PLEASE BE AWARE THAT
THIS PLAY IS FULLY PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT

All plays, books, music and other materials published by Heartland Plays, Inc. are fully
protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries which
the United States has reciprocal relations including, but not limited to all countries covered by
the Pan-American Copyright Convention, The Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne
Convention. All rights to the plays and materials on our website are strictly reserved
including, and without limitation, professional and amateur performance rights; motion
pictures; public reading; radio and television broadcasting; audio and video recording and
reproduction of any type known or yet to be invented; information storage and retrieval
systems of any type known or yet to be invented; and the rights of translation into any and all
languages. No individual or organization whether amateur or stock may perform this or any
play published by Heartland Plays, Inc. without first obtaining advance permission from
Heartland Plays, Inc. and paying the appropriate fees including Royalties and Single-Use
Copyright fees. Heartland Plays, Inc. collects royalties on behalf of the Playwrights whose
plays it publishes. Unauthorized copying, transcribing or reproduction of this or any play or
excerpt, or storage or transmittal in any form and by any means whether known or yet to be
invented, is strictly forbidden except as provided by Agreement with Heartland Plays, Inc.
Any unauthorized use is a violation of copyright laws and will be prosecuted to the fullest
extent of the law.

FIVE SIMPLE RULES TO REMEMBER

1. DO take advantage of the free online perusal of our plays to help you make the best
choice for your particular needs or production.

2. DO enjoy the convenience of our online purchase application for performance rights
and single-use copyright.

3. DO understand that this play and all plays and materials on our website are controlled
by Heartland Plays, Inc. and fully protected by copyright.

4. DO NOT attempt in any way to copy, transcribe or reproduce this play by any means
or perform this play or use any play or material from our website without first
receiving permission from Heartland Plays, Inc. Any attempt to use this or any other
work without first obtaining permission is a violation of copyright and punishable by
law.

5. DO NOT rob this Author or any of the Authors we represent of their right to be paid
for the use of their property. It is a crime and it is wrong!
Stranger Interrupted

A Short Play By

Greg Freier

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
REPRODUCTION WITHOUT SPECIFIC WRITTEN PERMISSION PROHIBITED

Performance Rights Available Exclusively through
Heartland Plays, Inc. at heartlandplays.com
playsnow@heartlandplays.com
customer service: 406-431-7680

Copyright © 2016 by Greg Freier
Stranger Interrupted
by Greg Freier

CHARACTERS

SETH WECKSTEIN: 40’s. Speaks calmly unless noted.

EMILY HEDGES: 30’s.

SETTING

A studio apartment; the present
Stranger Interrupted
by Greg Freier

SETTING: A studio apartment. Center stage is a couch, with a coffee table in front. Two end tables sit on either end of the couch. A small kitchen table for two sits along the back wall, a window sits over it. Front door is stage right. A small kitchenette, with a bathroom door, is along the wall stage left.

AT RISE: SETH is seated on dining room table reading a magazine. He’s dressed in a rumbled suit, with tie loose at the neck. After a moment EMILY enters front door, she’s got a purse over one shoulder and a takeout bag in the opposite hand.

SETH
(Looks up) So that’s where you’ve been. Went to Ring-Rong’s for the Caterpillar Fungus Duck. Hope you brought home enough sauce.

EMILY
(Stops in her tracks) Who the hell are you and what are you doing in my apartment?

SETH
I thought it would be nice to meet you so I let myself in.

EMILY
Well let yourself right out of here before I call the cops.

SETH
(Removes a badge from his jacket) No need. I am a cop….Detective actually.

EMILY
I don’t care what you are. Get the hell out of my apartment.

SETH
(Get off the table and gestures towards the window) I’ve been watching you from across the way. We live on the same floor. That’s how I got to notice you.

He takes a step towards her.

EMILY
Don’t you come anywhere near me. I’ve got pepper spray in my purse and I know how to use it.
SETH
I know you do. I’ve seen you in action before. Very impressive.

EMILY
(Removes spray from purse) Your choice of eye. I’ve never missed yet.

SETH
(Beat) I’m not crazy if that makes you feel any safer.

EMILY
Of course it doesn’t make me feel any safer.

SETH
Seriously, I promise you, I’m the least craziest person I know.

EMILY
Then obviously you don’t get out much.

SETH
That’s true, I don’t. That’s kind of one of the reasons I came over here.

EMILY
Why, so you could stalk me face to face?

SETH
I’m not sure stalking is the right word.

EMILY
Seems like the right word from where I’m standing.

SETH
It’s a little too harsh if you ask me.

EMILY
Well I didn’t ask you. So would you please leave.

SETH
(Beat) Obsession. I think that would sane it up a tad, wouldn’t you agree?

EMILY
(Removes cell phone from purse) That’s it, cop or no cop, I’m calling the cops.

SETH
Just tell them Detective Weckstein is here when you get hold of somebody. They’ll know what to do.
EMILY
Of course they’ll know what to do. They’ll send a not-crazy cop over here and arrest you.

SETH
I’m afraid it doesn’t work that way.

EMILY
And why wouldn’t it work that way? It’s called breaking and entering.

SETH
(Removes a warrant from his coat pocket) Not when you have a warrant.

EMILY
A warrant for what? I haven’t done anything.

SETH
Of course you haven’t. I wouldn’t of needed a warrant if you had. I could’ve just met you when I arrested you.

EMILY
(Beat) This is all some kind of joke, isn’t it?

SETH
Why would it be a joke? I wanted to meet you. I got a warrant. That way it’s a legal meeting.

EMILY
Let me see that warrant?

SETH
(Hands her warrant) My pleasure.

EMILY
(Pause as she reads) And where exactly on here does it say the reason for the warrant.

SETH
(Holds out his hand) May I? (She hands him warrant.) Its right here…under all this legalese nonsense…

EMILY
(Reads where he points) What are kidding me? That’s not a legal reason for a warrant.

SETH
It is with our judge. He’s one of those hopeless romantic types.
I don’t care what he is, “Wanting to meet the beautiful woman across the street from me that’s on the same floor,” is not a legal reason for a warrant.

Sure it is. Otherwise I wouldn’t have this warrant.

(Beat) Get out.

I can’t.

Yes you can. The door’s right over there.

But if I did that, I’d be shirking my sworn duties. And I’m afraid I take this job very seriously.

But what you’re doing isn’t your job…it’s more like…legal harassment.

If I didn’t have the warrant then it might be considered harassment. But with a warrant it’s more like an unplanned date.

No it is not like an unplanned date. An unplanned date is where you meet someone that hasn’t broken into your apartment.

(Waves the warrant) Once again, I didn’t break in.

Yes you did. You just managed to do it legally.

Hence the reason it’s not breaking and entering.

(Beat) I’ve got brass knuckles in purse too, you know.

That’s okay. I’ve got a gun and a flask of chardonnay, so it kind of balances out.
EMILY
What kind of cop carries a flask of chardonnay?

SETH
(Shrugs) I didn’t want to show up empty handed in case this went well.

EMILY
Well it’s not going well, so get out.

SETH
(Removes flask from pocket) Wouldn’t you at least like a drink first?

EMILY
What I’d like is for you to get the hell out of here before my dinner gets cold.

SETH
Don’t mind me. I ate before I came over.

EMILY
How can I not mind you. You’re not supposed to be here.

SETH
You’re very beautiful when you get angry. Bet you didn’t know that.

EMILY
(Points pepper spray at him) All right, that’s it. Which eye? And be quick about it.

SETH
(Removes his gun and points it at her) You sure you want to do that? Pepper spray is only temporary, but a bullet can be forever.

EMILY
You don’t scare me.

SETH
(Beat; puts the gun away) You’re right. I wasn’t really going to shoot you. Would’ve been pointless to get the warrant if I was going to do that.

EMILY
I’m really going to spray you, you know.

SETH
But if you do that, it means I’m going to be here a tad longer than you want.

EMILY
You’ve already been here a tad longer than I wanted because I don’t want you here at all.
SETH
(Beat) You know what you got? Spunk. I like spunk. It’s the perfect complement to that anger beauty you’ve got there.

EMILY
(Beat) You’re not going to leave, are you?

SETH
Of course I am. I’ve got to be to work in the morning.

EMILY
I’m talking about right now.

SETH
Why would I want to leave now? We’re just getting to know each other.

EMILY
What in the hell is wrong with you?

SETH
Nothing that I’m aware of. Why do you ask?

EMILY
Because you’re an insane nut job, that’s why?

SETH
I don’t think that’s a clinical term. The nut job part that is. Insane is pretty clear, but it really doesn’t apply here.

EMILY
If it didn’t apply you wouldn’t be here.

SETH
I think the issue is my biological clock. I’m 42 and well…no kids yet.

EMILY
(Sarcastically) You don’t say?

SETH
And when I’m watching you for hours across the way through my high powered binoculars, I always think to myself, she looks like she has some pretty good childbearing hips over there.

EMILY
(Beat)m That’s it. Get out.
Have I offended you in some way?

You’ve offended me in every way.

Purely accidental, I assure you.

(Beat) You just don’t get this, do you?

It all seems pretty straight forward to me.

I’ll put it this way then. What is it going to take to get rid of you?

(Pause while he thinks) An act of God one would imagine.