

"The Science Of Murder"-(Sample Pages).

(FRANKLIN and JANET enter arguing.)

FRANKLIN

I really don't care what is supposed to happen.

JANET

If you ever really cared for me you would willingly go through with this experiment and shut-

(She sees the audience and suddenly turns perky)

Hi!

FRANKLIN

What in the heck have you gotten me into now?

(FRANKLIN turns and starts to head off stage. As soon as he exits, he enters, walking backwards, with IDIOT right in his face.)

MINGUS

(Heading over to chairs)

Thank you Idiot. Now if you would please escort the couple to their respective chairs.

FRANKLIN

(Pointing to a chair)

What the heck is that?

JANET

Just go with it, dear.

FRANKLIN

That looks like an electric chair! And I do not want to sit in an electric chair!

(Looks to audience and smiles)

Dear.

MINGUS

(To Idiot)

Strap him in!

(IDIOT grabs FRANKLIN, shoves him in a chair, straps him down and then gags him.)

The Science Of Murder - Sample Pages

JANET

Just try to enjoy yourself, dear.

FRANKLIN

(Growling through the gag)

Enjoy myself? You're a psycho!

MINGUS

Our experiment tonight deals with what you see before you. The case of man versus woman. The eternal battle of the sexes. It is, I believe, the one untapped mystery that science has yet to truly delve into seriously. That, ladies and gentlemen, all changes... Tonight!

(To JANET)

Janet. May I call you Janet?

JANET

Why, of course Mr. Mingus.

MINGUS

Doctor! Mingus.

JANET

Sorry. Doctor.

MINGUS

Janet. Tell our audience about your relationship with your husband.

JANET

Franklin and I have been married for seven years. At first, everything was magical. We shared our hopes and dreams and were open about everything. Eventually, Franklin started to become a very bitter man. Everything I've ever read said that we should be in a better place than we are right now. We should be sharing more, caring more and loving more. Franklin has become extremely closed off to me and quite Frankly... Just a real super snippy person.

FRANKLIN

I wonder why! Get me out of here! This is frigging crazy!

The Science Of Murder - Sample Pages

JANET

Do this for us, dear. Don't you want the relationship we had when we were first married.

FRANKLIN

I don't want to be anywhere near you crazy people right now! Let me go!

MINGUS

(To audience)

This couple is going through what a lot of couples go through. One half is becoming distant and selfish. While the other wants nothing more than to rekindle the fire and passion they had for each other at the start of their journey together. Now, you may be asking yourself, how did I stumble upon such a perfect example of a marriage in distress?

(Beat)

Idiot!

IDIOT

Yes master?

MINGUS

Ask the question!

IDIOT

(Dryly)

Why, Doctor Mingus... How, may I ask, did you stumble upon such a perfect example of a marriage in distress?

MINGUS

Thank you for bringing up such a perfect question, Idiot. I went to the one source where I knew for sure that I would find someone desperate enough for a change in their life. I went to the one place where women search for answers to life's questions of love, desire and intimacy.

(Beat)

Janet answered an ad I placed in Cosmopolitan magazine.

FRANKLIN

Cosmo! You got me here because of an ad in Cosmo? I told you I didn't want you reading that garbage!

MINGUS

(To FRANKLIN)

While I agree that Cosmopolitan is mainly garbage meant to make women feel inadequate about themselves and their relationships... It seemed to be the ideal avenue to acquire such perfect subjects like your wife and yourself. One must always know where to find an appropriate audience for one's trade. Let us begin the experiment! Idiot!

(IDIOT puts the helmets on both JANET and FRANKLIN.)

JANET

I'm so excited!

FRANKLIN

Help me!

(BABETTE enters.)

BABETTE

Looks like some kinky stuff going on in here!

MINGUS

(Upset)

Can I help you?

BABETTE

I'm looking for Patrice. You know where she is?

MINGUS

Patrice? The maid? You are seriously asking where my maid is in the middle of the most important experiment of our time?

BABETTE

Yep. So, where is she?

MINGUS

(Screaming)

Patrice!

The Science Of Murder - Sample Pages

PATRICE

(From off stage)

I'm coming master. Coming master.

(PATRICE enters)

Yes master?

(She sees BABETTE)

Babette! You came!

BABETTE

Of course I came. You invited me didn't you?

PATRICE

Well yes. But you never accept my invitations. I assumed when I didn't hear back from you-

MINGUS

Hello! Big experiment about to take place! Can we have the reunion some other time?

PATRICE

I'm sorry master.

(Very quickly)

This is my sister, Babette. I haven't seen her for such a long time and since you were talking about this being a defining moment in the history of science, I invited her to come and watch. I didn't think she would actually-

MINGUS

I don't care Patrice! Just grab your sister and step off to the side so we may proceed with the experiment!

(PATRICE and BABETTE stand aside.)

JANET

Are we starting the experiment now? Can I pull the switch?

MINGUS

Shut up! Thank you.

(To audience)

Our case tonight deals with men and women. It's about the eternal battle of the sexes! Tonight, I shall

The Science Of Murder - Sample Pages

take this man and this woman and, before your very eyes, transpose their personalities!

JANET

(To audience)

That means flip-flop!

MINGUS

Of course that means flip-flop!

JANET

I just thought that some of these people might not know what transpose-

MINGUS

Please!

JANET

Sorry. Continue.

FRANKLIN

Help!

MINGUS

You heard me right! Tonight I shall trans-

(Looks to JANET)

I shall flip-flop these two individual personalities! In doing so, the man, in a sense, becomes the woman. He will have all of her perspective on life, love and existence as a whole. Vice versa, the woman will take on the man's wants, desires and dreams. They will become her own. In that way, each will understand what the other has been feeling all of this time. Man and woman will finally understand each other for the first time ever!

FRANKLIN

You have got to be kidding me! Get me out of this stupid chair now!

JANET

(To FRANKLIN)

This will help us out so much dear. Just give it a chance.

(To MINGUS)

The Science Of Murder - Sample Pages

Go right ahead doctor. We're ready whenever you are.

FRANKLIN

Shut up! We are not ready at all! This is freaking crazy! Get me out of here now!

MINGUS

Since we are all ready, let us begin! Idiot!

IDIOT

Yes master?

MINGUS

(To audience)

I love this part.

(To IDIOT)

Prepare to pull the switch!

IDIOT

I am prepared to pull the switch!

MINGUS

Idiot! Pull the switch!