

**Life as a Springer Show:**  
**A You Choose Comedy**  
**by Tom Smith**

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## **CHARACTERS**

TOM, 24

AMY, 24

RYAN, early to mid-20s

JERRY

**Time:** the present

**Place:** a funky coffee shop

*Playwright's Note: Periodically, the action comes to a point of crisis or revelation. At this point, Jerry appears and the audience is asked to choose from a small list of options. Feel free to explore how to best work this: either through group vote (applause), choosing a specific audience member, or some other way. It is important this process go quickly, so as to not kill the overall flow of the play.*

## Life as a Springer Show: a you choose comedy

*Theme music. A funky coffee shop. Tom is sitting drinking a latte and reading a local alternative paper. Periodically he looks up from his paper, searching for someone who is obviously late. In rushes Amy, who throws her bag on the chair opposite Tom.*

AMY

I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry.

TOM

I was just about to give up.

AMY

I know. I got held up. Not robbed, but, you know...at work. I was going to call, but my cell was dying and I couldn't find my cord to charge it. Let me get something to drink. I'll be right back.

*(Goes over to the counter and orders a drink. Behind the counter is a handsome barista, Ryan. Amy flirts with him a little as he makes her a drink.*

*Tom watches all this, amused. Finally, she returns to the table.)*

He is so good-looking.

TOM

Why do you think I come here?

AMY

Guess what he said when I asked him for a single, tall skinny?

AMY/TOM

"Where would you like me?"

*(She looks disappointed.)*

TOM

Well, that's what he said, isn't it?

AMY

I'd like to think he's said it only to me. Why are all the pretty people making lattes nowadays? Doesn't anybody model anymore? The girl behind the counter last time looked like some kind of Nordic goddess.

TOM

Listen, there's something I need to talk to you about.

AMY

It's like you have to be represented by an agent just to pull a shot of espresso.

TOM

I'm serious, Amy.

AMY

What is it?

*(They freeze. More theme music as Jerry enters to applause, hoots and hollers.)*

JERRY

Ok, on today's show we have Tom and Amy, friends for almost ten years. They used to work together and are still close friends. But Tom has a secret he's about the reveal: either that he's had sex with his best friend, he had sex with his best friend's mother, or he had sex with his own mother. By applause, how many of you want Tom has sex with his best friend? How many for Tom having sex with his best friend's mom? How many for Tom having sex with his own mom?

*(Once a clear winner has been established.)*

All right. Let's hear what Tom has to say...

*If Tom reveals...*

*"I had sex with my best friend," go to page 3*

*"I had sex with my best friend's mom," go to page 5*

*"I had sex with my mom," go to page 7*

## I HAD SEX WITH MY BEST FRIEND

TOM

I had sex with my best friend.

AMY

I thought I was your best friend.

TOM

My other one.

AMY

What other one? The only other person you ever hang out with is—Will? You had sex with Will?

*(Tom looks sheepish.)*

Oh my God, you're gay! I always thought you were, but—

TOM

What do you mean you always thought I was?

AMY

Don't get offended but it's sort of obvious. You haven't dated a girl since Melissa. That's was over a year ago.

TOM

You didn't know!

AMY

So what was it like? With Will?

TOM

Pretty great. I mean, I kind of thought that it might be something I'd want to try, but I didn't think I was actually...you know...

AMY

I don't want to shock you, but you seem more surprised by this than I am. So what now? Are you two dating? When did this happen?

TOM

Last night. I have no idea what it means. I wanted to call him today but...I mean, should I?

AMY

Of course! Before you have a chance to over-analyze this!

TOM

But what if it was just a fling?

AMY

Ohmygod, now we can go to all the cool gay bars! I can be your hag!

TOM

Don't say that!

AMY

Oh, you're still a little freaked out, aren't you? That's so cute!

TOM

Shut up!

AMY

Well, I guess compared to that, my news is going to sound pathetic.

TOM

What news?

\*\*\*

*GO TO PAGE 9*

## I HAD SEX WITH MY BEST FRIEND'S MOM

TOM

I had sex with my best friend's mom.

AMY

Say what?

TOM

I had sex with my best friend's mom.

AMY

I thought I was your best friend.

TOM

*(Looking sheepish.)*

You are.

AMY

Then how could you have ... I mean... Are you serious?

TOM

I didn't mean for this to happen. Honestly!

AMY

How...when...?

TOM

Last night. After you left to go to work. I was helping your mom clean up after the party, and we were both a little drunk... She more than me.

AMY

You slept with my mother at my birthday party?

TOM

I didn't know she was your mom! I've only ever met your step-mom. And you didn't introduce me to her or anything. I thought she was just a regular party guest. We got to talking about

architecture, and she mentioned she works for a design firm, and— You know I have a thing for older women..

AMY

When did you find out she was my mom?

TOM

Right before.

AMY

What?

TOM

Well, we were already naked, and we were both ready and she said something about how lucky it was her daughter had such cute friends and—

AMY

So you knew she was my mom and your still had sex with her?

TOM

This is really going to screw up our friendship, isn't it?

AMY

Well, I guess compared to that, my news is going to sound pathetic.

TOM

What news?

\*\*\*

*GO TO PAGE 9*



## I HAD SEX WITH MY MOM

TOM

I had sex with my mom.

AMY

What?

TOM

I had sex. With my mom.

AMY

What are you talking about?

TOM

*(Looking sheepish.)*

This is so messed up!

AMY

How...when...?

TOM

Last night. After you left to go to work. I was helping clean up after the party, and we were both a little drunk... She more than me. And I didn't know she was my mom; you know I've never even seen pictures of my birth mom. She came in with that guy you work with—Stephen—and he left early. She wanted to stay, and Stephen asked me if I would bring her home. Well, we got to talking about architecture, and she mentioned she recently moved here because of a new job at a design firm, and—

AMY

Are you being totally serious here? You screwed your own mother? Like Greek-tragedy-screwed her?

TOM

You know I have a thing for older women.

AMY

When did you find out she was your mom?

TOM

Right after we did it.

AMY

What was that conversation?

TOM

Well, we got to talking, and she asked me how old I was and I told her I was 6, which, you know, I am because I was born on a leap year. And she said she had a son who was a leap year baby and she asked if I lived here all my life and I said no, I was from California and then we kinda started putting two and two together.

AMY

I cannot tell you how many ways you've just creeped me out.

TOM

What about me? Do you realize how many years of therapy I've just dedicated myself to?

AMY

Well, I guess compared to that, my news is going to sound pathetic.

TOM

What news?

\*\*\*

*GO TO PAGE 9*

JERRY

Wow! That must be shocking news for Amy. But Tom isn't the only one with a secret. Amy is about to reveal one of her own. She's either about to reveal that she was filmed having sex with the janitor at work, she's going to become a nun, or that she had sex with the barista. By applause, how many of you want Amy to reveal she was filmed having sex with the janitor? How many for Amy becoming a nun? How many for having sex with the barista?

*(Once a clear winner has been established.)*

Yeah, I thought so. Ok, let's hear from Amy now.

*If Amy reveals...*

*"I was filmed having sex with the janitor at work," go to page 10*

*"I'm going to become a nun," go to page 12*

*"I secretly had sex with the barista," go to page 15*

## I WAS FILMED HAVING SEX WITH THE JANITOR AT WORK

AMY

I was filmed having sex with the janitor at work.

TOM

What?

AMY

They finally caught on to the fact that someone was using the conference room for play rehearsals and making photocopies after hours. My boss put in a security camera. This morning I was asked to go to his office, and he showed me a security tape of me not only making photocopies, but also getting it on on top of the machine.

TOM

Who were you doing it with?

AMY

Jeremiah. He's the weasely little janitor everyone hates.

TOM

Then why'd you do him?

AMY

He has a reputation for being huge. You know I'm a very curious person.

TOM

And?

AMY

Like a stallion. A black stallion.

TOM

Did you get fired?

AMY

I was late because I had to pack up my office.

TOM

So how many jobs has this been now?

AMY

Officially, this is the only one I've been fired from. The others I quit when I found out they were going to let me go.

TOM

Wow.

\*\*\*

*Go to page 17*

## I'M GOING TO BECOME A NUN

AMY

You know how I've been going off on these weekend retreats, right?

TOM

Yeah, those meditation things.

AMY

Well that wasn't exactly the whole truth.

TOM

Do you have a boyfriend?

AMY

No! Well, kinda, I guess.

TOM

What's his name? Do I know him?

AMY

You know him, yeah. He's pretty famous.

TOM

Oh my God! A celebrity! Who is it?

AMY

Don't freak out.

TOM

Is he an actor? Musician?

AMY

God!

TOM

What's wrong with me asking that?

AMY

No, not "God!" God.

TOM

God is your boyfriend?

AMY

Soon to be husband.

TOM

I don't get it.

AMY

Tom, I've been going away on retreats with the Catholic Church. I've in process to explore whether or not I want to dedicate my life to God. And I do. I'm going to become a nun.

TOM

Ok, sure.

AMY

That's it? You aren't freaked out even a little bit by that?

TOM

Amy, in the past two years you've joined and quit the Peace Corps, started your own online business, dated I don't know how many guys—

AMY

Hey now!

TOM

This is just one more thing you'll move on from next week.

AMY

I won't. I'm serious about this. I've given up sex. It's been three months!

TOM

No!

AMY

Think about it, Tom. When was the last time you heard me talk about banging someone in a bathroom? Or steaming up a car?

TOM

I don't know. What about...? My God, it has been a while.

AMY

Since I started going to the retreats.

TOM

So you're serious about this?

AMY

Yes! I'm going to become a nun.

TOM

Wow.

\*\*\*

*Go to page 17*



## I HAD SEX WITH THE BARISTA

AMY

You know that barista behind the counter? Ryan?

TOM

Yeah. Hey, how do you know his name?

AMY

I screamed it during my orgasm last night!

TOM

You what?

AMY

We're sort of dating. If you can call it that.

*(She waves to Ryan; he waves back.)*

TOM

Since when?

AMY

On and off for two weeks.

TOM

How come you didn't tell me?

AMY

I'm telling you now.

TOM

But you've been humping for two weeks.

AMY

Did you know he's got a teeny tiny tattoo on his back?

TOM

I can't believe you've kept this secret! We're supposed to tell each everything! What kind of tattoo?

AMY

A butterfly.

TOM

A butterfly? Are you sure he doesn't want to date me?

AMY

He's really good in bed. A moaner.

TOM

Is he hung? I bet he has a small dick.

AMY

He does.

TOM

Thank God.

AMY

Does that make you feel better?

TOM

Wait, are you lying? He's hung like a horse, isn't he?

AMY

No. Just the size of a...stallion. A black stallion!

TOM

I can't believe you're dating the barista! Wow!

\*\*\*

*Go to page 17*

**PAGE 17**

AMY

*(Seeing Ryan grab a cup of coffee.)*

Oh, look, he's taking a break. Should I ask him to sit with us?

TOM

No. Yes. I don't know.

AMY

Hey? You want to sit with us?

*(Ryan comes over.)*

TOM

Hi.

RYAN

Hey.

AMY

I thought it might be better to sit here rather than pretending not to notice us gawking at you from across the room.

TOM

Amy! I'm Tom.

RYAN

I'm Ryan.

AMY

So, how's your shift been?

RYAN

Not so bad. A little slow on tips.

AMY

Tom's a cheapskate.

RYAN

So, Tom, what do you do? Besides come here every day at five?

TOM

I temp right now. I'm thinking about going back to school to get my architecture degree.

RYAN

That's cool.

TOM

What about you? I mean, I know you work here. But, are you going to college as well?

RYAN

No. College isn't for me. Actually, I just took this job for the benefits. Don't tell anyone, but...

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JERRY

So Ryan has a secret of his own! I wonder what it could be. Maybe it's that he's getting a sex change! Or that he's a stripper! Or perhaps he's bisexual and swings both ways! By applause, how many of you think he's going to get a sex change? How many think he's a stripper? Besides this guy, how many of you want him to swing both ways?

*(Once a clear winner has been established.)*

Oh, you're a naughty studio audience! Let's hear from Ryan himself.

*If Ryan says*

*"I'm getting a sex change," go to page 19*

*"I'm a stripper," go to page 21*

*"I swing both ways," go to page 23*

## I'M GETTING A SEX CHANGE

RYAN

I'm getting a sex change. Next week, in fact.

AMY

Say what?

TOM

Really?

RYAN

Yeah. I'm only working here because I get full medical benefits for working part time. I needed some hours free during the daytime for these classes I'm taking. They teach you how to walk and sit and eat like a woman, so, you know, afterwards it'll be an easier transition.

TOM

Wow...that's really...cool, I guess.

AMY

Tom, he's joking.

RYAN

No, I'm not. I've been saving my money for five years. Taking hormones for two. It's strange, I know. But it's just something I've always known I needed to do.

AMY

So you're gay?

RYAN

No. Well, this is where it gets weird. I mean, I like women, but now that I'm going to become one, I'm not sure what's going on. The hormones I've been taking have changed that a little bit so now it's all kind of up in the air.

TOM

That's amazing! Who'd have thought, huh, Amy?

AMY

Yeah...who have thought?

\*\*\*

*Go to page 26*

## I'M A STRIPPER

RYAN

I'm a stripper.

TOM

You're a stripper? Like, stripper stripper?

RYAN

Yeah. But only at night, so I do this in the afternoons. I work at Stud Farm, down on Fourth. I've been there two years now. The tips here are nothing like down there. I was working here because it gives me healthcare benefits. But the Farm is going to start offering them next week, so I'm quitting this job.

TOM

I don't think I've ever met a stripper before. At least, not without holding up a dollar bill.

RYAN

I'm glad you use that word. I hate when people say "exotic dancer." That's just candy-coating it, you know? Like "sex-worker" instead of man-whore.

TOM

Amy, you look a little stunned.

AMY

I— I didn't have any idea about this!

RYAN

Does it freak you out? It shouldn't. It's just, you know, getting naked in front of men for money.

TOM

You don't look like a stripper. I mean, no fake tan or anything.

RYAN

Stud Farm is all about guys who look normal. No plucked eyebrows or shaved chests.

TOM

That's amazing! Who'd have thought, huh, Amy?

AMY

Yeah...who have thought?

\*\*\*

*Go to page 26*



## I SWING BOTH WAYS

RYAN

I swing both ways.

TOM

Excuse me?

RYAN

Sexually. I'm into guys and girls. Sometimes at the same time. I've been doing this job for a few months because I had a buddy who was bi and said this was the best place to meet people who are into that, you know? I'm looking for a relationship. A throuple. As soon as I find one, I'll go back to working the job I had before.

TOM

Which was what?

RYAN

Day labor. Construction wasn't really the place to meet open-minded people.

AMY

I guess it wouldn't be.

RYAN

You know, you two look open-minded.

AMY

Tell me this isn't happening!

TOM

Oh, yeah?

RYAN

You two aren't a couple, by any chance?

AMY

No!

TOM

Not really, no.

RYAN

Too bad. We'd make a pretty sandwich.

TOM

That might be the nicest thing anyone's ever said to me.

AMY

Tom! Listen, Ryan, just how bisexual are you?

RYAN

Oh, I'm not bi, I'm just slutty! Just a little joke. What do you mean, how bi?

AMY

Like, straight-down-the-line 50/50?

TOM

I don't think it's appropriate to say "straight" down the line.

RYAN

Pretty close, yeah.

TOM

Amy, are you ok?

AMY

I just need a second or two to let this sink in.

RYAN

I get that a lot. Looking at me, who'd have thought, hunh?

TOM

Who'd have thought, huh, Amy?

AMY

Yeah...who have thought?

\*\*\*

*Go to page 26*

**PAGE 26**

RYAN

Hey, look, my break's almost over. Maybe we could meet up after my shift. I'm done at 7:00.

AMY

Which one of us are you asking?

RYAN

Actually, I was asking—

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JERRY

Who's it going to be? Does Ryan want to "meet up" with Amy? Or maybe he's into Tom. Oh, our course, you all want a third option. So maybe Ryan wants both, Tom and Amy. What do you think? Amy? Tom? Or Tom and Amy?

*(Once a clear winner has been established.)*

I thought as much! Well let's see how this all plays out.

*If Ryan says*

*"Amy," go to page 26*

*"Tom," go to page 28*

*"Tom and Amy," go to page 30*

**AMY**

—you, Amy.

RYAN

AMY

Um, yeah, well... I'm pretty open-minded. I really am. But I...I don't know.

RYAN

Ok. No sweat.

*(Starts to exit.)*

AMY

Wait! I didn't say I wouldn't. I just need a second or two, ok?

RYAN

Cool. I'll go see if I can bum a smoke.

*(Exits.)*

AMY

I totally can't do this!

TOM

Amy, what's the big deal? It's not like you're looking for relationship or anything. Go out. Get to know him better.

AMY

But did you hear what he just said?

TOM

So he's got a bit of a past. And a present. We all do...as evidenced by our conversation tonight!

AMY

No, not that. I don't care about that. He was looking for a cigarette. I hate smokers.

*(She rises.)*

Let's get out of here.

TOM

You wanna go without saying goodbye?

AMY

Yeah. I'll put up with a lot, but even I have my limits.

*(They start to leave.)*

Too bad. He was cute.

TOM

Does this mean we can't come back to this coffee shop?

AMY

It's not like there's not a billion more in this city to choose from.

TOM

I know. But he knew my order at this one.

AMY

Quit whining!

TOM

I'm not!

AMY

You're such a baby!

*(They are gone.)*

*Go to page 33*

**TOM**

—you, Tom.

RYAN

TOM

Um, yeah, well... I'm pretty open-minded. I really am. But I...I don't know.

RYAN

Ok. No sweat.

*(Starts to exit.)*

TOM

Wait! I didn't say I wouldn't. I just need a second or two, ok?

RYAN

Cool. I'll go see if I can bum a smoke.

*(Exits.)*

TOM

I totally can't do this!

AMY

Tom, what's the big deal? It's not like you're looking for relationship or anything. Go out. Get to know him better.

TOM

But did you hear what he just said?

AMY

So he's got a bit of a past. And a present. We all do...as evidenced by our conversation tonight!

TOM

No, not that. I don't care about that. He was looking for a cigarette. I hate smokers.

*(He rises.)*

Let's get out of here.

AMY

You wanna go without saying goodbye?

TOM

Yeah. I'll put up with a lot, but even I have my limits.

*(They start to leave.)*

Too bad. He was cute.

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Quit whining!

AMY

I'm not!

TOM

You're such a baby!

*(They are gone.)*

*Go to page 33*



## TOM AND AMY

RYAN

—you both.

AMY

Um, yeah, well...

TOM

I'm pretty open-minded. I really am. But I...

AMY

I don't know.

RYAN

Ok. No sweat. If you ever change your mind...

*(Exits.)*

TOM

I totally couldn't do that! Can you imagine?

AMY

It would be so weird!

TOM

I know. Not being naked, I mean, it's not like you haven't seen me naked before. Or that we haven't slept together.

AMY

But that was actual sleeping. I mean, I guess we made-out before after a few too many. But still...wouldn't that be weird?

TOM

Completely. Especially after everything we've just told each other.

*(Each visualizes it for a moment. Tom rises.)*

Let's go!

AMY

You mean go, like somewhere else? Or go, like,

*(In a sexy voice.)*

"let's go and get it on with Ryan"?

TOM

Let's go find a bar and drink until we forget about what just happened.

*(They start to leave.)*

AMY

This has got to be the strangest night of my life!

TOM

Tell me about it!

AMY

Does this mean we can't come back to this coffee shop?

TOM

It's not like there's not a billion more in this city to choose from.

AMY

I know. But he knew my order at this one.

TOM

Quit whining!

AMY

I'm not!

TOM

You're such a baby!

*(They are gone.)*

Go to page 33

**PAGE 33**

**JERRY**

And now for my final thought. You know, sometimes a friend reveals something to you that you would never have guessed was true. And something about their honesty opens you up, and you respond in kind, sharing a secret you've been keeping from them for fear it might tear the friendship apart. But when it doesn't, when a friendship is true and solid, telling secrets isn't something to be ashamed of: it's something to cherish. Because a friend will love you no matter what, and no secret will be too awkward or embarrassing to change that. So, until next time, take care of yourself and each other.

*(Theme music as Jerry exits to applause, hoots and hollers.)*

*END OF PLAY*