

**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 A1003-SP

The Fort

A short play by

Jon Jory

**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 © 2021 by Jon Jory

The Fort

by Jon Jory

CHARACTERS

3W / 2M

SUSIE; 20

DIME; 21

SUX; 19

CUPID; Ageless

BOB; 23

SET

A couple of chairs; a door

COSTUMES

Contemporary

RUNNING TIME

Approximately 15 minutes

MUSIC

Take your pick

The Fort

by Jon Jory

AT RISE:

A living room; a sofa, a mismatched chair, two yoga mats. Generally a mess. College students live here. SUX, a definitely alternative human is tearing strips of paper from a newspaper. DIME, a scary girl in an old, man's suit she got at Goodwill is reading "The Great Gatsby." SUSIE, who looks like the fifties version of our acceptable woman stands behind the couch eating a sandwich.

SUSIE

Anybody want me to get them a sandwich?

DIME

That's an interesting idea. I didn't know there still were sandwiches. I thought they died when pizza was invented.

SUSIE

Nope.

DIME

Would you like a sandwich, Sux?

SUX

Bread kills you.

DIME

Really?

SUX

Well-known fact. It clogs you up and then you explode. I do like olive bread but only because It's fun to pick out the olives with a blindfold on.

SUSIE

Would you say we were normal?

DIME

Absolutely.

SUX

Without a doubt.

DIME

America is a complete unmitigated mess. Everywhere on every level. This is a given. This being the case, it is normal to feel angry and alienated. The only thing to do when you are angry and alienated is go to college and read the *Great Gatsby*. Ergo, we are normal.

SUSIE

I actually feel hopeful.

SUX

No you don't.

SUSIE

Yes. I do. I believe that Zeus is testing us with Covid.

DIME

Did we run out of lightning bolts?

SUSIE

No, he still has lightning bolts but he ad his best bud, the God Chaos, thought Covid covered more ground. It's hard and even boring to hit millions of people with lightning bolts.

SUX

How are we doing?

SUSIE

Really well. Instead of being afraid of Covid we have hit on being afraid of each other which is healthier and more active.

DIME

Huh. It's so weird, Susie, that you are in a sense more normal that you're like a kind of pepper spray that blinds others to your deeply alienated personality.

SUSIE

I have simple needs. I want a condo with a western view and a superbly boring husband who works in some desperately boring industry, and we'll have a child who cries steadily from two A.M. to five and I'll make casseroles for us every evening.

SUX

What's a "casserole"?

SUSIE

I'm not sure.

DIME

That sounds like a hydrogen bomb of boredom.

SUSIE

In the midst of catastrophe, boredom is the only good.

DIME

A husband is an interesting idea. What would one do with a husband?

SUX

You would be able to study him in the wild as Jane Goodall studied chimpanzees.

DIME

What were the great Goodall's findings in her study?

SUX

That they made tools, are omnivorous, eat meat and fish gut termites with twigs.

SUSIE

How long did she study these chimpanzees?

SUX

Fifty-six years.

DIME

And that's all she found out?

There is a knock on the door.

SUX

We've been discovered.

SUSIE

Did we pay our rent?

DIME

You don't have to pay rent anymore.

SUX

Perhaps it's Covid.

SUSIE

Covid doesn't knock.

There is another knock.

SUX

Maybe it's Death in his Monk's robe carrying a scythe.

DIME

See, I never got that. About 150,000 people die each day on the planet. I mean, how does he get that done?

SUSIE

Maybe it's like all the Cinderella's at Disneyland. You only see one at a time but there are thousands of them.

SUX

Why have I never seen Death?

DIME

Well, I've never seen a Cinderella.

SUX

Good point.

Another knock.

SUSIE

So the question for our generation is, "Could anything good come in from the outside?"

SUX

I'd give that a No.

DIME

Well, there was that Seventh Day Adventist who came by about nine months ago. That was informative.

SUSIE

Information isn't necessarily a benefit— I thought we had decided against information.

SUX

What if it's Cupid?

DIME

I don't know historically if Cupid ever knocks.

SUSIE

It was a big knock.

SUX

Maybe it's a big cupid.

DIME

I'm thinking we should roll the dice on this one. While we are all incredibly fascinating to each other, I worry I am slowly turning to stone from the legs up and might possibly need stimulation.

SUX

Your legs?

DIME

No, those are beyond saving, I was thinking of my brain.

SUSIE

How much does a brain weigh?

DIME

Three pounds, I think, but over two pounds of it are devoted to zombie movies.

SUX

Shall we bring this to a vote?

SUSIE

Are we still a democracy?

DIME

I'm not sure. I've lost track.

SUX

Let's do one for George Clymer.

SUSIE

Who's George Clymer?

SUX

The most boring signer of The Declaration of Independence who sat quietly and doodled pictures of cats.

DIME

Let's definitely hold a vote for George. One, two three vote!

SUSIE

Wait. It should be a secret ballot.

DIME

We'll close our eyes.

SUSIE

If we close our eyes, how will we know what the vote was?

We'll say who we voted for.

DIME

Then it's not a secret ballot.

SUSIE

Democracy is so hard.

SUX

Just for a moment, let's pretend we're a fascist state that I'm the head of and I'll tell you how the vote turned out even though there was no vote.

SUSIE

Well, that is practical.

SUX

Two votes yes, one vote nay.

SUSIE

Who voted 'nay'?

DIME

I can't tell you, it's a secret ballot.

SUSIE

We could have a recount.

SUX

There are no ballots because we're a fascist state.

SUSIE

See, this is why anarchy is a good idea.

DIME

I'm going to let whoever it is in.

SUSIE

Why do you get to decide?

SUX

Because I'm the cutest.

SUSIE

*She opens the door. She
turns back.*

SUSIE, *Cont.*

It is Cupid.

SUX

Told you.

*CUPID enters. It is a big
guy wearing only a
diaper. He has wings and
carries a bow.*

CUPID

Hey.

ALL THREE WOMEN

Hey.

CUPID

I'm Cupid.

DIME

Are you the real Cupid?

CUPID

I'm as real as Cupid gets.

SUSIE

Did you come specifically to see us?

CUPID

No, I'm going door to door. Do you mind if I bring in my client?

SUX

Has he been vaccinated?

CUPID

Yes, he got the Venezuelan vaccine.

DIXIE

Seems a little dicey but what the hell.

CUPID

(Calling)

Come on in Bob.

BOB enters. He is young and wears a sportscoat and glasses.

CUPID, *Cont.*

This is Bob.

BOB

I'm Bob.

WOMEN

Hi Bob!

CUPID

In these troubled times when there are very few rescue dogs available, love is more important than ever. It binds the wounds inflicted by society and allows us to enjoy spaghetti which has very few positives. Are any of you young maidens currently gamboling in the meadows of affection? (*No reaction*) I'm taking that as a No. Your availability is a plus. Now, young maidens—

SUX

How do you define, 'young maidens'?

CUPID

Female.

SUX

That's a clarifier.

CUPID

Is there a young maiden present, who under propitious circumstances might give love a try?

SUSIE raises her hand.

CUPID, *Cont.*

Ah. Your name young maiden?

SUSIE

Susie.

CUPID

An excellent name for a love participant. (*To OTHER WOMEN*) And what are your names?

DIME

I'm Dime and she's Sux.

CUPID

I'm scrolling through my list of lovers and I am very sorry to say 'Dime and Sux' don't cut it.

DIME

It was ever thus.

CUPID

You're on, Bob, let's hear your pitch.

BOB

Hi, I'm Bob Bobalink, I was raised in the usual way without imagination or any desire to question perceived information. I don't really have ideas but fortunately they are optional. I do have desires and I hope, Susie, you might find them rather a kick in the ass. They are the same desires all young men have but I am very enthusiastic. I believe that I will make sufficient moola to create for us a lifestyle that includes grilling. I have to say I would enjoy children but I'm not particular where we get them. What is your favorite color, Susie?

SUSIE

Pink.

BOB

That is on my list Have you anything to add, Susie?

SUSIE

I would like divorce in the twelfth year.

CUPID

That is always in the contract. Well, shall we go?

SUX

Whoa, whoa! Don't you have to shoot them with an arrow?

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