

AN ATMOSPHERE TO PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY SANDWICH CONVERTOR

By Lavinia Roberts

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SYNOPSIS: Geeks Jamie and Dominique are competing to win the school's science fair. Dominique accuses Jamie of being a creative-less caveman; Jamie accuses Dominique of being a hi-tech heretic. Yet, the dissimilar duo manage to form a friendship and even a potential working relationship when Viola Whittaker wins the science fair with her classic baking soda and vinegar volcano.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

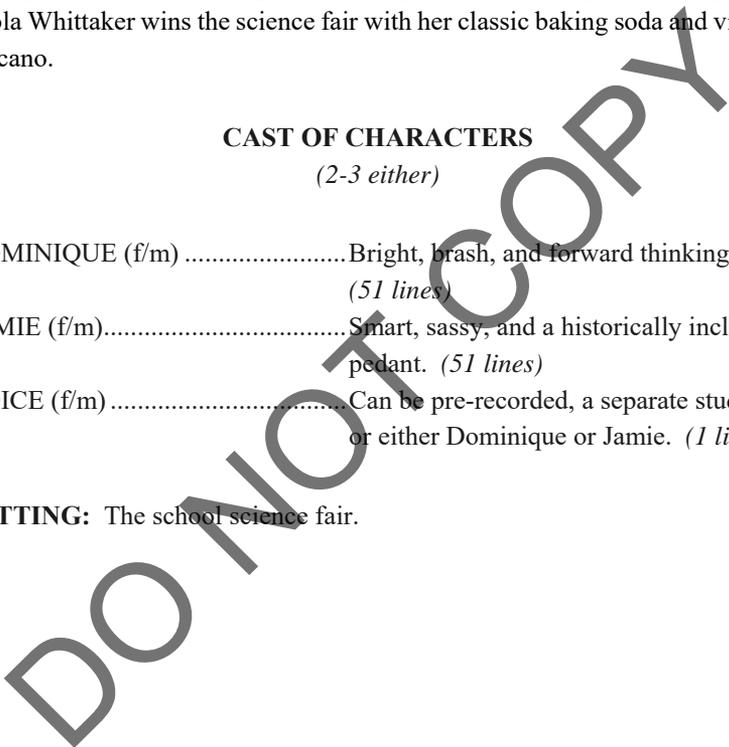
(2-3 either)

DOMINIQUE (f/m) Bright, brash, and forward thinking.
(51 lines)

JAMIE (f/m)..... Smart, sassy, and a historically inclined
pedant. *(51 lines)*

VOICE (f/m) Can be pre-recorded, a separate student,
or either Dominique or Jamie. *(1 line)*

SETTING: The school science fair.



AT RISE: *DOMINIQUE is pacing nervously, waiting for the results.*

JAMIE: Why are you here, Dominique? The school science fair is for emerging scientists, not simpletons!

DOMINIQUE: That doesn't account for why you are here then either, Jamie!

JAMIE: I will ignore your attempt to provoke me Dominique. If you were actually a real scientist, you would have used some deductive reasoning by now and deduced who is the obvious winner of the science fair. As in me!

DOMINIQUE: I don't concur with your hypothesis Jamie. My analysis predicts otherwise.

JAMIE: The research is in and the data has been evaluated. I am the winner.

DOMINIQUE: The judges haven't announced the winner yet. Your assertions are all unproved conjecture!

JAMIE: What could be more electrifying, shocking, a greater jolt of brilliance than my very chic poster board display on the history of electricity?

DOMINIQUE: The invention of electricity was pretty awesome.

JAMIE: I know.

DOMINIQUE: Say, 200 years ago. I'm pretty sure Benjamin Franklin would have shared your enthusiasm for electricity. Back when he invented it. While he was alive.

JAMIE: If you read my display you would see that even the Egyptians had an interest in electricity, and the Greek scientist Thales of Miletus was the earliest known individual to really research electricity.

DOMINIQUE: That was all thousands of years ago! The scientists of our age shouldn't be looking back, but forward into the future! Scientists should be fervently fearless! Be fantastically farsighted! Be futuristically fanciful!

JAMIE: We learn from the past.

DOMINIQUE: The winner of the science fair should have vision! Be hip, happening, hopping! Be creative, chic, cool! Into the new, the now, the next!

JAMIE: Did you see all the glitter I used on my lightning bolts? That's pretty hip, happening, and hopping, right?

DOMINIQUE: That's why there is my atmosphere to peanut butter and jelly sandwich converter. This innovative invention is the way of the future!

JAMIE: A what?

DOMINIQUE: Atmosphere to peanut butter and jelly sandwich converter. This machine absorbs the necessary elements needed to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, from the surrounding air, and on a biomolecular level, restructures them to form a perfect peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

JAMIE: Oh really? Can I make a sandwich?

DOMINIQUE: Well, I'm still in the preliminary phases of the converter. Getting the patent. Tweaking a few things here and there...figuring out the design...aesthetic, surface things really...

JAMIE: It looks like all you have of your, whatever, is only a poster and there isn't even any glitter on it!

DOMINIQUE: Changing the elements found in the surrounding atmosphere into peanut butter and jelly sandwiches is a little more complicated than I expected.

JAMIE: It's not science! It's hocus pocus!

DOMINIQUE: I'm daring to dream big at least! Not still chiseling away at the stone wheel!

JAMIE: What are you implying?

DOMINIQUE: Just use some deductive reasoning and figure it out, Neanderthal!

JAMIE: You hi-tech heretic!

DOMINIQUE: Uncreative caveman!

JAMIE: Futuristic fool!

DOMINIQUE: Backwards buffoon!

JAMIE: Wait a minute, be quiet! They are announcing the winner!

Both are quiet and cross their fingers anxiously.

VOICE: *(Over intercom.)* And the grand prize winner of the annual science fair is: Viola Whittaker! Congratulations Ms. Whittaker.

DOMINIQUE: Viola Whittaker?

JAMIE: She isn't even into science.

DOMINIQUE: Yeah, she's really artsy though. What did she do?

JAMIE: She built that giant volcano.

DOMINIQUE: That all the lava came out of? That was cool.

JAMIE: I think it was some kind of chemical reaction with vinegar and baking soda.

DOMINIQUE: The baking soda is a base and the vinegar is an acid. So they react together to form a carbonic acid, which is unstable and breaks apart, to water and carbon dioxide, which creates all the fizzing as it escapes the solution.

JAMIE: Yeah, you can read all that on her poster. It has a lot more glitter than mine actually.

DOMINIQUE: Yeah, all that red glitter outlining the flames is cool. And the metallic red paper on the letters is neat too.

JAMIE: Out of all the emerging botanists, geneticists, geographers, microbiologists and physicists...

DOMINIQUE: And inventors!

JAMIE: And ecologists, anthropologists, hydrologists, zoologists... they chose Viola Whittaker and her volcano.

DOMINIQUE: Seriously? A volcano?

JAMIE: Yeah, I guess an exploding volcano is way cooler than electricity.

DOMINIQUE: Are you kidding? Knowing about electricity is super important! And interesting! A whole lot more important and interesting than a paper maché volcano!

JAMIE: You think?

DOMINIQUE: Yeah! Everyone knows about volcanos. But the history of electricity. I didn't know any of that stuff about the Egyptians or that Greek guy.

JAMIE: Thales of Miletus. There's more. In 1729, Stephen Gray, discovered the principle of the conduction of electricity. And the British scientist, Michael Faraday, discovered the basic principles of electricity generation. And Luigi Galvani...

DOMINIQUE: Yeah, that's errr... really interesting stuff, and of great historical importance. I'm sure it will prove useful knowing that later on in life.

JAMIE: Really?

DOMINIQUE: Sure. If you were playing Jeopardy or Trivial Pursuit, something like that.

JAMIE: Thanks!

DOMINIQUE: Although, I suppose a real, tangible working volcano is better than make-believe machines that will probably never work.

JAMIE: At least yours is completely original! And new. That's the oldest science fair idea in the book. A paper maché volcano! Who hasn't seen that? It's cliché. People were making paper maché volcanoes for science fairs since prehistoric times!

DOMINIQUE: I second that hypothesis.

JAMIE: Besides, who knows, an atmosphere to peanut butter and jelly converter could happen!

DOMINIQUE: You think?

JAMIE: Of course! Most great minds in history weren't understood and made the impossible, possible. Think how miraculous it is that we have these lights on right now? Science turns magic into reality! We just need to dream big enough! And learn from the past! With a big enough idea, through research, and testing, we can do anything!

DOMINIQUE: I think there is way too much glitter on her poster.

JAMIE: You are so right. It's totally garish.

DOMINIQUE: Completely lacking in professionalism and good taste.

JAMIE: We didn't need gratuitous glitter on our projects to make them amazing.

DOMINIQUE: Precisely. There is going to be an award ceremony later right?

JAMIE: I think she gets a ribbon that says, "First Place." And a certificate.

DOMINIQUE: And a badge that says, "Science Fair Winner."

JAMIE: Who would want to wear a "Science Fair Winner" badge anyways? That is so not cool. It would totally cover up my pocket protector!

DOMINIQUE: Yeah, who wants a "Science Fair Winner," badge?

JAMIE: Who are these judges anyways? What are their qualifications?

DOMINIQUE: One of them is Ms. Chen, the biology teacher. Ms. Konstantinidis, the chemistry teacher. And another one appears to be the principal.

JAMIE: Since when was Mr. Brocklehurst a scientist?

DOMINIQUE: Since never.

JAMIE: Really, there should be some standards!

DOMINIQUE: Is that Mr. Jindal?

JAMIE: It can't be... but he's the...

JAMIE and DOMINIQUE: Art teacher!

DOMINIQUE: What is an art teacher doing judging the science fair?

JAMIE: He never lets me use glitter in class.

DOMINIQUE: Clearly this is rigged.

JAMIE: Clearly!

DOMINIQUE: I am certain if this event was judged fairly by actual professionals in the sciences, then you would have won Jamie! What could be more “electrifying” than learning about the history of electricity? You brought a “jolt” of excitement to the science fair! I’m still in “shock” that you didn’t win! It’s “currently” still the best project in the school’s science fair!

JAMIE: No, no, no, I’m certain you would have won Dominique. Your vision for creating a popular culinary dish by converting the molecular make up in the surrounding atmosphere is genius. I mean, you could even end world hunger with an invention like that!

DOMINIQUE: Whoa! That’s true, I could!

JAMIE: Think about how ecologically sustainable it would be to have a machine that could feed the hungry using only molecules from the surrounding atmosphere? The atmosphere to peanut butter and jelly sandwich convertor would free up the use of farmland used for the growth of grain and peanuts. That farmland could then be reforested. Those forests would help reduce green gas emissions and save the ozone layer.

DOMINIQUE: So the atmosphere to peanut butter and jelly sandwich convertor, if it worked, could pretty much save the world.

JAMIE: Basically yes.

DOMINIQUE: Cool.

JAMIE: The atmosphere to peanut butter and jelly sandwich convertor is the way of the future.

DOMINIQUE: Well, you are a terrific tester!

JAMIE: You are an awesome analyst!

DOMINIQUE: You are a first-rate researcher!

JAMIE: You are an incomparable investigator!

DOMINIQUE: You are an exceptional experimenter!

JAMIE: Have you ever thought about making an electric peanut butter and jelly sandwich maker? Maybe, just as a stepping stone, a preliminary model working towards the atmosphere to peanut butter and jelly sandwich convertor?

DOMINIQUE: No, I haven't. But I can see that an electric peanut butter and jelly sandwich maker has lot of potential.

JAMIE: I might be able to help you there.

DOMINIQUE: Well, there is always next year's science fair...

JAMIE: So, are you doing anything after school today?

DOMINIQUE: Not currently.

JAMIE: Then let's build an electric peanut butter and jelly sandwich maker!

DOMINIQUE: Yeah!

They exit arm-in-arm.

THE END