

EXTREME EXTERMINATING

By Ann Marie Oliva

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PRODUCTION HISTORY

Extreme Exterminating was selected for a 10 minute play festival at Theatre Charlotte.

PROPS/ COSTUME

A table, two chairs, tool box, spray bottle, plastic gloves, note pad, pen, and “exterminator” costume

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CAST: *JULIE, a nervous woman with serious phobias.
DELL, an exterminator, par excellence.*

SETTING: *Present day. Late at night. The living room of Julie's house.*

**For contest purposes, props may easily be mimed.*

AT RISE: *JULIE'S apartment. SHE is dressed in white, wearing rubber gloves, holding a plastic knife, looking terrified. A knock at the door. SHE jumps.*

DELL: Exterminator!

(JULIE looks down trying not to step on "something" and walks to the door.)

JULIE: Frank?

DELL: It's Dell, Miss Julie.

JULIE: Call number?

DELL: 584345-99624-574222.

(JULIE "opens" the door. DELL enters with a tool box.)

DELL: *(tipping his baseball cap)* Ma'am.

JULIE: I always have Frank. Where's Frank?

DELL: Enjoying the evening with his family, I hope. You called at 10:52 P.M. concerning a large infestation in your apartment?

(JULIE tiptoes back looking at a pad covered in saran wrap on the table, then . . .)

JULIE: I saw it at 10:51:52 and called on speed dial.

DELL: We at "Spray it with Love Exterminating Services" hope to make this as pleasurable an experience for you as possible. How may I help you?

JULIE: Spiders! You've got to do something. I won't be able to sleep until I know it's safe.

DELL: Safe for what?

JULIE: Frank always made me feel comfortable.

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DELL: I'll bet. What did it look like?

JULIE: Like spiders look.

DELL: Was it black, brown, have long legs . . . ?

JULIE: I didn't get his shoe size. A spider is a spider and they need to be vanquished from this earth!

(JULIE starts to hyperventilate. DELL guides her to a chair but SHE won't sit until SHE checks it out. HE takes a paper bag out of his tool kit and SHE breathes in and out.)

DELL: It's OK, *(aside)* I think, take some deep breaths.

(After a few breaths, DELL takes the bag away and JULIE sighs.)

JULIE: You know your way around a paper bag, Mr. Dell.

DELL: Yes, ma'am. Extreme Loving Care Exterminator of the Year, three years in a row.

JULIE: *(sarcastically)* Impressive, Mr. Dell.

DELL: And actually, Dell is for Dellwin, Dellwin De la Noye.

JULIE: Unusual.

DELL: De la Noye means "from the place of the nut trees." My mother called me Dellwin, which means proud friend, cause it sounded classy to her.

JULIE: *(trying to follow this)* So, you're the "proud friend from the place of the nut trees?"

DELL: That's Mom for ya, always thinking I was special.

JULIE: Wish I could say that about my mother.

(JULIE has a tic and twitches a couple of times. DELL gives her the paper bag again which SHE pushes away.)

JULIE: A paper bag can't help this.

DELL: Can I help?

JULIE: It really is a very sincere type of exterminating you do, isn't it? I should know. I'm well acquainted with all kinds of exterminators, an expert you might say.

(DELL takes a spray bottle from the tool kit and hangs it from his belt. HE takes out a small log book.)

DELL: Now, I don't see much change since the last time Frank was here

. . .

(JULIE screams and jumps up on the chair.)

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