

[Title Page used for stage and screen scripts]

[Note that all text in stage is in 12 point Courier (Courier New, Courier Final Draft, etc.); no italics or bold face--underline for emphasis]

A STAGE SCRIPT

a play in one scene

by

Stephan Fechit

based on the play "This Question of Format"

by

Buzz McLaughlin

September 1, 2004

Copyright © 2009
by Stephan Fechit

1234 "A" Street
San Marcos, TX 78666
512-000-0000
stephanfetchit@notmail.net

CHARACTERS

CAROL, 28

RICHARD, 23

TIME

The present, late afternoon

PLACE

Carol's cramped and cluttered Literary Manager's office at an established theater on Theatre Row, New York City

Scripts are stacked on the desk and floor. File cabinets and bookshelves line the walls along with theater posters and memorabilia. There's one small window. The room has the feel of a non-nonsense, active place where a lot of work gets done on a daily basis.

[A Character/Time/Place page is used for stage scripts, not for screen scripts]

[This format is for stage scripts]

Scene I-1: Carol Fixes Richard's Messy Format

(CAROL is sitting at her computer. She is mumbling to herself as

RICHARD enters, quietly)

[Alternate for External Directions]

CAROL is sitting at her computer.
She is mumbling to herself as

RICHARD enters, quietly

RICHARD

How's it going, Carol? You don't sound so good.

CAROL

No, I'm not. I've been messing with Word, but haven't figured out how to get it to work for formatting a play script.

RICHARD

Yeah, Billionaire Bill and his guys don't make it easy to make plays, right?

CAROL

Yeah.

RICHARD

I know it's weird for me to offer, but maybe I could give it a try on a script -- sort of a "shake-down cruise". Might even help us get our conflicts ... resolved ...

(RICHARD takes the mouse from Carol and pokes around for a few seconds)

So you're really making a template for writing plays, eh?

CAROL

Trying to ...

RICHARD

It's these format styles you want, right? Character, --

(CAROL points to the computer screen)

CAROL

(reading from the screen)

-- dialog, scene heading, end, title, contact info, internal and external stage directions, action ...

RICHARD

Hey, you can finish my sentences. Powerful stuff. Speaking of action: will this get us back together and on track?

(MORE)

(CAROL doesn't take the bait)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

So, you're not into ... action?

CAROL

Richard, stop it! You need me ... you need to get this done!

RICHARD

Okay, okay ...

CAROL

It's pretty much finished ... You'll need to add parentheses around stage directions, check when a line is continued, make sure that pages don't run over. Don't forget to change the triple dots for a pause -- under "Tools", "AutoCorrect". Change to three periods instead of the Microsoft little dots.

(Saves the file onto a flash drive)

If you'll only pay attention and use it! Hope it's all there when you try to use it!

RICHARD

I bet you've got it all taken care of.

CAROL

Right. So you can play around with it! But use it and ... stick to the standard format, please? Instead of screwing around trying to change everything to suit your weird perspective on artistic freedom. Okay?

RICHARD

Yep. Scout's honor.

CAROL

Now, Richard, get out of here and go write a play that will make some money for both of us!

RICHARD

You owe me one.

CAROL

Owe you one! Owe you one what?

RICHARD

Relax, Carol. If you can sell a script for me, I'll write it. And thanks for fiddlin' with my ... uh, helping with my format!

(CAROL glares as RICHARD closes the door)

THE END