

# ABBY DOES THE MASHED POTATO

---

A short dramedy by  
Scott Mullen

This script is for evaluation only. It may not be printed, photocopied or distributed digitally under any circumstances. Possession of this file does not grant the right to perform this play or any portion of it, or to use it for classroom study.

[www.youthplays.com](http://www.youthplays.com)  
[info@youthplays.com](mailto:info@youthplays.com)  
424-703-5315

*Abby Does the Mashed Potato* © 2017 Scott Mullen  
All rights reserved. ISBN 978-1-62088-719-6.

**Caution:** This play is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America, Canada, the British Commonwealth and all other countries of the copyright union and is subject to royalty for all performances including but not limited to professional, amateur, charity and classroom whether admission is charged or presented free of charge.

**Reservation of Rights:** This play is the property of the author and all rights for its use are strictly reserved and must be licensed by the author's representative, YouthPLAYS. This prohibition of unauthorized professional and amateur stage presentations extends also to motion pictures, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video and the rights of adaptation or translation into non-English languages.

**Performance Licensing and Royalty Payments:** Amateur and stock performance rights are administered exclusively by YouthPLAYS. No amateur, stock or educational theatre groups or individuals may perform this play without securing authorization and royalty arrangements in advance from YouthPLAYS. Required royalty fees for performing this play are available online at [www.YouthPLAYS.com](http://www.YouthPLAYS.com). Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Required royalties must be paid each time this play is performed and may not be transferred to any other performance entity. All licensing requests and inquiries should be addressed to YouthPLAYS.

**Author Credit:** All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisements and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line with no other accompanying written matter. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s) and the name of the author(s) may not be abbreviated or otherwise altered from the form in which it appears in this Play.

**Publisher Attribution:** All programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice:

*Produced by special arrangement with YouthPLAYS ([www.youthplays.com](http://www.youthplays.com)).*

**Prohibition of Unauthorized Copying:** Any unauthorized copying of this book or excerpts from this book, whether by photocopying, scanning, video recording or any other means, is strictly prohibited by law. This book may only be copied by licensed productions with the purchase of a photocopy license, or with explicit permission from YouthPLAYS.

**Trade Marks, Public Figures & Musical Works:** This play may contain references to brand names or public figures. All references are intended only as parody or other legal means of expression. This play may also contain suggestions for the performance of a musical work (either in part or in whole). YouthPLAYS has not obtained performing rights of these works unless explicitly noted. The direction of such works is only a playwright's suggestion, and the play producer should obtain such permissions on their own. The website for the U.S. copyright office is <http://www.copyright.gov>.

## COPYRIGHT RULES TO REMEMBER

1. To produce this play, you must receive prior written permission from YouthPLAYS and pay the required royalty.
2. You must pay a royalty each time the play is performed in the presence of audience members outside of the cast and crew. Royalties are due whether or not admission is charged, whether or not the play is presented for profit, for charity or for educational purposes, or whether or not anyone associated with the production is being paid.
3. No changes, including cuts or additions, are permitted to the script without written prior permission from YouthPLAYS.
4. Do not copy this book or any part of it without written permission from YouthPLAYS.
5. Credit to the author and YouthPLAYS is required on all programs and other promotional items associated with this play's performance.

When you pay royalties, you are recognizing the hard work that went into creating the play and making a statement that a play is something of value. We think this is important, and we hope that everyone will do the right thing, thus allowing playwrights to generate income and continue to create wonderful new works for the stage.

Plays are owned by the playwrights who wrote them. Violating a playwright's copyright is a very serious matter and violates both United States and international copyright law. Infringement is punishable by actual damages and attorneys' fees, statutory damages of up to \$150,000 per incident, and even possible criminal sanctions. **Infringement is theft. Don't do it.**

Have a question about copyright? Please contact us by email at [info@youthplays.com](mailto:info@youthplays.com) or by phone at 424-703-5315. When in doubt, please ask.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

ABBY, teen, energetic and friendly.

JACK, teen, a nice guy.

MEG, teen, not so nice.

---

*(A park. ABBY gleefully dances the mashed potato, without music; it's joyfully silly. JACK walks in, and circles her, puzzled.)*

**JACK:** Okay, I give up. What are you doing?

**ABBY:** I'm pretty sure it's the mashed potato.

**JACK:** The mashed potato.

**ABBY:** Yes.

**JACK:** In the middle of a park.

**ABBY:** It's amazingly fun.

**JACK:** Don't you need music for that?

**ABBY:** I wish I had music. You want to give me a beat?

**JACK:** No.

**ABBY:** Make some sounds with your mouth. Or slap your leg.

**JACK:** I'm not slapping my leg. Do I know you?

**ABBY:** I don't think so. Are you one of those snobby boys from Addison?

**JACK:** Not too snobby. I'm talking to you. Wow, that sounded snobby. Sorry.

*(Abby continues to dance.)*

It does look like good exercise.

**ABBY:** I guess. Mostly it just makes me happy.

**JACK:** Can you stop? It's making me dizzy.

**ABBY:** No.

**JACK:** No?

**ABBY:** I can't stop. I've been cursed.

**JACK:** With dancing?

**ABBY:** The mashed potato.

**JACK:** There is no such thing as a dancing curse.

**ABBY:** And yet I literally cannot stop dancing.

**JACK:** This is weird.

**ABBY:** It was a guy. He was cute, and he was doing something called the Charleston. It looked like fun.

**JACK:** Did he sneeze on you? Infect you with dancing?

**ABBY:** No. It can only be passed to someone who takes it willingly.

**JACK:** Are you trying to pass it to me?

**ABBY:** Not at all. I'm having a blast.

**JACK:** How long have you been dancing?

**ABBY:** Five hours.

**JACK:** You must be tired.

**ABBY:** Surprisingly not.

**JACK:** You are breathing a little heavily.

**ABBY:** I think it's the talking. Dancing and talking at the same time is hard. But I feel great.

**JACK:** There's a bench over there.

**ABBY:** I think if I sat down, I'd still be dancing. No one wants to see that.

*(She continues to dance.)*

**JACK:** I'm not going to take the curse from you.

**ABBY:** That's fine.

**JACK:** You can't dance forever.

**ABBY:** It feels like I can.

**JACK:** You going to go home tonight, and dance during dinner?

**ABBY:** Maybe. My mom's pretty cool. And it's just us.

**JACK:** How are you going to sleep?

**ABBY:** Hmmm. I didn't think that far ahead. But for now, I'm dancing. And for the first time in a while, I feel happy. My name's Abby.

**JACK:** Jack.

**ABBY:** One reason I took the curse was that I was curious what my dance was. Apparently everyone has their dance, and you automatically know how to do it. The guy said the girl who passed it to him was doing the Watusi.

**JACK:** I don't know what that is.

**ABBY:** He said she was pretty amazing at it. So I took the curse.

**JACK:** And then...

**ABBY:** He ran away.

**JACK:** Ouch.

**ABBY:** I didn't care. Because I'm dancing. And I'm happy. I don't have to worry about school, or grades.

**JACK:** But that can't go on forever.

**ABBY:** No.

**JACK:** So how do I know, if you give it me, that you won't run away?

**ABBY:** I'm not going to give it to you.

**JACK:** Cute girl, passing me a curse, then fleeing.

**ABBY:** You think I'm cute?

**JACK:** I wonder what my dance is.

**ABBY:** Apparently it says something about the inner you.

**JACK:** You're dancing the mashed potato.

**ABBY:** Well, I do like to cook. And eat. But I think it's just a silly fun dance. And inside, I'm silly and fun, even if I don't always show it. I'm the mashed potato. It would be interesting to see what your dance is.

**JACK:** What if it's twerking?

**ABBY:** That would be sad for you.

**JACK:** But the curse is fun.

**ABBY:** So fun.

**JACK:** And I'd learn something about myself. Which is scary.

**ABBY:** Right? But also cool.

**JACK:** I am more than just a snobby private school kid.

**ABBY:** If you say so.

**JACK:** You'd need to promise to take it back if I don't like it.

**ABBY:** I want it back.

**JACK:** So? Are you ready to give it up?

**ABBY:** I guess I could use a break.

**JACK:** Cool. How do we do this?

**ABBY:** Just touch me. And want it.

*(Jack moves toward her.)*

**JACK:** I still don't really believe this.

**ABBY:** Want it.

*(Jack touches her on the arm. He immediately starts dancing the twist. Abby immediately stops dancing.)*



**JACK:** Wow. This is amazing!

**ABBY:** I told you.

**JACK:** What am I doing?

**ABBY:** I'm pretty sure it's the twist.

**JACK:** I don't know how to do the twist!

**ABBY:** You do now.

**JACK:** The twist. My dance is the twist! What does that mean?

**ABBY:** Maybe you change your mind a lot.

**JACK:** I don't think I do. Wait—maybe I do. Hey—I just did!

**ABBY:** The dance knows. Though I'm not sure what it says about you as a person.

**JACK:** Maybe it says I'm steady. That even though I'm moving a lot, I'm really still here. In the same spot.

**ABBY:** I'll buy that.

**JACK:** It's fun! It feels like I'm good at it.

**ABBY:** You are. It's probably going to give you great abs.

**JACK:** It feels like I could do this for hours. I want to dance for hours. I really like this. You think I'll still be able to do the twist? After you take the curse back? Try the mashed potato.

*(Abby tries. She's terrible.)*

**ABBY:** No. It's gone.

**JACK:** Well that's sad.

*(Abby takes a step back. Woozy.)*

Are you okay?

**ABBY:** I just feel tired all of a sudden.

**JACK:** You were dancing for a long time.

**ABBY:** I feel sick. Oh no. I don't want it back.

**JACK:** What?

**ABBY:** I don't. I can't. When I was doing it, it was great, but now... My head hurts. No wonder he ran away. Oh no. What have I done to you?

**JACK:** I feel fine.

**ABBY:** It is a curse.

**JACK:** I feel happy. I'm having fun.

**ABBY:** You can't do this forever.

**JACK:** Maybe I can.

**ABBY:** I can't do that to you. I'll take it back.

**JACK:** Wait—are you just trying to trick me into giving it back?

**ABBY:** No! I don't want it. Not anymore.

**JACK:** But you'd take it.

**ABBY:** Yes.

**JACK:** For me.

**ABBY:** I would.

**JACK:** Wow.

*(They look at each other. Jack continues to twist.)*

What are we going to do?

**ABBY:** I don't know.

*(Jack suddenly starts waving, while continuing to dance.)*

Who are you waving at?

Want to read the entire script? Order a perusal copy today!

© Scott Mullen

This is a perusal copy only.

Absolutely no printing, copying/distribution or performance permitted.