

THE FORGOTTEN ONE

By Patrick Gabridge

Copyright © 1999 by Patrick Gabridge, All rights reserved.
ISBN 1-930961-73-1

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice:

Produced by special arrangement with Brooklyn Publishers, LLC

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.

THE FORGOTTEN ONE

by
Patrick Gabridge

If desired, the character of Biggs can also be played by a woman.

CAST: JASPER and BIGGS

AT RISE: JASPER, old and decrepit, sits in his easy chair. As HE hears a knock on the door, HE stands up suddenly, looking shocked and frightened.

***NOTE: For contest purposes, where costumes and props are not allowed, this play can easily be performed without either.**

JASPER: This is it. **(HE slowly and painfully walks toward the door)**
Just a minute! **(to himself)** Ha, listen to me. That's probably all I have...one minute. **(another knock)** Okay...Okay. This is it. **(mimes opening the door, where a much younger CHARLIE BIGGS is standing)** You're him, huh?

BIGGS: Uh, yeah, you knew I was coming, right?

JASPER: It was inevitable. But I thought maybe I had slipped through the cracks... You're not what I expected.

BIGGS: You expected someone older?

JASPER: Yes. Perhaps a little more imposing. I see you brought your list. I thought you had forgotten me. I was sure of it.

BIGGS: Oh, no. Not at all. This is very important.

JASPER: For me, sure, but I thought you would be...jaded.

BIGGS: It's important to try to stay fresh.

JASPER: Sure. Sure.

BIGGS: Do you mind if I come in?

JASPER: Do I really have an option?

BIGGS: Of course. If you want, we could go somewhere else...There's a coffee shop around the corner.

JASPER: No. No, we should take care of it here. I'm not used to going out. I... I wouldn't know what to expect. I'd be more comfortable here, if you don't mind.

BIGGS: Not at all.

(JASPER ushers BIGGS inside. BIGGS looks at the old surroundings.)

The Forgotten One - Page 3

JASPER: I know the place is a mess...I guess you see all kinds of places...the Taj Mahal, warships, even Westminster Abbey.

BIGGS: Oh, yeah. Just yesterday, I was at a shooting downtown. Quite a mess.

JASPER: Care for a drink before...

BIGGS: That would be great. (**JASPER mimes pouring them a drink**) Well, should we begin?

JASPER: Don't waste any time, do you? I'm sure everyone is like me. They want to put it off a little.

BIGGS: Sometimes people like to chat first. Seems to make it easier. Now, if we could just...

JASPER: Of course. Do you want me anywhere in particular?

BIGGS: What? No. Where you are is fine.

JASPER: Okay. (**JASPER closes his eyes tight and stiffens. BIGGS mimes opening his notebook and producing a pen. HE notices JASPER and seems very confused.**) Okay, I'm ready.

BIGGS: You don't have to be nervous.

JASPER: It'll be painless?

BIGGS: Sure. Why wouldn't it be?

(JASPER relaxes a bit and partially opens his eyes.)

JASPER: That's a relief. I think I'm ready now. Go ahead.

BIGGS: All right. Now, according to the records I have, you were born in 1877. Is that correct?

JASPER: No, it was 1875. Look, do we have to go over this now? I said I'm ready.

BIGGS: Ready for what?

JASPER: To die. (**opens his eyes**) You are Death, aren't you?

BIGGS: Not exactly. I'm Charlie Biggs from the Herald Tribune. They were supposed to call you about the story and tell you I was coming over. You are Chester McNulty, aren't you?

JASPER: No, of course not. Chester died in 1975. He was my roommate. I'm sorry. You need to leave right now. Right now!

BIGGS: But the records show that...Jasper Whitney, your roommate, died in 1975.

JASPER: Don't say that name so loud! Look, there was a mix-up. That's all. Get out.

BIGGS: What do you mean?

JASPER: Everybody thought he was me. Simple. Even the papers got it wrong. So what? Leave me alone. Get out of my apartment.

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from THE FORGOTTEN ONE by Patrick Gabridge. For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script, please contact us at:

**Brooklyn Publishers, LLC
P.O. Box 248 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406
Toll Free: 1-888-473-8521 • Fax (319) 368-8011
www.brookpub.com**

Do Not Copy