

THE RAIN PROBLEM

By Ryan Armstrong

Copyright © MMXVII by Ryan Armstrong, All rights reserved.

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Heuer Publishing LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Heuer Publishing LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Heuer Publishing LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Heuer Publishing LLC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Heuer Publishing LLC.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Heuer Publishing LLC.

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

THE RAIN PROBLEM

By Ryan Armstrong

SYNOPSIS: Two people with different views on life and the weather meet at a bus stop in the rain.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 males, 1 extra)

BILL LOMAIN (m)..... 40s-50s; *(44 lines)*
 TYSON (m) 20s-30s; *(42 lines)*
 YOUNG PERSON (m/f)..... 20s-30s; *(Non-speaking)*

DURATION: 10 minutes

SETTING: A bus stop on a rainy day.

TIME: Nearing 9 a.m.

COSTUMES

BILL LOMAIN wears a business suit and holds an umbrella. TYSON wears slacks or jeans with a button-down shirt, short or long sleeved, but unkempt somehow.

PROPS

- Suitcase with an umbrella inside
- Cell phone

AT START: *Lights up on BILL LOMAIN standing center with an open umbrella at a bus stop with a suitcase next to him. A beat before TYSON enters. He has no umbrella and also stands at the bus stop.*

MR. LOMAIN: Beautiful day, isn't it?

TYSON: It's wet.

MR. LOMAIN: Yes and exactly what we need.

TYSON: It's wet and cold.

MR. LOMAIN: The forecast called for it to be a bit chilly on account of the rain.

TYSON: It's wet and cold and the bus isn't on time.

MR. LOMAIN: True, some more time for us to enjoy the beautiful weather.

TYSON: What're you on, buddy?

MR. LOMAIN: Pardon? I didn't quite understand your question there.

TYSON: I said what're you taking? It's wet and miserable.

MR. LOMAIN: I suppose that is one way to look at it.

TYSON: That's the only way to look at it.

MR. LOMAIN: There are ways to gain a better perspective.

TYSON: Yeah? Like what? What could possibly give me a better perspective on a dreary and rainy day? A day that I'm completely soaked and headed off for eight hours of mind numbing work. What could give me a better perspective of that?

MR. LOMAIN: An umbrella.

TYSON: That's rich. An umbrella? An umbrella will solve all my problems?

MR. LOMAIN: I'm not sure if it will solve all of your problems –

TYSON: No? It won't get me a better job? It won't help with the rent – which I'm late on again. This magical umbrella won't solve the fight I'm having with my girlfriend? It won't give me piece of mind about all my student loans or the small fortune I have to pay for gas?

Silence.

MR. LOMAIN: Well... No.

TYSON: Thank you so very much for the suggestion, but I'm going to have to decline any further thought process that a stupid umbrella might solve problems I might have.

MR. LOMAIN: It will keep you dry.

TYSON: What was that?

MR. LOMAIN: You won't be wet. Or, as you put it 'soaked'. It will keep you dry.

TYSON: You think that will solve all my problems? Not being wet?

MR. LOMAIN: No, but you wouldn't be wet now and you could walk to the next bus stop. Maybe mull things over as you walk there.

TYSON: Mull things over?

MR. LOMAIN: Yes, it means to think things over, to –

TYSON: I know what it means.

MR. LOMAIN: Good! I figured you and an astute young fellow.

TYSON: Don't patronize me. How'd you figure that out? I'm standing here in the rain, waiting for a bus that's late.

MR. LOMAIN: Without an umbrella.

TYSON: Yes, of course! Without an umbrella! I don't even own an umbrella.

MR. LOMAIN: That is a shame. I didn't mean to imply as if I were patronizing you. You just struck me as an intellect – you stated you were once a student, thought-filled, maybe. Too busy to worry about the weather, perhaps?

TYSON: Perhaps. And with all due respect, I don't believe a walk to the next bus stop is going to cure anything.

MR. LOMAIN: Have you tried it before?

TYSON: Walked to the next bus stop? Yeah, I walk to bus stops all the time.

MR. LOMAIN: I meant have you just walked in the rain?

TYSON: Not unless I have to.

MR. LOMAIN: Of course. Being without an umbrella.

TYSON: Yes, being without an umbrella. I tend to not want to get soaked before going into work.

MR. LOMAIN: And, alas, here you are.

TYSON: Yes, here I am. Soaked. I'm sure my boss is going to love this. I blame it on the rain.

MR. LOMAIN: It's not as if you can control the weather.

TYSON: I'm sure he thinks I can. That maybe I wanted to come to work sopping wet. Such a pea-brain.

MR. LOMAIN: Did you?

TYSON: Excuse me? What're you getting at?

MR. LOMAIN: I don't mean to intrude, but –

TYSON: You have.

MR. LOMAIN: I don't mean to intrude, but your view of your employers' diminutive thinking skill suggests that maybe you wanted to come to work as you are.

TYSON: Why would I want to do that?

MR. LOMAIN: To prove a point, perhaps?

TYSON: Look, pal, I don't know where you get the nerve to think I'm trying sabotage my job, but you're wrong.

MR. LOMAIN: Am I? I believe you were the one who described it as mind numbing.

TYSON: It is! And my boss is a moron. Just waiting for the chance to fire me or write me up.

MR. LOMAIN: I hear what you're saying. I think they're all like that. Upper management.

TYSON: So, I'm not trying to get myself fired.

MR. LOMAIN: Who would want to get themselves fired?

TYSON: Exactly! I need a job. This job, right now.

MR. LOMAIN: No, you don't want to get fired. The job requires you to be presentable, but it's raining and you're all wet.

TYSON: Right! Now you see.

MR. LOMAIN: And you don't even own an umbrella.

TYSON: Right, I – er –

MR. LOMAIN: It seems to me the perfect solution to coming into work dry and presentable would be to own one of these. Because, you're not trying to prove a point, or anything.

TYSON: I get it. I'm subconsciously trying to get myself fired as a way out of this job I hate.

MR. LOMAIN: Carl Jung couldn't have put it better.

TYSON: It's just that I can't afford to lose this job, right now.

MR. LOMAIN: I see. That puts you in quite the pickle.

TYSON: Yeah, I just need to think things over. Kind of lost right now.

MR. LOMAIN: Tell you what, how about you take this umbrella and take a walk to the next bus stop. Mull things over.

TYSON: That's nice of you, but I couldn't do that. It's pouring. You'll get soaked, too.

MR. LOMAIN: I don't have to go to work today, and I don't mind the rain so much.

TYSON: I really couldn't. I'd feel bad.

MR. LOMAIN: If it makes you feel better, give me fifteen dollars and I'll give you this umbrella.

TYSON: All I have is a twenty.

MR. LOMAIN: And I have a five.

TYSON: You sure you don't mind?

MR. LOMAIN: Positive.

They exchange money for the umbrella.

TYSON: Thank you, mister...?

MR. LOMAIN: Lomain. Mr. Lomain.

TYSON: Really? Your first name isn't Willy, is it?

MR. LOMAIN: I go by Bill.

TYSON: Unbelievable. Mr. Bill Lomain, I'm Tyson. Thank you for the umbrella.

MR. LOMAIN: Not a problem, Tyson. Have a nice time mulling things over.

TYSON: You do the same. *(Exits.)*

MR. LOMAIN waits a beat before pulling out his cell phone to make a call.

MR. LOMAIN: *(On cell.)* Frank? Hi, it's Bill. Yeah, doing fine. I just sold another one. *(Opens his suitcase and pulls out another umbrella.)* Yeah, the forecast was right. Perfect weather for this. Like shooting fish in a barrel.

YOUNG PERSON enters without an umbrella and wet from the rain.

MR. LOMAIN: Frank, I'll have to call you back. I have another one. *(Hangs up. To YOUNG PERSON.)* Beautiful day, isn't it?

Lights fade to black.

THE END