

The Belly of the Whale

To the cast: Please overact this as hard as you can. Go big. Think big, then go bigger. Thank you! -Andy

Who: Harry Houdini

What: A lunch box

Where: Bovey Speakeasy

Opening Line: Who's side are you on?

Closing Line: Stop, collaborate, and listen.

Character list:

Tonya Toivinen: Sassy gal, with gams for miles and she lets everyone know it

Danita Pemberton: Reserved, quiet, but crafty

Janet Houdini: Claims she's Harry's long lost cousin, but clearly is not.

Tim "Honcho" Hondo: Braggadocious, loud mouthed longtime friend, also Door man at the speakeasy.

Garret Whittlebottoms: Nerdy, quiet friend. There's an unrequited love between him and Danita.

The scene begins on the outside of the speakeasy, Tonya, Danita, Janet, and Garret are having a quiet argument. (Stage left)

Tonya: Who's side are you on?

Garret: (*quietly*) I don't think we need to pick sides we can use facts.

Tonya: The fact is Janet is not related in any way, shape or...(*Janet Interrupts*)

Janet: I am so! When we were kids we used to play hide and seek and he would always cheat! I swear I would lock him in a closet but every time (*Tonya interrupting*)

Tonya: That clearly didn't happen!

Danita: (*sarcastically*) Tonya, that could've happened. Remember that time when Garret said he stood up for himself?

Garret: Hey!

Danita: See, he stood up for himself. Garret calm down, i'm just messing with you (*brushes his shoulder playfully*)

Garret: (*Blushes and turns away*) good one.

The four approach the speakeasy door and knock. (Left of Center stage)

Tim: What's the password?

Tonya: I brought your lunchbox

Tim:...that'll do.

Tim opens the door. (*they enter the speakeasy*)

Tim: What's up nerds. You all come out to drink sarsaparilla and balance your checkbooks?

Garret: (*quietly, looking away*) I did that already.

Tonya: We're out trying to find ourselves a stiff drink and...a stiffer man. (*pops her legs, showing them off to everyone*)

Danita: TONYA! ...You know I don't drink.

Janet: We're here because my cousin told me he was going to perform.

Tim: Brian is here tonight? How has he been?

Janet: NO! Not Brian...he's good though. Just got a new job and has another little one on the way.

Tim: Huh! Never thought he had it in him...

Garret: (*quietly to himself*) technically his wife does...

Tim: (*to Garret*) What's your deal? You're always mumbling stuff like we can't hear you.

Garret steps to the front of the stage to begin his soliloquy

Garret's Soliloquy: (*angrily*) Honcho, you idiot. What a dumb nickname you gave to yourself (*heavy sarcasm*) "Oh I'm Honcho, my job is soooo important. What's the password (*mocks the gesture of running the door*)" You're not even the boss! It's supposed to be Head Honcho you dunce...o

Honcho: (*quizzically*) You know I can hear you right?

Garret: (*stammering*) this..this..this is a..is a..is a soliloquy, (*gathers his strength, angrily*) you're supposed to pause! What's going on?!

Honcho: (*confused*) So I should just forget this part happened? Like a freeze frame at the end of a montage?

Garret: Yeah! (*matter-of-factly*) This is supposed to be occurring in my brain. When I stepped out of the scene you should've noticed that.

Honcho: Oh. (*innocently*) It's just that my job in the bar is security... and you looked like you were up to something.

Garret: I am! So can I continue?

Honcho: By all means. The floor is yours, "Mr Speaker".

Garret tries to begin again but Janet steps to stage front to give her soliloquy

Janet: (*rudely*) Garret, do you mind? Kind of doing a thing here.

Garret: (*quietly*) i was just (*Janet interrupts*)

Janet: This happens every time we go out! I tell them my cousin might show up and perform and all they do is mock me and say "Oh he's not your cousin". Bovey is a small town! Of course he's my cousin, I mean he's not but they don't need to know that. (*Garret quietly slinks back to the other characters*) (*to the audience*) Oh, I know he could hear me just now. Anyways.

Janet joins everyone again.

Honcho: Did any of you see that weird thing Garret just did? (*Garret looks at him angrily*) He just walked over there and started talking out loud like he was addressing an audience in a play or something. It was really weird.

Tonya: Can we not? You do this every time we come out. Garret calls them soliloquies. He's done this since we were little. Remember in school whenever he'd get picked on, he'd step outside of the fight and mock the kid who was picking on him.

Honcho: Yeah...but he described what a soliloquy was to me and I don't think he's doing it right.

Danita: Oh he's definitely not doing it right. You're supposed to say "Time Out" first. Everyone knows that (*playfully pushes Garret to try to diffuse the tension, Garret smiles, it worked*)

Garret: Yeah, I guess I could get better at that. (*Fiddles around with his pockets, plays coy*)

Danita: (*to Garret*) why don't you go grab us a table, we'll go order drinks. The usual? (*Honcho heads back towards the door*)

Janet, Danita, and Tonya head towards the bar (stage right)

Janet: Where's the bartender? (*under her breath*) He'll be here any minute.

Tonya: Listen, Janet. Even if he is your cousin (*Janet interrupts*)

Janet: HE IS! He'll be here any minute...

Tonya: Irregardless (*Danita snaps her head towards Tonya*), even if he is your cousin, he's been dead for 90 years! There's no way you could've done any of the stuff with him.

Janet: Wait...what?

Danita: You know it's 2018 right? Harry Houdini died Halloween, 1926.

Janet: But he just had a tv show!

Danita: I don't know how many times we've told you this, but TV isn't reality.

Tonya: Janet...who do you think is going to be here?

Garret approaches them

Garret: What's going on? What's taking so long?

Janet: That's what I keep saying...

Danita: (*under her breath*) he's talking about the drinks you simpleton.

Janet: What's that, Danita?

Danita: I'm sure he's just in back...let's just go sit down.

Janet: (*Quietly*) that's what I thought.

Tonya: Janet, seriously, who do you think is going to meet us here? Do you have a picture of him in your phone?

Janet: Of course I do (*pulls out her phone*) See!

Danita: Who...what's this?

Janet: It's my cousin Harry. Harry Houdini.

Danita: There isn't anyone in this picture (*under her breath*) I guess he pulled another disappearing act.

Janet: You know I can hear that right?

Danita: (*with heavy sarcasm*) Of course you can, if you couldn't hear it, neither could they! (*points to the audience*)

Janet: ...Who are you pointing to...

Danita: You don't see them? ...All the people out there.

Tonya: I thought you said you didn't drink?... Why don't we go sit back down.

They all sit down at the table, Honcho approaches from stage left by the door. Danita sits at the table appearing to be distracted, and only half listening to the conversation at the table.

Honcho: Everything all right?

Tonya: Trying to get a drink but there's no one tending bar. It seems like everything is falling apart. Garret's doing soliloquies again, Danita is addressing an "Audience"...Janet thinks a dead magician from the early 1900's is going to perform...

Honcho: Yeah, that'll happen...

Tonya: Say what's the name of this place anyways?

Honcho: Doesn't have a name. Hard to tell someone where you've been if it doesn't have a name.

Garret: That's actually really smart.

Honcho: (*sarcastically*) I know it is, Garret. That's why I named it that. (*Everyone looks at Honcho, baffled*)

Danita: *(suddenly paying attention)* Named it what?

Honcho: It doesn't have one.

Danita: *(baffled tone)* then how could you name it...*(snapping out of it)* know what. Doesn't matter.

Danita: I'll be right back *(leaves the table and exits stage right)*

Garret: Hey, I need to tell you all something.

Honcho: You're in love with Danita. *(Garret looks baffled)* It's obvious.

Garret: What should I do though? Do I ask her out?

Garret steps for another soliloquy

Garret: She's the one. I know she is. She's always so nice and only mocks me slightly. *(Danita reenters the scene)* Look how she walks, so elegantly. I can do this. I can do this. I can

Danita to the table: He doing that soliloquy thing again?

Tonya: Yeah, I say we just pretend to not see it. It's just so hard to pretend that time pauses every time he does it. I mean, it's completely our fault. If we wouldn't have messed with him to begin with he would've never thought it actually worked. This time he's trying to pump himself up to ask you out.

Danita: Can't say that's the first time he's done that. Did he do the thing where he's like "I can do this, I can do this, I can do this"?

Janet: Yeah. It's kind of endearing watching him build up the confidence though...if you're not interested....

Danita: All yours.

Garret approaches confidently. Honcho puts on a Vanilla Ice style hat

Garret: Danita *(Janet interrupts, pushing Garret)*

Janet: OH MY GOD HE'S HERE!!!

Everyone:...That's Honcho in a hat.

Danita: Wait...has Honcho been catfishing you pretending to be Vanilla Ice?

Janet: (*in a daze*) Harry Houdini.

Honcho: STOP. COLLABORATE AND LISTEN!

End.