

SOCKS GO IN THE BOTTOM DRAWER

A One Act Play for Youth Groups

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bookerplays@yahoo.co.uk
www.bookerplays.co.uk

CHARACTERS

Adam (m)	A man of athletic build.
Keeper (f)	A young woman. Robust and down to earth.
Citizen Swan (f)	A teacher. Full of enthusiasm for her profession and pupils.
Citizen Jesmond (f)	A science teacher. Dry and intellectual.
Lucy (f)	A school girl, mid teens. Mischievous.
Tiff (f)	Lucy's friend. The classroom swot.
Zak (f)	A teenager on work experience
Katherine (f)	A slow-witted school girl. (Zak and Katherine may be played by the same actress)
Schoolgirls (f)	Additional walk-on parts as available.

SET

The play takes place a number of decades into the future, and costumes should reflect this. The stage is dominated by a large cage, above which hangs the notice 'Do Not Feed The Man'. There is a small hoarding, stage right, with printed information on the species Homo Sapien (Male).

Inside the cage there is a chair, a small sofa, a chest of drawers and a wardrobe. An exercise bike stands in one corner. A portable television set in the other.

The lights rise on Adam who is sitting astride the chair. Opposite him on the sofa sits a life-sized female inflatable doll. Adam is arguing with 'her'.

Adam It's my money. I've earned it. And if I say we're going to Ibiza, then Ibiza it is. (HE PAUSES TO OBSERVE THE DOLL) Oh, for God's sake, Samantha, don't sulk ! I hate it when you sulk. (AS IF LISTENING IMPATIENTLY TO HER REPLY) Yes, yes, yes, I know we need a new sofa. Yes, yes. Your sister's got a three piece suite . . . Yes, yes, latest model. . . yes, leather.

(LOSING HIS TEMPER) Look, I'm not made of money. If you want a three piece leather suite go out and buy one yourself!

(PAUSE) Aha. That shut you up, didn't it? That put a zip on your lip.
(PUFFS HIMSELF UP) I'm the one who wears the trousers in this household. I'm the one who brings home the bacon. In fact. I'm . . . (TRIUMPHANT PAUSE) . . . God.

THE KEEPER AND ZAK ENTER THE AUDITORIUM VIA THE AUDIENCE. NEITHER IS NOTICED BY ADAM WHOSE FOCUS IS 'SAMANTHA'. BOTH WOMEN ARE DRESSED IN OVERALLS AND CARRY BUCKETS. THE KEEPER STOPS SUDDENLY) Zak! The doll!

Zak (GUILTY) Woops, sorry.

Keeper How many times do I have to tell you? No doll when we've got visitors.
(SHE DROPS HER BUCKET AND HASTILY EXITS)

Zak (PICKS UP BOTH BUCKETS AND TRUNDLES AFTER HER) I said I was sorry. (EXIT)

Adam (TO THE DOLL) Don't give me that look. I'm not a monster. You'll love Ibiza. Sun, sea, scenery - and me. What more could a girl ask for? (POURS HIMSELF A LAGER) Pina Colada and chips, The Birdie Song, and you and me, hip to hip, doing the Lambada. (LOOKS LONGINGLY AT HER) Come to me, Samantha. (PAUSE) Come to me. (HE SIGHS, THEN PULLS A PIECE OF STRING WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THE DOLL'S ARM. SHE FALLS OFF THE CHAIR AND IS DRAGGED ALONG THE GROUND UNTIL SHE REACHES ADAM'S FEET. HE LIFTS THE DOLL UP SO SHE'S FACING HIM) You are one hot babe. (HE EMBRACES THE DOLL)

Keeper (JANGLING KEYS, SHE ENTERS FROM STAGE LEFT) Adam!

Adam (STARTLED, HE CLUTCHES THE DOLL PROTECTIVELY) You're not having her.

Keeper Time to put her to bed, Adam.

Adam No.

Keeper Samantha wants to go bye byes. (SHE UNLOCKS THE CAGE DOOR)

Adam She's my wife. I demand my conjugals.

Keeper (ZAK ARRIVES OUT OF BREATH) Stay outside, Zak. This could be tricky. (ZAK PUTS THE BUCKETS DOWN AND WATCHES NERVOUSLY AS THE KEEPER ENTERS THE CAGE) She's going to bed, Adam, and no arguing. (SHE LOCKS THE DOOR BEHIND HER. ZAK PULLS OUT A SMALL GADGET AND POINTS IT TOWARDS ADAM) We've got visitors. Important visitors.

Adam Not again.

Keeper You're our main exhibit, Adam.

Adam So you keep telling me.

Zak Even the Orang U-tans don't get so many visitors.

Keeper People come from the four corners of England to see you.

Zak You've got pulling power.

Adam (BLOCKING THE DOLL'S EARS) Sssh. Not so loud. She gets jealous. (SAVOURING WITH PLEASURE) Pulling power, eh?

Keeper Don't hold her so tight, Adam. You'll give her another puncture.

Adam I didn't!

Zak You did. I had to stick her head in a bucket of water to find the leak.

Adam (SHIRTILY) I lost my temper . . .something inside me cracked . . .

Keeper You shouldn't knock her around like you do, Adam.

Adam I'll knock you around if you're not careful.

Keeper (WARNING) Adam.

Adam She's my wife. I know my rights. I'm entitled to my conjugals whenever I like. Look. (HE POINTS THE SMILING DOLL'S FACE TOWARDS THE KEEPER) She's begging for it. There's not a judge in the land who'd send me down, and I've got witnesses. (APPEALING TO ZAK)

Keeper (AS ZAK IS ABOUT TO SPEAK) Don't answer him, Zak. (TO ADAM) Come on now, hand her over.

Adam (PLACING THE DOLL ON THE CHAIR BEHIND HIM, HE MOVES TOWARDS THE KEEPER THREATENINGLY) I'm warning you.

Keeper And I'm warning you, Adam. I don't like giving you Zapper, but you're pushing me.

Adam The balance of my mind was disturbed, m'Lud.

Keeper Adam . . .

Adam (CLOSING IN) Something inside me cracked, m'Lud.

Keeper (TO ZAK) Zak! (ZAK PRESSES THE BUTTON ON HER GADGET)

Adam Agh. (ADAM CRUMPLES TO THE GROUND AND WRITHES ABOUT IN PAIN)

Keeper That's enough, Zak. It upsets his digestion.

Zak Sorry, Adam.

Keeper (LOOKS AT ADAM TENDERLY) Poor lamb. (SHE PICKS UP THE DOLL) Sometimes you've got to be cruel to be kind. (SHE STROKES ADAM'S BROW) Who else would let you play with Samantha like I do? She's only meant to be twice a week for therapy sessions.

Adam (WEAKLY REACHES OUT FOR THE DOLL) She gets lonely without me.

Keeper (STARTS TO DEFLATE THE DOLL) I'll blow her up for you, tonight, poppet. If you behave yourself.

Adam She's pining for me already.

Keeper Try and remember to smile at our visitors today, Adam. You were a right old misery guts yesterday. People don't travel hundreds of miles just to watch you with your feet up on the sofa, reading The Sun. (LEAVING THE CAGE WITH THE FOLDED UP DOLL) So. Today we've got the Humanities Field Study Group from Birmingham Middle College. Be nice to them. They sponsor your toilet paper.

Zak Two hundred rolls a year.

Keeper Three hundred when Arsenal play at home.

Adam (PERKING UP, STARTS UP A FOOTBALL CHANT) Ole, ole, ole . . .

Keeper Ah. That's better.

Adam Ole, ole, ole. Ole. Ole.

Keeper (LOCKS THE CAGE DOOR BEHIND HER) Everything looks ship shape.
(CHECKS HER WATCH) You'd better go and get his supper cooked, Zak.
They're only booked in for an hour.

Zak (ADMIRINGLY) You're so good with him. How do you do it?

Keeper You've got to win their trust, Zak. Trust, and a good supply of Holsten Pils.
(ZAK EXITS. THE KEEPER BUSIES HERSELF WITH CHECKING THE
LIGHTING RIG AND CLOSE CIRCUIT CAMERAS)

Adam (PUFFING HIMSELF UP) Pulling power. (HE DRAWS HIMSELF UP TO
FULL STRENGTH) We have lost a battle, not a war. (HE STARTS TO
SPEAK WITH A CHURCHILLIAN ACCENT) We shall not flag or fail. We
shall fight them on the beaches, we shall fight them on the landing grounds, we
shall fight them in the fields and in the streets; we shall never surrender! (HE
CATCHES SIGHT OF A PAIR OF LACE KNICKERS ON THE FLOOR,
AND PICKS THEM UP, TREMBLING WITH EMOTION) Samantha. (HE
WEEPS INTO THE KNICKERS)

LUCY AND KATHERINE ENTER A FRACTION AHEAD OF THE
OTHERS)

Lucy If I have to sit through one more lecture on the male endocrine system . . .
(SHE SPOTS ADAM) Oh.

Kath It's a man. (ENTER TIFFANY WITH CITIZEN JESMOND,
ACCOMPANIED BY CITIZEN SWAN AND ANY OTHER GIRLS) Look at
his feet. They're huge.

Lucy Do you think he'll come if I whistle?

Kath (LUCY MOVES TOWARDS THE CAGE) Don't do that, Lucy. He's
dangerous.

Cit J. Now girls. Gather round. Can everyone see and hear?

Girls Yes.

Cit J. Remember to take full field notes on all his movements, his verbalizations, his
interactions. (NOTICES LUCY) Lucy, not so close, please.

Lucy I was only looking. (MOVES BACK TO THE GROUP)

Cit S. Remember, girls. An open mind is the most important tool of the behavioural scientist. Try and forget the cage, the bars. Just observe Homo Sapien (Male) as though he were roaming freely across the housing estates and football pitches of the pre-revolutionary world.

Kath Will he urinate against the wall, then?

Cit J. No, Katherine. That's dogs.

Kath I'm sure I read somewhere . . .

Keeper Lighting up now, Adam. (SHE FLICKS A SWITCH)

Adam (THE CAGE IS FLOODLIT. HE PULLS HIS FACE FROM THE KNICKERS) Oh, for God's sake. (HE SPOTS THE WOMEN, PANICKS FOR A MOMENT, WIPES THE TEARS FROM HIS EYES) Just a speck of dust in my eye, that's all. I don't cry, I never cry. (HE HASTILY PUTS ON A PAIR OF SHADES) How cool am I?

Girls He's not very hairy . . . I thought he'd be hairier . . . He's standing up, just like us . . . do you think he'll do anything violent?

Keeper Come on, Adam. Why don't you have a little go on your bike?

Adam I'm not in the mood.

Keeper They've come all the way from Birmingham to see you.

Adam (DISPLAYS HIMSELF TO THE GROUP) Right profile, left profile . . . (HE FACES THEM AND STARTS TO LOWER HIS TROUSERS). . . full frontal.

Keeper Adam! (ADAM SWIFTLY TURNS HIS BACK ON THE VISITORS AND DOES UP HIS TROUSERS) (TO CITIZEN JESMOND) He's a bit unpredictable, I'm afraid. I wouldn't let them get too close.

Cit J. Girls. Stand well back. Use your binoculars. (LUCY VEERS TOWARDS THE CAGE AGAIN) Lucy, did you hear what I said?

Lucy (TO ADAM) Cooie ! (AS IF TO A DOG) Here boy.

Adam (ADAM NOTICES LUCY'S CHARMS AND WOLF WHISTLES) Cheer up, love, it'll never happen.

Girls (SCRIBBLING NOTES) Did you hear that ? . . . What was that noise? . . . He's almost human . . .

Lucy (TO CITIZEN JESMOND) Does that mean he wants to play?

Cit J. In a manner of speaking, Lucy, yes.

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bookerplays@yahoo.co.uk
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