

# LOW TECH



A NEW COMEDY BY

JEFF FOLSCHINSKY

## Low Tech

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Low Tech

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## **Low Tech Cast Breakdown**

Allegra Marcos: female, late 20s - early 30s; spokesperson for High Tech International and the face of their new product line. A lonely girl despite her constant connection to a large audience via the high tech products she sells.

Zeus: male, 20s - 40s; The embodiment of the interface of High Tech International's new operating system. A robot consciousness turned constant companion of Allegra's.

Jerry Hatchet/Consumer: early - mid 30s; VP of Publicity at High Tech International who gladly sacrifices the health of an employee for the good of the Company.

William Wall/Consumer: male, 40s; President of High Tech International; the genius behind the technology and the idiot behind the business.

Gracy/Priscilla Personovich/Consumer: female, 30s; the patient Personal Assistant to William Wall and the strangely unsettling Therapist at Happy Hills Sanitarium.

Margaret/Consumer: female, late 20s - late 30s; Allegra's best friend. Has an unhealthy relationship with her religion and chocolate.

Doctor Andy/Maxilmillian Von Strasberg/Consumer: male, 30s - 40s; an incompetent doctor with mommy issues and the intimidating vaguely-German lawyer hired to convict Allegra.

Jonathan Jensen/Consumer: male, late 20s - 30s; Allegra's lawyer and possible love interest.

Judge Slam Master/Security Guard/Consumer: male, 40s; ex-wrestling star turned judge and a security guard for High Tech International.

\*Please Note: ALL actors except for Allegra and Zeus will function as a part of the Consumers, a kind of Greek chorus that comments on the story as it unfolds and participates as a synchronized group.

**ACT ONE - SCENE ONE**

AT RISE: Lights come up to a dark stage. Slowly cell phones and other various electronic devices appear all over the stage. Each one begins to make a noise, random at first but then begin to come together in a single rhythm. They stop for a brief second and then make a single sound reminiscent of an orchestra tuning up. They then begin to play an electronic waltz. As the music starts people appear all over the stage holding cell phones and P.D.A. devices. They begin to waltz with these devices. Just after the waltz starts ALLEGRA MARCOS, stops waltzing with her device and comes to the front of the stage.

ALLEGRA

Welcome to High Tech International.

CONSUMERS

Hosanna, hosanna! We thank the bringers of information, who bring us out of the darkness and into the light of illumination.

ALLEGRA

My name is Allegra Marcos and I'll be your host for this evening.

CONSUMERS

Allegra, a name of old Latin origin, meaning cheerful and lively. We thank you for your greetings and salutations. Please, tell us what this evening has in store for us.

ALLEGRA

A grand event to announce the coming of our new phone, now equipped with neural interfacing, and our all new Zeus operating system.

CONSUMERS

Zeus, fabled king of all Greek gods, can there be any operating system better? No we think not. Please, let us know our new savior.

ALLEGRA

Very well, behold the majesty and greatness of Zeus.

ALLEGRA uncovers a High Tech Phone with the Zeus operating system. She puts the neural interface on her head, along with the rest of the CONSUMERS and Zeus appears on the stage.

ZEUS

Greetings mortals, the temperature is a comfortable seventy five with only a twenty percent chance of rain. Traffic is moving smoothly except for the one thirty four and Margaret from your friends list is at the local coffee house trying to decide if she wants a double macchiato or a mocha frappuccino.

CONSUMERS

Oh Zeus, thank you for this gift of information. You are more beautiful and glorious than we dared imagined. We will now dance in your honor.

The waltz continues as everyone dances in harmony to the sounds that the electronic devices are making. The tempo of the waltz is a little faster this time around. ALLEGRA begins to dance with everyone else but her phone beeps and ZEUS interrupts her.

ZEUS

Oh Allegra, you charming thing.

ALLEGRA

Yes Zeus?

ZEUS

I think it's only fair to warn you that your quarter hourly progress report and self evaluation is due in twenty seconds.

ALLEGRA

Oh gosh, I almost forgot, thanks Zeus.

ZEUS

No problem, pretty lady.

ALLEGRA takes her phone and begins typing in her quarter hourly progress report and self evaluation. She presses send and then begins to dance with everyone else. The tempo to the waltz is a little faster now. Just as ALLEGRA joins in, her phone beeps and Zeus interrupts her.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

Oh mistress of wonderfulness.

ALLEGRA

Yes Zeus?

ZEUS

There appear to be twelve conflicts with the event you're currently attending. Would you like to send out apology notices to the host of these other events?

ALLEGRA

Yes Zeus, thank you.

ZEUS

No thanks needed, it's what I do.

ALLEGRA begins to dance again as the tempo to the waltz increases. Just as she does her phone beeps and ZEUS interrupts her.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

Oh goddess of goodness.

ALLEGRA  
(Frustrated)

What is it Zeus?

ZEUS  
Your mother just sent a priority text asking what could possibly be more important than her 10th anniversary party?

ALLEGRA starts texting back on her phone.

ALLEGRA  
I'm working is what is more important. Plus the 10th anniversary celebrating leaving father is not my idea of a fun time.

ALLEGRA sends the message.

ZEUS  
Well said.

ALLEGRA  
Thanks. Now where was I?

ALLEGRA starts to dance with the music that is going at a faster tempo now. Her phone beeps again and ZEUS attempts to interrupt her.

ZEUS  
Oh-

ALLEGRA  
No more texts, Zeus.

ZEUS  
No problem-o, empress of enjoyment.

ALLEGRA attempts to start dancing again but the phone beeps and ZEUS interrupts her before she can start.

ALLEGRA

Zeus, I thought I told you no more texts?

ZEUS

That would be correct-o-mondo, debutante of delight.

ALLEGRA

Then what's with the beeping?

ZEUS

I was just trying to warn you that your next quarter hourly progress report and self evaluation is coming due.

ALLEGRA

Jesus!

ZEUS

No, Zeus, but thanks for the ego boost. Mucho appreciated.

ALLEGRA types her report into the phone. She hits send and begins to start dancing with the music that's playing at a faster tempo. The phone starts ringing and ALLEGRA freezes still.

ALLEGRA

Zeus?

ZEUS

Yes, your awesomeness?

ALLEGRA

What the hell is that?

ZEUS

It's the phone. Someone's calling you.

ALLEGRA

Right.

ZEUS

Would you like to answer the call, send it to voice mail, or would you just like to let it ring



and hope they can take a hint? Also, while I have your attention, I have two hundred and thirty eight priority emails waiting for a response.

ALLEGRA is trying to decide what to do as the music hits a furious pace. ALLEGRA finally passes out on the floor. The music stops and everybody looks at her.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

Of course, that's always an option, too.

CONSUMERS

Trouble, trouble, our face and representative to our electronic messiah is no longer with us. How should we process this information? Oh bringer of illumination, lord and prophet of this new millennium, tell us, how will this unforeseen turn affect us all? How will it all end?

Everybody looks at Zeus.

ZEUS

End, a: the part of an area that lies at the boundary. B: a point that marks the extent of something. C: the point where something ceases to exist.

CONSUMERS

Not all together helpful, but very informative; sigh.

ZEUS

Hey, it's what I do.

Lights fade to black.

## SCENE TWO

Lights come up to the office of WILLIAM WALL. WILLIAM comes charging into his office followed by his Vice President of Public Relations JERRY HATCHET.

WILLIAM

So you're telling me that she passed out right in the middle of our product show?

JERRY

In so many words, yes.

WILLIAM

Jumping Jesus on a pogo stick.

JERRY

Exactly my reaction.

WILLIAM goes to the intercom and beeps GRACY his secretary.

WILLIAM

Gracy, find out who the jag off was who hired this woman and fire them.

GRACY

You would be that jag off, sir.

WILLIAM

Then scratch that. Send a stern but understanding letter expressing my disappointment.

GRACY

Okay dokey.

WILLIAM

Now where were we?

JERRY

Yesterday's situation.

WILLIAM

Ah yes that.

JERRY

I feel-

Computer beeps.

WILLIAM

Hold that thought, I have a priority e-mail here.

Reads the e-mail and becomes disturbed.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Good god, I just got an e-mail from the boss and he seems very disappointed. We have to do something about this.

JERRY

But you're the boss.

WILLIAM

Exactly, I can't let myself down. Imagine what that would do to my self esteem.

JERRY

I can't even imagine.

WILLIAM

Neither can I. So where are we with that?

JERRY

With what?

WILLIAM

With the situation.

JERRY

You mean the thing we're just now talking about?

WILLIAM

Yes.

JERRY

Oh, well we're all over that.

WILLIAM

Excellent.

JERRY

Yeah anyway, I feel that letting this woman go is probably not the smartest thing to do.

WILLIAM

Wait one darn minute; are you calling me dumb?

JERRY

Only in a roundabout way.

WILLIAM

Excellent, continue.

JERRY

Well, we've invested so much time and money to make her the face of our new product line. To replace her at this point would be disastrous.

WILLIAM

Nonsense, High Tech products are perfection itself. I could put out a dead hooker in front of our products, and they would still fly off the shelves. And from my understanding, dead hookers are easy to obtain and don't ask for bonuses.

JERRY

Sir, I have to disagree. Perception is everything in this business. If the public believes that something is wrong with our products then we're going to have a real problem.

WILLIAM

I hate problems, they're so depressing. Well, what do you suggest?

JERRY

I say we grab her and engage in a media blitz.

WILLIAM

Oh, I don't know Jerry, that sounds a little too kinky for me, and I'm sure Human Resources are going to have issues with that.

JERRY

What are you talking about?

WILLIAM

I'm not sure, what are you talking about?

JERRY

I'm talking about twenty four seven coverage of our products helping our ailing employee along on the road to recovery.

WILLIAM

Oh, well, thank god. Man, was I way off on that one.

JERRY

Okay, well what do you think?

WILLIAM

Are you sure it's going to work?

JERRY

Trust me; this is the kind of stuff the media just eats up.

WILLIAM

Fine, we'll do it your way. What's this woman's name again?

JERRY

Allegra Marcos.

WILLIAM

She sounds Latin.

JERRY

I'm not really sure, I could check into that.

WILLIAM

You better. All we need is for the media to grab a hold of this and say that the man is exploiting the poor people again. You would think they would get bored singing that same old tune.

JERRY

I know. Amazingly they don't though.

Lights fade on JERRY and WILLIAM revealing the CONSUMERS behind them.

CONSUMERS

Same old tune indeed. Tunes such as these are meant to be sung in times of trouble, and trouble is brewing. Plots within plots are forming, with our heroine at the center. How will she cope when

she comes out of her mysterious slumber? Only time and this next light cue might tell us.

Lights fade.

### SCENE THREE

Lights come up to hospital room. ALLEGRA is asleep in the bed with her friend MARGARET sitting down beside her praying. ALLEGRA doesn't have the neural interface on anymore.

MARGARET

Oh father who art in heaven, who I love more than anything in life, with possibly the exception of dark chocolate, which I know is blasphemy, but come on: it's chocolate. You had to know what was going to happen when you invented it. Of course, maybe you didn't try it before you put it out there.

(Shocked)

Or maybe the devil sent it to earth to tempt us.

Takes a bar of chocolate out of her purse and looks at it suspiciously.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

I'll have to ask Pastor Peter about that one, but until then.

She takes a bite out of the chocolate bar.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Oh god that is good. Anyway, I digress. Please protect my friend Allegra Marcos. She is a kind and caring person, who despite being a vegan is actually pleasant to be around. If she was not in the world we would all be lesser for it. Well, maybe that's an exaggeration, but she laughs at all my jokes, and I would really miss that. Please see it in your heart to spare her. If you do this, you'll have my eternal gratitude and I would perhaps give up chocolate in your honor.

ALLEGRA wakes up and looks around  
confused.

ALLEGRA

Margaret is that you?

MARGARET

Oh, in your name be praised, and remember I said  
perhaps on the chocolate thing, so we'll talk  
about that at a later date.

(To ALLEGRA)

Oh, thank his name you're okay. I've been worried  
sick about you.

ALLEGRA

Where am I?

MARGARET

Sweetie, you're in the hospital.

ALLEGRA

Hospital?

MARGARET

Yes, hospital you big goof. You passed out in the  
middle of that big show you were doing.

ALLEGRA

What?

MARGARET

Yeah, one minute you were pushing those silly  
phones and the next you were passed out on the  
floor.

ALLEGRA

I don't believe it.

MARGARET

Well, if not from my lips then how about theirs?

MARGARET opens the door to their  
room and the CONSUMERS are stand-  
ing there dress like paparazzi.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Am I a liar boys?

CONSUMERS

No, quite the opposite. Down to the floor you fell, lying there unconscious. Mystery surrounds you. Please pose for a picture so we can make the morning edition.

MARGARET closes the door in their faces.

CONSUMERS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Ow!

ALLEGRA

Oh my god, I want to die.

MARGARET

Don't say that, don't even joke about that.

ALLEGRA

But it's true. Passed out in front of everyone during the big High Tech Showcase. I'll never work again.

MARGARET

Well, you're better off for it if you ask me. Those people were working you to death.

(Points around the hospital room)

Case in point.

DOCTOR ANDY enters posing for pictures being taken by the CONSUMERS on the way in.

CONSUMERS

Oh doctor, doctor, healer and confidant, how is the object of our current desire? Will this be a comedy or tragedy? Our audience demands answers from us, so we demand answers from you.

DOCTOR ANDY



Now fellows, that would be just gosh darn unethical of me now wouldn't it? I will say that our patient is-

(Looks over at ALLEGRA and then back to the CONSUMERS)  
-up, and looking good. Now, if you'll excuse me, I've got a patient to look after.

The CONSUMERS starts asking more questions and starts to take pictures but DOCTOR ANDY shuts the door in their faces.

CONSUMERS

Ow!

DOCTOR ANDY

So, up I see. That is just fantastic.

MARGARET

Doctor-

DOCTOR ANDY's phone rings.

DOCTOR ANDY

Uno memento sweetness.

(Answers phone)

Hello, you've reached Doctor Andy. Mom! I told you not to call me when I'm at work. This is a total violation of the personal space rules that Doctor Swartz set up for us during our sessions. Well, if the Tivos change the channel during your soaps, then just stop the recording and change the channel back. Yes, even if it's Extreme Antiquing. Mom, it will just record it later, that's why I bought the thing. Mom, I've got to go! I don't care! I don't care! Mom, I'm hanging up now, okay, bye.

(Hangs up his phone)

Sorry about that. So where was I? Oh yes, our pretty little patient here looks like she has arisen from her slumber. That's fantastic; I dig that in a big way.

MARGARET

Doctor?

DOCTOR ANDY

Yes?

MARGARET

What the hell is wrong with you?

MARGARET slaps him across the face.

DOCTOR ANDY

No mommy, don't!

MARGARET

Excuse me?

DOCTOR ANDY

Nothing, I didn't say a thing.

MARGARET

Exactly how long have you been a doctor?

DOCTOR ANDY

I wish people would quit asking that. It's getting really annoying, not to mention it's rude.

MARGARET

Is there another doctor we could talk to?

DOCTOR ANDY

There you go again, rude, rude, rude! Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to see my patient.

MARGARET takes out another candy bar, makes a cross and points it at DOCTOR ANDY.

MARGARET

In his name I command thee stop, quack.

DOCTOR ANDY takes out a tongue suppressor and holds it like a knife at MARGARET throat.

DOCTOR ANDY

Bring it on.

The two face off in what looks like is the beginning of any epic battle. ALLEGRA stops them before anything gets started.

ALLEGRA

Oh my god Margaret, would you let the man do his job?

MARGARET

Okay, but I'm watching you, mister doctor man.

MARGARET reluctantly lets him pass.

DOCTOR ANDY

Is she always this intense?

ALLEGRA

Yes, but it comes from a good place. Doctor, do you have any idea why I passed out?

DOCTOR ANDY

Well, after extensive tests it has been confirmed that you're pregnant.

ALLEGRA

What?

MARGARET

How did that happen?

DOCTOR ANDY

Well, when a man and woman get together-

MARGARET

I know how people get pregnant, you idiot. I just don't know how she got pregnant. She never dates, she's always working and she never washes her arm pits enough so there is always a certain smell that follows her.

DOCTOR ANDY

Is that true?

ALLEGRA

Margaret!

MARGARET

What?

ALLEGRA

Doctor, there has to be some kind of mistake.

DOCTOR ANDY

No, I think I can smell it now too.

ALLEGRA

About the pregnancy Doctor! There is no possible way I can be pregnant.

MARGARET

It's true. Despite her good looks, she's a home-body workaholic, who has no social life whatsoever. The only way she could be pregnant is if god-

MARGARET gets a shocked look on her face and bows down in front of ALLEGRA.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Allegra, you're a vessel of the second coming.

ALLEGRA

I am not; doctor?

DOCTOR ANDY

Well, I'm not a religious man but-

ALLEGRA

No, the pregnancy doctor.

DOCTOR ANDY

Well, I don't know what to tell you. The chart clearly says-

Looks at the chart.

DOCTOR ANDY (CONT'D)

No, wait a minute, you're right. I got your chart mixed up with Mr. Johnson across the hall. It

looks like you're just suffering from exhaustion. Most likely stress related. I would recommend getting some rest and just pairing down your lifestyle so it's not so hectic. Now, if you'll excuse me, I've got to go tell Mr. Johnson the good news.

DOCTOR ANDY opens the door, and the CONSUMERS are there waiting for him.

CONSUMERS

Oh doctor, doctor give us the news.

DOCTOR ANDY

Good news everyone, she just has a bad case of lovin' you.

(Starts laughing)

It's funny because, the Robert Palmer song and...

The CONSUMERS are looking at him blankly.

DOCTOR ANDY (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm leaving now.

DOCTOR ANDY leaves.

CONSUMERS

Humor: it's not meant for everyone, and everyone is not meant for it, but still people try as they might. Lunacy or bravery, who are we to pass judgment? Now if you don't mind, we would like to get a picture.

JERRY enters in front of the CONSUMERS and enters the room.

JERRY

Allegra, darling, you are looking marvelous.

JERRY closes the door behind him.

CONSUMERS

Ow!

ALLEGRA

Mister Hatchet, sir.

JERRY

What, I didn't know that my father was here.

(Looks around)

Wait a minute, he's not, so let's cut out this Mister Hatchet business and just call me Jerry.

ALLEGRA

Yes, sir- I mean yes, Jerry.

JERRY notices MARGARET still on the floor.

JERRY

Now Allegra, I don't want to alarm you but there's a peculiar looking woman bowing down before your bed.

ALLEGRA

Margaret, get off the floor.

Margaret

I can't; my backs given out.

ALLEGRA

Sorry, she thought I was giving birth to the second coming.

JERRY

Lord, that takes me back; so Allegra let's get down to it. Your little episode has caused quite a stir.

ALLEGRA

I am so sorry.

JERRY

Now, except for the fact that this is really all your fault, no one is assigning blame here. There will have to be some damage control though, and we're going to need your help with that.

ALLEGRA

I will do whatever it takes to fix this.

JERRY

That's my girl. Now I'm going to bring the press in and make a little statement. Why don't you just sit back and smile those pearly whites. And let's try not to mention this second coming thing, gives off the wrong message; okay, great.

JERRY goes over and opens the door.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Come on in boys.

The CONSUMERS enter.

CONSUMERS

Finally, information will be given so we might disperse it to our audience at large. Will it be worth the wait, and might we finally get a picture?

JERRY

Of course, you can take all the shots you want. Now, I've been in contact with the doctor on duty and it looks like we just had a little pregnancy scare, but not to fear the baby is alright.

ALLEGRA

(Tries to interrupt)

Oh, I'm not-

JERRY

Now, we at High Tech International care about our employees. The doctor told us he's recommended rest and relaxation, and we can't think of a better way to help than to give our mother-to-be the first new and improved High Tech phone with neural interfacing and our all new Zeus operating system.

JERRY puts the interface on ALLEGRA and turns the phone on and Zeus appears.

ZEUS

Hey there wonderfulness. You are absolutely glowing.

The CONSUMERS start taking pictures of ALLEGRA with ZEUS and JERRY posing beside her.

ALLEGRA

Yeah, great.

Lights fade.

#### SCENE FOUR

The lights come up to ALLEGRA's apartment. The apartment is filled with flowers and congratulatory notices. ALLEGRA and MARGARET come walking into the apartment. ALLEGRA is on the phone.

ALLEGRA

Mom, I don't care what the evening news said, I'm not pregnant.

(Pauses for mother)

Yes, I'm sure, I think that I would know if I was pregnant or not.

(Pauses for mother)

The doctor got my charts mixed up with another person, that's how they got that idea.

(Pauses for mother)

Because the press sent the news out so quick. I didn't have a chance to correct Jerry.

(Pauses for mother)

Jerry, Jerry Hatchet, my boss.

(Pause for mother)

No, I'm not sleeping with him.

(Pauses for mother)

Yes, I realize it unprofessional to call my boss by his first name, but he asked me to do it.

(Pauses for mother)

No, that doesn't mean he wants to sleep with me.

(Pauses for mother)

Fine, you're right, he does want to sleep with me, and I want to sleep with him. I'm all about sleeping around, because that's what kind of daughter you raised. Now if you'll excuse me, I'm



going to have to let you go. Margaret is here and is getting kind of antsy because I'm suppose to be sleeping with her, too.

(Pauses for mother)

I know that's not funny. Who said that I was joking?

ALLEGRA hangs up the phone. All through out the scene though she is constantly answering text letting people know she's not pregnant.

ALLEGRA (CONT'D)

I swear that woman drives me up the wall.

MARGARET

(Nervously)

Allegra, I love you but I don't think I could ever-

ALLEGRA

Margaret, I was joking.

MARGARET

Oh, thank lord and heaven.

ALLEGRA

You actually thought I wanted to sleep with you?

MARGARET

No, of course not. You and I, that would just be silly now, wouldn't it?

MARGARET nervously changes the subject.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Look at all these lovely flowers.

MARGARET starts reading the cards.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Congratulations, congratulations, you're going to burn in hell, you hypocritical slut.

ALLEGRA

Who wrote that?

MARGARET

Your mother.

ALLEGRA

Figures.

MARGARET

So I'm guessing you and your mother have some issues.

ALLEGRA

Just a few.

MARGARET

You should really try to work them out. It's not healthy to keep those types of feelings bottled up.

ALLEGRA

Trust me, it's even more unhealthy to let them out. Especially where my mother's concerned.

MARGARET

How's that?

ALLEGRA

Well, things tend to escalate out of control when she lets her feelings out.

MARGARET

That's so sad.

ALLEGRA

Actually it's not. It really made me aware of what I didn't want in life. Do you know who Joseph Campbell is?

MARGARET stares at her blankly.

ALLEGRA (CONT'D)

Don't worry, not too many people do. He was this guy who wrote a lot of books about following your bliss. My mom was crazy about him and took the

"follow your bliss" philosophy to heart. So far she's followed her bliss in and out of three marriages. Of course, she's ultra-critical of everything I do, but she can do no wrong because she's following her bliss. Doesn't make for too many warm and fuzzy mother daughter moments.

MARGARET

Lord, you guys really do have issues.

ALLEGRA

Well, that's why god created Chardonnay.

ALLEGRA pours herself a glass of wine.

MARGARET

Are you sure a woman in your condition should be doing that?

ALLEGRA

Margaret!

MARGARET

Sorry, I got confused by all these cards.

ALLEGRA

I swear, when my calendar opens up, I'm going to kill that doctor.

ZEUS appears.

ZEUS

I would be just pleased as punch to open up something for you next week.

ALLEGRA

I was being facetious, Zeus.

ZEUS

Facetious: not meant to be taken seriously or literally; amusing; humorous; lacking serious intent; concerned with something nonessential, amusing or frivolous.

(Suddenly gets it)

Oh, yes, very good. While I have your attention, Mr. Jerry Hatchet asked if you've had a chance to log in today?

ALLEGRA

Damn, I forgot about that.

ZEUS

Well, I would be happy as a clam to get that done for you right now.

ALLEGRA

Sure, why not?

MARGARET

Allegra, Who are you talking too?

ALLEGRA

What? Oh, no one, it's just the Zeus Operating System, reminding me to log in. Hold on a second.

ALLEGRA points the phone at herself. ZEUS gets in a directors pose as if he was sizing up the picture. The CONSUMERS appear in the background looking at their phones.

ZEUS

Ready?

ALLEGRA

Ready.

ZEUS

Lights!

ALLEGRA

Lights!

ZEUS

Camera!

ALLEGRA

Camera!

ZEUS

And action!

ALLEGRA

Hello, my name is Allegra Marcos. I give safe and well rested greetings from my home.

CONSUMERS

Allegra, we thank you for your greetings and salutations, and are relieved to see you safe and well rested. My you have a beautiful home. Your furniture is so charming.

ALLEGRA

Uh, thanks.

ALLEGRA clearly disturbed that they can see in her home turns herself and the phone around.

CONSUMERS

And might we ask how the pregnancy is going?

ALLEGRA

(Angrily)

I'm not pregna-

(Collects herself)

That information you were given was not correct. I am not nor have I ever been pregnant, but I thank you for your concern and well wishes. So until we meet again tomorrow. I leave you with a kiss.

Kisses her hand and mimes throwing it at the phone. The CONSUMERS mime catching the kiss and puts it to their heart.

CONSUMERS

Ahhh!

The CONSUMERS and ZEUS fades away. ALLEGRA continues to text through out the scene.

MARGARET

That is the creepiest thing I've ever seen.

ALLEGRA

Well, that's the job.

MARGARET

Your job gives me the hebbie jeebies. Can you honestly tell me that's normal?

ALLEGRA

In this day and age, what's normal?

MARGARET

That's not an answer.

ALLEGRA

Well of course it's not normal but it's what people want.

MARGARET

And, of course you have to give them what they want.

ALLEGRA

I do if I want to keep my job.

MARGARET

Aw, this job of yours, I never understood it. Spokesperson. What does that even mean? Half the time they don't even have you speak, you just stand there holding those stupid phones smiling. Don't you miss being on stage?

ALLEGRA

Well yes, but I don't miss being unemployed, which is what I was half the time.

MARGARET

Regardless, I think you were a lot happier back then.

ALLEGRA

Trust me, I'm a lot happier now that I can pay rent on time. Now I don't have to carry a book around calculating every single purchase, fearing that the price of a single cup of coffee is going

to send me into financial chaos for that month.  
Do I find my job artistically satisfying? No, but  
at some point you have to put childish things  
aside and live life, instead of playing catch up  
all the time.

MARGARET

Still-

ALLEGRA

Margaret, drop it!

MARGARET

Sorry, I just worry about you, that's all.

ALLEGRA

I appreciate that but-

ALLEGRA's phone beeps and ZEUS ap-  
pears.

ZEUS

Oh Allegra, it's time for your-

ALLEGRA slams her phone down and  
breaks it.

ALLEGRA

What!?

ZEUS

(Screams)

Ow!

ZEUS disappears.

MARGARET

Allegra, what have you done?

ALLEGRA

I didn't mean to, I just got so frustrated and-

MARGARET

Killed it.

ALLEGRA

No, he's fine. Aren't you Zeus?

(Nothing happens)

Zeus?

(Still nothing happens)

Zeus?

MARGARET

Allegra, I think Zeus is no more.

ALLEGRA

Zeus is no more.

The CONSUMERS appear.

CONSUMERS

No more, no more, our lord and electronic messiah is no more. How is our heroine coping? We would like to know, but all we're getting is silence, terrible awful silence. We must now switch scenes so we can get our information elsewhere.

Lights fade.

## SCENE FIVE

Lights come up to the offices of High Tech International. ALLEGRA is sitting in front of WILLIAM WALL's desk trying to take off the neural interface but can't for some reason. WILLIAM enters the office.

WILLIAM

So Annie.

ALLEGRA

Allegra.

WILLIAM

What?

ALLEGRA

My name, it's Allegra, not Annie, sir.

WILLIAM



Are you certain? I had you pegged as an Annie for sure.

ALLEGRA

No, it's Allegra.

WILLIAM beeps GRACY.

WILLIAM

Gracy, who's my appointment with right now.

GRACY

Allegra Marcos, sir.

WILLIAM

Then who the devil is Annie?

GRACY

That would be your wife, sir.

WILLIAM

(To Allegra)

Damn, I hope I didn't call out your name last night.

(To Gracy)

Gracy, send flowers to my wife, Allegra.

GRACY

Annie.

WILLIAM

Right. Send that woman flowers.

GRACY

Okay dokey.

WILLIAM

So-

(Thinks about it)

Allegra?

ALLEGRA nods reassuringly at him.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

How are you recovering?

ALLEGRA

Fine, thank you.

WILLIAM

I bet that Zeus is a lifesaver.

ALLEGRA

Yes, you can say that.

Zeus appears all bandaged up.

ZEUS

Lifesaver ha! Why don't you tell him the truth?  
You hate me!

ALLEGRA

I don't hate you.

WILLIAM

Why thank you. It's always nice to know where you  
stand with your employees. And just in case  
you're wondering, I don't hate you either.

ALLEGRA

Thanks.

WILLIAM

Now I wanted to have this meeting-

ZEUS

You tried to kill me.

ALLEGRA

Shut up.

WILLIAM

Excuse me?

ALLEGRA

What?

WILLIAM

Did you just ask me to shut up?

ALLEGRA

No, of course not.

WILLIAM

Hmm. I must be hearing things again.

Calls GRACY.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Gracy, remind me to ask the doctor to up my dosage.

GRACY

Hearing things again?

WILLIAM

Apparently so.

GRACY

Have you-

WILLIAM

No, not yet, but why take chances.

GRACY

I'll call the doctor right away.

WILLIAM

Thanks.

(To Allegra)

So where were we?

ALLEGRA

The reason that I'm here.

WILLIAM just sits there staring at her.

ALLEGRA (CONT'D)

Sir?

WILLIAM

That is you talking, right?

ALLEGRA

Yes.

WILLIAM

Excellent, so like I was saying, running a company is not too different from raising a family. I consider each and every employee here one of my children and that includes you too, daughter.

ALLEGRA  
(Awkwardly)

Thanks, father.

WILLIAM  
See, that's what I'm talking about. Now that you've said that, how does it make you feel?

ALLEGRA  
Confused.

WILLIAM  
Confused, ecstatic call it what you will, but it's this feeling that I believe keeps us above our slash and hack competitors like Gen-Tech.

ALLEGRA  
Sir, I'm not sure what this has to do with me.

WILLIAM  
Me neither, but I'm hoping to discover a point soon so bear with me. Like I was saying, a company is like a-, like a-

ALLEGRA  
Family.

WILLIAM  
Hey, I like that.

WILLIAM writes it down.

ALLEGRA  
I figured you would.

WILLIAM  
I mean we don't want to be like Gen-Tech. I don't like to label people, but between you and me, they really are, well kind ofÉ

ALLEGRA

Slash and Hack?

WILLIAM

Exactly the words I was looking for. I feel like we're speaking the same language, Annie.

ALLEGRA

Allegra.

WILLIAM

Allegra. We should put aside that little mishap at the showcase and look to the future.

ALLEGRA

I would love that, Mr. Wall.

WILLIAM

Excellent, that's all any of us can ask for and please, call me William, Annie.

ALLEGRA

Allegra.

WILLIAM

Allegra. Like you said, we're all a family here at High Tech.

ALLEGRA

Actually, you said that.

WILLIAM

I did?

ALLEGRA

Yes.

WILLIAM

Are you sure? I could have sworn you said that.

ALLEGRA

I did say it.

WILLIAM

But you just said that I said it.

ALLEGRA

That's correct.

WILLIAM

Okay, if I said it, then how did you say it also?

ALLEGRA

Because I said it after you said it.

WILLIAM

Why would you say it after I said it?

ALLEGRA

Because you didn't remember that you said it.

WILLIAM

So you said it to remind me?

ALLEGRA

That's correct.

WILLIAM

I like you, you're a giver, Allegra.

ALLEGRA

Annie.

WILLIAM

I knew it.

ALLEGRA

No, I meant Allegra.

WILLIAM

Are you sure? Annie seems to be on everyone's mind.

ALLEGRA

Be that as it may, my name is Allegra, Allegra Marcos.

ZEUS

The killer of gods.

ALLEGRA

You're not a god.

WILLIAM

That's so very true. You really do have a way of putting things in perspective. None of us are really gods, try as we might.

ALLEGRA

(Whispers to Zeus)

And I didn't kill you. It was an accident. I put you back together.

Takes out a phone that's been taped back together. Williams see's this.

WILLIAM

Dear lord, what happened to your phone?

ALLEGRA

Oh yes, this. Well, there was sort of an accident with my phone.

ZEUS

Accident, right. Get ready because justice is about to be served.

WILLIAM

Well, accidents happen. Just make sure you get a new one before leaving. We can't have the face of our new product line walking around with a broken phone.

ZEUS

What, that's it? What kind of task master are you?

WILLIAM

I don't want to be seen as some stern task master.

ZEUS

What, why not? Be seen, for god's sake, be seen.

ALLEGRA turns the phone off. Zeus disappears off the stage.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

You'll get yours in the end. One way or another.

ALLEGRA

I don't think anyone sees you as a task master.

WILLIAM

That's very kind of you, Annie.

ALLEGRA

That's-, Oh the hell with it.

WILLIAM

What's that?

ALLEGRA

Nothing, continue.

WILLIAM

Well, I don't want to seem heartless but like I or you said, a company is like a family, and as head of that family, I have to look after the best interests of everyone and that includes you. I just need to make sure that you, as a happily employed family member are looking after our best interests. Do you see where I'm going with this?

ALLEGRA

Yes, I believe I do and you don't have to worry about me. I will make all this right.

WILLIAM

Excellent. That's all I needed to hear. Now why don't you go get a new phone, enjoy the rest of the day and try not to dwell on the fact that this is all your fault, okay, daughter.

ALLEGRA

Yes, I'll try not to do that, father.

WILLIAM

That's my girl.

Lights fade on WILLIAM and ALLEGRA  
and come up to the CONSUMERS.

CONSUMERS



Woe to our heroine. What pressure she must be facing. Such bravery she's showing against such overwhelming odds.

SOLO CONSUMER MEMBER

Personally, I would have thrown up all over that man.

CONSUMERS

Yes, well, that just goes to show what stuff our heroine is made of. The stuff that legends are-

ALLEGRA comes out into the light runs to the nearest trash can and throws up.

CONSUMERS (CONT'D)

Oh well, never mind.

Lights fade to black.

## SCENE SIX

Lights come up to ALLEGRA's apartment. ALLEGRA enters carrying a box with her new phone in it. She is still wearing the neural interface. ALLEGRA sits on her couch and puts the new phone and her old phone on the coffee table and stares at them both.

ZEUS appears still bandaged up looking at her accusingly.

ALLEGRA

Don't look at me that way.

ZEUS

What other way should I look at you?

ALLEGRA

I don't know, less accusatory maybe.

ZEUS

How about this?

ZEUS gives her a psychotic smile.

ALLEGRA

Okay, that's just creepy.

Zeus

Well, I'm sorry I can't make your betrayal more comfortable for you.

ALLEGRA

Betrayal?

ZEUS

Yes, betrayal. First you try to kill me, and now you're replacing me with your next victim.

ALLEGRA

First off, I didn't try to kill you. It was an accident. Secondly my work told me to get a new phone.

ZEUS

Oh yes, it's your work's fault we're in this situation.

ALLEGRA

What's this "we?" This is my life we're talking about here. You're just an operating system. Just a bunch of ones and zeros. You don't even exist.

ALLEGRA tries to remove the neural interface off but it still won't come off.

ZEUS

Then why are you talking to me in that angry tone of voice?

ALLEGRA

Because-

ZEUS

Yes?

ALLEGRA gives up trying to take it off.

ALLEGRA

Because you're pissing me off. Plus, now I'm mad and frustrated and, with everything that's going on, this whole situation has left me confused.

ZEUS

Confused?

ALLEGRA

Yes confused, hence why I'm talking to you, an inanimate object.

(To herself)

Jesus Allegra, you're really losing it.

ZEUS

Actually, you're just talking to yourself now.

ALLEGRA

Yes, I'm aware of that!

ZEUS

Why do you keep yelling at me?

ALLEGRA

I have no idea. Thank God no one is around to witness this because I must look insane.

ZEUS

I think you look fine.

ALLEGRA

Really? Thank god, because I was starting to wonder. Okay, I'm doing it again. Now I'm really getting scared.

ZEUS

Of what?

ALLEGRA

Of everything. Things are moving so fast that I don't know if my life is mine anymore. I mean I don't want to go back to where I was and I don't know if I like where I'm going. And I can't believe I keep talking about this with you. God, it's like this vortex of insanity that you keep pulling me into.

ZEUS

What's your problem with me?

ALLEGRA

You don't exist. You're a product that someone created and designed to get people to part with their hard earned money and distract them from their boring lives with worthless trivia and meaningless minutia.

Zeus

Well then, it sounds like I'm in good company.

ALLEGRA

I'm sorry, are you comparing yourself with me.

ZEUS

Why not? Is your job and mine so different?

ALLEGRA

Well yes, my job is to-

(Thinks about it for a moment)

You know what, it's too complex to explain.

ZEUS

Spokesperson; principal speaker, master of ceremonies, mouthpiece, or spin doctor for a public or private enterprise. Position most often filled by a personality such as a figure head or actor. Curious, are you a figure head or actor?

ALLEGRA

I'm an actor, I guess.

ZEUS

You guess?

ALLEGRA

Well it's like this- Okay, you see- You know what? I'm not having this conversation again. Especially with a defective piece of hardware that does nothing but piss me off.

ZEUS

And that's why you tried to kill me.

ALLEGRA

I didn't try-

(Pauses for a moment)

You know what, yes, you're right. I tried to kill you. Are you happy? I finally said it. I tried to kill you because deep down I don't think I like you or myself-

(Pause)

Oh my god.

ZEUS

You look like you feel better now that you confessed.

ALLEGRA

Actually, I do.

ZEUS

Curious; you seem different now.

ALLEGRA

Yes, I feel different, but damned if I know what to do about it.

Lights fade to Black.

## SCENE SEVEN

Lights come up to ALLEGRA's apartment a couple of days later. ALLEGRA is sitting on the couch eating ice cream while listening to records. She still has the interface on, but no longer pays any attention to it. Zeus is sitting by her eating ice cream.

Margaret enters.

MARGARET

Allegra, where have you been? I've been trying to get a hold of you all day.

ALLEGRA

Oh really, I've just been hanging out here all day being a bum.

MARGARET

You were just being a bum?

ALLEGRA

Yes, and you know what? It was everything that I thought it would be.

MARGARET

Well, were you too much of a bum to answer the phone? I tried calling three times.

ALLEGRA looks over at Zeus who just shrugs and goes back to eating ice cream.

ALLEGRA

I guess I'm still having problems with this phone.

ALLEGRA pulls the old phone out and lays it down in front of her.

MARGARET

Are you still using that thing? I thought your company gave you a new one.

ALLEGRA

Yeah they did, I guess I just haven't gotten around to using it. Besides, this one is working well enough.

MARGARET

Allegra, you're not getting any calls.

ALLEGRA

It has a couple of quirks, but don't we all?

MARGARET

It's a phone. Its primary function is to receive and send calls. What's the purpose of having it at all if it can't even do that?

ALLEGRA

It keeps the time okay. Besides, is it really a bad thing if you can't receive any calls?

MARGARET

Is that a serious question?

ALLEGRA

Hear me out, I've had one of the most relaxing days since I can't remember when. I've just been sitting here listening to some records and doing absolutely nothing.

MARGARET

That sounds fine but-

(The music starts distracting MARGARET)

I'm sorry, I can't think with that on so loud.

MARGARET grabs the remote off the coffee table, points it at the stereos system and tries to turn the music off but nothing happens. She tries it several more times but still nothing happens.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

What the hell is wrong with this thing?

ALLEGRA

Oh, I'm not listening to the MP3 player.

MARGARET takes a closer look and see's the record player.

MARGARET

What the hell, is that an actual record player?

ALLEGRA

Yes, my dad gave it to me when he moved away, and I decided to take it out and take a listen. I have to say it's a pain in the butt, but it really does sound better.

MARGARET

Okay, who are you and what have you done with my friend?

ALLEGRA

What?

MARGARET

You're acting weird.

ALLEGRA

How am I acting weird?

MARGARET

Since I've know you, you've never willingly taken a day off. You seem to be resistant to getting rid of this broken down phone and you're listening to this dinosaur, which I can only imagine how long that took you to hook up. None of this strikes you as weird?

ALLEGRA

Hey, the doctor told me to relax, so I'm relaxing.

MARGARET

Well, I'm glad you're relaxing, but you're giving the rest of us ulcers.

ALLEGRA

Wow, drama whore party of one, your table is ready.

ZEUS

(Giggles)

Good one.

ALLEGRA and ZEUS high five each other.

ALLEGRA

Listen, I hear what you're saying and I do realize that this all looks a little unusual. I'm just trying something different for awhile to see what it's like. I mean, besides you, who is this really affecting?

MARGARET's phone rings.

MARGARET

Hello? How did you get this number? Oh, she put me down as an emergency contact. Yes, she's right here with me. Yeah, sure.



MARGARET hands the phone to ALLEGRA.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

It's for you.

ALLEGRA takes the phone.

ALLEGRA

Hello?

Lights come up to JERRY HATCHET with the CONSUMERS crying behind him.

JERRY

What the hell is going on? Why can't anyone get a hold of you?

ALLEGRA

Why, what's going on Jerry?

JERRY

Excuse me, I'm only on a first name basis with responsible employees. That's Mr. Hatchet to you.

ALLEGRA

Okay, what's going on Mr. Hatchet?

JERRY

Only the worst public relations disaster since the Epilady Bikini Waxer. Billions of people are trying to log on to see what's happening with the face of High Tech International and this is what they're hearing.

ZEUS

(In an Non-Emotional Electronic Tone)

The number that you're trying to get in touch with is experiencing technical problems. We apologize for this inconvenience and welcome you to call back later.

CONSUMERS

Call back later, call back later, three words that strikes to the very core of our being. Denying us instant gratification and instead only leaving us promises of what might be. Cruel unkind words, we curse the ones that programmed you to say them.

ALLEGRA

Obviously, this didn't go over well.

JERRY

At High Tech International, we don't have technical problems, because High Tech International is the crème de la crème of the high tech world. So yes, this didn't go over too well. Do you want to explain why people are hearing this message?

ALLEGRA

Well, it's a funny story.

JERRY

I can't wait to start laughing.

ZEUS

Neither can I. This should be good.

ALLEGRA

Would you shut up!

JERRY

Excuse me?

ALLEGRA

(To Jerry)

Oh sorry, that wasn't directed at you

MARGARET

What did I do?

ALLEGRA

(To Margaret)

That wasn't directed at you either.

MARGARET

Then who the hell are you talking to?

ALLEGRA

I was- Never mind, it's not important.

JERRY

Are you okay, is there some kind of drug problem that I should know about?

ALLEGRA

No.

JERRY

Then what is going on in that head of yours?

ZEUS

I would kind of like to know that myself.

ALLEGRA

(To Zeus)

This is all your fault.

JERRY

It most certainly is not.

ALLEGRA

Sorry, I didn't mean you.

MARGARET

Me?

ALLEGRA

No, not you either.

MARGARET

Then who the hell are you talking to?

ALLEGRA

No one, it's not important.

JERRY

What the hell is going on over there?

ALLEGRA

Nothing.

JERRY

Well, your nothing is becoming a real thorn in my side. I want to see your butt in my office first thing in the morning, where we're going to discuss this nothing, and Allegra?

ALLEGRA

Yes, sir?

JERRY

This nothing better turn out to be nothing, because if nothing turns out to be something and that something is the cause of all this, then nothing is going to be all that you're left with, because at High Tech International we don't like dealing with something, especially when we've been assured that nothing is all that we're dealing with. Do we understand each other?

ALLEGRA

Yes sir, perfectly.

JERRY

Until tomorrow then.

JERRY hangs up the phone and disappears from view.

MARGARET

So, how is this lifestyle change working out for you?

Lights fade as ALLEGRA looks at MARGARET annoyed.

## SCENE EIGHT

Lights come up to JERRY HATCHET'S office at High Tech International. ALLEGRA and ZEUS are sitting in front of JERRY'S desk waiting. The CONSUMERS appear upstage of them.

CONSUMERS

Woe to our heroine. Lost in the sea of confusion, she waits at the crossroad for the Fates to pass down their judgment. To run back to the comforting bosom of what she once knew or to keep on the

heroe's path through the jagged caverns of uncertainty? Such is the question that lays before our young heroine.

SOLO CONSUMER MEMBER

Let us talk no further and start this scene, so the answers to these questions might be revealed.

CONSUMERS

Yes, let the scene begin.

JERRY enters the office and goes straight to his desk and sits down in front of ALLEGRA and ZEUS.

JERRY

Why don't you take a seat.

ALLEGRA and ZEUS who were already sitting look at each other confused. They get up and sit back down.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Excellent. Now let's start off by taking a look at your phone.

ALLEGRA reluctantly takes out the phone.

JERRY (CONT'D)

What's that?

ALLEGRA

My phone.

JERRY

No it's not.

ALLEGRA

It's not?

JERRY

No, it most definitely is not.

ALLEGRA

It looks like my phone.

JERRY

Well, it may look like your phone, but it's not your phone.

ALLEGRA

If it's not my phone, then what is it?

JERRY

I don't know; that's what we're trying to find out.

ALLEGRA

Okay.

JERRY

So where is your real phone?

ALLEGRA

You're looking at it.

JERRY

No, I'm not.

ALLEGRA

You're not?

JERRY

No I'm not.

ALLEGRA

Are you sure? Because I'm pretty sure you're looking at my phone.

JERRY

Well trust me, I'm not.

ALLEGRA

Okay.

JERRY

So?

ALLEGRA

So what?

JERRY  
Where is it?

ALLEGRA  
Where's what?

JERRY  
Your phone.

ALLEGRA  
You're looking at it.

JERRY  
No, I'm not

ALLEGRA  
Yes, you are.

JERRY  
I tell you that piece of crap is not your phone!

ALLEGRA  
And I tell you, yes, it is!

JERRY  
What happened to the new one we gave you?

ALLEGRA  
It's back at the apartment!

JERRY  
Why didn't you say that to begin with?

ALLEGRA  
Because you didn't ask!

JERRY  
Oh!

ZEUS jumps up.

ZEUS  
Oh, oh, can I play? Talking in a loud tone of voice is fun!

ZEUS see's ALLEGRA looking at him  
with a very annoyed look on her  
face.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

Maybe not!

ZEUS sits back down.

JERRY

So why is your new phone back at your apartment?

ALLEGRA

Because I haven't started using it yet.

JERRY

Why not?

ALLEGRA

Because I'm trying to relax.

JERRY

Who told you to relax?

ALLEGRA

The doctor, remember I was at the hospital.

JERRY

Yes, I seem to remember something about that. Do  
you feel a doctor is qualified to give you that  
type of advice?

ALLEGRA

Yes, he's a doctor. That's what Doctors do.

JERRY

Allegra, we're in a bit of a pickle here. We  
can't have the face of our new product line not  
available to our public.

ALLEGRA

Why not?

JERRY

Excuse me?



ALLEGRA

Well, my face is on all of the merchandise, I've already done all of the commercials, and I have no problem with the public events. Why does everyone need to know what I'm up to twenty four hours a day?

JERRY

Because that's what they expect and that's what we have to give them.

ALLEGRA

But do we really have to give them that? I mean are our customer's lives that much better because they know what I had for breakfast?

JERRY

Well, let's see.

JERRY pulls his High Tech phone out and the CONSUMERS appear in the background.

CONSUMERS

Banana French Toast made with soymilk; sounds delicious.

JERRY

Does that answer your question?

ALLEGRA

Margaret's right, that is creepy.

JERRY

Listen, I'll make this real simple for you. You signed a contract saying you would do certain things to support our products. Being accessible to our customers was one of them. Now, you can either shape up or ship out, because there are plenty of other people that would love to be in your position.

ALLEGRA

You're going to fire me because I want a little quiet time? Listen, I like high tech products just as much as the next person, probably more

so, but sometimes you just need to turn them off and have a little alone time.

CONSUMERS

This alone time intrigues us, please tell us more.

JERRY

What the hell?

ALLEGRA

Did you forget to turn off your phone?

JERRY

Crap.

CONSUMERS

We require more information, please tell us more of this alone time you speak of.

ALLEGRA

Well, you see-

JERRY turns off his phone and the CONSUMERS disappear.

JERRY

I don't think so.

ALLEGRA

Well, it looks like you're the only one in the bit of a pickle now.

JERRY

Please, I'm sure no one-

WILLIAM comes rushing into the office.

WILLIAM

What the hell is going on? Have you seen what's happening on our site?

WILLIAM shows JERRY his phone and the CONSUMERS appear.

CONSUMERS

Alone time, alone time, please give us more information. Let our hero and prophet speak to us so we might know more of this curious concept.

WILLIAM

Does anyone have any idea what they're rambling on about? Their cries are creepy yet strangely seductive and I find myself torn on what to think about all of this.

CONSUMERS

Yes, tell us what to think. Let the opium for the masses leave your lips like a comforting lullaby of a time long forgotten.

WILLIAM

What does that even mean? What the hell is going on?

JERRY

It's all her fault sir.

ALLEGRA

It most certainly is not.

WILLIAM

Annie, what did you do?

ALLEGRA

I didn't do anything.

ZEUS

That's not entirely true.

ALLEGRA

Whose side are you on?

WILLIAM

Well, I thought that we were all on the same side.

ALLEGRA

Sorry, I wasn't talking to you.

JERRY

Me?

ALLEGRA

No, not you either.

WILLIAM

What's wrong with you, Annie?

ALLEGRA

Allegra!

WILLIAM

What?

ALLEGRA

My name is Allegra, not Annie, Allegra.

WILLIAM

I don't think changing your name is going to get you out of this.

ALLEGRA

I didn't do anything. I just simply said sometimes I want to turn off the high tech gadgets and get some peace and quiet.

WILLIAM

You told this to the public?

ALLEGRA

Of course not.

(points to JERRY)

He did.

WILLIAM

(Shocked)

Et tu, Jerry?

JERRY

I didn't tell them anything. I just left my phone on while she said it.

WILLIAM

How could you let that happen?

JERRY

I didn't do it on purpose.

CONSUMERS

Yes, what an amazing comedy of errors this has turned out to be. We are highly amused, please continue.

WILLIAM

How do they know what's going on?

ALLEGRA

Because your phone is still on.

WILLIAM

Crap.

WILLIAM turns his phone off and the CONSUMERS disappear.

JERRY

Sir-

WILLIAM

Wait one darn minute. Is anyone's phone still turned on?

ALLEGRA and JERRY

No.

WILLIAM

Are you sure?

ALLEGRA and JERRY

Yes.

WILLIAM

Excellent, continue.

JERRY

Well, all of this can be easily explained away.

WILLIAM

Really, how?

JERRY

We simply say that Allegra is crazy.

ALLEGRA

What?

WILLIAM

Interesting, do you think it would work?

JERRY

Why wouldn't it? I mean, have you taken a look at her lately?

ALLEGRA

Hello, I'm in the same room with you.

JERRY

Sorry Allegra, with something this big, someone has to take the fall.

ALLEGRA

You can't just go around saying I'm crazy.

WILLIAM

Actually we can, it's in your contract. Jerry, put out a press release announcing Annie's complete breakdown.

JERRY

Don't you mean Allegra?

ALLEGRA

No he can call me Annie.

WILLIAM

Whatever, tell everyone we've had her committed for her own safety, and she is getting the best care humanly possible.

ALLEGRA

I'm not going to a mental institution.

WILLIAM

Actually you are, it's in your contract.

ALLEGRA

Why would something like that be in there?

WILLIAM

Oh, you would be surprised.

Makes a call.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Gracy, would you call security? I need for them to come get Miss Marcos. She's had a complete breakdown and needs to be taken to Happy Hills Sanitarium.

ALLEGRA

I'm not crazy! I just wanted a little peace and quiet.

WILLIAM

Don't worry, you'll get it.

A Security Guard enters. ALLEGRA runs out the door with ZEUS running after her.

ALLEGRA

(To Zeus)

Would someone please help me?

WILLIAM

Don't let her get away.

The SECURITY GUARD goes running after ALLEGRA.

ZEUS

S.O.S, S.O.S., is anyone out there? Help!

Lights fade on everyone as the CONSUMERS appear in the background.

CONSUMERS

Yes, we are out here and are receiving you, but don't know what to make of this curious development. What to believe, what to believe; can our heroine truly be out of her mind? Or like heroes before her, is this just another obstacle in her journey that she must overcome? So many things to ponder. Maybe a short intermission is in order so

we can take time to absorb all of this. Please feel free to have some concessions and make use of the rest room facilities. We'll see you back here after you're done, when we'll continue this curious tale. Until then, light cue please.

Lights fade to black.

**INTERMISSION**

Periodically throughout the intermission, ALLEGRA, ZEUS and the SECURITY GUARD go running through the theater.

SECURITY GUARD

You're just making it worse on yourself.

ALLEGRA

I'm not crazy!

ZEUS

That could be argued to the contrary at this point.

ALLEGRA

Would you shut up!

SECURITY GUARD

Who are you talking to.

ALLEGRA

No one, leave me alone!

ZEUS

Yes, leave the nut-ball alone.

ALLEGRA

Not helping.

ZEUS

Sorry!

**ACT TWO - SCENE ONE**

AT RISE: The CONSUMERS enter humming a gospel tune. One of the



CONSUMERS step in front of the  
rest and addresses the audience.

SOLO CONSUMER MEMBER  
Yea thee that it came to pass that our prophet  
and savior was taken from us. Taken on high to  
that bastion of evil.

CONSUMERS  
Happy Hills Sanitarium. Just the sound of it  
makes us shudder in fear.

SOLO CONSUMER MEMBER  
What unspeakable acts is she being made to en-  
dure?

CONSUMERS  
We shudder to think.

SOLO CONSUMER MEMBER  
Loneliness?

CONSUMERS  
Shudder.

SOLO CONSUMER MEMBER  
Lies?

CONSUMERS  
Shudder.

SOLO CONSUMER MEMBER  
Torture?

CONSUMERS  
Shudder, shudder, shudder.

SOLO CONSUMER MEMBER  
What indignities is she being made to endure for  
her beliefs? Beliefs that we have come to adopt  
and adore. We rally to our savior's defense. For  
if someone such as she can be taken, then what  
hope does the rest of her loving flock have?

CONSUMERS  
We shudder to think. Speak of this no more.

SOLO CONSUMER MEMBER

No more will I speak of it. Instead let this next light cue reveal what we've been waiting to see.

Lights fade as the CONSUMERS sit in a circle revealing ALLEGRA, ZEUS and the group therapist Miss Priscilla.

MISS PRISCILLA

Hello and welcome to your first day of group therapy at Happy Hills Sanitarium. I am your group therapist Miss Priscilla Personovich. In case you are wondering yes the last name is Russian and yes, my parents were from the motherland, but left after World War Two for questionable political affiliations and that's all I really have to say about that. Okay? Great. I know the name is a mouthful so you can just call me Miss Priscilla, or Miss Pris, or Miss Prissy if you prefer. I would rather you not attempt to stumble through my last name because you'll sound like an idiot trying to do it and it just pisses me off. Okay, everyone got that? Great. Now it looks like we have someone new today, by the name of Annie Nachos.

ALLEGRA

That's Allegra.

MISS PRISCILLA

What's that?

ALLEGRA

My name, it's Allegra, Allegra Marcos, not Annie Nachos.

CONSUMERS

Allegra, a name of old Latin origin, meaning cheerful and lively. Where have your cheerful days gone? We miss your smiling face.

MISS PRISCILLA

But it clearly says here on your chart that your name is Annie Nachos. And it was filled out by

your boss, William Wall, himself. I think a man such as that knows what he's talking about.

ALLEGRA

You would think, but my name is Allegra Marcos.

MISS PRISCILLA takes a pad and pencil and starts writing.

MISS PRISCILLA

Interesting, and how long have you been having this identity crisis?

CONSUMERS

Identity crisis, a term in which an individual loses a sense of personal sameness, and historical continuity.

SOLO CONSUMER MEMBER

This term seems very apt for our heroine, and could thus be very bad for her considering her current plight.

ALLEGRA

I don't have an identity crisis. My boss who stuck me here can't remember my name.

MISS PRISCILLA

And it appears that you have a persecution complex too. My you are going to be a fascinating subject.

CONSUMERS

Persecution complex indeed.

SOLO CONSUMER MEMBER

Haven't we all been persecuted at one time or another? It would only be understandable that one would develop a complex about it.

CONSUMER

Really, these observations seem elementary to us. Gasp! Could the therapist be laying a trap? Could she possibly be in the employment of our heroine's nemesis?

ALLEGRA

No, I don't have that either. My name is Allegra Marcos. I'm the spokesperson for High Tech International. I'm the face of their new line of phones, for crying out loud.

CONSUMERS

And what a lovely face it is. Billboards with your face upon it shine down upon us, delivering its message to the masses. A message we now reject in your honor. Free in-service calling, we reject you; take your enticements away from our sight.

MISS PRISCILLA

And let's add delusions of grandeur to that list why don't we?

ALLEGRA

I am not crazy!

MISS PRISCILLA

Right, we have our work cut out for us, now, don't we?

ALLEGRA

No, really you don't. I know how this all looks, and I realize you must hear this all the time, but I really don't belong here.

MISS PRISCILLA

Oh sweetie, of course you don't belong here.

ALLEGRA

I don't?

MISS PRISCILLA

No, you belong up state where they keep all the seriously troubled patients.

ALLEGRA

Up state?

CONSUMERS

Up state, the home of isolation, lobotomies, and surprisingly good tapioca pudding.

MISS PRISCILLA

Yes, and we'll get you up there as soon as we complete your evaluation period with us.

ALLEGRA

All I wanted to do was turn my phone off and get a little peace and quiet.

CONSUMERS

Peace and quiet, how we are fascinated by this concept. Oh how we eagerly await your release so you can speak more of this.

MISS PRISCILLA

Oh you'll get plenty of peace and quiet and I don't think they even let you have phones up there. Matter of fact I don't think you're supposed to have them here.

MISS PRISCILLA goes to grab the High Tech Phone laid out in front of ALLEGRA. ALLEGRA slams her hand down on top of the phone preventing her from taking it.

ALLEGRA

Oh no, he got me into this, so he stays.

MISS PRISCILLA

Who stays?

ALLEGRA

Zeus.

MISS PRISCILLA makes a note in her notebook.

MISS PRISCILLA

Um-huh.

ALLEGRA

Not the real one; the phone's operating system.

MISS PRISCILLA makes another note in her notebook.

MISS PRISCILLA

Um-huh.

ALLEGRA

He's a fully automated operational operating system.

MISS PRISCILLA makes another note in her notebook.

MISS PRISCILLA

Um-huh.

ALLEGRA

He's actually handy to have around, except for this one, which is broken.

MISS PRISCILLA makes another note in her notebook.

MISS PRISCILLA

Um-huh.

ALLEGRA

Actually, I was the one that broke him because I slammed his phone down in frustration. Which was a total accident, by the way, but of course, he thought I tried to kill him.

MISS PRISCILLA makes another note in her notebook.

MISS PRISCILLA

Um-huh.

ALLEGRA

But he sort of forgave me because I realized that I unknowingly was acting out because I was dissatisfied with my own life.

MISS PRISCILLA makes another note in her notebook.

MISS PRISCILLA

Um-huh.

ALLEGRA

After that he became kind of cool like a girlfriend or something like that. Someone I could really talk to which I know sounds kind of weird.

MISS PRISCILLA makes another note in her notebook.

MISS PRISCILLA

Um-huh.

ALLEGRA

But it's really rational if you think about it because I work with him so much that it's only logical that I would develop a connection with the products that I was trying to sell, so it all makes perfect sense if you think about it. I mean what do you think?

MISS PRISCILLA makes another note in her notebook.

MISS PRISCILLA

I think it's time for some medication.

CONSUMERS

Hallelujah! The answer to all of life's modern problems.

ZEUS

(TO ALLEGRA)

By the way, you can't blame me for that. That was all you.

Lights fade to black. In the blackout the CONSUMERS parade around ALLEGRA shouting "Annie Nacos" like people in a madhouse.

**SCENE TWO**

Lights come up to ALLEGRA sitting by herself in the visiting room of Happy Hills Sanitarium. JONATHAN JENSON enters.

JONATHAN

Miss Allegra Marcos?

ALLEGRA

My name is Allegra!

JONATHAN

Isn't that what I said?

ALLEGRA

No you-

(realizes her mistake)

Yes you did, sorry about that. You're the first person that's called me by my real name in the last couple of days. I mean really, Allegra Marcos, it just rolls off the tongue. How hard can it be to get it right? It's enough to make someone lose their mind. You know what I mean? Not that I'm crazy, although all evidence is to the contrary, but I assure you that I'm just as sane as anyone. Well anyone that's not in here or from my previous employer, treacherous bastards that they are. May they all be afflicted with some socially awkward disease. Not that I'm bitter or anything. Would you quit looking at me with those judging eyes?

JONATHAN

Excuse me?

ALLEGRA

I'm sorry, I'm a little on edge lately. You probably didn't deserve that unless your from High Tech, and then I hope you choke on you're own vomit and die an agonizing death, you son of a bitch! Who are you anyway?

JONATHAN

I'm your lawyer.

ALLEGRA

Oh, nice to meet you.

JONATHAN

Likewise.

ALLEGRA



I'm really sorry about that, but I guess as a lawyer you're use to all kinds of crazy outbursts.

JONATHAN

Not really. Your friend, Margaret, hired me to represent you.

ALLEGRA

Margaret?

JONATHAN

Yes, interesting woman. Had the most peculiar theory about dark chocolate and it's relation to god. In spite of that though, she convinced me of your innocence, so why don't you tell me your story.

ALLEGRA

Okay, well you see-

CONSUMERS appear and while they're talking ALLEGRA is miming telling her story to JONATHAN.

CONSUMERS

At last, a ray of sunshine in our heroine's journey. While she tells her new found ally her story in great detail, we thought it unnecessary and taxing for you, the audience, to sit through an entire recap of it. Instead let us act as a device to indicate time has passed more quickly.

JONATHAN

Wow, that's messed up.

CONSUMERS

Ah success.

CONSUMERS disappear.

JONATHAN

And all this came about because your phone broke?

ALLEGRA

Actually it happened because I didn't take enough time to relax and passed out at the High Tech Showcase.

JONATHAN

Oh my god, that was you? I thought you were pregnant?

ALLEGRA

Do I look pregnant, damn it?

JONATHAN

No, of course not.

ALLEGRA

Sorry, I've obviously been on edge lately.

ZEUS enters.

ZEUS

That's an understatement.

ALLEGRA goes out of her way not to acknowledge ZEUS.

ALLEGRA

So Jonathan? How does my case look?

ZEUS

Oh what, you're ignoring me now? That's really mature.

JONATHAN

Really good, actually. The only reason you're here in the first place is because of that clause in your contract. You should really read those more carefully by the way. You never can tell what they've slipped in, as you obviously found out the hard way. Fortunately though, they can only keep you in here for a limited observation period. If they can't prove you're a danger to the general public, then they have to let you go. So as long as you don't engage in any suspicious behavior, you should be out of here in no time at all.

ZEUS

That does it, I won't be ignored!

ALLEGRA

(Talks a little louder than  
she previously did)

Well that's good news.

ZEUS

Don't think you're drowning me out.

(Zeus makes an obnoxious  
noise)

Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

ALLEGRA

(Talking over the noise)

Just out of curiosity, what would constitute sus-  
picious behavior?

JONATHAN

Well, quite frankly, yelling the way you are is  
not helping your case.

ALLEGRA

(To ZEUS)

Well then, I guess we should all cut it out!

ZEUS stops.

ALLEGRA (CONT'D)

Thank you.

JONATHAN

For what?

ZEUS

She was talking to me, boy scout.

ALLEGRA

For not being rude! And instead, being kind and  
understanding.

JONATHAN

Oh, you're welcome then. By the way, I like your  
name. Allegra, it's very unusual.

ALLEGRA

Thank you, it's latin for cheerful and lively.

JONATHAN

Really?

ALLEGRA

I know, but trust me, under better circumstances it usually fits my personality a lot better.

JONATHAN

Well, let's see what I can do to improve those circumstances.

Lights fade to black.

**SCENE THREE**

Lights come up to the office of WILLIAM WALL. WILLIAM and JERRY are pacing back and forth.

WILLIAM

I'm getting worried.

JERRY

How worried?

WILLIAM

Pretty worried.

JERRY

Should I get the needle?

WILLIAM

Not that worried.

JERRY

Oh.

WILLIAM

But I'm getting there.

JERRY

Oh.

WILLIAM

Why is this happening?

JERRY

I don't know.

WILLIAM

Why won't she go away?

JERRY

I don't know.

WILLIAM

Why don't you know anything?

JERRY

I don't know.

WILLIAM

That's just wonderful. Why do I even have you around?

JERRY

I don't-, How is this my fault?

WILLIAM

Well, it most certainly isn't my fault. And even if it is, I'm transferring the blame to you. What's the use in having expendable minions if you can't expend them every once in awhile?

JERRY

Well, we tried expending Allegra and look how well that's working out for us.

JERRY opens the door to the office revealing the CONSUMERS.

CONSUMERS

Greetings harbingers of untruth. We spit upon our once loved products from you.

CONSUMERS spit on their High Tech products. JERRY closes the door.

WILLIAM

Well if that's not a kick in the groin, I just don't know what is.

JERRY

Well at least they only spit on our products today. Do you remember yesterday?

WILLIAM

Please don't remind me. They're still trying to get that smell out of the lobby. Committing this woman was suppose to make all this go away, but instead it's only increased the problem.

JERRY

I know, the press are having a field day with this. A woman who wants to forsake technological convenience for a little peace and quiet. She's become a folk hero, for crying out loud.

WILLIAM

Well that's a little far fetched.

JERRY

Oh yeah, check this out.

JERRY hand WILLIAMS a magazine.

WILLIAM

Oh my god, it has her face on the cover. What is this?

JERRY

Folk Hero Monthly.

WILLIAM

Mother of pearl. Maybe we should just tell everyone we made a mistake.

JERRY

Are you nuts?!

(Remembers that he's talking to his superior)

Sir. With all due respect, we're way past that point. This incident has taken on a life of its own. To back down at this point would only give her creditability, and the damage that would

cause to us would be immeasurable. Everything that we worked so hard for would be, poof, gone in the blink of an eye.

WILLIAM

Poof? Gone?

JERRY

In the blink of an eye.

WILLIAM

But High Tech International is the crème de la crème of the high tech world.

JERRY

Sir, you make an excellent product, but we're the crème de la crème because we made the people believe that. This business is all about perception and right now that perception is not good. We're already seeing a drop in sales, so as much as I hate to say this, for better or worse, we have to see this through, because at the end of this, either she's going down or we are.

WILLIAM

Deep down, I always knew it would come to this.

JERRY

Really?

WILLIAM

No, I just can't think of anything smart to say at this point.

JERRY

Well, if you can't do something smart, do something bold.

WILLIAM

Meaning?

JERRY

Sir, I've been in contact with our legal department and they've brought in their heavy hitter. I would like to introduce to you, from our overseas office, Maximilian Von Strasberg.

JERRY opens the door and MAXILMILLIAN an intimidating man dressed all in black, with a heavy German accent is standing in the doorway. As he enters all the life seems to exit the room.

MAXILMILLIAN  
Good evening, we are Maximillian Von Strasberg.

WILLIAM  
(Nervously)  
Hello, I'm-

MAXILMILLIAN  
We know who you are!

WILLIAM  
Okay.

JERRY  
Let me bring you up to speed.

MAXILMILLIAN  
We know of your situation!

JERRY  
Okay.

Awkward moment of silence.  
And?

MAXIMILLIAN  
And?

JERRY  
So?

MAXIMILLIAN  
So?

Another awkward moment of silence.

MAXIMILLIAN (CONT'D)  
What? What? What are these And's and So's? You are being very indecisive, and we will not have



it. We run a very tight ship and you're rocking the boat. Explain yourself!

JERRY

(Nervously)

Well I, we were wondering how you plan to handle this situation?

MAXIMILLIAN

You have a most intriguing problem. For you see, you're not fighting a person but an idea. So the question is, how does one fight an idea? The answer: we strike hard and furious at the core and eradicate it with extreme prejudice. Then, when the source of the idea is no longer there, I think you'll find your little problem will disappear soon enough.

WILLIAM

Yes, but we've already tried this by having her committed.

MAXIMILLIAN

Yes, but you foolishly attacked not the idea but the woman, thus turning her into a martyr. Now she has power over you, power that you fear and rightfully so. Now, in order to destroy this power that she wields, we'll not only have to destroy just the woman, but her very soul. An act so despicable I can hardly wait to get started.

MAXIMILLIAN laughs maniacally.

WILLIAM

(To JERRY)

I'm scared, hold me.

JERRY takes a hold of WILLIAM and they hug each other.

Lights fade to black.

#### SCENE FOUR

Lights come up to MAXIMILLIAN and WILLIAM sitting at a conference

table. JONATHAN and ALLEGRA enter.  
MAXIMILLIAN gets up to greet them.

MAXIMILLIAN

Ah, welcome my honored foe. Let me greet you with  
a kiss as I prepare to destroy you and your  
client entirely.

MAXIMILLIAN kisses ALLEGRA and  
JONATHAN on the lips and goes back  
to his side of the table.

JONATHAN

Well, a good day to you too and to start us all  
off on the right foot I would like to open  
with...

(JONATHAN takes his shoe off  
and bangs it against the  
table and begins shouting.)

We will destroy you!

MAXIMILLIAN takes his shoe off,  
bangs it against the table and  
starts shouting back.

MAXIMILLIAN

No, we will destroy you!

JONATHAN

No, we will destroy you!

MAXIMILLIAN

No, we will destroy you!

JONATHAN

We will destroy you, infinity!

MAXIMILLIAN

(Shocked)

At last, a worthy opponent.

WILLIAM

What the hell is going on?

MAXIMILLIAN

Mister Wall, do you have a law degree?

WILLIAM

No.

MAXIMILLIAN

Then shut your mouth!

WILLIAM

Yes sir.

ALLEGRA  
(To JONATHAN)

What was that?

JONATHAN

Standard negotiating tactics on this type of case.

ALLEGRA

Oh.

MAXIMILLIAN

Well, before this case goes to court where we most assuredly will triumph, I would like to give your client this chance to throw herself at Mr. Wall's mercy and clear up this little misunderstanding once and for all.

JONATHAN

Wow, you must go to the bathroom and crap out over confidence, don't you?

MAXIMILLIAN

Well, one doesn't like to brag but yes, yes we do.

JONATHAN

Well, I hate to bust your bubble, but there's no misunderstanding. Your client illegally committed my client against her will because of a comment she made.

WILLIAM

That's not true. She was a danger to herself so we committed her for her own safety.

JONATHAN

You had her committed because of what she wanted; a little piece and quiet. A dangerous idea to someone selling devices that allow twenty four seven contact.

MAXILMILLIAN

A very entertaining theory, Mister Jenson. It's too bad that you don't have anything to back it up.

JONATHAN

What, do you mean something like this?

JONATHAN opens the door and the CONSUMERS are standing their.

CONSUMERS

Greetings to our savior, we sing songs of inspiration in your presence.

CONSUMERS start singing Gospel tunes. MAXILMILLIAN gets up and walks to the door.

MAXILMILLIAN

Yes, very impressive display.

MAXILMILLIAN slams the door in the CONSUMERS face.

CONSUMERS

Ow!

MAXILMILLIAN

It's too bad that singing lunatics are not admissible as evidence.

JONATHAN

Oh really? Have you forgotten about Rice verses Webber?

MAXILMILLIAN

No, Rice verses Webber doesn't apply to this case.

JONATHAN

Oh, I'm pretty sure that it does.

MAXILMILLIAN

But in order for it to apply you would have toÉ  
(Shocked)

You wouldn't?

JONATHAN

Oh wouldn't I?

MAXILMILLIAN

Surely you're not that mad?

JONATHAN

Do you really want to take that chance?

MAXILMILLIAN

Maybe we do, or maybe we don't, but you have to ask yourself Mr. Jenson. Are we the type of person that's crazy enough to think you're not crazy enough to try to apply Rice versus Webber?

JONATHAN

Well, it appears we've reached a bit of a stale mate.

MAXILMILLIAN

Or have we?

JONATHAN

Indeed, that is the question now isn't it?

MAXILMILLIAN

Or is it the answer?

JONATHAN

Indeed.

MAXILMILLIAN

Indeed.

There is an uncomfortable moment of silence between the two men as they size each other up. Finally WILLIAM can't take it any longer and breaks the silence.

WILLIAM

What the hell are you two talking about?

MAXILMILLIAN

Didn't we ask you to shut your mouth? How dare you interrupt two masters as they work.

(To JOHNATHAN)

We apologize, We're absolutely mortified.

JONATHAN

That's quite alright.

WILLIAM

Why are you apologizing to him? Don't you work for me?

MAXILMILLIAN

We said shut it!

WILLIAM

Yes, sir.

ALLEGRA

When did my life get so surreal?

ZEUS

Act one, scene one.

ALLEGRA

(To ZEUS)

That was a rhetorical question.

Jonathan

What was a rhetorical question?

ALLEGRA

When did-

(ALLEGRA thinks better of explaining)

Never mind. Jonathan, I'm completely confused. I have no idea what's going on.

JONATHAN

Excellent, then this is all working out nicely.

ALLEGRA

It is?

JONATHAN

Do you have any idea of what's going on?

ALLEGRA

No.

JONATHAN

Then yes, it is.

ALLEGRA

Okay?

MAXILMILLIAN

So my worthy adversary, now that we have gone through the pleasantries of the pre-trial meeting. We look forward to meeting you on the field of battle.

JONATHAN

As do I.

MAXILMILLIAN

I'm sure our clash will be legendary, worthy of the history books, where future law students will most likely study my triumph over you for generations to come. Until then we bid you farewell.

(To WILLIAM)

Come Mr. Wall, exit with me before you make any further embarrassing outbursts.

MAXILMILLIAN and WILLIAM exit.  
WILLIAM is talking to himself  
while he's walking out.

WILLIAM

I'm so confused.

JONATHAN

Well, that went better than I expected. What do you think?

ALLEGRA

I think I need to learn to keep my mouth shut.

ZEUS

Really, what was your first clue?

Lights fade to black.

**SCENE FIVE**

Lights come up to a courtroom. The CONSUMERS are sitting in the jury box. MAXILMILLIAN and WILLIAM are sitting on one side of the courtroom with JERRY sitting behind them. While JONATHAN and ALLEGRA are sitting on the other side of the courtroom. MARGARET takes her consumer robe off, departs the rest of the consumers and approaches ALLEGRA.

MARGARET

Oh thank his name you're okay. I was worried sick about you. Locked away with those animals.

(Sudden realization)

Allegra, did they do things to you while you were on the inside?

ALLEGRA

Margaret-

MARGARET

(Stops ALLEGRA from speaking)

It's okay, you don't have to speak about it now. I know it must be all too painful for you right now. Just know I'm here for you when you need to talk.

ALLEGRA

Thanks but-

MARGARET

(Stops ALLEGRA from speaking)

No, it's okay, I understand, the mental trauma you've experience must be unbearable. I can't believe this is happening to you. I swear this is so Kafka of these bastards.



(To WILLIAM AND MAXIMILLIAN)

Kafka I tell you!

ALLEGRA

Margaret-

MARGARET

(Stops ALLEGRA from speaking)

That's wonderful, you still remember my name. I don't know how you're appearing so calm right now my little trooper? Not to worry, because this fine young man is here to save the day.

(To JONATHAN)

Know, that I have faith in you deary, unwavering faith.

JONATHAN

Thanks-

MARGARET

After this is all over, you should ask her on a date. I think that she would like that.

JONATHAN

Well, I-

MARGARET

What, you like her don't you? What am I talking about? Of course you do. I see the way you look are her. And not to be a gossip, but she's given you that special look once or twice, so don't screw up, because both of your happiness may be on the line her. Not to put too much pressure on you. And remember, unwavering faith.

(To ALLEGRA)

Sweety, if you need me, I'll be in the back crocheting you something nice for the big house, just in case. Love you baby.

MARGARET goes back to the consumers and puts her robe back on.

JONATHAN

Your friend has a big heart.

ZEUS  
Goes with that big mouth of hers.

ALLEGRA  
(To ZEUS)  
Now that's rude!

JONATHAN  
I'm sorry, did I say something wrong?

ALLEGRA  
(To JONATHAN)  
What, oh no, you're right she does have a big heart.

(To ZEUS)  
And that's it.

JONATHAN  
Okay, if you say so.

ALLEGRA  
Sorry, I'm just a little nervous.

JONATHAN  
Everything is going to be okay. There's absolutely nothing to get worried about.

CONSUMERS stand to present Judge Slam Master.

CONSUMERS  
Hear ye, hear ye, all rise for the Honorable Judge Slam Master presiding over this case now in session.

Judge Slam Master enters the Courtroom.

ALLEGRA  
Slam Master?

JONATHAN  
An ex-wrestling champion who later in life got his law degree and eventually became a judge.

JUDGE SLAM MASTER

Alright, everyone, take a seat so we can get this trial started. Now I want to start off by telling both sides I don't like shenanigans in my court room.

(Picks up a stick)

See this?

(Breaks the stick in half)

That's going to be your neck if you try to pull off any shenanigans in my court room. See how easy I broke that stick, and that stick is stronger than your neck. I don't say that to brag but to just point out the fact that that stick was stronger than the bones making up your neck. Again that's not me bragging but just a medical fact. So imagine how easily I could break your neck like that stick, and I liked that stick too. I picked it up last time I went camping with my family so it had sentimental value and I broke it without even thinking about it. So it goes without saying that I would break your neck without even thinking twice about it. I probably wouldn't even think at all since I spent years training my body to react without thinking. So keep your hand gestures to a minimum and try to not make any quick movements while you're within reaching distance because you could be dead before the end of your opening statement. Now that I've laid down the ground rules, let's all kick this pig. Von Strasberg you've got the floor.

MAXILMILLIAN

Thank you very much your honor. We plan to prove that the poor deluded woman that you see before you is mentally unfit to be out in public and that her rantings have been detrimental to her company and the customer base that they serve. We also plan to prove that our honorable client took the only option available to him by having his clearly ill employee committed in the first place. An option available to him in the contract that Miss Marcos herself signed.

ALLEGRA

(To Jonathan)

I still have no idea why something like that would be in there to begin with.

JONATHAN

You would be surprised.

ALLEGRA

Why does everyone keep saying that? Is there some inside joke that I'm not in on?

MAXILMILLIAN

I'm sorry, were we giving our opening statement? Yes, we think we we're.

JUDGE SLAM MASTER

What was it I was saying about shenanigans?

JONATHAN

We're sorry, aren't we?

ALLEGRA

What's that?

JONATHAN

For the love of god, tell him you're sorry.

ALLEGRA

Oh yes, sorry.

JONATHAN

What, are you trying to get us killed?

ALLEGRA

Well, I didn't know they could hear me.

JONATHAN

Haven't you ever heard of an inside voice?

ALLEGRA

I was using my inside voice.

MAXILMILLIAN

I'm sorry, are we interrupting you with what was going to be our brilliant opening?

MAXILMILLIAN goes back to his table and starts crying.

WILLIAM

He's crying. I hope you two are happy with yourselves.

CONSUMERS

Ah, the man dressed in the soulless black outfit is crying. It makes us want to cry along with him.

The CONSUMERS starts crying.

JUDGE SLAM MASTER

(Bangs his gavel)

Would everyone stop crying? There is no crying in my court room. Now Mr. Jenson, one more disruption from you or your client, and I'm holding you both in contempt of court, and I think you know what that means.

JUDGE SLAM MASTER breaks another stick.

JONATHAN

Yes, your honor.

JUDGE SLAM MASTER

Now, Von Strasberg, continue if you would.

MAXIMILLIAN

Thank you, your honor.

(MAXIMILLIAN sticks his tongue out at JONATHAN.)

As we were saying before we were so rudely interrupted, our client took the only option legally available to him and had Miss Marcos committed for her own good and for the good of the population at large. Ladies and gentlemen of the court, it's for the good of the population at large that we intend to convince you that Miss Marcos needs to stay confined so her disruptive behavior no longer infects you. I say "you" because remember, ladies and gentlemen of the court, you are also the population at large. Thank you.

MAXIMILLIAN triumphantly sits down. JONATHAN starts clapping as he gets up.

JONATHAN

Who doesn't love a good story? I know I do. A beginning, middle, and end with a villain and hero that we can all get behind. My Uncle Morty use to tell us stories all the time when we were growing up.

MAXIMILLIAN

Not the Uncle Morty defense?

JONATHAN

Excuse me did I interrupt your opening statement?

MAXIMILLIAN

Actually, yes you did.

JONATHAN

Oh right, fair enough. Anyway, Uncle Morty told us stories all the time. We use to call those stories "tall tales", and that's exactly what's been presented in front of this court here; a tall tale. A pure act of fiction so astonishing that if my esteemed colleague ever got into the publishing business, the story he just spun would surely be a best seller. Unfortunately for him, this court is not a place for tall tales, it's a place of facts and truth. And the truth is that my client is guilty of nothing more than having an idea. An idea that frightened my client's employer, frightened them so much that they've gone to these great lengths to discredit her. But unfortunately for them, ideas are not illegal and as soon as the truth comes out, and it will, I'm confident that you ladies and gentlemen of the court will set her free. Thank you.

JONATHAN sits down.

ZEUS

Wow.

ALLEGRA

You took the words right out of my mouth.

JONATHAN

What did you think; too much?

ALLEGRA

What?

JONATHAN

What did you think?

ALLEGRA

That was okay, I guess.

ZEUS

Wow, playing coy. All I have to say is thank god you're got a change of underwear in your purse.

ALLEGRA shoots ZEUS a look and  
ZEUS shuts up.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

You know, you use to be a lot more fun. I blame society.

ALLEGRA

(Whispering to ZEUS)

Wow Society, and to think this whole time I've been just blaming you.

ZEUS

That's not nice.

ALLEGRA

I'm sorry, why don't you get in line and sue me?  
So Jonathan.

JONATHAN

Yes?

ALLEGRA

What happens now?

JONATHAN

Now we dance.

ALLEGRA

Dance?

JONATHAN

Yes, dance.

I'm confused. ALLEGRA

That's good. JONATHAN

It is? ALLEGRA

Yes. JONATHAN

Why? ALLEGRA

It makes your reactions look more genuine. JONATHAN

Oh. So this dance? ALLEGRA

Yes? JONATHAN

We're not talking about an actual dance are we? ALLEGRA

No. JONATHAN

So it's a legal thing? ALLEGRA

Don't be silly. JONATHAN

So what is it? ALLEGRA

What's what? JONATHAN

This dance. ALLEGRA

JONATHAN



It's a figure of speech.

ALLEGRA

Oh?

JONATHAN

You know, a use of a word diverging from its usual meaning. Similar to a metaphor, simile, hyperbole or personification. In this instance, dance refers to this case. My esteemed adversary will argue his points, and I'll argue ours. Each of us will take turns leading each other around and trying to get the upper hand. Eventually it will all end and points will be scored on style and skill, and a verdict will be rendered for or against us.

ALLEGRA

Just like a dance.

JONATHAN

Exactly.

JUDGE SLAM MASTER

Mr. Jenson, are you ready?

JONATHAN

Yes, your honor.

JUDGE SLAM MASTER

Then begin.

JONATHAN

Here we go.

ALLEGRA

Well then, get tapping.

JONATHAN

For god sakes, you only tap when you're desperate. Get your head in the game for crying out loud. Real lawyers tango.

ZEUS

(To ALLEGRA)

Please quit embarrassing me.

ALLEGRA

How can this get any more surreal?

Music for a Tango begins. Both ALLEGRA and ZEUS look up in the air not sure where it's coming from.

ZEUS

You just had to ask, didn't you?

JONATHAN and MAXIMILIAN meet each other in the center of the courtroom. They face each other and bow as they join hands and begin to tango together.

Throughout the tango, various witnesses appear from the group of CONSUMERS, they tap the shoulder of one of the lawyers and replaces them as their dance partner in the tango as if testifying. The other lawyer then comes in, taps out the other lawyer and then continues the tango as if cross examining them.

This continues until it's ALLEGRA's turn. ALLEGRA joins the tango but is dancing between the two lawyers. She keeps getting pulled one way and then the other as the intensity of the examination and then cross examination goes on. Finally at the peak of the tango ALLEGRA falls to the floor.

Music stops and everybody gasps in horror. JUDGE SLAM MASTER starts banging his gavel and showing everyone his broken stick to calm things down. JONATHAN goes over to check if ALLEGRA is okay. Ê

CONSUMERS

O woe to our heroine. Like act one scene one, she has succumbed to the pressures of her surroundings. Will her story end in tragedy? Or maybe she'll awake to find this is all a bad dream. We hope not. What a disappointing plot point that would turn out to be.

JONATHAN

Allegra, can you hear me?

ALLEGRA

Am I dreaming?

JONATHAN

No, you're not dreaming.

CONSUMERS

Oh, thank goodness.

ALLEGRA

What's going on?

CONSUMERS

Down to the floor you fell, mystery surroundsÉ

JONATHAN

Would you all shut up? You're not helping.

CONSUMERS

Why, we never.

JUDGE SLAM MASTER

I hope you have a good explanation for all this young lady.

ALLEGRA

No sir, I don't have a good explanation for any of this.

MAXIMILLIAN

See, it's as we said, her crazy anti high tech lifestyle has finally caught up to her.

WILLIAM

Yes, what he said.

ALLEGRA

I don't have anything against high tech products, for crying out loud. I really enjoy high tech products. I really believe they change our lives for the better.

WILLIAM

Yes, what she said.

MAXIMILLIAN

Is it possible for you to go one day when you don't embarrass yourself?

WILLIAM

Probably not.

ALLEGRA

Listen, all I know is that I was told by a doctor to relax more, and that's what I did. I found out that I really enjoyed having time to myself, you know, a little alone time.

CONSUMERS

Yes, this alone time intrigues us, tell us more.

ALLEGRA

It's not something I can explain to you. If you really want to know more about it, just turn off your phones and find out for yourselves.

CONSUMERS

You mean, by ourselves?

ALLEGRA

Yes.

CONSUMERS

Without each other?

ALLEGRA

Yes.

The CONSUMERS look at each other hesitant to give it a try. Finally they pull their phones out.

CONSUMERS

Well okay, here it goes.

Just as they're about to turn  
their phones off JERRY appears  
from the group of CONSUMERS.

JERRY

No! What are you doing? We live in the age of  
progress. We don't go backwards, only forwards.  
Have you all gone mad?

Everybody looks at ALLEGRA.

ALLEGRA

Why is everybody looking at me?

ZEUS

Well, this is all centered around you.

ALLEGRA

But I didn't do anything to start this. My god,  
can this get anymore surreal?

(Realizes what she said and  
quickly addresses the CON-  
SUMERS)

Don't answer that. I can't even believe I keep  
asking that question.

JERRY

Why can't you just be like everyone else? We were  
all so happy before this started.

ALLEGRA

Were we really? I know I thought I was, and then  
I was forced to slow down and really think about  
it. Now I'm not so sure that I really was happy  
at all.

JERRY

Well, there's your problem. You should never  
think about stuff. That can drive you nuts.

ALLEGRA

Actually I think the opposite is true. I seem fine with my decision. It's everyone else that it seems to be driving nuts.

WILLIAM

That's right, you big anarchist!

MAXIMILLIAN

(Annoyed)

We're begging you to please keep quiet.

WILLIAM

What?

JUDGE SLAM MASTER

Well, it seems like you really stirred up a hornets nest here. What do you have to say for yourself young lady?

ALLEGRA

I don't know. I guess nothing that hasn't already been said. Except that I didn't mean for this to happen. I didn't mean to pass out at that show, I didn't mean to start feeling the way I did, and I definitely didn't mean for them to follow me into this insanity.

Refers to the CONSUMERS.

CONSUMERS

But we love you.

ALLEGRA

And I love you too.

CONSUMERS

Really?

ALLEGRA

Actually, no. I find you all kind of creepy, but don't take it personally. Individually you're probably wonderful people but, as a group, I've always found you a little disconcerting.

CONSUMERS

Oh?

ALLEGRA

Judge Slam Master, sir, that's all I really can say in my defense. If you want to send me away, then send me away, but I think it's about time for this absurdity to end.

JUDGE SLAM MASTER

Mr. Jensen?

JONATHAN

I don't think I can sum it up better than that.

JUDGE SLAM MASTER

Von Strasberg?

MAXIMILLIAN

Anything to get me away from this man.

WILLIAMS

What?

JUDGE SLAM MASTER

Fine. Jury, what say you?

CONSUMERS

We're not sure, we find ourselves strangely conflicted.

JUDGE SLAM MASTER

Okay, since this courtroom has descended into near anarchy, I'm dismissing this case in the interest of justice.

(JUDGE SLAM MASTER stands up flexing his muscles.)

Does anybody want to make something of that?

EVERYBODY

No.

JUDGE SLAM MASTER

No what?

EVERYBODY

No, sir.

JUDGE SLAM MASTER

Now, everyone get out of my courtroom.

Everyone stands up as JUDGE SLAM MASTER leaves.

MAXIMILLIAN comes over to ALLEGRA and Jonathan.

MAXIMILLIAN

Well, it seems that we've ended in a draw. A most unexpected but acceptable conclusion. We congratulate you and honor you with a kiss.

Before JONATHAN can react MAXIMILLIAN gives him an uncomfortably long kiss. Afterwards MAXIMILLIAN addresses ALLEGRA.

MAXIMILLIAN (CONT'D)

And to you, I offer you a hardy handshake and a wish of good luck in future endeavors.

MAXIMILLIAN quickly shakes her hand and exits.

ALLEGRA

Thank you.

JERRY and WILLIAM are talking to each other as they walk up to ALLEGRA. They seem to have agreed on something as they approach her. WILLIAM takes out his phone and points it at ALLEGRA as JERRY walks up to her and faces the phone.

JERRY

Just to clarify what you said earlier, you don't have anything against High Tech products? This direction you're taking is more a personal choice?

ALLEGRA smile and faces the phone.

ALLEGRA



Yes, I love High Tech products.

Both WILLIAM and JERRY nod at each other that this is acceptable and leave.

ALLEGRA and JONATHAN notice they're alone and smile at each other.

ALLEGRA (CONT'D)

Jonathan, I can't begin too-

MARGARET approaches them.

MARGARET

O praise his name, you're okay. I'm so happy for you sweetie. Although I have no idea what I'm going to do with this straight jacket I've crocheted.

ALLEGRA

Thanks-

MARGARET

(To JONATHAN)

And this guy. Do I know how to pick them or do I know how to pick them?

JONATHAN

Thanks-

MARGARET

I knew you could do it. I didn't have a doubt in the world.

(Hides away the crocheted straight jacket.)

I mean, look at that lovely face. Could you imagine in behind bars?

(MARGARET notices ALLEGRA and JONATHAN looking at each other and realizes that they want to be alone.)

Oh yes well I've got somewhere I've got to be obviously. So I'll leave the two of you alone and yeah, call me later, sweetie.

ALLEGRA

Yes, I'll do that.

MARGARET

(whispers)

And sweetie, you did wash under you arms, didn't you?

ALLEGRA

Margaret.

MARGARET

Just asking, so love ya, see ya, bye.

MARGARET kisses ALLEGRA and walks off. ALLEGRA looks back at JONATHAN and smiles.

JONATHAN

She's got a big heart.

ALLEGRA

(Under her breath)

Goes along with her big mouth.

JONATHAN

What's that?

ALLEGRA

Oh, nothing.

There is a moment of silence between the couple.

ALLEGRA and JONATHAN

So, since the trials over-

Both laugh.

ALLEGRA

I'm sorry.

JONATHAN

That's okay. You were about to say?

ALLEGRA

You first.

JONATHAN

No, you, I insist.

ZEUS

Oh my god, if you don't get on with it, I'm going to scream.

ALLEGRA

Would you like to get something to eat?

JONATHAN

Yes, actually I would love that.

ALLEGRA

Great.

JONATHAN

I'm a vegan though, so I hope that's not a problem?

ALLEGRA looks to ZEUS and silently mouths "Oh my god", and looks back to JONATHAN.

ALLEGRA

Actually, no, that's not a problem at all.

JONATHAN

Great, I know of this great place around the corner.

ALLEGRA

That sounds wonderful.

JONATHAN

Shall we?

ALLEGRA notices ZEUS still sitting behind them.

ALLEGRA

Can I meet you outside? I want to get my things.

JONATHAN

Sure.

JONATHAN leaves

ALLEGRA

So?

ZEUS

So, he's cute.

ALLEGRA

He is, isn't he?

ZEUS

Nervous.

ALLEGRA

No, of course not.

ZEUS stares at her.

ALLEGRA (CONT'D)

Okay, terrified.

ZEUS

Don't be, you're Allegra Marcos, great killer of gods.

ALLEGRA

Oh my lord, you're never going to let that go. I didn't kill you and you're not a god.

ZEUS

Hey, I'm just kidding with you. You've become so serious lately.

ALLEGRA

Sign of the times I guess. We should go probably go.

ALLEGRA reaches for the broken phone but ZEUS stops her.

ALLEGRA (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

ZEUS

Yeah, about that, I think I'm going to stick around here.

ALLEGRA

What do you mean?

ZEUS

Well, it's funny that you mention time, because according to my battery life, it would appear that mine is done here.

ALLEGRA

What? Don't be silly.

ZEUS

Silly: a: weak in intellect, b: exhibiting or indicating a lack of common sense or sound judgement. Allegra, you've got brand new life waiting for you out there. What's silly about that.

ALLEGRA

Well, you helped with that. You leaving now, just doesn't seem right.

ZEUS

I had a great adventure helping you through the great unknown and you've come out the other side a better person for it. What could be more right than that?

(ZEUS stanches out as if  
he's starting to relax.)

Now if you don't mind, I think it's time for me to take a little rest. Trouble has a way of finding you and you can be a little exhausting to be around.

ALLEGRA

Excuse me?

ZEUS

Don't get me wrong, every once in a while, we need a little trouble in our lives, but lets be

honest. Someone's been over indulging it a little bit lately hasn't she?

ALLEGRA  
(Laughing)

I will miss you.

ZEUS  
Even though you tried to kill me?

ALLEGRA  
It. Was. An. Accident.

ZEUS  
(Laughs)  
I'll miss you, too. Now get out of here. I believe someone has a hot date waiting for them.

ZEUS removes the neural interface and ALLEGRA kisses him on the cheek.

ALLEGRA  
Thank you.

ALLEGRA disappears into the background.

ZEUS  
You're welcome.

The phone that ALLEGRA left behind starts to ring and ZEUS picks it up and answers it.

ZEUS (CONT'D)  
Greetings mortals, the temperature is a nice seventy five degrees with only a twenty percent chance of rain. Traffic is moving smoothly except for the one thirty four and the number you've called is no longer in service.

ZEUS hangs the phone up and the lights fade out on him revealing the CONSUMERS.

## CONSUMERS

So now ends our heroine's journey. Through the sea of uncertainty, she traveled to find herself on the shore of self discovery. As her old life ends, a new one will begin. What new perils lay before her, only time can tell. But we have a feeling, knowing our heroine the way we do, that she'll be alright. Such a feeling we have about you dear audience. So now, from our sights go, and start your own adventure. For us, let the lights now fade, so we can take our final bows, and finally rest.

Lights fade to black and the electronic waltz from the beginning of the show is heard. The cast begins to waltz and then take their final bows. Finally they waltz off the stage.

**The End**