

# David's Play

## synopsis

*(Five men and two women)*

AMANDA, a dancer, 32

MOLLY, a wife and mother, 32

LEO, a critic, married to Amanda, 33

IAN, a director and high school teacher, 31

BARRY, a comedian, 32

JOSHUA, an actor friend of Ian's, 24

DAVID, a memory, 21

SETTING: The entire play takes place in Amanda and Leo's apartment on the 29th floor of a building on Eighth Avenue in the low fifties, Manhattan, present day. The living room and part of the kitchen are visible; on one side is a small balcony overlooking the theatre district.

Amanda is a dancer about to open in her first Broadway musical. Twelve years earlier, on the day they all graduated from college, she and her five best friends promised that whichever one of them was the first to debut on Broadway, the others would all be there on opening night. Tonight all of them are keeping their promise--except one. David, the charismatic actor-writer who was the center of their close-knit group and the first to move to New York, disappeared mysteriously three years ago, and most of the others now believe him to be dead. Present are Leo, Amanda's husband and a theatre critic for a weekly magazine; Molly, a former actress now raising a family in Jew Jersey; Barry, a struggling standup comic; and Ian, an aspiring director, who's been teaching school in the Midwest and shows up for the opening with a young actor friend, Joshua, in tow. Ian's the only one of the group who holds onto the belief that David, with whom he shared a very close friendship, is still alive. As the friends prepare to celebrate Amanda's opening in *Notorious!* (a jukebox musical featuring the songs of Duran Duran!), Ian makes a surprise announcement: David's mother has recently discovered the manuscript of a play he wrote before he disappeared. Ian believes he wrote it for the six friends to perform together. After Amanda's show and the cast party, they all come back to Amanda and Leo's apartment to read the manuscript, and Ian proceeds to try to get them all on board with his plan to produce it. Through a rocky night of camaraderie, confrontation, and soul-searching, this passionate, funny, fiercely loyal group of friends struggles with tangled relationships, unresolved feelings about David, and the growing sense that none of their lives has quite gone according to plan. Can David's play solve all their problems, as Ian believes? A dream encounter with David, followed by a surprise revelation from Amanda the next morning, leads to a moment of truth for Ian. By the end of the play, each of the characters has been changed by this unusual reunion. In particular, Ian is propelled toward the next step in his journey through a world that is more ordinary, but perhaps richer, than the one they all dreamed of as kids.