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Dramatic Publishing



Jumpers and Spinners

by
Bruce Post

From...

35 in 10

Thirty-Five Ten-Minute Plays

Compiled and Edited

KENT R. BROWN



Dramatic Publishing

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JUMPERS AND SPINNERS

By
Bruce Post

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Jumpers and Spinners was first heard at the Westbeth Theatre in New York City in 1996.

CHARACTERS

JOE: A guy.

PETE: Another guy.

SETTING: A lunch break.

TIME: The present.

JUMPERS AND SPINNERS

AT THE CURTAIN: *JOE and PETE sit on a log, eating lunch.*

JOE. Is that all you got? A hot dog?

PETE. I only had three dollars.

JOE. You need a job.

PETE. I had a job until you took it from me.

JOE. Not my fault you got fired.

PETE. I'm still hungry. Let me have some of those chips.

JOE. So I left the post office. You know that road? It's like a cart path. I'm wearing my shades it's still early June and it's bright, the trees haven't all filled in yet. I feel this...I don't know, presence, a bug presence maybe, what does it feel like, something drops on my leg, I'm wearing shorts and sneakers no socks it's hot out, I look down but I can't really see I got sunglasses on but I see something I don't like. I push the glasses on to my forehead and I look down and my heart does a somersault there's the biggest damned ugliest scariest spider on my leg. It's so big it's got fur. Big as a mouse and furry and meaty and I freak. I almost kill myself driving off the road into a ditch. I swat the thing and yank the car over right there and I gotta get out of the car so I jump out and hop up and down the car's running I don't have the emergency brake on and I'm waving my arms like a lunatic brushing all over my body because I can't see the damn thing and I got the heebie-jeebies and I can feel bugs all over. Just my

luck this cop comes by he wants to know why I'm jumping up and down in the road and my car's in a ditch. I tell him. He looks at me like maybe I'm way too stressed about all this but at the same time he doesn't really want to get involved. I'm a grown man I can kill my own demons he says good luck and off he goes. I'm alone with the beast. I can't bring myself to get back in the car with that thing.

PETE. Some chips?

JOE. You can have a few.

PETE. What kind of spider?

JOE. I don't know.

PETE. Probably a wood spider. They're pretty aggressive.

JOE. It was a big spider, that's what it was. All I know the paper's had these articles about nasty spiders coming from Missouri, or Texas, some big-ass place where they ride herd on the bugs and a couple people been bit and the doctors can't confirm the spider 'til they see the corpse and nobody's got anything but what they saw. And the bite can be fatal! Not so much on an adult but sure a kid could die from it and adults get real sick.

PETE. What color was it?

JOE. It was many colors. Its fur was brown and its nose was black...

PETE. It's nose?

JOE. ...it looks like, you know what color, it was like those uniforms they wore over to Saudi Arabia for Desert Storm, sure, that's what color.

PETE. Somebody told me wood spiders don't bite. They drill a hole in your flesh and lay eggs.