

# THE LEDGE

TEN MINUTE PLAY

By **Kamron Klitgaard**

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**By Kamron Klitgaard**

**SYNOPSIS:** Mildred is stuck up on a ledge, and the only person around to help her is a strange girl who likes throwing rocks.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**  
(2 WOMEN)

MILDRED (f) ..... Prone to anxiety attacks.

TAP (f) ..... Prone to throwing rocks.

**SETTING**

A ledge

**TIME:** Anytime

**PROPS:**

- Rocks

Perusal Only  
Do Not Copy

**AT RISE:**

*MILDRED is stuck up on a ledge. TAP walks by below.*

**MILDRED:** Hey, Miss! Could you help me get down?

**TAP:** What? Oh, hey! Ha, ha, I didn't know where you were at first. I just hear this voice coming out of nowhere. Crud, what are you doing up there?

**MILDRED:** Could you help me get down?

**TAP:** Sure. How'd you get up there?

**MILDRED:** I climbed.

**TAP:** Crud. Why dontcha just climb down?

**MILDRED:** I'm afraid of heights.

**TAP:** Ha, ha. Then whydya climb up there?

**MILDRED:** I was having an anxiety attack. Couldya help me?

**TAP:** Anxiety attack? What the crud's that?

**MILDRED:** It... It's when ya get anxious and ya don't breathe very well. I thought maybe I'd be able to breathe better up here. Couldya help me?

**TAP:** Sure, I'll help ya. Well, can ya?

**MILDRED:** Can I what?

**TAP:** Breathe better?

**MILDRED:** No.

**TAP:** So, whydya get a anxious attack?

**MILDRED:** I saw how high the ledge was. Could you get a ladder or something?

**TAP:** There's no ladder 'round here. Wait, you saw how high the ledge was before or after you climbed up there?

**MILDRED:** Before. What about a rope or something?

**TAP:** I don't have a rope. So let me get this straight. You saw how high the ledge was, and that gave you the attack where you can't breathe, so you climbed up the high ledge hoping you could breathe better, but you can't. And now you can't get down because you're afraid of heights.

**MILDRED:** Is there anyone else down there that could help me?

**TAP:** I'll help ya, I'll help ya. I just wanted to make sure I had a clear picture of what's goin' on. You realize that doesn't make sense, dontchya?

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**MILDRED:** What?

**TAP:** Well, climbing up there is what caused you to climb up there.

**MILDRED:** I think that's what they call ironic.

**TAP:** Crud, moronic is more like it.

**MILDRED:** Please, help me!

**TAP:** Alright, alright. When you climbed up there, did you go up from that way or from that way?

**MILDRED:** I think it was that way.

**TAP:** Okay, just turn around and back down the way you came. Just go backwards the opposite way you went.

**MILDRED:** I can't. I'm too scared.

**TAP:** What are you scared of?

**MILDRED:** Heights!

**TAP:** Ah, crud. Just move your left foot over to the left.

**MILDRED:** I can't. I'll slip.

**TAP:** Do it!

**MILDRED:** No!

**TAP:** Crud, lady, now you're just tickin' me off.... I'll throw a rock at you.

**MILDRED:** Please don't.

**TAP:** Ah, here's a nice one. I'm gonna throw this rock at you if you don't move your left foot over to the left.

**MILDRED:** I can't... Please don't. No...don't. No! No!

**TAP:** Here it comes! Hmph!

**MILDRED:** You idiot! There might be squirrels up here!

**TAP:** Get down!

**MILDRED:** No.

**TAP:** Get down!

**MILDRED:** No!

**TAP:** That's it! I'm getting more rocks!

**MILDRED:** Okay! Okay! Look, I'm sliding my left foot.

**TAP:** It didn't move.

**MILDRED:** It... It...moved a little.

*TAP throws another rock. MILDRED ducks and her foot slips and she almost falls.*

**TAP:** There, now it moved.

**MILDRED:** You idiot! I could've fallen.

**TAP:** At least you'd be down. Listen, lady...

**MILDRED:** Mildred.

**TAP:** What?

**MILDRED:** My name's Mildred.

**TAP:** Okay, Mildred. It seems to me that the only way for you to get down is to fall or jump. Fall or jump; it's your choice.

**MILDRED:** What kind of choice is that if they both end up with me being dead?

**TAP:** You won't die! ICU tops.

**MILDRED:** Okay, never mind! I don't want to get down. I like it up here. Thank you; you can go now. Goodbye!

**TAP:** I thought it gave you anxiety.

**MILDRED:** It does; but you give me more!

**TAP:** Then it makes perfect sense that I stay here and get you down. Anxiety got you up there and more anxiety is gonna get you down. By the way my name is Tap.

**MILDRED:** Tap? Like tap water?

**TAP:** I usually say, "I'll sneak up behind you and tap you on the shoulder." But crud, I guess "tap water" works too. I'll have to remember that. It's a palindrome.

**MILDRED:** Tap? T. A. P.? That's not a palindrome. A palindrome is something that's spelled the same forwards and backwards.

**TAP:** Crud, not a palindrome. One of those things that's initials for something and the initials spell a word.

**MILDRED:** An acronym?

**TAP:** Shoot, that's it, an acronym. My name's an acronym.

**MILDRED:** Okay, what's it stand for?

**TAP:** Tabitha Abigayle Pritchard.

**MILDRED:** Nice to meet you, Tap.

**TAP:** Crud, the pleasure's all mine. Here comes another rock!

**MILDRED:** (*Almost falls.*) You idiot! Stop throwing rocks at me.

**TAP:** I'll tell you what, I'll stop throwing rocks at you if you stop being up there. I just don't understand you.

**MILDRED:** Look, haven't you ever done something that you regretted?

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**TAP:** Why would I do something I regretted?

**MILDRED:** No, I mean, something that seemed like a good idea at the time but then when you actually did it, it turned out to be a mistake.

**TAP:** Oh, you mean like smoking cigarettes or getting a tattoo or something like that?

**MILDRED:** Yes, exactly.

**TAP:** Nope.

**MILDRED:** Oh come on, there must be something.

**TAP:** Well, I went on a date once with Jason Nedly.

**MILDRED:** Did he try to get fresh?

**TAP:** Crud, no. We was walkin' along the boardwalk, and I was illuminatin' him about how my name's a palindrome, and then he told me that when he was little the other kids used to call him Jason the mason, the big fat payson.

**MILDRED:** Kids will do that. So, what happened?

**TAP:** I threw a rock at him.

**MILDRED:** What? Why would you do that?

**TAP:** I figured anyone whose name is Jason the mason, the big fat payson deserves to have a rock thrown at them. Which reminds me, here comes another one. Hmph.

**MILDRED:** Stop it! Look, I'm gonna get down if you just stop throwing rocks!

**TAP:** Okay, get down.

**MILDRED:** Uh... Finish your story first.

**TAP:** That's it. He never asked me out after that.

**MILDRED:** So, you regret throwing a rock at him?

**TAP:** Crud, yeah. I think that's the reason he never asked me out again.

**MILDRED:** Yeah, that could do it.

**TAP:** Okay, Mildred, now it's your turn. Get down.

**MILDRED:** No.

**TAP:** You have to accept the consequences of your actions. Your actions got you up there so now accept the consequences!

**MILDRED:** What are the consequences?

**TAP:** The consequences are you have to get down!

**MILDRED:** No!

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**TAP:** Accept the consequences of your actions!!

**MILDRED:** No!

**TAP:** Alright, if you won't respond to rocks, then I'm gonna come up there and make you accept the consequences of your actions!

*TAP begins climbing up the ledge.*

**MILDRED:** No. You don't have to do that. Please don't come up here.

**TAP:** Don't be afraid, Mildred, I'm comin'.

**MILDRED:** That's exactly what I'm afraid of!

**TAP:** You know, people do stuff like this all the time.

**MILDRED:** They climb up on a ledge?

**TAP:** Crud, sort of. The ledge is a allergy.

**MILDRED:** An allergy?

**TAP:** Yeah, you know, like a symbol that represents something else.

**MILDRED:** An allegory?

**TAP:** Shoot, that's it.

**MILDRED:** It's not an allegory. It's just a ledge that I happen to be stuck on.

**TAP:** How about a metaphor?

**MILDRED:** Sometimes a ledge is just a ledge.

**TAP:** *(Reaching the top.)* A simile?

**MILDRED:** It's not a simile, it's not a representation or a symbol or a comparison or even a figure of speech. It's just a ledge!

**TAP:** *(Looking over the edge.)* And it's a high one! I didn't realize it was so high.

**MILDRED:** I told you!

**TAP:** *(Panicking.)* No you didn't! You never said how high it was! I would've never come up here if I knew how high it was! I'm afraid of heights!

**MILDRED:** It's okay; you're not gonna fall.

**TAP:** *(Hyperventilating.)* I'm not afraid of falling! I'm afraid of landing!

**MILDRED:** Calm down! Slow your breathing. You're gonna hyperventilate.

**TAP:** I can't... I can't... What are we gonna do? Help! Someone help!

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**MILDRED:** (*Grabbing TAP'S arm.*) Relax. It's okay. Close your eyes. Good. Now, just listen to the sound of my voice. Good. Relax. You're going to be fine. Now, I'm going to count backwards from three, and when I reach zero, you're going to open your eyes and do exactly as I say. Ready? Three... Two... One... Zero... Open your eyes.

**TAP:** (*Opens her eyes.*) Ahhhhh!!! (*MILDRED slaps her.*) Hey! That's not nice.

**MILDRED:** You threw rocks at me!

**TAP:** Alright, we're even! (*Hyperventilating again.*) But we're still stuck.

**MILDRED:** Just follow me. Do exactly what I do.

*MILDRED starts climbing down, giving TAP advice and encouragement as she follows. Soon they are both down from the ledge.*

**TAP:** We made it! (*They embrace.*)

**MILDRED:** I knew you could do it.

**TAP:** I'm never climbing up on a ledge ever again. (*Throws a rock at the ledge.*) Take that, you stupid ledge!

**MILDRED:** I guess we both learned something.

**TAP:** I hope so. Mildred, it was nice to meet you. Now that I got you down from that ledge, I guess I'll be movin' on. I done my good deed for the day.

**MILDRED:** Yeah, thanks for that. It was nice to meet you too, Tabitha.

*TAP exits. MILDRED starts off but then stops to look up at the ledge. She sees how high it is and starts to have an anxiety attack. Her breathing is labored. She looks up at the ledge and then starts to climb.*

**BLACKOUT.**

**THE END**