

Till Beth Do Us Part

A comedy in two acts

By
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STORY OF THE PLAY

LULU: I have to marry Justin on Monday.

HANNAH: But this is Friday. Why the big rush?

LULU: Because Beth is going to marry him on Tuesday.

Thus begins Lulu's quest to outwit Beth, formerly her best friend, and to marry Justin. She hires a novice wedding consultant whose office is a tiny converted bathroom; she struggles against her mother who believes Justin is too wimpish for her daughter; and she declares that her bridesmaids keep secret her marriage plans—especially from Beth.

But the wedding is such a deep secret that even Justin doesn't hear about it, and he fails to show up. Lulu is left at the altar with no one to marry, and with the troubling thought that Beth has outwitted her and married Justin a day earlier, on Sunday.

It all turns out well for our heroine, of course, but not before she overcomes numerous obstacles: the hired florist goes bankrupt and does not show up, the jeweler insists that she buy the world's ugliest wedding ring, and the wedding cake has the words "Happy Birthday, Vern" written on it. Even all the chapels are booked, so her ceremony takes place in a bingo hall and is presided over by the building's janitor. Like the weddings the play spoofs, it's a recipe for laughter and tears.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Approx. 5 m, 9 w, 6 either, extras, doubling possible.)

HANNAH: Novice wedding consultant, in her early 20s.

LULU: Bride-to-be, about 20 years old.

WAITRESS: Waitress at The Hangout.

JUSTIN FITZGERALD: Groom-to-be, wears eyeglasses.

GAGE: Friend of Justin's, more laid-back.

HUNTER: Friend of Justin's, thinks of himself as a ladies' man.

ELIZABETH: Lulu's best friend.

MANAGER: *(Flexible.)* Manages The Hangout.

MRS. LATRICE LeBARON: Lulu's mother, a formidable, no-nonsense mother-of-the-bride.

MR. ALFRED LeBARON: Lulu's father.

THE FLORIST: *(Flexible.)* Helpful, but close to bankruptcy.

THE JEWELER: *(Flexible.)* Peddles an ugly ring.

JERRY OR JERRI: *(Flexible.)* Very busy photographer.

ARLIE: Friend of Lulu's, maid of honor, faints when excited.

JOELLE: Friend of Lulu's.

ABBY: Friend of Lulu's.

CAITLIN: Friend of Lulu's.

JANITOR: Manages the bingo parlor; serves as minister.

MRS./MR. ALSOP: *(Flexible.)* Forgetful motherly/fatherly owner of a bridal shop.

WEDDING GUESTS: Extras.

PIZZA PERSON: *(Flexible.)*

DOUBLING: The Manager may double as the Janitor; the Waitress, Hunter, and Gage may double as the Florist, Jeweler, and Photographer. The Waitress may also double as the Pizza Person. If you change the gender of a character, be sure to change all corresponding pronouns as well.

TIME: The present.
PLACE: Various locations.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1: Hannah's office; Friday.
Scene 2: The Hangout, a few hours earlier.
Scene 3: Hannah's office; back in the present.
Scene 4: Various places; Friday afternoon, Saturday, and Sunday.

ACT II

Scene 1: The wedding day, Monday, mid-morning.

SETTING

(See Props and Production Notes at end of script.)

Hannah's office: A tiny and cluttered office sits at stage right with a desk on an angle against the right wall so the audience cannot see the small bench behind it. A wooden chair and a very dusty soft chair are squeezed in front of it. A roll of toilet paper is visible, attached to the wall behind the desk. There is a bird cage with a [fake] bird in it.

The Hangout: At stage left; there are a few tables and chairs.

The "chapel": A bingo parlor substitutes as the church with a raised platform serving as the altar at stage left, the seating area at center, and a small storeroom used as the private bride's room at stage right. The aisle is downstage running from stage right to the altar at stage left. USC there is a long banner reading "Bingo Tonight." Patriotic red, white, and blue bunting is hung everywhere, and there is a single, leafless potted tree or a dead fern in view. In the room at right, Hannah's purse, a CD player, a box of tissues, a basket of red bingo tickets, and a few gift-wrapped wedding packages are on a table UPS. There is also a chair.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: Friday afternoon. HANNAH, wearing a second-hand business outfit, is feeding her bird in front of her desk.)

HANNAH: Here you are, Tweety-Pooh. Breakfast time. I hope you like popcorn. A man was feeding it to the pigeons in the park. As soon as he left, I fought off the birds and grabbed as much as I could. And now it's all yours. Of course, it may take a while for the scratches to heal where the birds attacked me. But at least you're eating. That's more than I can say for myself. Maybe you can eat better after I get a paycheck. Maybe we can both eat better after I get a paycheck.

(An out-of-breath LULU rushes in looking harried.)

LULU: Hi. I've got an emergency!

HANNAH: *(Turns and sees LULU and becomes tense.)* Oh! Well, I'd dial nine-one-one but I don't have a phone. And my cell isn't working because I haven't paid the bill. I'd drive you to the emergency room, but I've hocked my car. I'd carry you piggy-back, but I have a weak back.

LULU: Not that kind of emergency.

HANNAH: Oh. Well, there's a fire station a few blocks down the street.

LULU: Not that kind either.

HANNAH: What other kind of emergency is there?

LULU: I need to get married.

HANNAH: That's an emergency?

LULU: Yes! I have to marry Justin on Monday.

HANNAH: But this is Friday. What's the big rush?

LULU: Because Beth is going to marry him on Tuesday.

HANNAH: What? But that would be bigamy.

LULU: No. That would be backstabbing—by my very best friend, Beth.

HANNAH: Beth is your best friend?

LULU: Well, she is today. But she won't be next Tuesday—unless I marry Justin on Monday. That way, we'll be on our honeymoon on Tuesday.

HANNAH: You and Beth?

LULU: Me and Justin. Aren't you listening? So she couldn't marry him on Tuesday unless she knew where we were honeymooning.

HANNAH: And where would that be?

LULU: I don't know. And if I don't know, she can't know. So will you marry us?

HANNAH: I'm not a justice of the peace.

LULU: No, no. I'm looking for a wedding consultant.

HANNAH: (*Overly happy.*) Oh, well, you've come to the right place. I'm a wedding consultant.

LULU: I know. I was trying to find the police station to have her arrested.

HANNAH: Who? Why?

LULU: Beth—for robbery.

HANNAH: Robbery?

LULU: For stealing my boyfriend. But I saw your sign outside first. So I decided to outwit her—and marry Justin before she can marry him. So. Monday. Wedding. Can you do it?

HANNAH: Can I do it? (*Confidently.*) Can a duck whistle?

LULU: I don't know.

HANNAH: (*Losing her confidence.*) Oh, well, actually, I don't know either. But I do know weddings. Please. Have a seat. (*Tries to pull a chair closer to her desk for LULU, but there is no room for it, so she struggles.*) If I can get this chair to cooperate. (*Knocks it over.*) It doesn't want to cooperate.

LULU: Thanks, but I'll stand. I feel safer this way.

HANNAH: Fine. But I'll sit. (*SHE clumsily makes her way behind the desk, but keeps banging her knees against the desk and bench.*) Oops! Ouch, ouch! Sorry, sorry. I think I'll stand also.

LULU: Can we get down to business? I'm in a hurry here.

HANNAH: Business? Yes, of course. Business. All I need is a pencil. (*Looks over her cluttered desk.*) I know I had a pencil a little while ago.

End of Freeview

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