

THE END

Cast of Characters

THE WOMAN

a woman over 60ish

THE END

any gender, race, age—seriously anybody can play this

Place

Anywhere that has cement sidewalks

Time

Any time after the invention of flush toilets, dental floss, the Beatles and women lawyers.

THE END

THE WOMAN and THE END are in the middle of an argument. THE END is wearing a bright color and carrying papers.

THE WOMAN

But not now!

THE END

This really isn't open to debate.

THE WOMAN

I'm not ready.

THE END

Nobody's ever ready.

THE WOMAN

Well that's just not true. My dad was 96 years old and fighting for every breath. He was so ready and where the hell were you? (Pause). Oh damn, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to say hell. And then I said damn, didn't I? Probably not good either, right?

THE END

Just relax. This will go a lot better if you just relax.

THE WOMAN

Well, you know this is not really a situation where a person can just relax. This just can't happen now. I'm too young.

THE END

A. There's no such thing as too young for me and actually you're not.

THE WOMAN

There's no need to be rude. Look, there's got to be a mistake. Yesterday I skipped dessert and flossed. That should count for something, right?

THE END

Lady, you fell and hit your head. The flossing thing really was not a factor.

THE WOMAN

But I also exercise. I work my core and my legs are strong. I'm not supposed to fall.

THE END

There was a crack in the sidewalk. Could happen to anybody.

THE WOMAN

This is a joke, right? Look at your outfit. Aren't you supposed to be wearing black?

THE END

I would have thought that kind of stereotyping beneath you. Do you honestly think this would be easier for you if I were wearing black?

THE WOMAN

Well, you know I think it would. Why don't you pop off to wherever you pop off to, put on something more befitting the occasion and I'll meet you back here in say a couple of hours.

THE END

Nice try.

THE WOMAN

Oh my God, I didn't flush.

THE END

I'm sorry, what?

THE WOMAN

I just remembered. I was in a hurry. The phone rang or something. Anyway, I left the house and I never went back and flushed. Whoever goes into my house is going to find.....

THE END

I really wouldn't worry about it.

THE WOMAN

I did wash my hands.

THE END

Well thank goodness for that.

THE WOMAN

Sarcasm isn't working for me right now. I need to get back to my house. It's not just the toilet. There are things on my computer and there's that one drawer....

THE END

This is not a negotiation.

THE WOMAN

I'm a lawyer.

(THE END gives her a look of derision.)

Don't look at me like that. Sometimes it works.

THE END

We aren't talking speeding tickets. *(Checking papers)*. You haven't practiced law in years.

THE WOMAN

Once a lawyer always a lawyer. It's like being Jewish or Catholic. You can't get out even if you want to.

THE END

Well it doesn't really matter in this situation, does it?

THE WOMAN

I'm not asking for a lot. I'm just saying not now and not here. A couple of days. What could it hurt. You change the Tuesday on your little chart to Thursday. Who's to know.

THE END

No.

THE WOMAN

A couple hours. What is it? 11? *(Looking at the papers)*. I don't think that's so clear there. It could be just a 1. I think it's just a 1.

THE END

Then I'd have to change the AM to PM andWhy am I even having this discussion. I can't do it. God I hate dealing with lawyers.

THE WOMAN

I didn't bleach!

THE END

Your laundry will be....

THE WOMAN

Not the laundry, you idiot. My mustache. I do it on Sunday but I forgot. Is it really bad?

THE END

Not really bad, no. I can see a little bit.....what difference does it make now.

THE WOMAN

Well somebody is going to have to identify me, right?

THE END

That's pretty much just in fiction. We know who you are.

THE WOMAN

I'm just thinking that maybe there's a loophole. Shouldn't there be some sense of justice in all of this? I've made it through the hard parts.

THE END

The hard parts?

THE WOMAN

Of life. The hard parts of life. Childbirth. The bar exam. Hot flashes. By the way it is really not fair that as soon as women don't have to worry about getting pregnant you take away whatever good looks we had.

THE END

Lady, I'm The End, not The Menopause. None of this is my fault. I'm not in control here. It's just my job.

THE WOMAN

You don't understand. I'm finally at a point in my life where I don't even have to go to work anymore. This is supposed to be when I get to have fun. And there's a lot of fun I want to have. And now I get done in by a misaligned piece of concrete? That's just not fair.

THE END

My next appointment is a six year old girl in Bangladesh with cholera.

THE WOMAN

(subdued). Ok, well now I feel like a jerk.

THE END

I didn't say it to make you feel bad. I'm just pointing out...

THE WOMAN

How self centered I am. How egotistical to think this shouldn't happen to me. When why shouldn't it happen to me. In my whole life I don't think I ever once thought about cholera. Maybe a little about Bangladesh when the Beatles did that concert.

THE END

I wasn't being critical. I'm The End, not The Judge.

THE WOMAN

But there is a judge.

THE END

I didn't say that.

THE WOMAN

I'm worried about The Judge.

THE END

There's nothing you can do about it now.

THE WOMAN

There must be something. Is there someone who really wants to meet you that I could sort of switch with. I'll take over anybody's miserable existence.

THE END

It doesn't work like that. But, okay, there is one thing.

THE WOMAN

Of course there is. I knew there had to be. What do I have to do?

THE END

You can send me away.

THE WOMAN

Say, what?

THE END

You can send me away.

THE WOMAN

And you'll just go.

THE END

Yes.

THE WOMAN

Go.

THE END

I wasn't finished.

THE WOMAN

There's a catch.

THE END

There is. (*Pause*)

THE WOMAN

Well are you gonna friggin tell me or am I supposed to just stand here forever!

THE END

If you send me away I'll never come back.

THE WOMAN

And that would be a bad thing because.....

THE END

I don't know. It's up to you whether it would be a bad thing.

THE WOMAN

Well eventually someone else like you, I mean with your job, would show up.

THE END

I'm **THE** End. Not **AN** end. So, no.

THE WOMAN

Am I me forever? Here? Now? Is it a reincarnation thing?

THE END

I have no idea. I never know what happens after I leave. I just know I can never come back to see you again. You just walk that way (*gestures stage left*) by yourself or you come this way (*gestures stage right*) and we'll go together. Your call.

THE WOMAN

(*Long pause*) If I go with you will it hurt? Because if this is the last thing I ever do I'd like to do it with some class and if there's pain I will totally be a whiner.

THE END

It won't hurt. All the pain is over.

(*THE WOMAN pauses. Looks both ways. Then gestures to take the arm of THE END*).

THE END

(*Chatting as they exit*). I'm not supposed to do this, but you do have a little chin hair there. I'll get that tweezed.

THE WOMAN

Ah, that's so nice of you. How about we see if you can do something about that flushing issue.