

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!

Product Code A0824-SP

# 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](http://heartlandplays.com)  
[playsnow@heartlandplays.com](mailto: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**

*(Gets 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.

EMILY

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.

SETH

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

EMILY

*(Beat)* Get out.

SETH

I can't.

EMILY

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

SETH

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

EMILY

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

SETH

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

EMILY

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

SETH

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

EMILY

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

SETH

Hence the reason it's not breaking and entering.

EMILY

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

SETH

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.

SETH

Have I offended you in some way?

EMILY

You've offended me in every way.

SETH

Purely accidental, I assure you.

EMILY

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

SETH

It all seems pretty straight forward to me.

EMILY

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

SETH

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

**This is Not the End of the Play**  
**Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes**