

## Candidate 3

### Draußen vor der Tür: Der Andere

#### Source from essay

1. **Opening Paragraph:** Role of the considered important in the play; many different opinions on the real role of the character and what Borchert wanted to say through him
2. **When do we meet him:** Scene 1 almost at the start after Beckman has his dream about trying to drown himself. He introduces himself as "Der von gestern....der Andere von Immer auch der Andere von Morgen. The yea-sayer, the answerer. Many see him as the after ego of Beckmann – he interacts only with him and is not present when Beckmann is not there. He is the optimism to B's pessimism. Irrespective of what happens to B, the other urges him to go on. He has been described as "the eternal optimist within each man's breast"
3. **Suggestions the Other makes:** Scene 3 – he suggests that B visits the Colonel to pass back the responsibility of what happens in the war. This is a disaster as the Colonel thinks that B is not being serious and only acting. Scene 4 when the producer does not give B a job the other stops B going into the Elbe telling him there is always an open door. "Das Leben wartet mit 1000 Laternen und 1000 offene Türen." Scene 5 sends him to his parents - again disaster because they are dead committed suicide.
4. **Quality of suggestions:** Shallow optimism nothing that others suggest works out he suggests disastrous things
5. **Moving the action on:** Apart from being alter ego, moves action on. Characters have no relationship with each other don't know each other therefore as there is little development outside the character be the other helps move to plots along suggesting that B go here or there.
6. **The ending:** Real importance of the other only seen at the end two different interpretations of the end. **Ending 1** everyone comes together in a dream the "Einbeinige" appears and discloses that it is B's fault that he is dead. Having rejected the other throughout the play. B now turns to him and called him- he is not there has he been abandoned? Is it all lost? Is there no need for optimism many scholars believe that abandon B goes into the Elbe.

"The other" is the result of the traumatising events which have happened to Beckmann during the war. I would assume that the other represents Beckmann's last hope for life, strength to keep moving and optimistic part. In addition, I think that Beckmann has developed a split personality, which he wants to be guided by, through life and especially at his weakest moments. However, the more emotional and mental difficulties a situation gave to Beckmann, the harder the less control did his "better half" aka "the other" have over the situation. For example, the last time Beckmann had an interaction with the other was when he "died" at the last scene, in which death (symbolised as a road sweeper) approaches Beckmann. Beckmann couldn't handle anything anymore, due to his huge breakdown, caused by many people in the book who took him for granted.

I would say that the relationship between Beckmann and "the other" is a little bit one-sided because the other doesn't get as much attention as he should, and is only needed when things seem to go downhill, (in the last scene the other leaves Beckmann though, meaning Beckmann finally gave up on everything, which was symbolised by him dying). It's understandable that Beckmann can't see positivity when he has to carry the responsibility of all the dead people he has encountered during the war, for the man who fought with Beckmann during the war, returning back home to seeing Beckmann in his house with his wife and blaming Beckmann for losing his leg, plus Beckmann coming home to his wife who was caught with another man, adding that his Ex-Colonel mocked him for wanting to give him the responsibility back for the things he had done/seen, for being rejected by the cabaret director, because he wasn't qualified enough and for lastly going back to his parents' house just to find out in a very harsh way, from Miss Kramer, that his parents were killed. Especially the death of his parents triggered him, which later on led to his, what I would call, his last breath. At that point anything the other would have said could have put salt in the wound, there would be nothing anyone could have done to change his mind, not even the other who is just a made-up personality.

On the other hand, the other could also be an angel sent from God during Beckmann's hard time after the war. That would explain why God and death are mentioned in the book (having a conversation about people not believing in him anymore). The other's role as an angel would also explain why he/she is so positive and views life from an optimistic view. For example, close to the beginning of the book he tells Beckmann: "the street is up here", which probably means that he always needs to look up, or look at the light at the end of the tunnel. He also describes himself as "the one who is always there". A favourite quote from the other is "I am the optimist who always sees the good in bad people". Based on these statements and the mention of God and the God who people pay more attention to "the God of death", it feels like the theory of the other being an angel sent from God to guide and protect Beckmann, from himself, can be confirmed. That could mean, that when Beckmann jumped into the lake he did die and didn't come back to life, which led to the Elbe sending

"his soul" on one more final tour, with the angel "the other", taking him through all the things he saw (meeting the lady, catching his wife with another man, going to the Colonel to give him the responsibility for the innocent blood on his hands, trying to start a career in a cabaret to getting the news that his parents got killed for being Nazis) before jumping in the Elbe. And at the end he meets the God of death, which probably means he went to hell. In addition, he could have lost a lot of load when the Colonel would have taken the responsibility back, which probably would have led to him "going up the road with the other and making heaven."

In conclusion, I think that Beckmann was in the realm between after life and death, and the other was there to guide him to "the light", however because of all the things he witnessed he couldn't walk up the road, stumbled in his grievance and died.

**Bibliography**

1. Draussen Vor Der Tur (German Edition) (German) Paperback – January 10, 2004 by Wolfgang Borchert (Author), Heinrich Boll (Afterword)
2. Draussen vor der Tür - Wolfgang Borchert Hörbuch Komplett  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsxUMj2JMSA>