

GRADUATION

By Jerry Rabushka

Copyright © 2006 by Jerry Rabushka, All rights reserved.
ISBN 1-60003-181-1

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.

GRADUATION

by
Jerry Rabushka

CHARACTER: Can be played by either Male or Female.

As the class of 2004 is gathered together for the final time, the graduating seniors will take one more look at the Rosewood High gymnasium before they say their ultimate farewell.

Some – like me – will head on to college to pursue a career in the use of biotechnology in military and counterterrorist applications. Others, like Barney Smith and Bessy Johnson, will continue on their path in fast food disbursement. Ahhh... Barney and Bessy. Voted best couple by the seniors of Rosewood High. Best couple of what? (**ordering in a fast food joint**) Couple of cheeseburgers, hold the mayo!

She wouldn't even *give* me any mayo. You know Bessy. (**as Bessy**) "Oh, here comes the valedictorian. Sorry, but I'm allergic to smart people. Ahhhh choo!" Oh Bessy, that was about as funny as your final algebra grade.

Now, I know the principal is thinking thusly: "Why are you using your High School graduation speech to lash out at Barney Smith and Bessy Johnson? Why, indeed? (**screaming**) Because they're losers who tortured me and I want everyone to know it! (**calms down**) Is this not the same principal who insisted that I address my speech to the senior class in its entirety? (**as the Principal**) "Not just the smart kids, not just the jocks, and not just the popular kids. Everyone." So, I'm doing this for you. It's a matter of "principle."

Now. . . Barney and Bessy. They weren't smart. They weren't jocks. They were simply. . . bad kids. Do you know what Bessy calls success? A large vanilla shake. Do you know what Barney calls success? (**giggles**) Nothing!

Oh, the smart kids. Can't leave them out! John Wheeler, genius? I'll say. He figured out a way to cheat on algebra, biology, and American lit. Thought nobody knew? I knew. (**aside**) Well, I gave him the answers. (**shakes head, mockingly**) Kids these days. You might think twice about handing him that diploma, Mr. Roberts. Maybe it needs an asterisk.

Graduation - Page 3

But let's not dwell on the past. Though Sheila Jordache, I'll never forgive you for greasing my violin strings with olive oil at the senior concert. Never! Though it did help me hit that high G, no problem.

This is not the time to look backwards. Not when the class of 2004 has its whole future ahead of them. For Barney and Bessy, it's fries. Lots of them. Fries with this, fries with that. The sweet salt smell of success. For John Wheeler? Repeating his senior year. In detention. At a military academy. So sorry John. No I'm not.

Now, there are people who say some of us smart kids have no social skills. That I, in particular, hold a grudge. That I can't forget. (**losing it**) Third grade, Robby Houston! Put frog legs on my salami sandwich! I'll get you for it! (**back to normal**) Well you know what? It's not that I *can't* forget. Who has time? I worked my butt off to become class valedictorian. Not because I'm the smartest, but because I wanted to get up here and make this speech! Because I wanted revenge! (**to someone in the crowd**) Oh, no you're not going *anywhere*. Your turn is yet to come.

I also wanted to thank some of the teachers who made me who I am today. Sit down, Miss Torelli, this is *your* turn in the spotlight. I said sit *down*, Miss Torelli. See? Don't like it, do you? (**as Miss Torelli**) "Class, today we're going to discuss symbolism in the works of Eugene O'Neil. Then we're going to compare it to the symbolism found in the short stories of Ernest Hemingway." Oh, now you tell me, Miss Torelli, do you really think that's a good time? Why don't we just stay home and peel potatoes? If I wanted symbols I'd have joined the marching band.

Oh, and Mr. Klausenhammer. Another. . . influential?? . . . teacher?? More like influenced.

Maurice got an A from him because. . . oh, because he did all his homework correctly and on time. Whoop de do. And Christine? Got an A because. . . (**giggles**) Oh, never mind.

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from GRADUATION by Jerry Rabushka. 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