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**Product Code A0845-SP**

# **Waiting for Jazz Fest**

**A 10-Minute Comedy**

**by**

**Ross Peter Nelson**

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# Waiting for Jazz Fest

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## **CHARACTERS**

2W / 2M

HIM *Male, early twenties, heading for JazzFest.*

HER *Female, early twenties, friend of HIM.*

VEE *Male, mid thirties. A kind of superhero.*

ESS *Female, mid thirties. A different kind.*

## **SETTING**

New Orleans, the fairgrounds outside Jazz Fest. (See note.)

## **TIME**

The present.

## **NOTES**

The play maybe localized to the performance region by substituting a different music festival for JazzFest (e.g., SXSW, Coachella) and city in place of New Orleans

## Waiting for Jazz Fest

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*(HIM and HER are outside the fairgrounds. They are displeased.)*

HER

I can't believe we had to drive around so long to find a spot.

HIM

Parking is always a bitch at Jazz Fest.

HER

I can't wait to get inside. I need a beer already.

HIM

Yeah.

HER

Wait, where are you going?

HIM

We need tickets.

HER

You didn't preorder?

HIM

I was busy.

HER

Oh god, look at that line.

HIM

It's not that bad.

HER

Are you kidding? It curves all the way around the grandstand!

HIM

We've got time, nothing even starts until eleven.

HER

You said you'd get the tickets.

HIM

I'm going to get them.

HER  
You said you'd have the tickets.

HIM  
I told you. I got busy.

HER  
We'll be waiting forever!

*(VEE and ESS step out from behind a tree. They wear homemade outfits, for example, VEE wears a T-shirt with a hand-drawn lightning bolt on it, hi-tops, and long johns. ESS wears hot pants over a pair of tights and a sports bra over a turtleneck. The elements may or may not match. On her feet are silver ballet slippers. VEE is humming his personal theme song.)*

VEE  
Here we are!

ESS  
You can go now.

HIM  
What are you talking about?

ESS  
We'll take your place.

VEE  
It's what we do.

ESS  
Waiting.

HER  
Why would you do that?

ESS  
We're very good at it.

ESS  
Waiting.

VEE  
Just go on about your lives. We'll wait here.

HIM  
I'm confused.

We can't do anything about that. VEE

Yes we can. ESS

What? VEE

Explain to him. ESS

What? VEE

What we do. ESS

I tried. I failed. VEE

Try again. ESS

(*To HIM.*) VEE  
We wait. For you.

HIM  
How can you wait for me when I'm already here?

VEE  
Not for you. For you.

ESS  
(*To HER.*)  
For you, too.

(*A pause.*)  
ESS  
This isn't helping.

VEE  
Shall we start over?

ESS  
Yes.

Hang on. VEE  
*(VEE and ESS disappear behind their tree. They wait.)*

Go ahead. Say it. VEE  
*(Yelling.)*

Say what? HER

What you said before. VEE

Something about waiting. HIM

This is stupid. HER

It's not like we have anything better to do. HIM

I don't remember what I said. HER

Yes you do. HIM

God. *(Beat.)* We'll be waiting forever. HER  
*(VEE and ESS come running out, with VEE humming his theme song.)*

We heard your plight and we've come to save you. VEE

Save us from what? HER

Waiting. ESS

And who are you, anyway? HIM

VEE

I'm Vee. That's Ess.

HER

And why are you wearing those ridiculous outfits?

ESS

We've been co-opted into pop culture as superheroes.

HER

Who were you before you were co-opted?

VEE

Vladimir.

ESS

Estrogen.

VEE

Really? I thought it was Estragon.

ESS

It's the 21<sup>st</sup> century -- I thought a little gender balance would be appropriate.

VEE

So you ... changed?

ESS

Didn't you notice?

VEE

No.

ESS

Not at all?

VEE

No.

ESS

*(Hands cupping her breasts.)*

What about these?

VEE

I thought they were turnips.

ESS

*(Posing to show off her legs.)*

And these?



VEE  
Didn't notice.

ESS  
Seriously?

VEE  
You always did have nice legs. *(Beat.)* Your feet on the other hand ... Phew!

ESS  
It wasn't me. It was those horrible boots.

VEE  
Still.

ESS  
But now I have these.  
*(ESS removes a ballet slipper and hands it to VEE. He sniffs.)*

VEE  
Much better.  
*(ESS offers the slipper to HER and HIM.)*

HER  
No thanks.

HIM  
I'm not into that particular fetish.

VEE  
Well, you know what they say.

ESS  
When life hands you a fetish, make fettuccine.

VEE  
I thought it was cannoli.

ESS  
Fettuccine.  
*(ESS puts her slipper back on.)*

HIM  
So if you're superheroes, what exactly do you do?

We wait.	VEE
For you.	ESS
You mean, in our place?	HER
Yes!	VEE
It's a service.	ESS
Like AirBnB?	HER
Except we come to you.	ESS
Do you have an app?	HIM
We have a tree. ( <i>Beat.</i> ) And a turnip.	VEE
Two of them.	ESS
C'mon, lets go.	HER
Where?	HIM
I don't know.	HER
We'll lose our place in line.	HIM
They'll wait for us.	HER
Seriously? You trust those clowns?	HIM

HER  
Why not?

HIM  
Look at them. Those goofy outfits.

HER  
Actually, that's pretty tame by New Orleans standards. Remember last year? The guy with the hot pink lederhosen?

HIM  
Oh, all right. ... How much?

VEE  
Pardon?

HIM  
How much are you charging?

VEE  
Oh, there's no charge.

ESS  
We do it for free.

VEE  
We enjoy it.

ESS  
It gives us something to do.

HIM  
Oh ... OK.

HER  
C'mon.

*(They begin to walk away.)*

HER  
Wait. How will you contact us?

VEE  
Why should we contact you?

HER  
When the waiting is over.

ESS

That's never happened before.

HIM

She means when you get to the head of the line. Do you have a cell phone?

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