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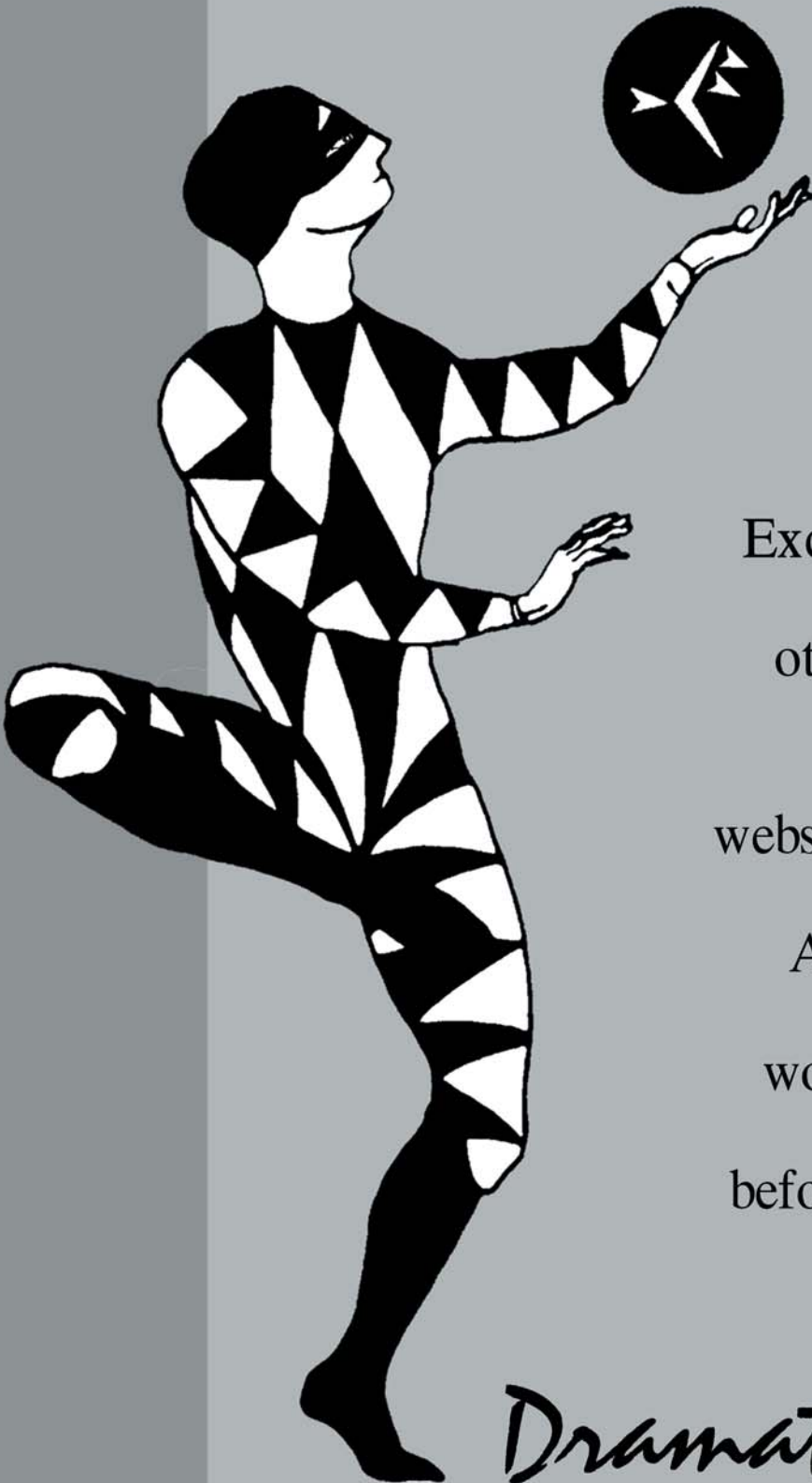
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Dramatic Publishing



FERRIS WHEEL

A Play in Two Acts
by
JANYCE LAPORE

(Revised Version)



Dramatic Publishing

Woodstock, Illinois • England • Australia • New Zealand

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(FERRIS WHEEL)

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CHARACTERS

All the girls are from the same Italian family. All are cousins, and Celia and Antonia (Toni) are sisters.

Lisa Marie - 28 years old, sweet, vulnerable. Married to Manny.
Has 5 children.

Celia - 33 years old. Conservative. Is a high school English teacher. Has 2 children.

Babs - 34 years old. Has the look of a glamorous, yet aging movie star. She is dressed in short shorts, a halter top and is wearing outlandish high heeled shoes.

Antonia - (Toni) 29 years old. Hair dresser. She has a wild hairdo, colored orange.

It is summer, in the late 60's, in a small town near Pittsburgh.

SETTING

It is the summer of 1969 in Pittsburgh at the Cherrywood Amusement park. There is a picnic table, a large tree and a swing hanging from the tree. SL is a small wooden bridge. A transistor radio hangs from the tree on a scarf. From the picnic table, the amusement park lights and rides can be seen. Also, the echos of carnival music can be heard. Music and lights are used to intensify action of players.

FERRIS WHEEL

ACT I

Scene 1 Picnic area of the Cherrywood Amusement Park /
Early afternoon.

Scene 2 The Ferris Wheel (One Seat) / Same day, afternoon.
The picnic tables / Same day, afternoon /

ACT 2

Scene 1 The picnic area / Late afternoon

Scene 2 The picnic area / Twilight

Scene 3 The picnic area / Twilight

FERRIS WHEEL

ACT 1 SCENE 1

THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE IS CHATTER AND CAN BE IMPROVISED AND EXTENDED FOR AS LONG AS NEED, AS TONI, BABS AND CELIA ENTER AND PREPARE FOR THEIR PICNIC. THEY CARRY PICNIC BASKETS AND COOLERS. TONI WEARS A COLORFUL SCARF AROUND HER HAIR. ONLY A SHOCK OF ORANGE HAIR COMES THROUGH. "I FEEL GOOD" BY JAMES BROWN PLAYS FROM THE TRANSISTOR RADIO THAT BABS CARRYS. BABS SINGS ALONG WITH THE MUSIC.

CELIA: I can't believe what you did to my hair! Look at my bangs, Toni. Look!!

TONI: You asked me to cut your hair. I cut it. Did you bring your sauce?

CELIA: You "chopped" them! You don't come to my house 'till a eleven O'clock at night...after you've been God knows where..

(TONI SINGS ALONG WITH BABS)

BABS: (ABOUT CELIA'S HAIR) Oh, they look great, Cel.

CEALIS: (SHE HANDS TONI A BOTTLE OF RED SAUCE) And, this
is what I get! This?!

(TONI SINGS ALONG WITH BABS AS SHE POURS THE RED SAUCE OVER
A DISH OF CHICKEN)

(BABS UNFURLS A BANNER THAT READS "WELCOME HOME LISA". SHE
HANGS IT FROM A TREE)

TONI: Oh, my God, it's beautiful, Babs.

BABS: Thanks.

CELIA: Oh, it is. It is.

BABS: I Made it myself.

TONI: (SINGING WITH BABS) "I feel nice, like sugar and
spice...

CELIA: (OVER THE GIRLS ABOUT THE SAUCE) And, don't
worry...I brought enough sauce for everyone...
(ABOUT MUSIC, GOING TO TURN IT OFF) Geese, I
can't hear.

TONI: Good, 'cause I brought, cacciatore, sausage..

(CELIA TURNS THE MUSIC DOWN)

peppers, and it'll all need..

CELIA: You brought peppers!! I told you not to make peppers..now we have two casseroles of...and I wanted this part to be perfect...but, you just don't listen when I tell you what food to bring, and what food not to bring, and..

(A CAR DOOR SLAMS)

TONI: Oh my God, It's LISA!

(NOW THEIR DIALOGUE OVERLAPS AS THEY GREET LISA)

CELIA: Oh, my God, she's here!! She's here!

BABS: Oh, God, Lisa!! There she is!!

CELIA: Lisa! Lisa! Lisa!

TONI: You're here!

BABS: Oh, my God, you're here! You're here!!

(LISA ENTERS, CARRYING A SMALL BASKET)

CELIA: Oh, Lisa! Lisa! Lisa!

LISA: (SPEAKS SOFTLY AND UNDER DIALOGUE) Oh, hi..hi..

TONI: Oh, God, Lisa..

CELIA: Oh, God, Lisa! LISA!

BABS: Oh, God, we missed you.

LISA: (SOFTLY, LOOKING FORM GIRL TO GIRL) Ah..

TONI: Yeah, we missed you so, so, so much!

LISA: (SOFTLY) Oh, me too. Me too.

CELIA: Oh, God, Lisa, I can't believe you're here! I just can't believe you're finally here!

BABS: (JUMPING UP AND DOWN) Lisa! Lisa! Lisa!

TONI: Lisa..Oh, God....you look so pretty..

LISA: Thanks.

BABS: Oh, you do!

CELIA: (DIALOGUE OVERLAP CAN END HERE) You do...you do....your hair, your dress...everythng..

LISA: Oh, thanks, girls..thanks..

TONI: (EMBRACING HER AGAIN) Oh, God, we missed you, honey..we missed you so, so, so much...

LISA: (SOFTLY) Ah..

TONI: And, here you are!

CELIA: Yep, you're finally here! And, the weather's great, and the sun is shining, and..

(THE GIRLS FINALLY STOP. THEY ARE LOOKING AT EACH OTHER, NOT KNOWING WHAT TO SAY. THERE IS AN AWKWARD MOMENT)

TONI: Uhuh..(BEAT) So.....how are you honey? How you doin'?

LISA: Good. (LOOKING AT EACH GIRL) I'm good. I'm really, really good.

(A HORN BEEPS SEVERAL TIMES)

LISA: Oh, oh..that's Manny...anybody wanna help me get my all my stuff?

BABS: Oh! Me! Me! Me!

(AS BABS AND LISA WALK OFF TO GET HER PICNIC BASKET)

CELIA: Oh, go ahead, honey...go ahead, we'll wait right here for you...we'll be right..

(CELIA AND TONI SIT DOWN AT THE TABLE. CELIA TAKES OFF HER STRAW HAT. SHE IS ALMOST WHISPERING THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE, TO TONI)

Oh, I been looking forward to this all week. I'm a little nervous, but..

TONI: We all are.

CELIA: Yeah, and, I just hope we cheer her up today.

TONI; Oh, we will. We will.

CELIA: Well, I mean, it seems like she's been gone so long, and I missed her so much.

TONI: Oh, I know. We all did.

CELIA: Yeah...And, I hate to say this, but...I been thinking... No.no..I been thinking. I just "hope".. they didn't let her out too soon.

TONI: Oh, Cel, they didn't let her out too soon..

CELIA: 'Cause, I mean, think about it..if it's too soon..she could start acting a little, you know..(WAVING HER HAND WITH UNCERTAINTY)

TONI: She's not gonna start acting a little anything. We just have to be sensitive to her. When she gets back here, we just have to be very sensitive to..

CELIA: Well, I hope so....'Cause, I mean, we wouldn't know what to do if she starts acting a little "different", or a little (WHISPERING) strange... (TO TONI) I mean, we are not qualified..

TONI: Celia..

CELIA: What?

TONI: (WHISPERING) Why are you whispering? (LOUDER) They're gone.

CELIA: Oh, I'm sorry..I'm just so nervous...I been up all night thinking about her...how much fun we used have, and they way she could make us laugh..

TONI: Oh, I know. I know.

CELIA: ..and just think about what she's been through... Oh my God, that poor girl, her whole life has changed...so, when she gets back, you "be nice" to her..

TONI: I will.

CELIA: I mean, REALLY nice.

TONI: I will. I will.

CELIA: She needs that. We're her cousins, and she needs all the love and support we can possibly give..

TONI: Cel, we know...we've been over this a hundred times, and we all know exactly what to do. Least I do.

CELIA: Well, it's hard when you haven't talked to someone for months...and we have no idea what she's like now and ..Oh, my God...what are we gonna say to her?! I mean, think about it, Ton...what are we gonna say to her?

TONI: We're gonna act normal, Cel. When she gets back, we're just gonna act very normal..

CELIA: (SHE BEGINS PRACTICING) Lisa! How are you, hon...no, no, that's not normal. Ah, Lis, how ya doin', honey...no, no, too worried. Lisa..Lisa, are you okay, honey? Oh, I know you're fine.. I'm just askin'..but I know you're just fine, and..

TONI: "Normal", Cel...we're going to try and act normal.

CELIA: Well, I just don't know how she did it..bein' all alone in that hospital..away from her kids and her family, and..

TONI: Oh, if only we could a visited her..

CELIA: Yeah, but would they let us..no..

TONI: (WITH CELIA) No..

CELIA: (OVER TONI) Oh, God! This is scary, Ton.
(REALLY REALIZING IT) This is so scary. We

CELIA(cont)

have no idea how to handle a situation like this..and I just know Babs is gonna say somethin' that'll upset her...Or, I'm gonna say something..(TO TONI) Or you! Oh, God...I just know you're gonna say somethin' that'll "push" her right over the edge, and then we're gonna have to call Manny, or the paramedics, or the..

TONI: Cel, nobody's gonna call anybody. When she gets back...we're all gonna be very calm..we're gonna act like nothin ever happened, and be..

CELIA: How we gonna act like nothing ever happened, Ton? Something definitely happened.

TONI: I don't know, Cel..but we're gonna have to. For her sake. We're just gonna have to.

(LISA AND BABS RETURN WITH LISA'S PICNIC ITEMS)

BABS: (TO LISA) Oh, I love this place! No other park in the world puts their picnic tables

BABS(cont)

right next to the rides..all you got a do is
park your car...(SHE IS LOOKING THROUGH LISA'S
COOLER) and walk a few feet and there you are...
Oh, my God! (SHE PULLS OUT A 6 PACK OF ROLLING
ROCK) She brought Rolling rock! I love Rolling
Rock!

CELIA: We know.

BABS: (TO LISA) I bet you brought it just for me!

LISA: Oh, yeah, Manny picked it up this morning...
Oh, and when I told him 'no men or kids', he
said, 'Well, that's a hell of a thing'..

(BABS REARRANGES THE ICE IN THE COOLER TO ACCOMMODATE THE
BEER)

BABS: (UNDER DIALOGUE, SHE IS BUBBLING) I'll Chill
it...(SINGING AND DOING THE CHA CHA)..I'll
chill it...chill it..chill it..

LISA: ..and I told him.. Toni says I'm with you 365

LISA(cont)

days of the year, and since this is my day,
~~right~~, I should be able to come here by myself..

TONI: Oh, that's right.

BABS: (LIFTING HER DRINK) Oh, absolutely, honey!
Absolutely.

CELIA: (TO LISA) Hey, I've been trying to call you,
Hon. We should get together. My kids are
dying to see yours. So, how's Carlos?

LISA: Good.

TONI: (SHE IS UNTIEING THE SCARF AROUND HER NECK) Good.

CELIA: Gina?

LISA: Good.

CELIA: Good. We checked up on 'em. Everyday, we gave
'em a little callie..

TONI: Yeah, we're so glad everything turned out okay for ya. But, I knew everything'd be alright once you got out of the..(THE SCARF IS OFF)

CELIA: (SUDDENLY TO TONI ABOUT HER HAIR) Oh, my God!!
Wait a minute!! Everybody just wait one
minute..

(A BEAT WHILE CELIA TAKES TONI'S HAIR IM, THEN POINTS TO IT)
WHAT is that?

TONI: What?

BABS: Oh, I love it. It's great.

CELIA: (TOUCHING HER HAIR) That.

TONI: It's my hair. I'm a hairdreser.

CELIA: It's orange.

TONI: It is not. It's "sculptured red".

LISA: Oh, it's pretty.

BABS: Very, very "chic".

TONI: (TO BABS AS SHE WORKS ON HER HAIR) Thankee
youee...

CELIA: (STILL STUNNED BY TONI'S HAIR) It looks just
like a...a. carrot...

BABS: (WILD LAUGHTER, UNDER CELIA) A carrot!! A
carrot!!

CELIA: I mean, the shape of it and everything. It
looks just like a...(SHE IS TOUCHING TONI'S
HAIR) a..

BABS: Oh, I think it's fabulous. Absolutely fabulous.

CELIA: (STILL LOOKING AT TONI'S HAIR AND SHAKING HER
HEAD) A vegetable. (TO HERSELF) It does..it
looks just like a..

TONI: (TO LISA) Anyway...we're so glad you could come, honey. It must feel great to be back in your own house after 9 months in the..

CELIA: (SHE WHISPERS) Toni. (SHE PUTS HER FINGER TO HER LIPS)

LISA: Oh, it does. It does. (TO CELIA) And, I know what you mean about the kids, Cel.

(UNDER LISA'S DIALOGUE, CELIA CONTINUES TO CHECK OUT TONI'S HAIR)

But, they're always so busy..they have girl scouts, and cub scouts, and...

CELIA: Oh, mine too. Everytime I turn around, it's something new.

TONI: (TO LISA) Oh, honey, I'm just so glad you're home.

CELIA: Oh, yeah, yeah, we all are...(TO LISA, AS SHE CLEARS A SPACE AT THE PICNIC TABLE) Hey, let's take a look in Lisa's basket and see what she brought....