



Kory Howard

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BIG DOG PUBLISHING
P.O. Box 1401
Rapid City, SD 57709

Bathroom Break

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Addicts Anonymous was first performed by Snow College, Ephraim, UT, in May 2014: Brittnie Ray, director.

KENNY: Milinda Esplin Weeks

ABBY: Sydni Erin Leavitt

BRIAN: Casey Lamb

KAYLE: Kevin Hoskins

MORGANNE: Kate Abbott

TINA: Ari Jamieson

As You Wish was first performed by Manti High School, Manti, UT, on May 19, 2014: Birkley Ross, director.

JOHN: Clark Knaphus

KELLY: Brynn Schiffman

The Great Pompachelli was first performed by Manti High School, Manti, UT, on May 18, 2015: Eli Malone, director.

POMPACHELLI: Conner Meacham

ERIC: Dallin Schiffman

SAMANTHA: Maris Jones

CLAIRE: Rebekah Hammer

WOMAN: Christiana Peterson

GIRL: Aubrey Rosier

Bathroom Break was first performed by Manti High School, Manti, UT, on May 18, 2015: Abraham Marroquin, director.

MARGARET: Sophia Knaphus

DAVE: Brandon Davis

ANDREW: Bryce Thayne

SARAH: Sydney Howell

JOEY: Nathan Olsen

Bathroom Break

COLLECTION. Everyone needs a break in this comically chaotic collection of four short plays. In “Addicts Anonymous,” five people attend an Addicts Anonymous meeting but it’s not for drug or alcohol abuse—it’s for technology junkies! In “As You Wish,” a couple takes turns wishing on shooting stars only to discover that their outrageous wishes actually come true. In “The Great Pompachelli,” a “love expert” helps a lonely guy woo the girl of his dreams with famous movie lines. And in “Bathroom Break,” a mother yearning for some time to herself has to lock herself in the bathroom to get a break from her needy husband and teenaged kids.

Performance Time: Approximately 45-60 minutes.

Addicts Anonymous (6 flexible)

KENNY/KENDRA: Orderly, professional therapist who likes books; flexible.

ABBY/ABE: Addicted to Instagram; carries a cell phone; flexible.

BRIAN/BRIANNA: Call center worker addicted to Twitter; calls himself "Hashtag Brian" and makes the hashtag sign every time he says "hashtag"; wears a bracelet; flexible.

KAYLE/KAYLA: Addicted to music; gets hives, seizures, diarrhea, and ulcers if she goes five minutes without music; wears headphones and looks hardcore but listens to tween pop music; flexible.

MORGANNE/MORGAN: Addicted to videogames; carries a cell phone or iPad; flexible.

TINA/TIM: Addicted to Facebook; carries a cell phone; flexible.

Note: All members of the therapy group are in their late teens to mid-20s. Therapist is older than therapy group members.

As You Wish (1 M, 1 F)

JOHN: Extremely cheap and likes to smell stinky things, especially his armpits; male.

KELLY: John's girlfriend, who has planned a special 6-month anniversary surprise; female.

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The Great Pompachelli

(2 M, 3 F, 1 flexible)

POMPACHELLI: Weird, creepy guy who hangs out in a park and claims he is a “love expert”; male.

ERIC: Has dated his girlfriend for 10 years and still has his mom drive them around on dates; male.

SAMANTHA: Eric’s girlfriend who is tired of their relationship not going anywhere; female.

GIRL 1: Park patron that Eric tries to woo with cologne; female.

CLAIRE: Park patron that Eric tries to woo by reciting movie lines; female.

MAN/WOMAN: Park patron on his way to work; flexible.

Bathroom Break

(3 M, 2 F)

MARGARET: Mother who feels unappreciated and desperately needs a break from the demands of her needy husband and teenagers; female.

DAVE: Margaret’s husband who needs her help with everything including picking out a tie; male.

ANDREW: 17, Margaret’s immature son who doesn’t even know where the clothes dryer is located; male.

SARAH: 16, Margaret’s high-maintenance daughter who wants to be popular; female.

JOEY: 16, Sarah’s egotistical date; male.

Sets

Addicts Anonymous: Empty space with six chairs positioned in a semi-circle. There is a chair CS.

As You Wish: The roof of a high-rise building on a starry night. A table sits CS with a couple of chairs. On it is a single rose in a vase.

The Great Pompachelli: A park on a sunny day. There is a bench near a makeshift stand with a sign that reads, "Death Expert."

Bathroom Break: A small bathroom with a sink and counter. There is a towel rack with bathroom towels hanging on it. Note: No other areas of the house are visible.

Bathroom Break

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Props

Addicts Anonymous: Large bag, headphones or ear buds, cell phone for Abby, iPad or cell phone for Morganne, CD, cassette tape, 8-track tape, old 35 mm camera, *The Lord of the Rings* novel, assorted books, *Twilight* novel.

As You Wish: Blindfold, breath mint, engagement ring.

The Great Pompachelli: Suitcase, newspaper, large marker, business card, script, bottle of cologne (water), book, scratch sheets of paper, sign that reads "1942," sign that reads "Humphrey Bogart," sign that reads "Kiss me. Kiss me as if it were the last time."

Bathroom Break: Note, pen, hairbrush, hairspray bottle, red necktie, blue necktie.

Sound Effects

As You Wish: Hip-hop song, love song.

"Hashtag,
not really sure
what I'm doing here,
but oh well."

-Brian

Addicts Anonymous

(AT RISE: Kenny, the group therapist, enters. He places a large bag near a chair CS and looks around the room.)

KENNY: (To himself.) First day of group therapy. Should be a piece of cake.

(Kayle enters, listening to headphones and singing a tween pop song loudly.)

KAYLE: What's up, therapy bro!

(Kayle gives Kenny a fist bump and bro hug and sits.)

KENNY: Hello. How are you today? (Kayle doesn't hear him and keeps rocking out, singing a tween pop song.) I take that as you're doing okay. (Abby enters with her cell phone. To Abby.) Welcome. And you are?

ABBY: I'm Abby. Smile! (Takes a picture of Kenny with her phone. Looks at photo.) Wow. That was pathetic. Want to try again before I post this on Instagram?

KENNY: That's okay.

ABBY: Fine. But don't blame me if the comments aren't very good.

KENNY: I think I'll live. Please have a seat.

(Abby takes a seat next to Kayle and takes a picture of him with her cell phone.)

ABBY: (Looking at photo.) Cute!

(Morganne enters, holding an iPad or cell phone and is heavily concentrating on it.)

KENNY: *(To Morganne.)* Hello there. Welcome to—

MORGANNE: Shush!

KENNY: Okay. “Shush” duly noted. Why don’t you have a seat with the others?

ABBY: Hey, therapy guy, how long is this going to take ‘cause my best friend Stephanie just sent me a pic of all our friends at Red Lobster, and the shrimp is looking de-lish...not to mention Jenny’s skirt. So adorbs!

KENNY: I’m sorry. Did you say “adorbs”? What is that?

ABBY: You know, like “fantabulous.”

KENNY: Those aren’t even words.

ABBY: Not words? Ha-ha! You’re so cray cray!

KENNY: *(To himself.)* What have I gotten myself into here?
(Pause. Abby is texting on her phone, Kayle is rocking out to music, and Morganne is playing on her iPad.) Well, on that note, this could take longer than I thought...or until I run out of patience with a CE not TS. Ha-ha-ha!

ABBY: Whatevs. *(Takes a selfie. Looks at photo, frowns.)* No, not quite right. *(Takes another selfie. Looks at photo.)* No. *(Takes another selfie. Looks at photo, smiles.)* There! Totes adorbs!

KENNY: *(To himself.)* “Totes”? This can’t get much worse.

(Brian enters.)

BRIAN: *(To others, announcing.)* Hashtag Brian’s in the house!
Hashtag holla! *(Note: Brian makes the hashtag sign every time he says “hashtag.”)*

[END OF FREEVIEW]

“Actually, there is supposed
to be a meteor shower tonight.”

- Kelly

As You Wish

(AT RISE: The roof of a high-rise building on a starry night. A table and chairs are CS. On the table is a single rose in a vase. Kelly enters. She is leading John, who is blindfolded.)

JOHN: Kelly, can I take this blindfold off now? I can't take tripping on any more stairs.

KELLY: Stop being such a baby. I'll let you know when you can take it off. We're just reaching the top.

JOHN: The top? Have we reached the summit of Mount Everest already?

KELLY: Funny. Now just stand over here. *(Positions him.)*

JOHN: You are being way too suspicious.

KELLY: Are you not enjoying this?

JOHN: Not really. I feel very uncomfortable. Can't we just go out to eat or sit on your couch like we usually do?

KELLY: No. That's why I'm doing this. I was hoping *you* would do something for me on this special occasion.

JOHN: What special occasion?

KELLY: Don't you know?

JOHN: Should I know?

KELLY: I was hoping you would.

JOHN: Oh, let me guess...is it "Free French Fry Friday" at Burger Barn?

KELLY: *(Irritated.)* Really, John?

JOHN: Can I at least take this blindfold off now so I can talk to you face to face? I feel like I'm in a weird dream or something.

KELLY: Fine. You ruined the mood, anyway.

(John takes off his blindfold. Kelly doesn't look happy.)

JOHN: So, what's the big occasion?

KELLY: You really don't know?

(John thinks.)

JOHN: I'm really at a loss here.

KELLY: So typical of you.

JOHN: Hey! Be careful what you say. I'm really sensitive.

KELLY: Ugh! It's our six-month anniversary since we started dating!

JOHN: You actually kept track?

KELLY: John!

JOHN: What? I'm impressed that you knew that.

KELLY: Yeah, well, I was hoping you would've known that, too.

JOHN: Oh...well...I thought that *yearly* anniversaries were the ones that really mattered.

[END OF FREEVIEW]

“Let me develop
a five-step plan
to get you any girl
you desire.”

- The Great Pampachatti

The Great Pompachelli

(AT RISE: A park on a sunny day. Pompachelli is at a makeshift stand with a sign that reads "Death Expert." He has a suitcase filled with various items as he awaits customers. Man enters.)

POMPACHELLI: *(To Man, calls.)* Young sir!

MAN: Um...hello.

POMPACHELLI: My, you are looking spry this fine morning.

MAN: Are you kidding me? I'm off to a job I hate. How can I look spry?

POMPACHELLI: Because I am Pompachelli, the life expert! I know it all!

MAN: Your sign says, "Death Expert."

POMPACHELLI: Ah, "In death, there is life."

MAN: Isn't it, "There is life in death"?

POMPACHELLI: Maybe where you come from, Muggle!

MAN: Excuse me, I'm going to be late. *(Starts to exit.)*

POMPACHELLI: But, wait! For only ten dollars, I can tell you everything there is to know about your death.

MAN: No, thanks. I'm dying every day as it is. *(Exits.)*

POMPACHELLI: *(Calls.)* Hey! That's my line! Humph! Know-it-alls!

(Pompachelli sits on a bench near his stand and reads a newspaper. Eric and Samantha enter, holding hands. During the following, he looks over and around his newspaper, eavesdropping.)

ERIC: Ah, Samantha! Isn't this wonderful! A beautiful morning...birds chirping... *(Indicating Pompachelli.)* ...weird, creepy men in the park. What more could you ask for?

SAMANTHA: How about a good relationship?

ERIC: Your wish has already come true. *(Motions to himself.)*

SAMANTHA: Yeah, that's just the thing, Eric.
ERIC: Uh-oh. There's a "thing"? "Things" aren't good.
SAMANTHA: You're right. Things aren't good.
ERIC: Things aren't good like you just ate a rotten apple and your stomach is hurting? Or an alien-spacecraft-is-appearing-in-the-sky-threatening-the-future-of-planet-earth not good?
SAMANTHA: I mean things aren't good between us.
ERIC: But we're holding hands! Walking in the park! Being watched by a creepy dude behind a newspaper! What do you mean things aren't good?!
SAMANTHA: You're just not right for me.
ERIC: What?! How do you know that? We've only been dating for almost ten years.
SAMANTHA: That's just it. I don't feel like I really know you.
ERIC: Oh, I get it. You're just upset that I haven't asked the big question yet. You know how hard it is to ask you if you're Team Jacob or Team Edward?
SAMANTHA: It's not that. Frankly, I'm neither.
ERIC: Well, thanks for telling me now! That could have saved years of fretting over the answer.
SAMANTHA: It's just that we haven't progressed in the past ten years. I mean, your mom still drives us on dates.
ERIC: *(Realizes.)* Oh! That reminds me. I better go tell her that we'll need a ride to the movies later.

(Eric starts to exit, but Samantha stops him.)

SAMANTHA: Eric, stop. You're making this so difficult.
ERIC: Sorry. I didn't know it would be that easy.
SAMANTHA: It's not. It's just that...it's over.
ERIC: It's over like, "Oh, that was a great movie. I can't wait for the DVD,"...or like [Miley Cyrus's] career? *[Or insert the name of another pop star.]*
SAMANTHA: It's over. We're done.

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ERIC: We're done like—

SAMANTHA: Eric, just stop. I'm dumping you like a bag of day-old bagels. Goodbye. (*Exits.*)

[END OF FREEVIEW]

"I need a little ME time.
Is that too much to ask?"

-Margaret

Bathroom Break

(AT RISE: A small bathroom. No other areas of the house are visible.)

ANDREW: (Offstage.) Hey, Sarah. Have you seen Mom anywhere?

SARAH: (Offstage.) No. I've been looking for her, too. I need her to help me with my dress and hair for my date tonight.

ANDREW: (Offstage.) Ooooooh, Sarah's going out with Joey Figlio!

SARAH: (Offstage.) Yeah, and my hair is driving me crazy.

ANDREW: (Offstage.) You're not the only one. Watch out! Crazy hair lady comin' through.

SARAH: (Offstage.) Don't joke about it. This is serious. I can't let Joey see me like this.

ANDREW: (Offstage.) Oh, come on. Joey Figlio is so full of himself anyway, I'm sure he'll hardly notice.

SARAH: (Offstage.) How dare you talk about him that way! He's a sensitive, caring person.

ANDREW: (Offstage.) Right. And I'm the richest guy on the planet.

SARAH: (Offstage.) Shut it, Andrew! What would you know? And what's so important that you need Mom?

ANDREW: (Offstage.) I need my jersey for tomorrow's game. I can't find it anywhere, and I need her to find it for me.

SARAH: (Offstage.) Have you checked the laundry?

ANDREW: (Offstage.) The what?

SARAH: (Offstage.) Laundry? You know...where the clothes get cleaned?

ANDREW: (Offstage.) I never knew there was a place like that. I just know Mom takes them and returns them clean and folded.

SARAH: (Offstage.) You're such a guy.

ANDREW: *(Offstage.)* Thanks. I know. *(Short pause.)* Has she folded your clothes today?

SARAH: *(Offstage.)* No.

ANDREW: *(Offstage.)* Ugh! My jersey better not be dirty! I've got to wear it to school tomorrow. I can't be smelling like a mildewy, sweat-drenched Sasquatch.

SARAH: *(Offstage.)* Hate to break it to ya, Bro, but it's a little late for that.

ANDREW: *(Offstage.)* Whatever. I gotta find Mom.

SARAH: *(Offstage.)* Not if I find her first.

(Andrew and Sarah are heard moving about offstage as they call for their mother.)

ANDREW: *(Offstage, calls.)* Mom!

SARAH: *(Offstage, calls.)* Mom! Where are you?!

ANDREW: *(Offstage, calls.)* Mom! Sarah's not important. I'm having a crisis right now!

SARAH: *(Offstage, calls.)* Mom! My life depends on you! Andrew is just being a typical, obnoxious teenage boy!

(As Sarah and Andrew continue to call out "Mom," Margaret hurriedly enters through the bathroom door. She quickly closes the door, locks it, puts her back to the door, and slides down to the floor. She waits until her kids' voices fade away.)

MARGARET: *(Sighs. To herself.)* Finally. A moment alone.

DAVE: *(Offstage, calls.)* Honey, I'm home! Is dinner ready? Honey? Honey, why is the table not set? I'm starving. And wait till you hear the stories about work today! You thought last week was bad? Whew! You ain't heard nothing yet. Honey? Andrew? Sarah? Have you seen your mother? Margaret, dear? *(Jiggles the bathroom door handle, calls.)* Andrew? Is that you in there? *(Short pause.)* You didn't fall asleep on the toilet again, did you? *(Pause.)* Sarah? Sarah, you don't need to spend that long getting ready. How many

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times have I told you that more layers of makeup will not make you any prettier? *(Pause.)* Margaret? You in there?

(Short pause.)

MARGARET: Yes, dear. I'll be out in a minute.

DAVE: *(Offstage.)* What are you doing in there?

MARGARET: What do you think I'm doing in here? *(Pause.)*

Dave jiggles the doorknob, opens the door, and enters. Annoyed.)

Ah, excuse me? I said, I was busy.

DAVE: No, you didn't. Besides, I knew you weren't really doing anything.

MARGARET: And why is that?

DAVE: Because you never use this bathroom.

MARGARET: How did you even get in here?

DAVE: Oh, the old pin trick. Everyone knows that one. Put the pin in the little hole, press, and turn. I keep one above the doorframe just in case.

MARGARET: Just in case what?

DAVE: I don't know. Emergencies...fire maybe. Or maybe someone slips in the shower and cracks their head open or they fall into the toilet and get stuck. You never know. Strange things can happen in the bathroom.

MARGARET: Okay. Good to know. Now, would you mind?

(Motions for him to leave.)

DAVE: Oh, sure. But, first, you need to hear the story from work today. It was so great! Except that I almost lost my job and—

MARGARET: Honey, I really just need a moment to—

[END OF FREEVIEW]