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HIDDEN MESSAGES

by Damon Lockwood

EXTRACT

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HIDDEN MESSAGES

a short, one act play
for high school students

HIDDEN MESSAGES

SYNOPSIS

Someone has been leaving a teenage girl (CARRIE) secret admirer messages in a different Shakespeare play each week in the school library. On the day he was to reveal himself, a series of unforeseen wacky occurrences seem to prevent this revelation from ever happening.

SET

At the easiest the set can be a bookcase scattered with books, and some simple school chairs that get brought on and off for one scene.

Anything on top of that is up to the designer's discretion.

CHARACTER LIST

CARRIE JENKINS

ELISE (ELLY) ALLISON, Carrie's best friend

MR. HOLDSTROM, (very) elderly History teacher

MITCH

DEVON

SUSIE

MISS HORDIN, exuberant Physical Education teacher

JO

TEXTING TONY

MRS. BENSBY, in touch with nature Physics teacher.

MS. JENKINS, a truly pleasant English Literature teacher.

HIDDEN MESSAGES

CARRIE and ELISE (ELLY) enter.

ELLY: I still don't believe you.

CARRIE: It's the truth.

ELLY: Every Thursday, for the entire term, some 'secret admirer' has been leaving hidden love messages for you in a different Shakespeare play every lunchtime?

CARRIE: This is what I'm telling you.

ELLY: I *can't* believe it.

CARRIE: Pretty wild, huh?

ELLY: No, I mean you're so ugly, who would fall in love with you?

CARRIE: Hey lady, you know what this is? (*she holds up her three middle fingers*) It's that in brackets (*she drops the two outside fingers, to remain flipping the bird at her friend*).

ELLY: Ha! Why didn't you tell me earlier?

CARRIE: I figured you wouldn't get that the two outside fingers were the brackets –

ELLY: Not that you moron, the secret message in the play thing!

CARRIE: I guess I kinda didn't believe it myself, you know?

ELLY: Sure.

CARRIE: But the messages just kept coming!

ELLY: How do you know which play the message is in?

CARRIE: There's always one book pushed further out than the rest.

ELLY: And in his last message he said that he'd reveal his identity today?

CARRIE: YES! And of course today is the day that old Mrs. Bitchface Jenkins–

ELLY: *MS* Bitchface Jenkins, thank you.

CARRIE: - beg your pardon, *MS* Bitchface Jenkins has told everyone to take out a

Shakespeare play so they can review it over the weekend!

ELLY: What a mess.

CARRIE: He'll be scared off, or there won't be any books left for him to leave a message in,
or I won't recognise him, or, or –

ELLY: I hear you.

CARRIE: And I've been looking forward to today so much!

ELLY: It is pretty cool.

CARRIE: Aint it! And just sort of so... romantic, or something, you know?

ELLY: Were any of the messages sexy?

CARRIE: A proper lady would never tell.

ELLY: Hey bitch, what's this *(she holds up her three middle fingers)*?

CARRIE: You think that's going to make me tell you?

ELLY: Yes.

CARRIE: You're right. There was this one super sexy message where –

MR. HOLDSTROM: *(off)* ELISE!

ELLY: Oh great, my favourite deaf dinosaur.

MR. HOLDSTROM enters. He is incredibly old, hobbles along with the help of a walking stick and has a huge hearing aid protruding out from the side of his head.

CARRIE and ELLY: Hello Mr. Holdstrom.

MR. HOLDSTROM: Elsie! Why weren't you in my class this morning?!

ELLY: I've told you, Mr. Holdstrom, I've told you like seven times, I've transferred out of
your class.

MR. HOLDSTROM: You forgot your pass! What are you talking about, you stupid girl, you
don't need a pass to get into my history lesson!

ELLY: No, Mr. Holdstrom, I've transferred out of history to geography.

MR. HOLDSTROM: *(straining to hear)* I met my wife at a fairground if you must
know, and yes it was a very pleasant evening, despite the unfortunate burrito incident