

THE NAKED PEOPLE PLAY

A Ten-minute Play

by

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Cast of Characters

Margaret

A clever, self-assured, but secretly fragile, woman.

Jon

An awkward, high-strung man with good intentions.

Naked Man

A man minus his clothes.

Naked Woman

A woman minus her clothes.

Scene

A bare stage with three chairs.

Time

The present.

(Lights come up on three chairs in a row. In the first chair, sits a completely NAKED MAN. In the middle chair, MARGARET, fully clothed, sits. In the third chair, a completely NAKED WOMAN sits. Throughout the piece, MARGARET looks at the audience and looks at JON, but never looks at the naked people. From the moment he enters, JON glues his eyes to the naked people. The NAKED MAN and the NAKED WOMAN sit completely still— hands and/or props strategically placed if need be— and stare forward blankly for the duration of the play.)

MARGARET

(On a cell phone.)

What do you think? He started bawling like a little girl.

(Listening.)

Yep. Right in the middle of the restaurant. I only wish I could say I was surprised.

(Listening.)

No, not since—

(There is a knock at the door.

Into phone.)

Hold on.

(Calling, as she crosses to the door.)

Who is it?

JON

(Offstage.)

It's me.

MARGARET

(Into phone.)

It's him. I got to go.

(Listening.)

Okay. Bye.

(MARGARET pockets the phone and opens the door.)

Hi Jon.

JON

(Laden with a heart-shaped box of chocolates, red roses, and a teddy bear.)

Margaret, my darling Mar—

JON (Con't.)

(Seeing the naked people and
dropping everything.)

Jiminy Christmas!

MARGARET

Pardon?

JON

What is going on?

MARGARET

Not much. I was just-

JON

What are you doing, Margaret?

MARGARET

Well, I just was on the phone with-

JON

You're- There are- Are you in trouble? Should I call the
police?

MARGARET

No. Jon, I don't know why you're getting so hysterical.
There's nothing-

JON

For Pete's sake! You know what I'm talking about.

MARGARET

No, I don't.

JON

(Pulling her far away from the
naked people and whispering.)

There are naked people here!

MARGARET

Oh, right. I forgot about them. Can I get you a lemonade or
something?

JON

You forgot! Margaret, why are there naked people here?

MARGARET

Oh, it doesn't matter.

JON

It doesn't-

MARGARET

So what did you come here to say to me, Jon? Surely you didn't come all this way to discuss the naked people in my living room.

JON

What's wrong with you? There are naked people-

MARGARET

It's my educated guess that you stopped by to try to convince me not to break up with you, so commence convincing. And dear, do hurry, please. This is only a ten-minute play.

JON

Heavens to Betsy! You- you're breaking up with me because you're having a threesome with these naked people.

MARGARET

Don't be silly. I don't even know them.

JON

That's even worse. What kind of sick sexual-

MARGARET

Contrary to popular belief, nudity and sexuality are not synonymous.

JON

What?

MARGARET

Just trust me, dear. It has nothing to do with sex, okay?

JON

What doesn't? Us or the naked people?

MARGARET

Both.

JON

So you aren't dumping me because of the sex-

MARGARET

No.

JON

Oh good. So, um... then why is it you're breaking up with me?

MARGARET

I already told you.

JON

You did?

MARGARET

I'm breaking up with you because you don't listen to me.

JON

I do too.

MARGARET

You don't pay attention to me.

JON

I do too.

MARGARET

Your attention span is like that of a- Will you stop looking at the naked people?

JON

Sorry, but its hard not to.

MARGARET

You've seen naked people before, dear.

JON

Not like this. Margaret, what is going on?

MARGARET

Nothing is going on.

JON

(To the naked people, slowly
and loudly.)

Who are you? What are you doing here?

MARGARET

They don't talk.

JON

Please put on your clothing and exit the vicinity immediately.

MARGARET

Why don't you make yourself comfortable? Take off your coat, have a seat-

JON

I am not taking my clothes off.

MARGARET

No one asked you to. Have a seat.

JON

Margaret, I am not comfortable with-

MARGARET

Then stop looking at them. Look at me.

JON

Hey, don't get mad at me.

(Pointing to the audience.)

They're doing it too.

MARGARET

I don't see what the big deal is. I know you've seen naked people before and I bet the audience has too. They've been to the movies.

JON

It's different when it's onstage. It's much closer up and more real.

MARGARET

I suppose. Now, Jon, dear, let's stop talking about-

JON

Did you invite these naked people to your- Where did you find-

MARGARET

No, don't be silly. They came with the set.