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Thank you.

Enjoy the script.

SCENE FIFTEEN

BOB begins to slowly pack up a few things.

BOB

Ever since that darn CSI show, it's nothing but work work work work work. Bob...wipe down the prints. Bob...spray the fake dust. Bob...open the drain. Bob...clean the drain. Bob...remember to buy the chemicals with cash. Bob...don't forget to remove the magnetic strip from the 20s. (beat) Oh yeah! I gotta do that.

BOB starts to do so with the roll of bills and a pair of tweezers. MOLLY enters.

MOLLY

Well there he is!

MOLLY continues to block BOB's attempted exits with her questions and enthusiasms.

BOB

(thinking he's been caught)
Listen, Molly, I can explain, you see...

MOLLY

There he is, the man who discovered the hitherto

MOLLY (Cont.)
unknown original poem by
Emily Dickinson.

BOB
Yeah, I'm the guy. I gotta
be going now and...

MOLLY
Gosh, it must have been
exciting when you first saw
that hitherto unknown
original poem by Emily
Dickinson.

BOB
Oh yeah, it was. There's a
door on the other side of you
and if I could just...

MOLLY
I mean to sit and read for
the first time words written
by Emily Dickinson and know
that you were the first in
over 100 years to see them.
You must feel very lucky.

BOB
Yes I do. Very lucky. And
now it time for me to go.

MOLLY grabs BOB.

MOLLY
Oh please stay... Here. I
feel that somehow when I am
close to you that somehow I
am closer to the words of
Emily Dickinson herself. You
know, I dream of writing
poetry, just like Emily
Dickinson. Only it's just so
hard.

BOB
No it's not.

MOLLY
Yes it is. Just listen.

"MOLLY'S SONG"

MOLLY

*If I could write like emily,
And everything be fine.
If I had just her confidence,
And proclaim it to be mine.
Why then I'd write like
emily,
And my poems would always
rhyme!*

*Poetry is sacred
One's spirit must be true.
I might as well be naked,
For All the truth I hew.*

*If I could write like emily,
And write words that are
true.
If I just had her insight,
And I just had a clue.
Why then I would write like
emily,
My poems would be as strong
as glue,*

*Every word must be correct.
Not a thought be out of
place.
But All I write are defects,
And words of little taste.*

End Song.

BOB

You know, I think you're
making a big production over
something that is very simple

MOLLY

It wasn't that big a
production. (Glancing
significantly off stage.) It
could have been MUCH bigger.

BOB

I mean, O.K. granted, it's
hard to write EXACTLY like
Emily Dickinson. I mean
you'd have to find some blank
writing paper from the mid-
nineteenth century and figure

BOB (Cont.)
out the chemical composition
from ink back then, now that
would be the hard part. But
the words; that's the easy
part.

MOLLY
Easy?

BOB
Sure, easy. Look poetry is
just words, right?

MOLLY
Right.

BOB
And you use words all the
time, right?

MOLLY
Well, yes

BOB
And you do know how to go de-
da de-da de-da de-dum, right?

MOLLY
Yes of course, but what if I
put the wrong word in the
wrong de-da?

BOB
So what. So you cross it out
and write another. It's your
poem. Use whatever word you
want.

MOLLY
But what will other people
think. They will read it and
know I'm just faking it.

BOB
Trust me, they won't.

"HOW BAD COULD IT BE?"

BOB
*Why don't you just tell me,
just tersely
Why is it you're acting,
adversely,*

BOB (Cont.)

*To writing words that are,
just versey,
Just write, how bad
could it be?*

MOLLY

*Oh no! It would be awful!
Oh no! I am too thoughtful!
My tummy's in a knot full,
That's how bad it could be!*

BOB

*Poetry is easy, what's the
worst that could happen?
Just let your thoughts go a
freely mappin'.
Heck, why don't you even try
rappin'.
Just write, how bad could it
be?*

MOLLY

Oh no! It would be awful!

BOB

But think, what could happen?

MOLLY

*Oh no! I'm far too
thoughtful!*

BOB

*Let your thoughts go a
mappin'.*

MOLLY

*Oh no! My tummy's in a knot
full!*

BOB

You might even try rappin'.

MOLLY

*Oh yes! That's how bad it
could be.*

MOLLY AND BOB

*That right, how bad could it
be?*

End Song.

SCENE SIXTEEN

MOLLY

Thank you. You know, you're a very special person.

BOB

No I'm not. You're the special person. You are the only one around here who seems to like poetry just for its own sake.

MOLLY

Oh that's not true, but you know, mere money is not reward enough for a person like you.

BOB

Oh yes it is.

MOLLY

Oh no its not. How can we honor Emily AND you AND maybe even get some publicity for the new poem itself?

BOB

Uhhh, organize a poster and essay contest in the local grade schools?

MOLLY

No, that would be too small.

BOB

Produce a one-woman performance art piece of her work?

MOLLY

Oh please. No, we want publicity. Big publicity! I know! I have an idea! You wait right there! Hey gang C'mere!

Enter DIRK, BONNIE, ANYGENDER singing.

**"GRAD STUDENT'S MARCH" -
interrupted**

DIRK, BONNIE, ANYGENDER
*Oh we are grad students
of the Academie
As long as t.a.-ships
pay our reg fees...*

End Song.

MOLLY (INTERRUPTING.)
Yes that's great. Listen I
got an idea!

DIRK
An idea?

BONNIE
New grad students always have
ideas.

ANYGENDER
Then they realize that's what
professors are for.

MOLLY
OK fine whatever listen.
Since we have this new poem
and we want
everyone to know about it and
we kinda want to say thanks
to the person who brought it
to us, I think...

DIRK
Yes?

MOLLY
Well, as you all know,
nothing says 'thank you' and
garners publicity like a
parade, so I think we should
have an Emily Dickinson
Family Fun Day and Parade and
you, Mr. Bob Forgier should
be the Grand Marshall.

DIRK
Hey, that's a great idea!
First thing, we need a
committee!

ALL

Yeah!

BONNIE

I'll do the flyers!

ANYGENDER

But hey, I got the flyer
software!

DIRK

O.K., you two can be the
flyer sub-committee and...

*ALL exit in a hub-bub of excitement sweeping BOB
along with them.*

Curtain.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SETTING: A grassy knoll quad area with grandstand.

SCENE SEVENTEEN

AT RISE: BONNIE and PROFESSOR wearing headsets sitting at a table offer commentary on parade elements below and before them.

PROF

Hasn't the parade been
wonderful so far!

Parade music.

BONNIE

And the weather couldn't be
nicer!

PROF

Well here comes the Emily
Dickinson Marching Drum and
Bugle Corp, 140 members
strong!

Applause.

BONNIE

What our viewers might not
know is that this Drum and
Bugle Corp has been together
for more than 30 years and
has performed at more than 77
Emily Dickinson parades and
festivals around the world
including Canada, Bolivia,
and Indonesia!

PROF

A remarkable achievement.
Let's listen for a moment to
the Emily Dickinson Drum and
Bugle Corp from Mar Vista,
California!

Applause.

PROF

Opps, it looks like the next float has broken down.

BONNIE

So we have a few moments to talk about the extensive months of planning that goes into one of these Emily Dickinson Family Fun Days and Parades.

PROF

Yes, one of the first year grad students, Molly Writerblock suggested as our grand marshal the international Emily Dickinson master sleuth Bob Forgier and our theme, "Emily Dickinson: Not quite as depressing poet as you might think."

BONNIE

Well actually a faculty committee came up with that theme. Her original idea for it was "Part-in' down with Emily."

PROF

You know, it is quite unusual for a first year to have quite so many ideas.

BONNIE

Actually what is really unusual is that her ideas were noticed, acted on and given credit the all knowing and all wise senior faculty...

PROF

But let us not forget the added prestige that a student's ideas acquire as a result of receiving the imprimatur of that a senior faculty member...

BONNIE

Impirmatur! What are you talking about? Listen here...

PROF

Oh look! There. It looks like they have finally got the float fixed and we can get back to the parade.

BONNIE

Now we have that float from the city of Amherst called, "Havin' Fun at Emily's House." (Applause.) See how the little doggie is tugging at Emily's skirt to get her to go outside and play? Isn't that so precious?

PROF

Well this is just a magnificent float. You know, the dog is composed of palm fronds, mums, and carnations and the nose is made of poppy seeds and I'm sure you'll agree with me that the effect is spectacular.

BONNIE

It certainly is. "Havin' Fun at Emily's House" from the city of Amherst, Massachusetts.

Applause.

PROF

Oh look at who we have here...

BONNIE

We certainly couldn't have an Emily Celebration without these people...

PROF

It's the Mounted Poets of Yuba City riding their famous Tennessee Walking Horses.

Applause.

BONNIE

Aren't they magnificent?

PROF

Yes they are. Did you know that the distinctive gait of the Tennessee Walker was so that the plantation owner could ride about his estate without spilling a drop of his mint julep?

BONNIE

No I didn't. But did you know that the Mounted Poets have not only ridden in Emily Dickinson celebrations, but also celebrations of such poets as Ogden Nash, T.S. Eliot, and Sylvia Plath?

PROF

Well no I didn't. And it's always a pleasure to see them here, The Mounted Poets of Yuba City.

Applause.

PROF

Oh wait, here come the man who made this entire event possible...

BONNIE

The man who discovered that hitherto unknown original poem by Emily Dickinson.

PROF

And the Grand Marshall of today's parade.

BONNIE

From Amherst, and the French part of Belgium, Mr. Bob Forgier.

Applause.

PROF

Boy, the crowd certainly seems happy to see him.

Applause.

BONNIE

And along with the grand Marshall is his father, Pater Forgier. Aren't they a wholesome lot?

PROF

Well yes they are. Now the Grand Marshall and his father are riding in an authentic 19th century carriage that Emily Dickinson herself might have ridden in.

BONNIE

If she had ever left the house.

PROF

And this carriage is covered in seaweed and poppy seeds that provide that manuscript look to the outside of the carriage.

BONNIE

Isn't that clever? Well we certainly wish him well as he leaves us here today.

PROF

Well the passing of the grand marshal signifies that this Emily Dickinson Celebration has come to a close. You know, I think I say it every year, but I think this year's parade was the best ever.

BONNIE

You know, I think you're right. The colors, the sounds, the floats, the precision skydiving team,

PROF
The B-1 bomber flyover.

BONNIE
It was all breath-taking. I
scarcely don't want it to
end.

PROF
But it has.

BONNIE
And so on behalf of the grad
students...

PROF
And the faculty...

BONNIE
We want to wish you the
happiest Emily Dickinson
Family Fun Day and Parade
ever.

PROF
Bye-bye.

Music ends.

And that concludes this portion of the "Oh no, Not Emily" script. To find out what happens to Bob, Molly, the Professor and all the rest of the gang you can contact Dan by going to the "contact us" page here on the web site or emailing him at libraryguy@earthlink.net.

Ask him nice and he might send you a DVD copy of the show.

Thank you for reading the script.

Have a nice day

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