

Dorie / Lucy Audition Piece

Dorie: Freeze! (*they all do*) CUT! For goodness sake! Where's my stage manager? Lucy! Cut!

Lucy: I don't think they say "cut" when it's a play.

Dorie: Excuse me?

Lucy: Sorry, I just- I think they only say that when they're filming a movie. You know, to stop filming. Like cut...the film.

Dorie: Who is the director here?

Lucy: You.

Dorie: Correct. And who is the stage manager?

Lucy: I'm the librarian. Can they stop freezing now?

Dorie: Yes. Cut the freezing! (*they do*) You volunteered-

Lucy: I got voluntold-

Dorie: -to stage manage so manage this stage right now. Clean up this mess!

Bill: Many hands make light work! (*helps Lucy clean up*)

Dorie: People. We have exactly one hour until the audience arrives!

Dorie / Sarah Audition Piece

- Shelagh: May the playwright give a note?
- Dorie: No, I haven't given **my** no-
- Shelagh: Please don't ad lib. A playwright pours just as much attention over every word of a script as say, Madame Bovary did when writing her great classics The Color Purple and Catch 22. So, stick to the text!
- Dorie: Alright! I'll give my notes! Then we'll quickly run the scene-
- Sarah: Director can I have a moment? To get real with the peeps?
- Dorie: We don't have ti-
- Sarah: Great! You lot have made me feel just like one of you and I want to say thank you. I auditioned for twenty-three shows with the Two Spruce Players but somehow I never got a role. It hurt. And cost me many sessions on my hypnotherapist's couch, believe me! If Dorie hadn't decided to do this murder mystery as a fundraiser for the library, I would still be that frustrated caterpillar waiting in the wings, yearning to break free of its cocoon and take flight onto the blossom of centre stage.
- Hillary: *(aside to Lucy)* Mix metaphors much?
- Steve: They're crazy! You were born for the stage.
- Sarah: My friends and I used to think only poor people went to libraries. Like thrift stores. And jail. But not any more! And my hypnotherapist gave me this tip- whenever I feel anxious about being around so much affordable furniture... or clothing, I just say popcorn quickly on the inhale three times and it centers my root chakra. *(doing it)* Ahhhhhh.
- Dorie: I'm so glad for your chakra, but time's a ticking. Everyone, gather round for my notes. Steve, don't forget to open the whisky upstage. Shelagh, twenty percent drunker right off the top. Hillary, it's go to fix your hair, scream, realize it's the mirror, fix your hair. And for goodness sake Bill, it's not I could sense when her soul metamorphosed! It's metamorphosized.

Lucy / Danny Audition Piece

Lucy: Shhh! It's ringing.

We hear a phone ring. It's in Danny's pocket. He answers it. They speak on the phone.

Danny: Two Spruce Police Department. Officer Farthing speaking.

Lucy: Danny. What are you doing?

Danny: I'm on call.

Lucy: Can you send over an officer?

Danny: I'm already here.

Lucy: But you're the giving tickets officer. Who never gives tickets cause he'd have to talk to the perp. You're that officer.

Danny: I'm the only officer.

Hillary: For shit's sake you two. Hang up and talk. *(they hang up)*

Shelagh: I feel like Little Orphan Oliver when the Watership went Down.

Steve: What are we supposed to do?

Lucy: Quiet guys. Stay calm. Kirk. I mean Danny. I mean Officer Farthing. Talk us through this. *(she picks up the prop book, examining it)*

Danny: Well, we wait for the ambulance.

Dorie: Don't you do anything?

Danny: I am doing it. Um. I arrive at the scene of a death and wait for the ambulance or coroner. I wait for the ambulance or coroner.

Lucy: He doesn't have authorization to touch the body unless he suspects foul play which he obviously doesn't in this situ-wait a second. What's that?

She points to a spot on the floor. Lucy & Danny start examining around the body

Danny: That's where her um, fake whiskey was spilled.

Lucy: Does that seem a strange color to you?

Danny: What do you- put in the prop whiskey? (*smelling it*)

Lucy: It's just tea. Plain tea I let cool and then pour it into the whisky bottles.

Danny: That seems...more orange...than it should be.

Lucy: Officer! Look at her tongue!

Danny: Oh dear. Oh dear. Oh dear.

Lucy: It's orange as well. You better bag up that glass and bottle for evidence, just in case.

Danny: Yes. Thank you. Ummm.

Lucy: Oh. Use this.

Lucy empties a ziplock bag that had a kids' craft kit in it and hands it to Danny as she gets on the computer. Danny bags the cup without touching it as best he can

Danny (as Kirk) Audition Piece

Wendy (Hillary): I could never say no to you, Sally!

Sally (Sarah): Good. *(hands her the drink)* Have a drink and settle in. We're just waiting for my last guest and then- *(sound cue weird doorbell)*
Speak of the devil.

Wendy (Hillary): I'll get it.

Mrs. P (Shelagh): No, that's what the creepy butler's for!

Walter (Steve): I'm a lawyer.

Sally (Sarah): C'mon Walter, get the door please, just for tonight. I'll get a real butler once the house is officially mine!

Walter turns to go off USR to answer the door. He steps in front of Wendy who screams in fear at seeing him. He goes out with a heavy sigh. We hear a door opening, then this exchange as they enter...

Kirk (Danny): Well hello! Who are you?

Walter (Steve): I'm Walter Thruppence, the lawyer to-

Kirk (Danny): Nevermind. I actually don't care. *(he arrives in the door and sees everyone)* Look at you all! The old high school book club! Gimmie a B, gimmie an O, gimmie another O, gimmie a K! What do we got? A book! And what're we gonna do? Read it! Gooo book club!!!

Sally (Sarah)
& Wendy (Hillary): Kirk!

Mrs. P (Shelagh): As if you ever read a book!

Kirk (Danny): I just didn't think the truth would make the best cheer. What did we have? A book! And what did we do? Got Wendy to read it and then write my report! Gooo book club!

Rocky (Bill): And the truth will set you free.

Steve (as Walter) Audition Piece

Rocky (Bill): We're having an exorcism.

Walter (Steve): No. No you're not.

Mrs. P (Shelagh): We're having a party.

Wendy (Hillary): A slumber party! Let's do makeovers!

Kirk (Danny): I didn't really read the invite. But I figured we'd finally be talking about what hap-

Sally (Sarah): Walter. Are you still here?

Walter (Steve): I was trying to say-

Sally (Sarah): Well, away you go.

Walter (Steve): I will lock the front door on my way out. Remember, you must spend the entire night in Moneypurse Manor. If anyone leaves before dawn, Ms. Sally Guilder forfeits her inheritance. As someone who has spent a lot of time alone here, I have some valuable advice for you...Never-

Walter goes.

Sally / Sarah: See you in the morning, Walter!

Walter / Steve: Goodnight then. Sleep tight.

Danny (as Poirot), Dorie and Steve Audition Piece

Danny, with his makeshift moustache steps out from the shadows with his notebook. He gets a thumbs up from Lucy. Throughout this he embodies Poirot

Danny: Please, sit down, mes amis.

Steve: Danny?

Danny: I'll commence with you Steve. State your name.

Steve: Steve.

Danny: Your full name, mon ami.

Steve: Stephen Mark Bob Quid the third.

Danny: Your job at the library?

Steve: Just a patron. And I teach a few workshops.

Danny: Merci. What is your profession?

Steve: I'm in sanitation management.

Dorie: He is the honey man.

Danny: What is this expression? Honey man?

Dorie: He empties septic tanks.

Danny: An important and noble profession. Bon. How did you know the deceased?

Steve: Um. We were in this play. Together. With you.

Danny: Good. I mean bon. But before that?

Steve: Everyone knows the Sovereign family. But she and I didn't become soul mates until cast in this mystery.

Dorie: Please. Soul mates.

Danny: Madame! Zut alors!

Dorie: The Sovereign family toppled the Quid family dynasty. Before the Sovereigns arrived in Two Spruce, the Quids ran the whole town. The Sovereigns usurped the Quid empire.

Steve: Over a hundred years ago! Surely you don't suggest-

Danny: Can you think of anyone who might have wanted to hurt Sarah Sovereign?

Steve: There were rumors she was going to buy the library and sell the land to Ding's Garage. So don't be so quick to point the finger my way, Dorie!

Dorie: Bullroar! Sarah was my friend.

Steve: Some friend! All that eye rolling while she was on stage!

Dorie: Precisely! That only proves what a good friend I was. I let her be in this play despite her acting abilities! Or lack thereof.

Steve: Or maybe those were dollar signs rolling in your eyes!

Dorie: Me? What was all that flirtation about, you gold digger?

Danny: Stop. I mean arrê! It is the brain, the little gray cells on which one must rely. One must seek the truth within--not without. Mr. Quid, you may go for now.

Steve: Thank you. She's upset my hair.

Dorie: Excellent. Let's rehearse scene two.

Hillary Audition Piece

Rocky (Bill): She's dead. I felt it the moment her soul metamorphosed. Dang it. Metamorphosized, Metamorphosized, Metamorphosized! Sorry!

Mrs. P (Shelagh): Did you check her pulse? (*she does*)

Wendy (Hillary): Is she....?

Kirk (Danny): She's really dead.

Wendy (Hillary): But how?

Mrs. P (Shelagh): Maybe Poison!

Wendy (Hillary): But why?

Rocky (Bill): Somebody wanted her dead.

Wendy (Hillary): But who? (*Walter returns in his driving clothes. She Screams*)
A ghost!

Walter (Steve): I heard screaming all the way from the driveway. Is everyone al- (*seeing body*) What have you done?

Lucy: And scene! That was so smooth.

Dorie: Cut! Cut! That's a wrap for now. Gather round amateur thespians.

Hillary: Thespians? Hey! I only tried that once! In college!

Dorie: Quiet Hillary. There's no room for humour in the theatre. In fact, I'm deadly serious. The library budget keeps getting slashed year after year-

Hillary: While corporations are getting bailouts!

Lucy: Ms. Sovereign?

Dorie: Sarah?

Hillary: (*aside*) Probably on the phone with her personal cat orthodontist.

Steve: Don't be shy, gorgeous.

Bill: Even big girls get nervous.

Hillary: (*coming around table and seeing her*) Oh crap. She's collapsed.

All: What? (and various exclamations as they look).

Shelagh Audition Piece

Danny: Write that down Watson. I mean Lucy.

Lucy: Of course.

He throws Lucy his notebook and she becomes the de facto Watson

Shelagh: Oooh. I feel like Lady Chatterly when Don Quixote was interrogating her about the Pickwick Papers!

Danny: And did you put pennyroyal tea into Sarah Sovereign's prop whisky?

Shelagh: No

Danny: Yes

Shelagh: No

Danny: Yes

Shelagh: No

Danny: No

Shelagh: Yes

Danny: Gotcha!

Shelagh: Darnit!

Lucy: Wow! You did? Wow. *(to Danny)* How did you know?

Danny: Elementary, my dear Watson. It's pennyroyal that turns the tongue orange when the drinker is allergic to it!

Lucy: Brilliant.

Danny: I am a brain, Watson. The rest of me is a mere appendix.

Shelagh: No wait! I did put it in her prop whiskey, but she asked me to. She drinks it everyday. She's not allergic to it.

Danny: Prove it.

She shows him the prescription she happens to have on her

Shelagh: Her hypnotherapist prescribes it!

Bill Audition Piece

Rocky (Bill): Hello Mrs. P! Haven't you heard the legends? This mansion is supposed to be crammed with ghosts... But all I sense is the Old Hermit woman...*(turns the card upside down)*...Or is it a little boy?
(continues around the room).

Sally (Sarah): This is Auntie Muggins's attorney. Walter Thruppence.

Rocky (Bill): *(waves the tarot deck around Walter, then looks at one)* Story checks out.

Sally (Sarah): This is Rocky Bender. He was in the class above me at Six Cedars High.

Mrs. P (Shelagh): What? You weren't a teacher? Holy crap. I used to get you to substitute for me! You were at that school for 10 years! How many times did you flunk?

Rocky (Bill): A man can get straight As and still flunk life, man.

Mrs. P (Shelagh): Touchè. Still smoking the jive lettuce, I see.

Rocky (Bill): Still drinking the truth serum, I see. Let's start the exorcism.

Weird doorbell.

Walter (Steve): Are you going to get that?

Lucy: We'll stop there everyone! We're running out of time, so don't go far. Just give Officer Farthing some privacy to take Bill's statement.

Everyone moves off. The body is positioned so it is not distracting to the scene. Bill sits and Danny comes over as Nancy Drew, examining with his magnifying glass along the way

Danny: Your name, sir?

Bill: Mr. Bill Quarter

Danny: That's a swell name. What do you do at the library?

Bill: Oh volunteer. I missed my students since I took early retirement, so I instituted the Saturday Morning Storytime Smackdown.

Danny: May I see your fingernails please, Mr. Quarter?

Bill: Of course.

Danny: Golly! *(examining with the magnifying glass)* They sure are clean!

Bill: Thank you! I always wash for two full minutes. Here's a helpful ditty: *(sings to the tune of Row Your Boat)* Scrub, scrub, scrub your hands...Wash the germs awaaaay-

Danny: Oh, but what have we here?

Bill: What? What have we here?

Danny: Why it's an inky smudge. Just the type that would come from penning a vengeful note on the back of someone's script!

Bill: Impossible. I only use pencils! *(showing one from pocket)* They remind boys and girls that it's ok to make mistakes.

Danny: And did you make a mistake Mr. Quarter? A murderous mistake?

Bill: Oh. It's no use pretending....

Danny: *(sotto to Lucy)* He did it!

Bill: ...It's food coloring from the frosting! I baked you all cookies for opening night! Don't tell the others. Sarah's had a rainbow on it. *(he openly weeps)*

Danny: *(sotto to Lucy)* He didn't do it.

Danny: Golly, Mr. Quarter. I didn't mean to hurt your feelings. I know you loved her once.

Bill: *(instantly enraged)* Who said that? Darnit, that's a bald-faced lie!

Sarah as Sally Audition Piece

Sally (Sarah): Oh you're in it Mrs. P. You were always in it. And as for the OTHER events of that last book club meeting...

Wendy screams

Wendy (Hillary): A ghost!

Kirk (Danny): Get a grip, Wendy. That's a mirror. That's yourself!

Mrs. P (Shelagh): Is this about what happened that night? Because nothing happened that night. I don't remember anything happening.

Rocky (Bill): Because nothing happened.

Wendy (Hillary): Absolutely nothing and I'm sick of thinking about it all the time.

Sally (Sarah): Friends. Friends! That's just it! Something did happen. And I know how we can finally put that chapter of our lives to rest. But first we put this chapter to rest...*(opens the book)* Together they stood, like a little team on the doorstep *(licks her finger)*

Rocky (Bill): What do you mean, man? What do you know?

Sally (Sarah): *(putting her finger to her mouth in a silent shush gesture, then licking her finger again)* Together they stood, like a little team on the doorstep-*(turning the page)* beneath the huge, massive, enormous door. Knock on it, Katie! Said John. You knock on it! said Katie. Oh you chickens, said Sue and she reached out a trembling fist when...Suddenly the huge, massive, enormous door flew open and...

Sally dies. Silence. Wendy screams. Chaos.

Mrs. P (Shelagh): Sally get up! Right now!