

HOW TO GET FAMOUS IN THEATRE

A ten-minute comedy by
Karin Diann Williams

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SCENE 1

(THEO and AMY are children.)

AMY: I'm going to be an actress. *(Pause.)* What are you going to be?

(Theo thinks.)

Theo? Aren't you listening?

THEO: Yes.

AMY: Then why don't you answer?

THEO: I'm thinking

AMY: Don't think too long. Pretty soon you'll be grown up and then you'll get married and then you'll have kids and grandkids and then you'll get old and you'll die. *(Pause.)* Theo?

THEO: In a minute!

(Amy laughs.)

It's a big decision.

AMY: I'm going to be an actress, and I'm going to be famous. I'm going to wear a long red dress and walk down a long red carpet and win an award.

THEO: If you're going to be an actress, then I'll be a director.

AMY: Really?

THEO: You can be the star of my movie.

AMY: I'm not going to be in movies. I'm going to be in the theatre. The legitimate theatre.

THEO: Oh.

AMY: So you'll have to direct a play.

THEO: I've never seen a play.

AMY: Neither have I. But my Uncle Willy says the legitimate theatre is the scion of Wisdom and Poetry. He designed costumes for the musical version of *Civilization and its Discontents*.

THEO: Can I direct that one?

AMY: (*Shaking her head:*) That one bombed. It closed after tryouts in Philly.

SCENE 2

(Theo and Amy are 16. Theo enters waving a playbook.)

THEO: Amy, Amy! I've found it!

AMY: What?

THEO: The play I'm going to direct! It's important to find a good one, because our play is going to be a hit! It's going to run on Broadway for fifty years, and break the record set by Agatha Christie's *Mousetrap*!

AMY: Theo, slow down!

THEO: If were going to run for fifty years we've got to start rehearsing...we're already 16.

AMY: Where have you been?

THEO: I've been in the library, mostly...I figured I'd start at the beginning...the Greeks were heady, but a little dry...the Elizabethans had passion, but such simplistic themes...Shakespeare's language was electric...*Hamlet* definitely gave me pause, but I wanted a comedy, something that would make them laugh and cry...and it had to have a female lead worthy of the greatest actress to grace the boards since Eleanora Duse.

AMY: I hate to be the one to tell you, Theo, but Theatre is dead.

THEO: What?

AMY: And I've got a date tonight. Sorry.

THEO: Amy!

(Amy starts off.)

What about your Uncle Willy?

AMY: He's an aging Queen!

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(Theo runs after her with the script.)

THEO: But Amy, you have to take a look at this...it's got humor...it's got pathos...it's got socio-political overtones...

AMY: *Waiting for Godot?*

THEO: It's a sure thing

AMY: It's been done.

THEO: It has?

AMY: Godot came and went fifty years ago.

(She exits. Theo kicks the playbook across the stage.)

SCENE 3

(Theo and Amy are 18. They wear graduation caps.)

THEO: Congratulations, Amy. I heard you got into Yale.

(Amy nods.)

They've got a great school of Drama.

AMY: Really? I'm taking Pre Med. Or Business Administration. Where are you going to go, Theo?

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