

RETURN to '79

A Very Short Play

by

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(A high school STUDENT sits at a very small table, behind a manual typewriter, dressed in typical clothing from 1979. On one side of the table rests a stack of typing paper.)

STUDENT

Ready,

Begin!

Click, click; type, type; space, space;
RETURN.

She's looking; EYES, EYES; Looking, PEERING
Me.

Glasses on; chain hanging; hand, hip;
RETURN.

Back to Drill, back to Drill, Back, Back,
BACK.

Look, Look; down, down; book, book,
RETURN.

Lost my, LOST my, lost MY

PLACE,
PLACE, PLACE; splace, splace; SPACE, SPACE,
MISPLACED

RETURN.

SHIFT, LOCK; SHIFT, LOCK; Type, type
TYPE.

OH God, HERE she comes, Here SHE comes, HERE SHE
COMES!

What is that, WHAT IS THAT, WHAT'S THAT
COLOR?

Polyester, POLYESTER, Polyester,
LIME?

BOUFFANT; sticky, sticky, STICKY SPRAYED
HAIR.

PLASTIC, plastic; dangle, DANGLE; Swinging
BEADS.

Ding, ding; DING, DING, DONG.

RETURN.

Click, TYPE; SPACE, type; SHIFT, LOCK,
SHIFT.

She's still walking, walking, WALKING, towards
ME.

Step, STEP; Waddle, WADDLE; Squish, SQUISH,
 SQUISH.
 Click, sticky; DANGLE, type; LIME, ding,
 RETURN.
 Buzz, BUZZ; TIMER, timer; STOP, STOP,
 STOP!

She leans, BREATHES out, Count the, COUNT the, COUNT THE
 ERRORS.
 OH MY GOD, coffee, coffee, COFFEED
 BREATH.
 Please, PLEASE; Go away, GO away, GO AWAY,
 RETURN.

RETURN.

RETURN.

PAPER, platen; Insert, INSERT, INSERT; Roll,
 ROLL.
 Back to Drill, Back to DRILL; BACK, BACK,
 BACK.
 Adjust, Adjust; MARGIN, SET; READY,
 BEGIN!
 Eyes STARING; VOICE crackles; cackles,
 CACKLES:
 F space, F space, F space,
 SPACE.
 NEON green, green, GREEN; HEADACHE,
 HEADACHE.
 F space, F space, F SPACE
 YOU!
 Nearing, NEARing, NEARING THE LAND OF
 NO

RETURN.

(The STUDENT collapses against the typewriter.)

CURTAIN