**AUTHOR: Ammarava**

PLAY: Mending Relationships

Name: Shalom the Handkerchief

Gender: Girl

Family: Grandma, Grandpa, Mom, Dad, brothers (4), sisters (4), 17 cousins

Want: To be appreciated; feels taken for granted

Job: Help comfort and soothe people’s fears and dry tears

Habitat: A mansion in India, in a room unto itself – like a house within a house

Secret: Part of her is made of deer hide

MIB: Mom, Dad, and Roger

Super Power: Power to Heal/Soothe

Age: 100

Qualities of a Handkerchief:

1. Light
2. Airy
3. Soft
4. Lace trim
5. Black
6. Dries tears
7. Comforting
8. Nice friend to have

Playwright’s notes: Shalom’s owner, Sarah, cries a lot. Her husband, Robert died of natural causes – diabetes. He died on his birthday from too much sugar. He forgot to check his insulin that day. He’s been dead for 15 years and Sarah still can’t get over him. They had 3 children together. Twins, age 16 and another child who is 21. Shalom was a gift from her husband who gave it to her in lieu of an engagement ring.

**Mending Relationships**

By Ammarava Rose Morning Star Mika-el

Characters:

*Shalom the Handkerchief*

*Sarah, the Civilized Cheetah*

*Tyrone Booger*

ACT I

Time: October 6, 1792, the 15th anniversary of Roger’s death, his birthday, and Sarah and Roger’s 22nd wedding anniversary.

Place: A mansion in India

At rise: Sarah at a table set for tea time. She is wearing a black formal mourning dress, appropriate for the time period.

(Light’s up - Sarah is crying as though she’s been crying a very long time. She reaches for Shalom from her sleeve, where she normally is. Shalom is cleaning her house in the slide you see shadow. Actor playing shalom should stand behind the screen and clean in shadow.)

**Sarah**

Shalom! Come here! I need you!

**Shalom**

(Yelling from her room) Coming!

**Sarah**

(Angry) What were you doing in there?!

**Shalom**

Nothing. It’s alright…I’m here now…(she dries her tears)

**Sarah**

I want to know what you were doing in there and I want to know NOW!

**Shalom**

(Timidly) I was cleaning my house. (her house within the mansion)

**Sarah**

You were in there so long it doesn’t seem like you were cleaning.

**Shalom**

I’m sorry Sarah. I won’t take so long next time.

**Sarah**

That’s MISS Sarah, to you, Shalom.

**Shalom**

Yes, Miss Sarah.

**Sarah**

You know that 15 years ago my husband, Roger, died.

**Shalom**

I know, I know… (trying to comfort her.)

**Sarah**

(building…) And you know that today is our wedding anniversary AND his birthday!

**Shalom**

Yes, I know…

**Sarah**

(Building) And you know he died on his birthday so this is triple trauma for me…

**Shalom**

Yes, Miss Sarah…yes, Miss Sarah….I guess you’re going to need me today.

**Sarah**

Yes, I will and you won’t have your days off until next year!

**Shalom**

Miss Sarah, you shouldn’t keep on crying. It’s been 15 years and if you keep it up, you might get sick.

**Sarah**

Okay, I will go out and I will stop mourning but only because I don’t want to get sick. (Sarah exits stage and Shalom goes to her room to keep on cleaning.)

ACT II

Next day. Shalom is sitting and crocheting some booties for herself.

**Sarah**

(Sarah walks into Shalom’s room) I’ve found the perfect replacement for Roger. (Voice crackles a bit on Roger, not easy for her to say his name)

**Shalom**

The perfect replacement for Roger?!!!! When I said you should stop mourning him, I didn’t mean you should forget him!

**Sarah**

Watch your tone, GIRL!

**Shalom**

I know I stepped over the line! But you’re replacing Roger! He was the best person anyone could have known! And you’re just replacing him? It’s like a nightmare! And you said the PERFECT replacement for Roger. No one can be more perfect than him!

**Sarah**

You’re a handkerchief. I could get some scissors and cut you up and sell you for millions because I know your big secret…you’re made out of precious deer hide.

**Shalom**

But you’re too civilized to do that.

**Sarah**

Roger kept on telling me you were so soft and that you’re made of something so rare and more valuable than anyone could see.

**Shalom**

I had no idea you knew I was made of deer hide all this time. And yet you never sold me off…

**Sarah**

Why don’t you just leave?

**Shalom**

I would gladly leave but I’ll tell you this story so you can understand why I choose not to. When I was already an old handkerchief, I was put in the window of an antique shop. It was warm but snowy day. I saw this little cheetah boy who looked like he was 6 years old from what I could see up on the shelf. I saw that little cheetah boy glancing up at me. And then, from what I could tell on his face, he was more excited than any of the other boys in the snow. I didn’t see him again till one month later but this time he didn’t glance at me. Instead, he bought me. He showed excitement in his face and looked happy as he chased the wind with me in his little box.

When he brought me home, I was kept in the box, with the lid off, in a display case that shined like a star until he found you.

The day he was going to ask you to marry him, he told me I should be glad to have someone so wonderful to be given to. I thought that was grand…until I met you. You were pretty nice, mostly when he was around. But when he left you could be pretty nasty. It was like an angry monster looking down at me.

**Sarah**

How dare you! But…was was I really that mean?

**Shalom**

Yes, you were that mean and I don’t like the way you treated me. Roger appreciated me and displayed me and gave me everything I needed and that made me feel like someone cared about me. But when I was with you and Roger wasn’t around, and when he died, it was like I was a dirty old shoe. You kept me hidden in your sleeve. I’m an antique, I shouldn’t be hidden away or I will wrinkle and fall apart.

**Sarah**

Then why did you stay with me?

**Shalom**

I stayed because of my commitment to Roger and because you’re replacing him, I feel like I don’t belong here anymore.

**Sarah**

I feel sorry that I made you feel this way but the reason I was so mean is because of the friendship that you and Roger had. I was threatened by your obvious super power of making people feel better. I could never do that. I’m just not that kind of cheetah. Whenever Roger needed consoling, he used to call and ask for me but I was never enough. He always ended up needing you.

**Shalom**

I think he needed both of us.

**Sarah**

Do you think you could ever forgive me?

**Shalom**

I forgave you a long time ago, I just never told you how I felt.

**Sarah**

I appreciated you all the time. I just didn’t want to show it. I was wrong.

**Shalom**

I’m glad that you appreciate me. I’m sorry I said all those mean things even though they were true. I’m glad we’re being so honest to each other now.

**Sarah**

I am too. Um, Shalom, I know this is fast but I need your help. I found someone to be with on the internet and he says he’s a French model. He says he smells nice, cooks, washes all the time, is polite, clean, rich, in shape, healthy and lives uptown.

**Shalom**

Hmm…he’s not going to be the perfect replacement for Roger but he could be alright.

**Sarah**

I’ve got to get ready because he’s going to be here any minute now. Can you help me get ready?

**Shalom**

I’d be happy to help you! I have the perfect thing to wear! Come to my room.

(Shalom and Sarah move to Shalom’s room and start to get ready very quickly. Shalom helps her get into a red lace dress which is too small for her so she has to squeeze into it. The door bell rings. Shalom and Sarah jump, startled!)

**Sarah**

Oh no! He’s here!

**Shalom**

You look perfect. Just let put this lipstick on you first! (She does and stands back and looks at her. Shalom looks gorgeous but uncomfortable in her too tight dress.) I may be only a handkerchief, but I do have style. I learned a lot from all those antique shops.

**Sarah**

Thank you! I’m so glad we’re real friends now. Now, let’s go answer the door! (Door bell rings a second time and Shalom and Sarah run to open it.

When they open the door, TYRONE, walks through. He is the opposite of his online dating profile. He is a booger. He is smelly, dirty, impolite, shabby, dumpy and unhealthy looking. He has flies flying around his head. The ladies gasp and back up quickly!)

**Tyrone**

(very suave) Hello ladies!

**Sarah**

Are you at the wrong house? I’m waiting for a Tyrone Booger (she pronounces it BOGERE – like it’s French), the French model.

**Tyrone**

I am Tyrone Booger. As in Booger.

**Shalom**

Oh he’s from *up* town alright…if you mean NOSEville.

(Tyrone steps in and makes himself at home. This is Shalom’s greatest fear.

**Shalom**

(Hiding behind Sarah) (to Tyrone) Don’t touch that dress or that chair or that table or ANYTHING! (whispering) We have got to get this guy out!

**Sarah**

How do we do that?! I don’t want to TOUCH HIM!

**Shalom**

We have to lure him out.

**Sarah**

How do we do that? What is he attracted to?

**Tyrone**

I have never seen such a beautiful handkerchief!

(At that moment, both ladies look at Tyrone and he is making googly eyes at Shalom. He has never seen such a beautiful handkerchief. He is drawn to the deer hide material and wants very badly to hug her. Quickly, they come up with a plan. Shalom stands by the door and waits for Tyrone to creep over for a hug. Just as he gets closer, Sarah pulls Shalom out of the way. Tyrone falls through the door and they close it behind him and lock it.)

**Sarah and Shalom**

(Out of breath) I’m so glad we’re friends!

**Sarah**

You know, Shalom, I’ve realized I never needed a replacement for Roger after all because we have each other.

**Shalom**

I know. It was just a matter of time for you to understand.

**Sarah**

I hope that you will never leave me because I don’t like being here without you.

**Shalom**

I won’t leave you. I have changed my commitment from Roger to you, *MISS* Sarah (mockingly).

**Sarah**

You know what, why don’t you just call me Sarah, from now on.

(They both laugh. Lights out.)