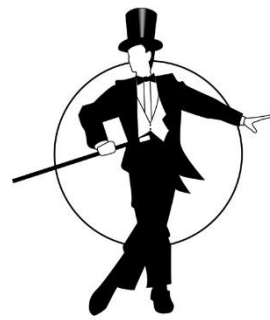


Backfire

David Lee White



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Publications



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BACKFIRE

By David Lee White

CAST

JIMMY: a man

AMY: a woman

Place

A hotel room.

Time

The middle of the night.

BACKFIRE

SCENE 1

SETTING: A small but tastefully furnished hotel room with one bed. There is an end table with a bouquet of flowers on it.

(Jimmy and Amy enter and address the audience. They are dressed in evening attire, having just attended a reunion.)

JIMMY: She was...remarkable.

AMY: And he, well...he was the most beautiful man I'd ever seen.

JIMMY: Just perfect. Lit from the inside.

AMY: Of course, I was only 16 and hadn't seen that many men. Except my dad but that's disgusting.

JIMMY: Of course, I didn't dare talk to her. I was only 16. Plus, I was in the band.

AMY: He was shy. He played the oboe.

JIMMY: Third chair.

AMY: There were only three oboe players.

JIMMY: She was a cheerleader. I'd see her at football games. A couple of times, I wanted to say something to her, but I was wearing my retainer.

AMY: I could never bring myself to say anything to him.

JIMMY: I thought about her all the time. Sometimes it seemed like the older I got, the more I thought about her.

AMY: I'd do that "google" thing where you put in their name and see what comes up.

JIMMY: But she had a really common name so all kinds of things would come up. Plus, some pornography.

AMY: And as the years went by, as I just kept searching and searching, I found myself thinking of...him. Even when I was with other men, I dreamt that they were him.

JIMMY: I was really hoping I'd see her that night.

AMY: I kept scanning the room looking for him.

JIMMY: And suddenly...

AMY: And suddenly...

JIMMY: There she was.

(Lights change. Amy and Jimmy look at one another as music begins to play. They slowly undress down to their underwear, then cross to a bed and get under the covers.)

NOTE: If the stage directions are too explicit, stage the transition to Scene 2 and set Scene 2 as you wish.

SCENE 2

(Time passes. Amy and Jimmy lie in one another's arms. They have just finished having sex.)

JIMMY: Wow.

AMY: Yeah. Wow.

JIMMY: Best ending to a 40th high school reunion ever!

AMY: Can I tell you something?

JIMMY: Sure.

AMY: I've thought about you for years.

JIMMY: No!

AMY: I have. For years. Back in high school. I thought for sure I looked like an idiot. Like everyone could tell I was staring at you.

JIMMY: You're kidding! I was so self-conscious! I was sure everyone could tell I wasn't able to take my eyes off you.

AMY: Why didn't you say something?

JIMMY: Well... I almost did one time. Then I thought...no. I have to think this through. And I went home that night and made a list.

AMY: You made a list?

JIMMY: Sure. Of pros and cons. Do I speak to you or do I not speak to you? And I made two columns and in the pro column was "She's gorgeous" and "She's funny" and "She's sexy" and in the con column was... "I'm too shy" and "I have acne on my forehead" and "I'm just me" and about a thousand other things.

AMY: Aww...I thought you only had eyes for Cheryl.

JIMMY: That's right. Only for you.

AMY: For Cheryl.

JIMMY: Yes.

AMY: What?

JIMMY: Huh?

AMY: You were in love with Cheryl.

JIMMY: That's what I said.

AMY: No, it's not.

JIMMY: I stared at you.

AMY: You stared at Cheryl.

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!