

2 TRUE FOR 4

A Short Play by

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Version as of 10/30/13

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CHARACTERS

Susan Berg 27-30, Caucasian, highly educated, attractive

Alter-Ego Susan (In script as AES): Male, Caucasian, the voice of her father, tells it like he sees it (seen and heard only by Susan)

George Benson 35+, African-American, good-looking, combination of educated and streetwise

Alter-ego George (in script as AEG): Female, African-American, the voice of his mother, tells it like she sees it (seen and heard only by George)

SETTING

George's office in a South Los Angeles storefront community agency. It is a bare room with a steel desk, a simple desk chair, a metal conference table and 4 bare chairs, and a metal file cabinet. There is one door to the office downstage right.

TIME

The Present

NOTE

All Alter-Ego lines are given either as asides or directly to the relevant character, but not in interactive dialog.

SCENE 1. George's office.

(Lights up on George seated at his desk poring over a file. AEG is standing behind him. There is a knock at the door.)

GEORGE

Come in.

AEG

Christ, what now!

(Susan enters, AES trailing behind her)

SUSAN

Mr. Benson? I'm Susan Berg. We spoke on the phone yesterday?

(George gets up to greet her.)

AES

Damn! He's actually attractive! One more problem I'm going to have to deal with.

GEORGE

Oh yes, Miss Berg. You're from USC, right?

AEG

I don't care where she's from. This one's trouble.

SUSAN

Yes, I'm here about the CORO internship.

AES

Are you crazy? In this place?

(George motions her to the table)

GEORGE

Please have a seat.

(He joins her)

AEG

This won't take long.

GEORGE

This is the first time I've had a CORO intern. It should be interesting.

AEG

Yeah, free labor. Perfect for your budget.

SUSAN

It's my first too. I have to do five different ones: business, government, labor, media, and non-profits, like your organization.

GEORGE

Well, I'm very curious. Why choose this place?

AES

Yeah, what was wrong with the Spielberg foundation?

AEG

And she's white, for God's sake!

SUSAN

Well, Mr. Benson, my Masters program is in Social Psychology. So far, it's been pretty academic. I think I need to see the real world, if that's where my career is going to go.

AES

Hey, hold on a minute. I thought we were still deciding on your career.

GEORGE

Please, call me George.

SUSAN

Thank you, George. (*Batting her eyelashes*) And you can call me Susan.

AEG

I know how to fix this! Ask her if she's ever dealt with ex-cons before.

GEORGE

Well, Susan, this certainly is the real world. You know, we have a lot of tough people that show up here.

AES

Great! He's given you an out.

SUSAN

Well, it's true that I had somewhat of a sheltered childhood. But USC has students from all walks of life...

AES

God, how I hated those parties!

SUSAN

... and I've learned how to get along with everyone.

GEORGE

Good! I certainly hope that includes the boss.

AEG

George! Don't start!

AES

Susan, haven't I warned you about guys like this?

SUSAN

(flirtatiously) I don't think I'd have any trouble getting along with you, George.

AEG

I told you, I told you!

AES

Are you listening to me?

GEORGE

Of course, I'm speaking on a purely professional level.

AES and AEG together:

Yeah, right!

SUSAN

Of course. And since this is my first internship, I would hope that you can take the time to show me what it means to be totally ... professional.

AEG

You gonna let her just wrap you around her finger like that?

GEORGE

I'm usually pretty busy but I can definitely make some time for you. There's a lot I need to show you.

AES

Now I'm really worried!

AEG

Now I'm really worried!

AES and AEG together

Why can't you find someone of our own kind?

SUSAN

So are you making me a formal offer?

GEORGE

I guess there's some paperwork I have to fill out with CORO, but I'm hoping you will want to do your internship here.

(AEG and AES are in anguish.)

SUSAN

It's a shame it's only six weeks.

GEORGE

I'm sure that if everything works out to be mutually ... satisfying, I can arrange a ... position later on.

AES

And what do you think he means by “satisfying”?

AEG

And what do you think he means by “position”?

SUSAN

That would be great! I'm looking forward to a great experience here.

GEORGE

I'm hopeful it will meet your expectations. When do you think you can start?

AEG

What's the rush?

SUSAN

I think Monday morning would work.

GEORGE

Monday morning it is. We start at 10. Plan on meeting with me the first hour. I can brief you about our goals here and we can decide what your responsibilities might be.

AES

There he goes again!

SUSAN

I do have one concern.

AEG

I've got more than one.

GEORGE

What's that?

SUSAN

There is so much I need to learn about your operation. I just think that a more extensive meeting to prepare me properly might be in order.

GEORGE

Well, there is a lot going on here all day.

SUSAN

Oh, I am always willing to put in extra time after working hours.

AEG

Look out!

GEORGE

Well, if it is okay with you, we could spend some prep time this weekend.

AES and AEG together:

I knew it!

SUSAN

That would be great. I could even be available for an informal dinner meeting if you like.

GEORGE

Shall we say 7PM Saturday?

SUSAN

That works for me.

GEORGE

I have your address here; I'll just pick you up.

SUSAN

I look forward to it.

(They stand and shake hands and he holds hers a little longer than necessary. Susan moves towards the door.)

AEG

Is this how I brought you up?

AES

What happened to my little girl? (Susan tosses her hair defiantly and exits)

(George looks at the door, makes a fist and punches the air as he says:)

GEORGE

Yes!

LIGHTS OUT

THE END