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Playwriting (9th and 10th Grades)
First Place
Snow Canyon High School
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My Dead Husband: A Comedy in One Act

CHARACTERS

OLIVIA JONES, A homely woman with short brown hair.

OFFICER PAT, A plump, jolly person with a comb over and giant glasses.

GEORGE, A young man with long hair and a “rock and role” look.

Scene 1

At RISE:

(The living room of the Jones's. The room looks old and worn-out, as if it has not been cleaned up in a long time. There is an old worn-out couch and a very ugly rug in the center of the stage. A very tacky coffee table is far Stage R, with a telephone on it. There is a single door that leads to outside center stage. There is a sliding door Stage L. leading to the main bedroom and two single doors Stage R, one leading to the bathroom and one leading to the closet. OLIVIA is by the coffee table with the phone dialing a number.)

OLIVIA

(Into the phone)

Yes hello, police department? . . . I'd like to report a murder . . .

(very confused)

Uh, I um, I guess I can hold . . .

(She begins to look angry and then yells at the phone as if scolding a real person)

Hello! I'm still on the phone . . . Yes, you'd better be sorry and frankly I don't think that calling me “another ugly middle aged wife who killed her husband to get even” was very appropriate.

Yes, you will send an officer over right this very minute. Good day to you too!

(Hangs up the phone annoyed)

(OLIVIA sits on the couch and waits a few minutes for a

police officer to come. She gets bored so she starts to hum and then eventually breaks out into “I Believe I Can Fly.” She goes all out but is extremely terrible. Then there is a hard knock on the door.)

OFFICER PAT
(From behind the door)

This is the Police. Open up!

(OLIVIA abruptly stops singing and runs for the door and throws it open. The out-of-shape OFFICER PAT rolls into the room with a gun drawn.)

Ma’am, get on the ground!

OFFICER PAT
(OLIVIA immediately falls like a ton of bricks and stays low.)

Um, Officer, might I ask why we are on the floor?

OFFICER PAT
(Holds his finger up to his mouth and tells her to shush)
Where is he hiding?

Where is who hiding?

OFFICER PAT
The Murderer.

OLIVIA
(Jumps up annoyed)
I don’t know! If I knew that I wouldn’t have had one of you come over.

OFFICER PAT
(Ungracefully gets up and then falls back on his back, struggles to get back up and eventually does)
You mean that the murderer is not in the house?

OLIVIA
No! Whatever would give you that idea?

OFFICER PAT
Well, from out there it sounded like someone was dying.

OLIVIA

(very nervously)

Oh, that was my. . .Swedish record that I was playing.

OFFICER PAT

(looks at OLIVIA as if she is insane)

Oh, very interesting choice of music.

OLIVIA

Can we just get down to business?

OFFICER PAT

Oh, yes. So who is dead?

OLIVIA

Rex Jones.

OFFICER PAT

(very quickly)

Never heard of him.

OLIVIA

He's my husband.

OFFICER PAT

And who are you?

(flips through his notebook to try to find her name)

OLIVIA

(very frustrated)

My name is Olivia, my husband is dead, and I'd like you to help me figure out who did it and how.

OFFICER PAT

(as if what he is about to say is the funniest thing in the world)

I think it was Professor Green in the conservatory

(OLIVIA looks confused)

Oh, not a fan of board game humor huh? Guys back at the office love it.

OLIVIA

Please will you just help me solve this mystery and then leave.

OFFICER PAT

(hurt)

Alright.

OLIVIA

And be quick about it

OFFICER PAT

(as if a psychic)

Well, I think it seems obvious that the culprit entered in through the door, and he grabbed a chair and smashed him over the head with it. After that, the murderer smashed in your husband's head with a lamp.

OLIVIA

(looks amazed)

And who did it?

OFFICER PAT

(thinks for a while, looks almost stumped, then says)

Laverl Jenson.

OLIVIA

How do you know all of this?

OFFICER PAT

Oh, I don't. I was just listing things in this room, except Laverl Jenson, she's my mom. I should call her.

OLIVIA

Officer, would you please get on the subject at hand.

OFFICER PAT

And what is that?

OLIVIA

MY HUSBAND'S DEATH!

OFFICER PAT

Alright. I will find out who murdered your husband starting out by looking at the scene of the crime!

(walks behind the closet door on stage R, and then stays there)

PAT

That's the closet.

OFFICER PAT

(very confident)

Oh, trust me. I knew this. I was just getting acclimated to my surroundings.

OLIVIA

(like trying to get a child to come out of a hiding place)

Officer, will you please come out of the closet?

OFFICER PAT

(like a child)

No.

OLIVIA

(in a stern voice)

Officer, come out of the closet. No one will think any less of you.

OFFICER PAT

(in a whiny voice)

The world isn't ready to accept me yet.

OLIVIA

Come out of the closet, now!

OFFICER PAT

Alright, fine. I will.

(nervously walks out of the closet)

OK, now I feel so much better. If you would be so kind, would you please point me to the scene of the crime?

OLIVIA

(points to the sliding doors)

It is in the bedroom, but be careful. I could only stand being in there for a few minutes before I felt sick to my stomach.

OFFICER PAT

Please ma'am. I am a professional. I think I can handle a little. . .

(opens the door and peeks in a little but then slams it shut)

You know what? Better yet, why don't you just describe to me the scene of the crime?

(motions for OLIVIA to sit on the couch)

OLIVIA

Alright. I walked into my room. I came home from work early because I knew that my husband was sick, and he probably needed a little TLC.

OFFICER PAT

Oh, some tough laxatives and crapping.

OLIVIA
(disgusted)

No. Tender love and care.

OFFICER PAT

Oh, right. Sorry. Continue.

OLIVIA
When I walked in, I saw him lying on the floor. I called for him, but he didn't answer. Then I noticed that the lamp was broken and there was blood on the carpet and that the window was broken also. So I immediately called the police.

OFFICER PAT
(looking confused)

Man. This is a tough one. I wonder how the murderer entered your room.

OLIVIA
I guess through the window.

OFFICER PAT
Wow! How in the world did you figure that out?

OLIVIA
(annoyed)
Because the window was broken.

OFFICER PAT
(sad)
Oh, yes, of course. I'm really sorry. I'm not very good at this sort of thing.

OLIVIA
Oh no, you're fine.

OFFICER PAT
(stands up and walks away as if feeling awkward)

OLIVIA
(confused)
I said you were fine.

OFFICER PAT

(says as if debating the idea in his own head)

Well, Miss Jones, I'm flattered. But I just don't think this would work. I mean, I really don't want to be another girl's rebound.

OLIVIA

(disgusted)

Officer, I think this is highly inappropriate!

OFFICER PAT

You're right. You offered and the only polite thing to do would be to accept.

(starts to move towards her with his lips out as if to kiss her)

OLIVIA

Officer!

(GEORGE walks in yawning through the bathroom door stage R. OLIVIA turns around, sees him and lets out a nervous scream.)

(Curtain falls)

Scene 2

At RISE:

(OLIVIA is standing in between OFFICER PAT and GEORGE stage R. OLIVIA looks very nervous, and GEORGE looks confused. OFFICER PAT is standing next to OLIVIA with his hands

cupping his ears. GEORGE'S clothes are all wrinkled, and he has lipstick on his cheek and collar.)

OFFICER PAT
(Rubbing his ears and slowly pulling away from OLIVIA)

Ouch! Don't do that anymore!

OLIVIA

Geo. . .

(stops herself)

REX!!!

(runs and hugs George)

OFFICER PAT
Rex? Are you trying to tell me that this is your dead husband?

OLIVIA

Yes, he is!

GEORGE
(looks confused but then OLIVIA gives him a hard look)

Yes, I'm her husband.

OFFICER PAT

Then who was the dead body?

OLIVIA

Yes, what dead body?

(gives GEORGE a look as if saying, please play along)

GEORGE
(nervous but slowly getting with the program)

Uh, what dead body?

OLIVIA

I saw your dead body in our room. Wasn't that you?

GEORGE
(looking frustrated)

That wasn't a dead body, you moron! Those were our tan pillows under the blanket! I forgot to make the bed this morning.

OFFICER PAT

What about the blood, the broken lamp, and the broken window?

GEORGE

Well, when I got out of bed this morning, the lamp was in the way. She had moved it again. I tripped over it and it fell into the window. Glass flew everywhere, and I stepped on a shard which made my foot bleed and that explains the blood.

OLIVIA

(grabs GEORGE's arm)

Look Rex. I'm sorry. I just thought. . .

GEORGE

No you didn't think, Olivia. You see, that's the problem. You never think.

(pulls away and walks towards the couch)

Officer, I'm very sorry for the inconvenience, but we will no longer be in need of your service. You can go home.

OFFICER PAT

(begins to walk out but then turns to GEORGE)

Wait a second. Why do you have lipstick on your cheek and collar?

GEORGE

(mutters under his breath)

Shut up porky.

OFFICER PAT

And why were you hiding in the bathroom?

OLIVIA

(looks at GEORGE as if their plan is ruined but then gets the look on her face as if she just got an idea)

YOU WERE CHEATING ON ME WEREN'T YOU!

GEORGE

(looks confused)

No I wasn't.

(OLIVIA slaps him in the face)

I mean, yes I am, and what of it?

OFFICER PAT

Wait a second. Let me look in your bedroom again.

(begins to walk towards the bedroom but is blocked off by GEORGE and OLIVIA)

OLIVIA

(nervously)

You really don't need to do that!

GEORGE

Yea. We're fine. We have this entire thing sorted out. She's unattractive, and I cheated on her.
(OLIVIA gives GEORGE a very dirty look, and GEORGE gives her a look that says, "well what else was I supposed to say?")

OFFICER PAT

Something doesn't add up here. You came home early, and yet you were wearing slippers.

OLIVIA

(looks down)

So?

OFFICER PAT

I just doubt that you would go into your room and get your slippers after you found your husband dead, and if you had I'm guessing you would have seen the tan pillows under the blanket.

GEORGE

She keeps them by the door.

OFFICER PAT

(pulls GEORGE's collar towards him)

And this lipstick matches exactly the same lipstick that your wife is wearing.

OLIVIA

So they sold more than one of this color.

OFFICER PAT

I'm sure that they did, but that's not the thing that is confusing to me.

GEORGE

Well, then, what is?

OFFICER PAT

(grabs a picture from the coffee table)

That is not you in this picture.

OLIVIA

(to GEORGE)

You idiot. I told you to wait until I said you could come out?

OFFICER PAT

So, I'm guessing that you

(points to OLIVIA)

Were the one who stayed home from work "sick" and instead of sleeping, you and

(turns to GEORGE)

my band are still going to make it over here were having a little hanky panky in the bedroom.

GEORGE

Why, that is ridiculous!

OFFICER PAT

I'm not finished. Then your husband came home early hoping to help his poor little wife into good health, and he saw you doing the horizontal tango.

OLIVIA

That is extremely inappropriate.

OFFICER PAT

Wait, there's more. Your husband got angry and threatened to keep your friend here, what's your name son?

GEORGE

George.

OLIVIA

(hits GEORGE in the back of the head)

Don't tell him your name.

OFFICER PAT

I'm guessing he threatened to kill George, and George got scared, jumped out of the bed and knocked over the lamp, which broke the window. Rex came chasing after George but Olivia jumped out of bed, grabbed a gun and wait for it

(turns to OLIVIA dramatically)

and shot him.

GEORGE

(whispers to OLIVIA)

He's good.

OFFICER PAT

And I am guessing that our little George friend tried to sneak out the window but Olivia stopped him, telling him that the neighbors would see. So, instead, she had him hide in the bathroom while she called the police to report the so called "murder."

(EVERYONE sits there stunned but OLIVIA breaks the silence)

OLIVIA

It was all his idea!

(turns to GEORGE)

GEORGE

She's a liar.

OLIVIA

No, I'm serious. Stop him before he kills again.

OFFICER PAT

(walks towards GEORGE)

I'm afraid I'm going to have to take you in.

GEORGE

(pulls out a gun and points it at the cop)

I'm afraid I can't let you do that.

OLIVIA

Smooth thinking babe.

GEORGE

(turns to OLIVIA)

And you, you two timing no good person. I'm going to kill you too.

(GEORGE looks like he's about to fire but the OLIVIA turns off the light switch. Audience can hear a scramble for the gun and then two shots fired. Lights come up to see OFFICER PAT and GEORGE dead on the floor. OLIVIA is hold the gun. She then sets it down, walks towards the coffee table, picks up the phone and dials a number.)

OLIVIA

(into the phone)

Hello police. I'd like to report a murder. . . Yes, I can hold.

(Curtain falls)