

Excerpt terms and conditions

This excerpt is available to assist you in the play selection process.

You may view, print and download any of our excerpts for perusal purposes.

Excerpts are not intended for performance, classroom or other academic use. In any of these cases you will need to purchase playbooks via our website or by phone, fax or mail.

A short excerpt is not always indicative of the entire work, and we strongly suggest reading the whole play before planning a production or ordering a cast quantity.

Dramatic Publishing



Buying a Brassiere

by
Rebecca Ritchie

From...

35 in 10

Thirty-Five Ten-Minute Plays

Compiled and Edited

KENT R. BROWN

This excerpt contains sexual references.



Dramatic Publishing

Woodstock, Illinois • England • Australia • New Zealand

*** NOTICE ***

The amateur and stock acting rights to this work are controlled exclusively by THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY without whose permission in writing no performance of it may be given. Royalty must be paid every time a play is performed whether or not it is presented for profit and whether or not admission is charged. A play is performed any time it is acted before an audience. Current royalty rates, applications and restrictions may be found at our Web site: www.dramaticpublishing.com, or we may be contacted by mail at: DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, P.O. Box 129, Woodstock IL 60098.

COPYRIGHT LAW GIVES THE AUTHOR OR THE AUTHOR'S AGENT THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO MAKE COPIES. This law provides authors with a fair return for their creative efforts. Authors earn their living from the royalties they receive from book sales and from the performance of their work. Conscientious observance of copyright law is not only ethical, it encourages authors to continue their creative work. This work is fully protected by copyright. No alterations, deletions or substitutions may be made in the work without the prior written consent of the publisher. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, videotape, film, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. It may not be performed either by professionals or amateurs without payment of royalty. All rights, including, but not limited to, the professional, motion picture, radio, television, videotape, foreign language, tabloid, recitation, lecturing, publication and reading, are reserved. *In all programs this notice must appear:*

Produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

For performance of any songs, music and recordings mentioned in this play which are in copyright, the permission of the copyright owners must be obtained or other songs and recordings in the public domain substituted.

©MMV by
DRAMATIC PUBLISHING
Printed in the United States of America
All Rights Reserved
(35 IN 10)

ISBN: 1-58342-283-8

BUYING A BRASSIERE

By
Rebecca Ritchie

© 1999 by Rebecca Ritchie

Buying a Brassiere premiered at The Alleyway Theatre, Buffalo, N.Y., in 2000. It was part of Pandora's Box Theatre Company's "Escaping the Box" festival of one acts and monologues by women. In 2001, it was a finalist in the Actors Theatre of Louisville National Ten-Minute Play Contest.

CHARACTERS

DIANE: A woman with breast cancer who is shopping for underwear.

MARIE: A French Canadian underwear fitter.

SETTING: The lingerie department and a dressing room in a department store.

TIME: The present.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Diane must deliver her lines with *joie de vivre* and a sense of self-kery. If this play isn't funny, don't even try it.

BUYING A BRASSIERE

AT THE CURTAIN: *Blackout. In the blackout, Spotlight up on DIANE, who stands on a soapbox-sized riser, DL, facing slightly left. In blackout, MARIE stands on a similar riser DR, facing slightly right.*

DIANE (to AUDIENCE). I'm considering buying a brassiere. —The decision unsettles me. It reminds me of visiting Student Health thirty years ago: Then, if you didn't use birth control, you weren't having sex. Now, if I don't buy this brassiere, I must not have cancer. (Pause.) I find myself on the lingerie floor of a large department store. There is a bower of bras the size of a football field: purple bras, cheetah-print bras, push-up bras, strapless bras. And lace, lace everywhere. —But I don't see what I'm looking for. —So I go up to the counter and wait for a clerk, and when she stops chewing gum long enough, I say, "Do you have a fitter?" And she says, "A fitter?" And I say, "For a bra." When she still looks clueless, I point to an advertisement in a Plexiglas stand. "Ohhh..." she says, "that kind of bra. —You'll have to wait for Marie." And she points to a chair against the wall. —I'm not in a hurry. In fact, I'm not completely committed to buying this brassiere. I'm keeping a low profile, so I don't arouse the interest of the Red Beast. It's crouching out there, waiting for the slightest opening: arrogance, or complacency, or a thoughtless moment of joy. —You'd be surprised how even the most benign activity, like shopping for this brassiere, could cause the Beast to lunge for the jugular.