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The New Guy and The Old Friend



A READERS THEATER SCRIPT
ILLUSTRATING
ANGER MANAGEMENT
MEDIATION SKILLS

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THE NEW GUY AND THE OLD FRIEND

By Lee Karvonen

INTRODUCTION: This script involves 3 girls of high school age. Two are best friends from childhood, while the third is a friend to both, and a skilled conflict manager who wants to see the other two patch up their quarrel. The script comes in 2 parts.

The first part has a prologue and 8 scenes which introduce the first 2 girls and their relationship, along with the problem and the subsequent breakdown of the relationship.

The second part has one long scene in which the third girl intervenes and gets the first 2 girls to talk through their problem in a non-aggressive way. This leads to a happy conclusion for all.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: There is some strong language in SCENE EIGHT of PART ONE. In a real conflict, I would expect this level of language at the very least. However, in a school context, some words may not be acceptable. Feel free to temper the language to suit your situation. Perhaps replace the questionable words with a scream of anger or gentler vocabulary. Or simply skip over those parts. Whatever works for you, works for me.

CHARACTERS: **GIRL 1** - She sees the new boy first and claims him as hers.

GIRL 2 - She has seen this behavior before, but goes along with her friend without having even seen the new boy.

GIRL 3 - She has seen the breakdown and wants to help fix it.

STAGING: 3 music stands in a line, each about 3 feet (1 metre) apart, with a stool behind each.

STAGING DIRECTIONS: The three girls will sit on stools. Whenever a reader is speaking, she will stand, face the audience, and read from her script on the music stand in front of her. When readers are in conversation, both, or all three, will remain standing. When a reader is not part of a conversation, she will sit with her back to the audience. Some (but not all) of these stage directions are included in the script below to illustrate how this is done. You will add more directions as you rehearse the reading.

READER FOCUS: Readers Theater requires readers to speak directly to the audience. All lines are delivered to the audience, not to each other.

PROLOGUE

GIRL 3: I am one of the readers. I'm playing an angel, of sorts. I am looking down at a pair of my friends. And they are the best of friends. They've been friends since they started school, and soon they will graduate together. They are typical girl friends. They share everything. They laugh and cry at the same things. They want the best for each other. They are totally supportive of each other. They are ... the best of friends. But trouble is lurking on the horizon. Boy trouble. As the song says, "Lord help the mister who comes between me and my sister, BUT... Lord help the sister who comes between me and my man!" Two girls, one boy - recipe for disaster. And disaster is what happens. That is when I, a sort of angel, leap into action. But will I be able to help my friends? That is what we will find out in the next little while. Oh, by the way, I will be introducing each scene so you know where you are, I mean, where they are, to ease the possible confusion. Do you see? You'll see.

(All three readers turn backs to audience (BTA) and stand quietly. When Girl 3 is ready to start, she turns to face the audience and starts the reading).

PART ONE – The Argument

SCENE ONE

GIRL 3: Scene One! We're in the hallway of our high school. I just saw my two friends standing right over there...

(GIRL 3 points into audience and sits on stool).

(Girls 1 and 2 turn to face the audience)

GIRL 1: Did you see that gorgeous new guy!

GIRL 2: What guy? Where?

G 1: In my math class! Ooh is he a McDreamy!

G 2: You watch too much television.

G 1: Seriously, he is a super hottie!

G 2: Well, I guess I am going to have to meet him.

G 1: Hey, I saw him first! He is M-I-N-E!

G 2: First shot is yours! You go, girl!

G 1: For sure!

G 2: See you after class.

G 1: Where?

G 2: At our lockers.

G 1: 'Kay! (Sits)

G 2: McDreamy, huh? (Sits)

SCENE TWO

GIRL 3: Scene Two! Now one of my friends is standing by her locker and the "hottie" just saw her standing there.

G 2: Where is that girl? I've got a class in two minutes. Whoa! Who just walked by and left the hall steamy? Must be McDreamy! (Sighs) McDreamy is right! He turned back to look at me!

SCENE THREE

GIRL 3: Scene Three! The most important invention of all time for teenagers - the phone.

(Readers mime talking on the phone)

G 1: Missed you at the lockers. Had to stay in to finish homework.
Sorry.

G 2: No prob. I just went home early. Got my homework done
anyway.

G 1: I wish you could have seen McDreamy! He is sooo hot!

G 2: I bet. Maybe tomorrow.

G 1: For sure. ... Uh-oh, Mom's calling me. Homework time. Talk to
you later.

G 2: Great! See ya.

SCENE FOUR

GIRL 3: Scene four! We're in the hallway and the "hottie" just passed
by...

G 2: He asked for my number! My number! McDreamy! Oh. no!
What'll I do? My best friend saw him first!

SCENE FIVE

GIRL 3: Scene five! In a race for the phone, the teenager will always
out-sprint her parents.

(Reader mimes talking on the phone)

G 2: I'll get it ! ... Hello? ... Oh, it's you. ... I'm okay. How are you?...
Would I go to the movies with you? Well, I'm not sure that's--... Well,
yes, I'd like to get to know you better, but--... That's very nice of you
to say, but I don't--... If you put it that way, how can I say no?...
Great! Okay. Meet you there at seven... Thank you...G'bye.

SCENE SIX

GIRL 3: Scene six! Today the girls finally see our "hottie" at the same
time...

G 1: Hey, I haven't seen you all morning. If I find out you've been
avoiding me.

G 2: You get the weirdest ideas!

G 1: No surprise! Who am I talking to? Anyway, today's the day!

G 2: Today?

G 1: Yes! McDreamy day! He's in the cafeteria right now! Hurry so
we don't get trampled in the rush!

G 2: I don't see any rush.

G 1: Come on! He could leave any time!

G 2: I sure hope he's worth all this.

G 1: Trust me! He is worth everything I have to do to get him! I can hardly wait for our first date! Me, ... and McDreamy! Hot! Hot! Hot!

G 2: I'm afraid, I mean, I wouldn't be surprised how hot it will be.

G 1: Move it! Or I'll lose it!

SCENE SEVEN

GIRL 3: Scene seven! We're in the cafeteria – and there he is!!!

G 1: Oooh! There he is! Is he, or is he not, the hottest guy you have ever seen in this building?

G 2: Hot! Super hot ! You are absolutely right! Oops! I have to get to class!

G 1: You have ten minutes! What's the rush? Stay and drool!

G 2: I'd rather not "drool" over your guy.

G 1: I'm feeling generous. Let us drool together for a while.

G 2: I really have to go. I have a quiz first thing and I haven't studied at all.

(Sits)

G 1: What is wrong with that girl? Oh well, back to McDreamy!

(Sits)

SCENE EIGHT

GIRL 3: Scene eight! Saturday morning, after the date. The girls meet and one gets the third degree - and then some!

G 1: I called you last night. Your mom said you were out.

G 2: Yeah. I went to the movies.

G 1: Why didn't you ask me to go with you?

G 2: I had kind of a date.

G 1: Great! Who with?

G 2: Some new guy. We just met at the theatre and had a soda after.

G 1: Just some new guy! Who? Come on! Give! Name, rank, serial number!

G 2: I don't--

G 1: You don't what? You don't know his name!

G 2: I--I--I can't say.

G 1: What do you mean, you can't say? I'm your best friend! You can tell me anything!

G 2: Not this thing.

G 1: What do you mean, not this thing? The only thing you couldn't tell me is--

G 2: I'm sorry! I didn't mean for this to happen! It just happened!

G 1: You were out with my--

G 2: He asked me! He phoned me! I tried to say no, but I just couldn't!

G 1: He called you? What do you mean, he called you?

G 2: He asked me for my phone number in the hall, and then he just called me.

G 1: He just walked up to you, a complete stranger, and asked for your phone number. Did you have your shirt undone to your navel? Or did you just flash your ass at him?

G 2: I was just standing there. I--

G 1: You must have been batting your eyelashes and sticking your chest out to here!

G 2: I was not! I was just glancing in his direction.

G 1: Glancing! Glancing!? I bet you were glancing! You are such a liar!

G 2: I am not! You aren't being fair about this!

G 1: Not fair! You are the deceitful, little tramp! And you dare to talk to me about fair!

G 2: Don't you call me a tramp, you little slut!

G 1: Slut!?!?

G 2: You'll sleep with anything in pants!

G 1: Bitch!

G 2: Double bitch!

G 1: I never want to speak to you again!

G 2: My pleasure! Goodbye forever!

G 1: I hate you!

(Sits)

G 2: I hate you more!

(Sits)

(Girl 3 Stands)

GIRL 3: They exit in opposite directions, never to see, let alone speak to, each other again. This is tragic. Angel to the rescue

(All three readers turn backs to audience (BTA) and stand quietly. When Girl 3 is ready to start again, she turns to face the audience and begins Part Two).

PART TWO - The Skills

SCENE ONE

GIRL 3: Part two, Scene one! Hey, I hate to see you two like this. What happened?

(Turns)

G 2: I had a date with this new guy that she spotted first.

G 3: Did you know this before the date?

G 2: Yes.

G 3: And you went after him anyway?

G 2: No! He came after me! I tried to say no, but he was just so persuasive, and nice, and sweet ...

G 3: And she hadn't gone out with him yet?

G 2: She hadn't even talked to him! She was just "drooling" all over him in silence!

G 3: That makes it rough. She claimed ownership, but hadn't put in a claim.

G 2: That's exactly right! I didn't want to hurt her, but he asked me!

(Girl 1 Turns)

G 1: Oh, is she lying to you too?

G 2: You are so wrong about this!

G 1: Am I? So what has *she* been saying? That she was just standing there and the most gorgeous guy in the school just happened to see her and walked up to her and asked for her phone number?

G 3: Yes. That is exactly what she told me.

G 1: Well, she has her story down pat!

G 2: It's not a story; it's the truth!

G 1: She can't handle the truth!

G 3: Could we just back this up a bit?

G 2: What do you mean?

G 3: Well, you two are best friends. You have been for years. It breaks my heart to see you at each others throats. I think if you both would just listen to each other, and I mean really listen, you could still be best friends.

G 1: Why would I want to be best friends with that lying tramp?

G 3: Because you still like her very much. But right now you're so hurt, you can't think straight.

G 1: I can't think straight? Do you understand what she did to me?

G 3: Do *you* understand what she did to you?

G 1: What do you mean?