

WHAT A CONTEST!

by Ken Bradbury

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ISBN: 978-1-64479-151-6

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SYNOPSIS: As a way to meet girls, two boys decide at the last minute to participate in the speech contest. How do they decide on a script? They try them all! Opportunity for two characters to play a variety of personalities.

CAST OF CHARACTERS*(2 male)*SKIP (m) *(60 lines)*DAN (m) *(59 lines)*

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AT START: *SKIP and DAN rush in.*

SKIP: Come on! We've only got ten minutes!

DAN: We can't do this!

SKIP: Of course we can! Speech contest is only a week away. We've got plenty of time to get ready.

DAN: A week!

SKIP: Plenty of time!

DAN: But I didn't even sign up for contest!

SKIP: I know. I signed you up. Have you seen all the girls who come to contest, Dan? It's like Miss America! And once we get up there and start performing, man, they're gonna fall at our feet.

DAN: Laughing?

SKIP: Get serious. Look, we've got all these scripts. Come on, let's find one.

DAN: *(Sifting through the imaginary scripts with SKIP.)* These are long! I gotta memorize all this?

SKIP: The trick is to keep going, no matter what happens. It's easy to fool a speech judge. *(Picking up an imaginary script.)* Here! Perfect!

DAN: What is it?

SKIP: Can you do British?

DAN: I don't even like soccer.

SKIP: Great. *(Hands him the script as he holds the other copy.)* Here. Let's try it. *(In a very exaggerated British accent.)* And your name, sir?

DAN: *(also affecting the accent.)* Bond. James Bond. Special Agent to her Majesty's Secret Service!

SKIP: Mr. Bond, this is your most dangerous mission ever!

DAN: Egads! What is it?

SKIP: Someone's killed the Queen's Kuala!

DAN: Say that again. *(Rapidly through the rest of the Brit bit.)*

SKIP: Someone's killed the Queen's Kuala!

DAN: The Kuala?

SKIP: Of the Queen!

DAN: Quite sure?

SKIP: Quite!

DAN: Quietly?

SKIP: And quickly.

DAN: Curious.

SKIP: Quite.

DAN: Question! Was the Queen's Kuala quarreling?

SKIP: Quivering!

DAN: Quivering?

SKIP: Quaintly.

DAN: Quirky.

SKIP: Quite.

DAN: Where?

SKIP: In her quarters! They were singing.

DAN: Who were?

SKIP: The Queen's quartet.

DAN: I quit!

SKIP: That's not in the script.

DAN: I know. I think I just busted my "Q." Skip, we just can't do this.
We're awful.

SKIP: John Love is doing a monologue.

DAN: So?

SKIP: He performed it for homeroom this morning and he had every
girl in the room crying.

DAN: Is that good?

SKIP: John now has the cell phone number of every girl in _____
grade.

DAN: Gimme a script. (*SKIP hands him one.*) What's this?

SKIP: It's called Noir.

DAN: Noir?

SKIP: Like an old time detective movie. I've got the first line. It was a
dark and stormy night. Sound effects!

DAN: (*Begins to make the sounds of a dark and stormy night.*)

SKIP: I was all alone on the street. Not even a stray dog was out on
a night like this. The rain was coming down ...

DAN: (*The noise of rain.*)

SKIP: ... there I stood, ready to give it all up. Then SHE appeared.
(*Looks at DAN.*) Then SHE appeared.

DAN: Me? A she?

- SKIP:** Come on, Dan. Just pretend. (*Getting back to his narrative.*)
She was a gorgeous blond with long legs that stretched all the way to New Jersey. She walked up to me and whispered ...
- DAN:** (*Affecting a sultry female voice.*) Hello ... stranger.
- SKIP:** She had me hooked. This dame was somethin' else.
- DAN:** Buy a girl a cup of coffee?
- SKIP:** My throat went dry, I started to sweat ... her eyes ... somethin' about her eyes ...
- DAN:** ... Like ... my eyes?
- SKIP:** I was a goner. (*To DAN.*) Out of all the lousy dives in all the lousy towns, I met you, doll.
- DAN:** You ain't bad yourself, Bubba.
- SKIP:** Then as we moved closer ...
- DAN:** (*Dropping out of character.*) Hold it! Hold it right there! That's enough!
- SKIP:** Were you getting into the part?
- DAN:** No! Find something else. Playing a blonde woman is not going to get me a date at speech contest.
- SKIP:** (*Picking up a script.*) This is it! I know this is it!
- DAN:** Couldn't we just be doorkeepers at contest?
- SKIP:** You ever see a doorkeeper get a medal? (*Handing DAN his script.*) Here.
- DAN:** Melodrama? What's a melodrama?
- SKIP:** Like the old fashioned heroes and villains and stuff. It's easy. You just overact everything. Come on, Dan. You're gonna love this, I promise. Okay, here we go ... (*In his evil character.*) Nya! Ha! Ha! Your time is up, Little Nell! You cannot pay the rent so you must give me the farm!
- DAN:** "Oh, woe is me." Wait a minute. Am I playing a girl's part again?
- SKIP:** But you win in the end! Besides, you've got experience now. Read it! Read it!
- DAN:** (*In a feminine voice.*) Oh Snidely Mucus, you dastardly villain, you! My poor daddy is sick and he cannot pay the rent!
- SKIP:** He will when I tie you to the railroad track! (*Grabs DAN.*)
- DAN:** What're you doing?
- SKIP:** I'm tying you to the railroad track.
- DAN:** Was it something I said?

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