

MARVIN AND JULIUS

TEN MINUTE PLAY

By **Steven Bergman**

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PUBLISHED BY

**HEUER PUBLISHING LLC
P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406
TOLL FREE (800) 950-7529 • FAX (319) 368-8011**

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SYNOPSIS: *Marvin and Julius* is a comedy about two kids on graduation day who are expressing their anxiety and excitement about going their separate ways. There is a twist, however. Marvin and Julius are guinea pigs! An "odd couple" style comedy for performers (and rodents) of all ages!

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(2 MEN)

MARVIN A guinea pig; sloppy.
JULIUS A guinea pig; neat, with a British accent.

TIME AND PLACE: Present day, in a college dorm room.

AT RISE:

Two large piles of clothing are on the stage floor. One pile looks distinctly neater than the other. All of a sudden, the neater pile starts to move mysteriously. Out of the pile stretches JULIUS, a very properly dressed guinea pig.

JULIUS: Ahh. What a glorious morning! Let's see, what time is it? The sun is at about 45°, partly cloudy sky - - mid-morning. Yes, yes, a nice day indeed . . . Oh, Marvin. Marvin, my boy, time to get up, man . . .

Out of the other pile stirs MARVIN, a much sloppier-looking guinea pig. He looks as if he has been partying hard the past evening.

MARVIN: Hmmm . . .

JULIUS: Marvin, dear boy. It is time for us to rise and start the day.

MARVIN: Hmmm . . .

JULIUS: Marvin, get up!

JULIUS throws an object of some sort at MARVIN.

MARVIN: Ow! Julius, what did you do that for?

JULIUS: Marvin, sleep time is done. You know we have always kept a disciplined schedule.

MARVIN: Aw, Julius, I was hanging out with the mice near the trash dump last night until 3 AM, so if you don't mind, I'm gonna try to catch some more shuteye.

MARVIN goes back to sleep. JULIUS gets up. He is dressed very nicely - - possibly a suit and tie, otherwise, some outfit to which he can add the necessary clothing items in order for him to seem very presentable. He sniffs around the room, going to a feeder. He nibbles at some of the food in the feeder, then goes over to the window. He is surprised by what he sees.

JULIUS: Marvin, get up! Get up, now!

MARVIN starts to stir.

MARVIN: Julius, I told you . . .

JULIUS: Marvin, this is an urgent matter. What day is it?

MARVIN: Uh . . .

JULIUS crawls over to MARVIN and starts slapping him.

JULIUS: Marvin! What day is it? What day is it?

MARVIN: Julius, stop! Stop! Okay, okay! I'm up, I'm up.

JULIUS: What day of the week is it??

MARVIN: I don't know, uh, I think it's Thursday. Yeah, that's it - - Thursday.

JULIUS: Thursday the what? The what, Marvin? Thursday, the what!!

MARVIN: Ow, you're hurting me. Uh, I think it's the twenty-third. Yeah, the twenty-third.

JULIUS: The twenty-third of May??

MARVIN: I guess so. What's gotten into you? Let go of me!

JULIUS starts doing some fast computation – semi-audible.

JULIUS: Let's see. Month five . . . day 23 . . . how many seasons? One, two, three . . . okay, fifteen. Oh my God - - it's today!

MARVIN: What are you talking about?

JULIUS: Marvin, today is Graduation Day!

MARVIN: Really? Today?

JULIUS: I'm absolutely sure of it. I've calculated the days since we got here on the first day of freshman year, and this is most positively graduation day.

MARVIN goes to the window.

MARVIN: Well, you could be right. There are certainly a lot more humans out there than usual today.

JULIUS joins him at the window.

JULIUS: Look over there, old chap. The humans have set up a large tent and some of them are hiding underneath it.

MARVIN: Okay, so let's say, for argument's sake, that it is Graduation Day. So what?

JULIUS: So what? Oh, my poor naïve friend. Do you remember the day our boys got us?

MARVIN: Sure. I may have a history of partying, but I'd never forget that most wonderful of days.

JULIUS: You had just been transferred to my store when the boys came looking for dorm pets.

MARVIN: I'll never forget how young they looked. Their first year of college . . .

JULIUS: I consider us so fortunate that they both wanted a pet. Of course, no cats or dogs are allowed in their rooms, so they settled on me.

MARVIN: And me, Julius. Me, too.

JULIUS: Of course, Marvin.

MARVIN: Now wait a minute. If today is Graduation Day, that means . . .

JULIUS: I'm afraid so, my friend. Goodbyes will be soon, and we will part ways forever.

MARVIN: NO!!!! (*MARVIN has an over-the-top breakdown.*) Julius, you can't leave me! I won't last! All that you've done for me over the past four years! How will I survive? All the times you saved me!

JULIUS: I know. But rest assured, dear friend, I will miss you as well. I will miss your snoring, your mess around the feeder, your lack of hygiene . . .

MARVIN: Shucks, Julius, that's real sweet of you and all, but we can't be separated! We've just been through so much. Remember during their sophomore year . . .

JULIUS: As if it was yesterday, Marvin. You decided to go after the pizza from four nights previous and got yourself into the trash bag . . .

MARVIN: But they never threw out the trash! I thought I would be in and out for sure before anything happened.

JULIUS: But alas, there you were, being tossed down the trash chute inside that bag. I had to make quite a racket to get my boy to go down to the bottom of the chute . . .

MARVIN: I did meet up with some nice spiders down there. They introduced me to some ants. We partied with them, and then, we had them for dinner.

A "Hannibal Lechter" laugh is recommended.

JULIUS: Did you want to be rescued or not?

MARVIN: Of course.

JULIUS: Well then, you're welcome.

MARVIN: Then there was the time that your boy had gone home during their junior year . . .

JULIUS: Ah yes! And your boy brought that girl into the room . . .

MARVIN: I thought they were having fun . . .

JULIUS: I bet they were, until you decided to join in . . .

MARVIN: Yep. She sure was cute. And she had the greatest . . .

JULIUS: You pig! Cut the editorial comments and stick with the story, Marvin.

MARVIN: Okay. Even though it was quite bumpy in the bed, I crawled under the covers and tried to join them . . .

JULIUS: And . . .

MARVIN: I know, I know. First, I almost got crushed by all the commotion, then when my boy saw that it was me under the covers, he tried to throw me out the window.

JULIUS: And . . .

MARVIN: And if you hadn't run and bit his ankle, I wouldn't be here today. Feel better?

JULIUS: I just want to feel appreciated - - sniff.

MARVIN: Now who's overacting?

JULIUS: You know what, Marvin?

MARVIN: What?

JULIUS: I am going to miss you.

MARVIN: Thanks, pal . . . Julius?

JULIUS: Yes?

MARVIN: It doesn't have to be this way, you know.

JULIUS: What do you mean?

MARVIN: Us. You and me. We don't have to be separated like our boys will be.

JULIUS: Marvin . . . what are you suggesting?

MARVIN: We can escape.

JULIUS: What?

MARVIN: Escape. You know, get out of here. Together. That way, we can always be there for each other.

JULIUS: And how are do you suggest we do that?

MARVIN: Well, all we have to do is hide in the trash again.

JULIUS: Are you crazy?

MARVIN: This time I'm not. We get in the trash bag and throw some garbage over ourselves. That way we won't be seen. Then, when the bag is thrown down the chute, we'll be free.

JULIUS: Do you really think this ridiculous idea will work?

MARVIN: It would've worked the last time if you hadn't come to get me.

JULIUS: Would've worked? You mean . . .

MARVIN: I was tired of the routine here, Julius. I've always wanted to see more of the world - - which is very difficult for guinea pigs like us. So even though I was going to miss you - - you are the closest guinea pig to family I have, I tried to get out of here. And it almost worked . . .

JULIUS: But Marvin, I thought you wanted saving! If only you had told me . . .

MARVIN: I didn't want to hurt your feelings. But this time, we can do it together. What do you say?

JULIUS: I don't know if I'm up for this. How will we eat?

MARVIN: There is food everywhere, my friend. It's a big world out there, full of garbage cans and restaurant alleys.

JULIUS: And we're not exactly imposing animals, Marvin. Handsome, yes, but imposing, no. How will we protect ourselves?

MARVIN: With both of us together, Julius, we'll survive. Our friendship has survived these past four years "quite handily," true?

JULIUS: I suppose you're right.

MARVIN: I know.

JULIUS: Hmm, well it could be very exciting, and we've only got another year or two to live . . .

MARVIN: So live, dammit!

JULIUS: Okay! Let's do it! *(They take a giant bag out of MARVIN's pile of stuff, and simulate getting both of themselves into it.)*
You're sure this is going to work?

MARVIN: Either way, it's going to be our first adventure after college.
Happy Graduation Day, Julius.

JULIUS: You, too, Marvin. Here we go . . .

Lights fade.

THE END

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