARACTER portrays BEGINNING's scenario.

**BEGINNING**

Wednesday Addams was found by three fairies. Flora, Fauna, and Merriweather. For many years she was hidden away from the dreaded Witch, Coraline.

**END**

Good villain, I can do a lot with that beginning.

**BEGINNING**

Aw thank you End. You know you're not so bad.

**END**

You're not so bad yourself. You're very cute when you're angry though.

**BEGINNING**

I am not cute.

**END**

Aww look at that face.

BEGINNING looks away embarrassed.

**BEGINNING**

Well you're very sweet when you want to be. I just can't believe that your parents would throw away such a kind person like you.

**END**

I can't believe an angel like you was cast out of heaven.

**BEGINNING**

I guess that's what happens when you outshine your parents.

**END**

You blind me.

**BEGINNING**

You are the dusk to my dawn.

BEGINNING and END kiss. CHARACTER goes behind them and makes a heart over their heads. MONICA reacts in disgust.

**MONICA**

Ugh, guys!

MONICA moves toward BEGINNING and END. BEGINNING and END continue kissing. CHARACTER covers them.

**CHARACTER**

Give them their privacy.

**MONICA**

Beginning...End...

BEGINNING and END stop kissing.

**BEGINNING**

(to END) You know we don't have to stay here.

**MONICA**

No! I need you two to help.

**END**

I think you'll be fine. We have other things to do. (to BEGINNING) Do you want to see Orion's Belt with me tonight?

**BEGINNING**

Gladly! Bye Monica. Hope your story goes well.

BEGINNING and END turn to leave.

**MONICA**

But you have to help me finish the Beginning and End.

BEGINNING and END turn back around.

**BEGINNING**

That's your job. You're the writer.

BEGINNING and END exit. CHARACTER waves the two off.

**BEGINNING**

That girl thinks everything revolves around her.

**CHARACTER**

Are we working on the middle now?

**MONICA**

We can't because Beginning and End exited. At least you're still here.

**CHARACTER**

Well actually I have to leave soon. My contract states that you get ten minutes with me.

**MONICA**

Seriously?

**CHARACTER**

Unless you want to pay me more money. Union Rules.

**MONICA**

I liked you better when you didn't talk.

**CHARACTER**

And that's my cue to exit.

CHARACTER exits.

**MONICA**

No, don't leave. Some help they were. I'll write my own story without any judgemental freaks pestering me.. (*sits and starts to write*) Once Upon a Time...

**THE END**