
The Do-Over

A comedy in one act

FIRST THREE SCENES --
SAMPLE

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Revised September 4, 2023

- Wheeler, Robert J. *Harold and Maude and The Joy Of Missing Out*. 2023. Published April 2023. <http://wheelerscripts.com/>. Playwrights' Guild of Canada Copyscript. ISBN: 978-1-7390143-4-6.
- Pippa's Pie Place*. 2023. Published June 2023. <http://wheelerscripts.com/>. Playwrights' Guild of Canada Copyscript. ISBN: 978-1-7390405-5-0.
- The Two Timers*. Written and produced 2022. Published May 2022. <http://wheelerscripts.com/>. Playwrights' Guild of Canada Copyscript. ISBN: 978-1-7390405-3-6.
- Sinners and Saints*. 2021. Published May 2022. <http://wheelerscripts.com/>. Playwrights' Guild of Canada Copyscript. ISBN: 978-1-7390143-0-1.
- The Babe*. 2020. Published May 2022. <http://wheelerscripts.com/>. Playwrights' Guild of Canada Copyscript. ISBN: 978-1-7390143-7-7.
- The Treasure Seekers*. 2020. Published May 2022. <http://wheelerscripts.com/>. Playwrights' Guild of Canada Copyscript. ISBN: 978-1-7390405-2-9.
- Having Harry – A Ghost Story*. 2019. Published May 2022. <http://wheelerscripts.com/>. Playwrights' Guild of Canada Copyscript. ISBN: 978-1-7390143-5-3.
- Life Matters – Almost Heaven, Nearly Hell*. Written and produced 2018. Published. May 2022. <http://wheelerscripts.com/>. Playwrights' Guild of Canada Copyscript. ISBN: 978-1-7390143-8-4.
- Oh, Brother!!*. 2017. Published May 2022. <http://wheelerscripts.com/>. Playwrights' Guild of Canada Copyscript. ISBN: 978-1-7390143-3-9.
- Who'll Come A Waltzin' With Me?*. Written and produced 2017. Published May 2022. <http://wheelerscripts.com/>. Playwrights' Guild of Canada Copyscript. ISBN: 978-1-7390405-1-2.
- Misadventures In Marriage*. 2016. Published May 2022. <http://wheelerscripts.com/>. Playwrights' Guild of Canada Copyscript. ISBN: 978-1-7390143-6-0.
- The Last Stop*. Written and produced 2016. Published May 2022. <http://wheelerscripts.com/>. Playwrights' Guild of Canada Copyscript. ISBN: 978-1-7390405-4-3.
- Oh Canada – Fast Forward*. Written and produced 2015 as *Good To The Very Last Droplet*. Published May 2022. <http://wheelerscripts.com/>. Playwrights' Guild of Canada Copyscript. ISBN: 978-7390405-0-5.
- I'll Miss Me When I'm Gone*. 1999. Published May 2022. <http://wheelerscripts.com/>. Playwrights' Guild of Canada Copyscript. ISBN: 978-1-7390405-0-5.
- Let There Be Angels*. 1994. Published May 2022. <http://wheelerscripts.com/>. Playwrights' Guild of Canada Copyscript. ISBN: 978-1-7390143-2-2.

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Enquiries regarding production details please contact robwheeler999@gmail.com

THE DO-OVER

By Robert J. Wheeler

| CHARACTER NAME | BRIEF DESCRIPTION | AGE | GENDER |
|----------------|----------------------------|-------|--------|
| ROB | Dead playwright | 30-50 | Male |
| STELLA | Angel | 30-50 | Female |
| GUS | Hen-pecked husband | 30-50 | Male |
| HILDA | Gus's wife | 30-50 | Female |
| BASIL | An actor | 30-50 | Male |
| JULIA | Librarian and Basil's wife | 30-50 | Female |
| TRUCK DRIVER | Truck driver | 30-50 | Male |

SCENE ONE

LIGHTS UP ON:

Time: Morning

Place: Bus stop

A "Bus Stop" sign is on top of a three-panel screen to represent a bus shelter. A bench is in front of the screen. Both the bench and screen are at an angle to the audience, with the SL end of bus stop closer to the audience than the SR end.

ROB (35-40), ruffled, casually dressed, possibly with a worn sport coat or blazer, strolls from UR to the bus stop.

ROB This can't be right.

Rob walks around disoriented.

No. This is all wrong. I can't remember where I've been or where I'm going. I should leave.

Rob starts to leave, stops, sits on the bench.

I'm lost and alone at a bus stop with nowhere to go.

Rob jumps up.

I wish I had taken better care of my heart. Being dead is so, so, so limiting. Damn! *(new idea)* Hey! I could write a play about a man at a bus stop, so I'm not fully dead. *(another idea)* Forgot! There's a manual!

Rob pulls a manual from a pocket. The word "MANUAL" is printed on the cover. He sits on bench, leafs through it.

Bla-bla-bla-bla. The interesting part. The steps. Step one. Move to the bus stop. Step two. Sit on the bench. Step three. Wait for the bus. Step . . .

STELLA *(O.S.)* BOO!

Frightened, Rob jumps up, looks around.

(O.S.) I swear, all playwrights are directionally challenged! Where does it say to wander around complaining about being lost, alone and dead?

STELLA (30-60) is covered with a shimmering silver robe with a black lining. She seems to glow with the robe and long blonde hair.

Stella snatches the manual from Rob.

Does step four say that? No, it says wait for passengers to exit the bus! Here, read it.

Stella hands the manual to Rob.

ROB Who are you?

STELLA Stella.

ROB Stella who?

STELLA Stella The Star. You're Rob The Playwright. I know about you, all about you!

ROB All?

STELLA All!!!! Not good!!!! You neglected your body. No exercise! Writing at all hours! Eating pizza, pop and chips? Does any of that sound healthy to you?

ROB *(nervous)* I'm, I'm not an exercise nut or a culinary nut. I'm a playwright.

STELLA . . . nut! Making you one dead nut!!! You gave yourself a heart attack!! You were unable to perform the simple task of maintaining a healthy body!!

ROB *(moves forward)* Are you an angel, or, or *(steps back)* maybe you're the Other?

STELLA Other what?

ROB The not nice Other.

STELLA Oh, that Other!

Stella flings off her robe, turns it inside out so the black side faces out and wraps it around herself.

(demented) The Other has it easy, real easy! Mean, real mean, takin' care of business, grab you, throw you into the red-eye express, straight on the long, winding, shrieking, torture express, straight, and I mean straight down, into excruciating burning Hell!!!!

Terrified, Rob jumps onto the bench.

(nice) But no, I'm required to be nice, oh so nice. The Other has it easy. Everything dark. No grey, pathetic loose ends to deal with.

Stella turns her robe black side in so the shimmering silver side faces out and wraps it around herself.

ROB *(sits on bench)* I'm a grey loose end?

STELLA Way grey, verging on black, and loose! Never had it looser.

ROB You're not the Other?

STELLA I'm a facilitator, a problem solver, here to solve your nasty problem.

ROB In a good way?

Stella shrugs. Rob jumps up.

My prayers have been answered!

Stella takes the manual.

STELLA *(big smile)* I'm not from prayers!

ROB *(fearful)* Where?!!!

STELLA COMPLAINTS!

ROB *(guiltily)* Oh-oh.

STELLA Multiple complaints have been lodged against you.

ROB Me?

STELLA Multiple!

ROB But, my prayers?

STELLA Prayers are backed up, way back. *(demented)* You literally don't have a prayer. Complaints get priority. Squeaky wheel? There's nothing worse than a whiney, squeaky complainer.

Rob's terrified, jumps onto the bench.

ROB *(pleading)* Purgatory! I'll take purgatory!!!

STELLA You've been whining on and on about not finishing your sordid play after it happened, remember?

ROB Yes, yes, that's right. I am soooooo soooooorry.

STELLA *(writes on manual)* He says he's sorry.

ROB I was just wondering, sometimes out loud, possibly insisting a little, off and on, from time to time, that I be permitted to finish it. Sorry again.

STELLA *(writes on pad)* Oh so sorry. *(looks to Rob)* Is that right?

ROB Yes! Yes! Yes!

STELLA So you're sorry for turning Playwrights' Heaven into PLAYWRIGHTS' HELL?!!

ROB *(guilty)* I was about to write the last scene of my play "I'll Miss Me When I'm Gone" when I felt a pain in my chest, and I found myself without my body.

STELLA *(sarcastic)* So, are you?

ROB Am I what?

STELLA Missing yourself.

ROB Very much.

STELLA *(sarcastic)* Right. We'll see.

ROB *(sales pitch)* It's an important play. A fantastic comedy that also promotes organ donation! It has a husband and wife who . . .

STELLA Hold on.

ROB: He has a roofing company, and she works as a . . .

STELLA Hold it!

ROB You don't care about my play?

STELLA At this moment I'm REQUIRED to find you a temporary body so you can finish your supposed precious play.

ROB Hallelujah!!

STELLA In another moment I'll be about saving a child from a preventable mishap, but now I've got you, just you, understand?

ROB That's fine. *(eager)* I'm listening.

STELLA The transfer procedure doesn't happen often.

ROB No?

STELLA Permission has been given for the passionate playwright clause, the PPC, to be enacted.

Stella throws arms up, indicating herself.

All this just for you.

ROB Tremendous! "I'll Miss Me When I'm Gone" has a poignant ending, one I've been dying to write.

STELLA Unfortunately.

ROB So, do I get to choose the body? How about sex?

STELLA We've just met. I'm not that kind of facilitator.

ROB *(shocked)* No, no!

STELLA When I was a young star, maybe. Lately, I've elevated myself.

ROB No, I don't mean . . . Look, I didn't mean . . .

STELLA *(points at him)* Got ya! You're so serious. Lighten up. The manual explained everything.

ROB *(guiltily)* Manual?

STELLA *(perterbed)* Are you telling me you didn't read your manual?!

ROB I skipped to the steps. First, second, you know.

STELLA *(glances up)* He didn't read his manual!

ROB Booooooring.

STELLA Playwrights are directionally challenged and non-manual readers. *(looks skyward)* Why me?

ROB Sorry. I see myself in . . .

STELLA Hold on!

Stella looks heavenward then back to Rob.

Checking my transfer resources. You were saying?

Rob puts a foot on end SL end of bench, enthusiastic, eyes aglow, clears throat.

ROB I see myself in a young, strong, male body. Football player. Yes, football player.

Rob throws out his chest, motions with left hand.

I'll take a handsome, rich quarterback.

STELLA You're more interested in scoring with the ladies than your dreary play.

ROB It's funny yet poignant, not dreary.

STELLA It has to be dreary.

ROB Why?

STELLA You're dreary. Dreariest facilitation I've ever had. Now you, YOU want me to make you look good for the ladies.

ROB It's been quite a while since, you know.

STELLA You died in the arms of a hot blonde!

ROB They say if you've gotta go, then . . .

STELLA Yesterday?!!

ROB How time flies.

STELLA I'll see what's available.

Stella gives Rob a stern look, he takes foot off bench.

ROB Okay, okay, maybe a female body? Young, attractive.

STELLA Can you convince any male or female to lay down and die for you?

Rob sits on the SR end of the bench.

ROB *(deflated)* No. That's why I'm a playwright. If I could have convinced people to buy houses, cars, appliances, I'd be rich.

STELLA Multiple failures! You're one big failure!

ROB Okay, okay, you're right. Can we move on to finding me a body, any body, to occupy whatever I am.

STELLA You are essence, minus the physical stuff.

Stella sits on the SL end of the bench.

ROB A sad situation.

STELLA Why couldn't you have been an assembly line worker, a person turned into a machine? They're blissful, no need to write anything.

ROB *(frustrated)* To finish my play I'll need a nimble body and fingers for typing.

STELLA *(not hearing him)* No stories bouncing around in their heads. Nothing to obsess about! Pleasant souls, easy to please with nothing going on. So, so, so easy. *(sigh)* The good eons. Wonderful.

Rob jumps off the bench.

ROB *(aggressive)* Can I send you back?! Get someone who cares about what's happening to me, not their past!?!?

Stella jumps off the bench.

STELLA *(indignant)* Send me back?! Me?!? You're looking at the cream of the crop. You got lucky when I got unlucky. I'm your ticket to finishing your boring play.

ROB *(earnest)* It's a life changing masterpiece. Very significant. A monumental contribution to humanity.

STELLA *(indignant)* If you had drawn any of the others, you'd be regretting it, really regretting it.

ROB *(sarcastic)* Yeah, right.

STELLA They could scoot you into an old lady with arthritic fingers and failing eyesight. How about that? Or a prisoner who's getting unwanted, intimate attention. Try writing with that going on!

ROB I had no idea.

STELLA Oscar Wilde is crafting his sequel to his "The Importance Of Being Earnest" in the body of a diminutive insurance salesman married to Prudence, a champion kick boxer. He could finish it.

ROB What do you mean?

STELLA She likes to spar with him.

ROB Oscar's better half is abusing him?

STELLA Actually, that's not correct.

ROB No?

STELLA She's his better three-quarters.

ROB *(reluctantly)* Oscar's suffering for his craft?

Rob staggers to and sits on bench.

STELLA Somewhat.

ROB How much what?

STELLA He's missing some teeth.

ROB Missing teeth?

STELLA Just six, maybe seven.

Stella points to her teeth.

ROB *(stunned)* Oscar is performing the role of a living punching bag for his craft?!

Rob fathoms.

STELLA All transferees experience side effects.

ROB What's the title of Oscar's sequel?

STELLA He's calling it "The Importance of Loving Prudence".

ROB *(fearful)* On second thought, a transfer might not be a good idea.

STELLA *(annoyed)* There's no turning back. It's in the manual!

Rob shrugs. Stella swats at Rob's head. Rob ducks. She misses him.

STELLA You didn't have to duck.

ROB I did!

STELLA No, you didn't. My hand would have gone right through you.

ROB *(sarcastic)* Yeah, right.

STELLA You don't have a body, remember?

ROB That's right.

STELLA *(wicked smile)* Watch, I'll prove it.

Stella winds up and punches Rob in the stomach. Rob keels over.

ROB Ahhhhhhh!

STELLA *(perplexed)* That's not supposed to happen.

ROB Ow! That hurt!

STELLA *(insincere)* Soooooorry.

ROB *(still suffering)* It happened! It hurt!

STELLA Oh, that's it. I know. It's your body memory.

ROB *(still suffering)* You huuuuurt mee!

STELLA You're whining again!

ROB Sorry.

STELLA You remembered your old body so well you made it hurt. It was your fault.

ROB You punched me, and it's my fault?!

STELLA Absolutely! You've got too much body memory! You expected it to hurt, so it hurt. All your fault!

ROB Okay, okay, that's fine, can we move along?

STELLA *(resigned)* I'll fill you in. People in bodies, who can't handle the situation they're in, request a transfer out of the situation which necessitates leaving their body.

ROB *(stands)* I could end up married to a kick boxer?

STELLA *(enjoying it)* Or worse!

ROB Oh my Go . . .

Stella brings her finger up to Rob's lips, looks around.

STELLA We don't want to attract any undue attention. *(takes her finger away)* It's a significant sacrifice to step into a body again. But you want to finish your play, the hallmark of your life, right?

ROB I don't know about hallmark of my life.

STELLA Oh?

ROB I've written a dozen plays, all the highest quality, full of humor, sometimes poignant or profound characters, dealing with the hurdles life has put in their path. "I'll Miss Me When I'm Gone," is my passion to complete right now.

STELLA Wait a micro-millisecond! Are you saying I, or one of my associates, might have to go through the transfer all over again? You could skip from body to body, writing plays your passionate about willy-nilly, until the end of time.

ROB *(feeling his power)* If I were given a sound body, I'm very, uh, moderately sure, I'll be content with it.

Stella sits on the SL end of the bench.

STELLA *(resigned)* The tail is wagging the dog.

Rob sends a big smile to Stella.

Woof.

ROB *(upbeat)* Got yu! You're so serious. Lighten up.

STELLA *(dejected)* The prospect of this being a failure has raised its ugly head.

ROB Okay, okay. Stella, listen.

STELLA What?!!

ROB I have a small request.

STELLA More from the ugly head.

ROB I don't think I can write if I have to fight off a spouse who's a kick boxer. Whoever imagined a diminutive insurance salesman married to a champion kick boxer has to have a screw loose.

STELLA I know, but keep it down! You're talking on thin ice. They just got off the bus. Here they come.

END OF SCENE ONE

SCENE TWO

LIGHTS UP ON:

Time: Morning

Place: Bus stop

Rob and Stella are as before.

GUS and HILDA (60s), enter from DR. They wear worn out coats. Hilda has a head scarf, Gus a hood. They behave like they're in a snowstorm.

Hilda has a grating voice. Gus is forlorn. Both speak with German accents.

ROB They look odd.

STELLA They stepped off a cold bus into a blizzard.

ROB I don't see a blizzard or a bus.

STELLA In your present state you're allowed to see just what you need to see. We see and hear them, but they don't see or hear us.

Gus and Hilda sit on the bench, Hilda SL and Gus SR ends of the bench, both oblivious to Rob and Stella.

Rob and Stella are near Gus. Hilda and Gus never look at each other.

HILDA It'll take the six bus a good ten minutes to get here. Thanks to you we'll probably freeze to death before it arrives.

GUS The shelter will keep the wind off.

Whenever Rob and Stella speak Hilda continues to yammer on, but we don't hear her.

ROB That's a bus shelter?

STELLA The best I could do on short notice. Shusssh.

HILDA If you ran faster, we would have caught the five bus and been home by now.

ROB It feels odd to see people huddled from the cold with no cold to speak of.

STELLA Weather is a physical condition.

HILDA This shelter is full of holes.

Hilda points to the bus shelter.

There's a hole the size of a watermelon blowing right on me.

Gus moves to the base of the shelter where she was pointing, facing DS.

GUS Better?

Hilda shrugs, FARTS. Gus reels from the odor, hangs his head dejected.

HILDA If you had run faster, we'd be warm at home, free of all this. Why?!!!

Gus hangs his head. Hilda's nagging mouth keeps moving but we don't hear her.

ROB *(wincing from the fart)* The smell.

STELLA I don't smell. Gus placed his request for transfer two years ago. Tonight is his night to fly.

ROB Gus? I'm to be Gus?

STELLA After his momentary heart attack. You'll look like Gus but you'll still be you. Ready?

ROB Have you noticed Hilda has an attitude problem?

STELLA No body is perfect.

ROB She's so negative!

STELLA She doesn't kick box. Your teeth will be safe.

ROB It'll take me a month to finish the play. I doubt I'll last a week with her nagging on and on. I need peace to write.

STELLA Get ear plugs!

ROB I don't know.

Stella touches Gus with her robe. Gus grabs his chest, staggers to DC, collapses on floor, head down, bum up.

Hilda doesn't see Gus go down, mouths words without us hearing her. Stella and Rob are around Gus.

STELLA Touch him and you'll go on the next bus with Hilda so you can finish your precious play.

Rob goes to Gus, hesitates.

Finishing your play means everything to you, right?!!

ROB Touch that?

Rob reaches out but doesn't touch him.

I can't. *(pulls back)* If I can choose between living with Hilda or living with a kick boxer, I'll take the kick boxer.

STELLA What are you thinking?

ROB I can get false teeth, but sanity, once lost, is gone forever!

STELLA What am I supposed to do now?

ROB Bring him around. He can go with the next dead playwright.

Stella mouths a profound, silent "fuck," looks up and mouths a silent "sorry" then she touches Gus with her robe. Gus awakens, sits on the bench.

HILDA There's our bus. Come on.

Hilda and Gus move to exit, towards DR.

Rob takes two steps toward Gus, says the following like a howl of wind toward Gus.

ROB Diiiiivooooorrce. Better still, muuuuurrdeeeeer.

GUS *(to Hilda)* Did you hear something?

Hilda and Gus stop.

HILDA It's the wind!

GUS Odd. I swear I heard words.

HILDA Now you're hearing things! Dementia! Schizophrenia! Is there no end to my torment?

Hilda and Gus exit DR.

STELLA What were you thinking?

ROB Just a couple words.

STELLA If he gets a divorce or murders her, he lives a happy life and withdraw his transfer request.

ROB So?

STELLA Deceased passionate playwrights rely on distressed people wanting transfers.

Rob sits on the SL end of the bench.

ROB Sorry.

STELLA *(stressed)* I need to think!!! *(calmer, looks heavenward)* Rechecking my transfer resources.

LIGHTS OUT

END OF SCENE TWO

SCENE THREE

LIGHTS UP ON:

Time: Morning

Place: Bus stop

Rob and Stella sit on the bench. Stella looks up, Rob's depressed.

STELLA Okay. *(looks to Rob)* Another option is being arranged. Their car will break down. They'll take a bus, will be on the next bus.

ROB What have you got?

STELLA Female librarian and male actor. Julia and Basil are in their 30s.

ROB The actor is absolutely perfect.

STELLA It's the female librarian that wants the transfer.

ROB Oh. I had wanted . . .

STELLA Take it or leave it!

ROB Okay, okay. I'll take it.

STELLA Good. I've got better things to do than moly coddle a stubborn playwright. Here they come.

BASIL (35) and JULIA (35), dressed in theatre opening night wear; her with a black wrap and slightly low-cut gown, but not too low, rush into the bus shelter from DR.

Basil looks into a bound play, oblivious to the weather or Julia.

Both speak with British accents. They sit on the bench, Basil SL side, Julia toward the SR side.

Stella and Rob are beside Julia.

BASIL You're sure it's the seven bus we need?

JULIA The driver said it should be here in five minutes.

Julia holds up two bus transfers for Basil to see.

BASIL Good. We will get to the theatre in sufficient time. I want a perfect opening night.

Basil and Julia talk without sound when Stella and Rob talk.

ROB Okay, okay, I'm ready. Have her heart stop. I'll touch her.

STELLA Patience. I need to know why she wants the transfer, for my records.

JULIA: You're still learning lines?

BASIL Every word must be perfect. Paraphrasing is unthinkable.

ROB He's a playwrights' dream.

STELLA Good to know since you'll be living with him.

JULIA You're a perfectionist about your acting, but not about everything.

Basil looks away from his book to Julia.

BASIL What do you mean?

JULIA: Our marriage.

BASIL Have I missed an anniversary, a birthday? I've been busy with the play.

Julia jumps up, moves to SR end of bench.

JULIA As if you don't know!

BASIL I don't know?

JULIA I forgot my lunch last week and went back for it.

BASIL So? You got your lunch and went on your way, right?

JULIA: No! I bought my lunch but couldn't eat it because I was sick to my stomach.

BASIL A touch of the flu?

JULIA *(intense)* I saw you with another woman in our living room, on our sofa! I almost screamed out, then I ran back to the library as fast as I could run. You called her Gwendolyn, the love of your life.

BASIL No! You've got it all wrong.

JULIA: You were all over her. You broke my heart.

STELLA Another broken heart.

Stella, Julia and Rob jump up.

Julia is in tears.

Stella touches Julia with her scarf. Julia grabs her chest, gasps, starts to fall.

BASIL *(stands)* I was acting!

Julia collapses, her upper body on the SR end of the bench.

Stella moves behind the bench to Basil, touches him on the shoulder. Basil becomes calm, smiles out to the audience, sits on SL side of bench.

Stella turns to Rob.

STELLA Don't stand there! Touch her! I'm behind schedule.

ROB Okay, okay.

Rob rushes to Julia, kneels beside her, brings his left hand up, his fingers splayed and gently lowers his hand on her back, his head down for three seconds, then simultaneously (because Rob's finger presses into her back unseen) they jerk their heads up and take deep breaths.

Julia is now in Rob's body and Rob is in Julia's body.

Julia In Rob's body has a blissful smile, stands, circle moves behind the screen.

Rob In Julia's Body is on its knees. The voice is Julia's but deep with no accent.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY Okay, okay, this is weird. I feel like a child!

STELLA It's normal to feel different at first.

Rob In Julia's Body takes a step forward on knees, toward DS. Stella moves with her on SR side of her.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY You've turned me into a 10-year-old girl!

STELLA It's not what you think.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY I wish I had a facilitator who knew what she was doing. I hated my childhood. Now I have to go through another one! This time as a girl?

STELLA Gabriel told me there'd be times like this.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY Okay, okay, listen! You've got to do something!

STELLA You're on your knees! Stand up!

Rob In Julia's Body, tries to stand, is in high heels, slips half a dozen times before falling onto the bench.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY

I've been hobbled!

Rob In Julia's Body frantically struggles to stand holding onto the bench.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY

Help me!

STELLA

Stop! You're on heels. Stand straight.

Rob in Julia's Body stands still, feet firm. One ankle goes over, then it straightens, then the other goes over and straightens.

As a playwright you're barely tolerable. As a woman, you're impossible.

Rob in Julia's Body is out of breath, struggles to breath,

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY

(desperate) My chest! Tight, so tight! Can't breath! A heart attack!

STELLA

(sarcastic) Heart attack?

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY

I've got experience!

Rob in Julia's Body COLLAPSES on one knee.

STELLA

It's a self-imposed torture device.

Rob in Julia's body is on her knees and struggling to breath.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY

You can't make the transfer, so you're burying your mistake. You're evil. Evvvviiii!

STELLA

(looks up toward God) Why can't a man act like a woman? *(to Rob In Julia's Body)* You're wearing a bra!

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY

I'm dying! I'm sure of it! *(pause)* Bra?

STELLA

Relax. Take a few breaths. You'll get used to it.

Rob in Julia's body takes a few deep breaths, breathes easier, tenderly stands, clomps two steps toward DS, acts like he's falling forward on the high heels. Stella moves with her.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY I'm falling forward all the time.

STELLA A common side effect.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY My balance has gone! You've wrecked my inner ear!

STELLA It's not inner ear.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY Ears are very sensitive!

STELLA You've got boobs.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY My hearing will be the next to . . . Boobs?

STELLA Have a look.

Rob In Julia's Body looks down at chest, is SHOCKED, jumps back suddenly.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY *(as loud as possible)* AHAAAAAA!

Rob In Julia's Body looks to the audience, confused, smiles to the audience, then looks down to the boobs again, looks up toward the audience, smiles to the audience.

I've got boobies. *(to Stella)* Can I touch them?

STELLA Of course.

Rob In Julia's Body tenderly cups them from below.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY My very own boobies. Can I name them?

STELLA Sure. They're yours.

ROB IN
JULIA'S

BODY Okay, okay. I'll call them . . . uhuh. I'll call them . . . Yes! I'll call them the Boobsie Twins. What if they're not real?

STELLA They're real.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY You're sure? I wouldn't want this body if they're silicone. Everything about me is natural. How about a warranty?

STELLA Comes with a lifetime body back warranty. Don't like this one, you get a walrus! You can finish your play with flippers!

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY Okay! Okay! I was just wondering out loud.

STELLA Look. I've got to get going. So, you're happy with the transfer, right?

Rob in Julia's Body, shoulder shimmies, tries to twirl the boobs, does a Gypsy Rose Lee imitation with the wrap behind the shoulders, like a boa.

What are you doing?

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY The twins want to break out.

STELLA You know they're in bra-cataz?

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY Yet they yearn to fly free.

STELLA *(hums the Stripper music)* Da da da, ta da da da etc. It's not as easy as it looks.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY lift It took me forever to learn to drive. There's movement! I detect movement! Nearing off! With a little practice I'll . . .

STELLA You're transferred, and you've got a new hobby. So, I'll be on my way.

Stella moves toward the bus shelter.

Rob In Julia's Body stops shoulder shimmying, turns serious.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY Wait a minute! Wait just aaa minute! Something's wrong! Very wrong!

Stella moves back to Rob in Julia's Body.

STELLA What now?

Rob in Julia's Body does a hip swivel.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY Nothing's swinging below deck!!

STELLA *(happily)* C'est la vie.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY *(desperate)* They're missing!

STELLA *(happily)* Enjoy your new body. Finish your play.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY *(desperate)* No! You can't leave me like this!

STELLA *(happily)* I get a huge feeling of satisfaction when everything goes my way. Any more complaints and it's flippers for you!

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY *(pleading)* You can't.

STELLA *(happily)* Got ya! You're so serious. Lighten up.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY *(desperate)* I'm too light!

STELLA *(happily)* You can twirl, twiddle, fiddle and fart all you want. I've got important interventions to facilitate. Bye, bye.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY No! There's the five-minute clause!

Stella stops a step away from being behind the SL edge of shelter.

STELLA You said you didn't read your manual!

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY I skimmed it. I know there's a five-minute clause! Fill me in.

STELLA Why should I?

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY *(desperate)* Okay, okay. You said you'd fill me in, remember? Are you a liar?

Resigned, Stella returns to Rob in Julia's Body.

STELLA If, within five minutes, both parties change their minds, then the transfer is revoked.
Both parties!

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY *(pleading)* I want my, my, my whatever I was back!

STELLA It takes two to tango!

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY Right! So, I'll need both of them! *(swivels hips)* Did you ask Julia? Check with Julia!
(begging on knees) I beg you, pleeeeeeassse! *(whining)*

STELLA A champion *(mocking)* whiiiiinnnner.

ROB IN
JULIA'S
BODY Sorry. Please.

Stella moves behind the SR end of the bench.

STELLA Both parties never agree to . . . My Gu . . . She heard something before the transfer.
She's changed her mind! Oh no! This is a disaster.

Stella claps hands twice.

Julia in Rob's Body, with a frozen heavenly smile, spin drifts from behind the SR end of the shelter.

Stella is between Julia in Rob's Body and Rob In Julia's Body.

Stella touches them simultaneously.

They take sudden deep breaths, snap into their previous forms.

Disoriented, Rob backs off to the side. Julia sees Basil.

JULIA Basil, you said . . .

BASIL I was acting! We were rehearsing for tonight's performance. Shirley Smith is the female lead in "The Choice."

Basil points to a page in the play he's reading.

See. It says Gwendolyn, you are the love of my life. *(looks at her)* I love only you.

ROB He could be acting now. How's she to know?

STELLA I've seen him act. He's not that good.

Basil and Julia embrace.

BASIL Here's our bus.

Basil and Julia, arm in arm, exit DR.

Rob steps forward toward Stella.

ROB I wrote “The Choice”. It’s a terrific play about a passionate dentist having to choose between the love of his mistress, Gwendolyn, or his dog, Rex.

STELLA You admit to writing “Gwendolyn, you are the love of my life?”

ROB It’s a corny line I know, but trust me, in context, it’s perfect. What now?

Stella and Rob sit on the bench.

STELLA *(wails)* I’ve failed. Game over. End of story. Fini. Julia was your last hope. I don’t know what will happen to me now.

ROB You? I’m the one who’s missing a body.

STELLA I’ve got a history, an unsavory history.

ROB Stella The Star?

STELLA Three nasty, miserable failures.

END OF SCENE THREE – END OF SAMPLE