

Logan Holmes

Character Analysis for *Album*

Character: Trish Dugan, 14 to 18 years old

Bibliographic Information:

Author: David Rimmer (1949-2017) – American playwright; best known for *Album*, which was a Pulitzer Prize finalist, and *New York*, which addressed the aftermath of 9/11; taught as an English professor at CUNY/LaGuardia Community College

Info:

1963-1967 – The 1960s (sometimes known in America as the turbulent sixties) saw a number of successes for civil rights movements. Among many important events were Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech, John F. Kennedy's assassination, the popularization of connecting phones, the Space Race (and moon landing), the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The 60s were also a major decade for many enduring musical artists, such as Bob Dylan, The Beach Boys, The Beatles, Elvis Presley, Aretha Franklin, and Marvin Gaye. It is clear that *Album* was heavily influenced by the music of the time, as well as the culture and admiration surrounding boy bands and rock and roll.

Synopsis: The play begins in October of 1963, when teenagers Trish, Peggy, Billy, and Boo play a game of strip poker together in Trish's parents' house. The night progresses and the teenagers couple up, catalyzing their romantic relationships. The play then jumps forward two years, finding Billy at a summer camp recounting his various experiences with girls, and finding Peggy and Trish reuniting after a long summer apart as Peggy recounts her recent sexual experiences with a boy. Trish, meanwhile, has moved on from her previous obsession with the Beach Boys and now finds herself in love with a member of The Beatles, though she still struggles with her feelings for boys she actually knows. Several months later, the boys have a fight in Boo's dorm room at school. At the act, the play progresses another year-and-a-half to the night before graduation. Trish, Peggy, and Billy are all preparing to graduate, while Boo – who is struggling a great deal with his identity – has snuck into the dance after being kicked out of the school a few months prior. The group reunites, and eventually couple up once again, though, this time, Boo ends up with Trish and Billy ends up with Peggy. After each pair spends some time catching up and reminiscing with their respective partners, they are almost caught sneaking around and drinking by a teacher and end up escaping. Peggy and Billy flee to the Quarry, where they share an intimate moment and eventually have sex in Billy's car, while Trish and Boo decide they are going to run away together and end up at a motel. After a great deal of tension that culminates in a heated argument, the pair reconciles and they kiss, ultimately leading to sex. The next morning, both couples reunite at The

Quarry, where they play a game of cards and celebrate the childhood they're leaving behind and their passage into adulthood.

Given circumstances of character: Trish is a 14-year-old middle-schooler in the 1960s, though by the end of the play she is a graduating senior in high school. She lives with her parents and goes to school with Peggy, Billy, and Boo. She begins the play as a very self-conscious, boy-ish young girl who is obsessed with boy bands, and, although she never outgrows her childish tendencies, she finds herself becoming more cynical and closed-off. The events of the play begin when the boys suggest that she and Peggy join them in a game of strip poker, resulting in the catalyst of Trish's sexual maturation.

Relationship to other characters:

Peggy – Trish's childhood best friend; the pair are virtually inseparable and desperately loyal to each other; Peggy appears to be the more mature girl of the pair, and often teases Trish about relationships and sex

Billy – One of Trish's schoolmates; Billy is Trish's first real kiss, though he ends up with her best friend Peggy; their relationship is not explored as much as the others, and they aren't quite close friends, though they are familiar to one another

Boo – One of Trish's schoolmates, and her crush; during the events of the play, Boo is Trish's first sexual partner; the pair don't have the healthiest of relationships and experience a great deal of tension between themselves, but each plays an important role in the maturation of the other

Character's Through-Action:

Literal: Trish is beginning her transition into adulthood and experiencing her sexual maturation alongside three of her friends.

Ultimate Goal/Through-Action: To understand her feelings and to find someone who can help her do so.

Principal Obstacle: Trish knows very little about sex and maturity, and she feels a great deal of pressure to be "good" while also being expected to understand herself.