

KEEPING SCORE

By Terri Collin

Copyright © 2005 by Terri Collin, All rights reserved.

ISBN: 1-60003-062-9

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.

CHARACTERS

JACKIE	mid 30s; GLORIA's daughter
GLORIA	mid 70s; JACKIE's mother
LORRAINE	mid 30s
MARY	mid 30s

SET

A simple set with bleachers or a long bench without a back.

PROPS

Orange slices in a plastic bag
Small cooler
Camera
Paper towels
Agenda book and pen
Crock of cheese, knife, crackers
Bottle of Tums

COSTUMES

JACKIE: casual daytime attire

LORRAINE: sweat suit and sneakers

MARY: bright tropical cruise wear

GLORIA: something akin to a house dress, classic old lady style; orthopedic shoes would add nice flair.

KEEPING SCORE

by
Terri Collin

Setting: *Bleachers of a community center basketball court. There is a basketball game in progress.*

At Rise: *Lights come up on JACKIE, a woman in her late thirties. SHE is anxiously watching her twelve year old son play basketball in the championship game of the season. JACKIE's mother, GLORIA, is seated beside her. GLORIA, a woman in her early seventies, is eating orange slices from a plastic bag while enthusiastically watching her grandson play ball. In GLORIA's lap is a paper towel where she lays the orange peels. A camera is set on top of a small cooler by her feet.*

JACKIE: Shoot! Do it! Yes! NOOOO! This game is over.

GLORIA: **(waves and calls out)** Hi, Johnny! Grandma.

JACKIE: They can't hit the hoop!

GLORIA: So, they're having fun. **(calling)** Are you having fun, Johnny?

JACKIE: This isn't any old game, Mother! This is the championship game.

GLORIA: Here he comes! **(quickly gets her camera, looks through the lens, shouts)** Look at Grandma! Smile! **(removes camera from her face)** What-what's he pointing at?

JACKIE: Nothing. He's flipping you the bird.

GLORIA: His laces, Jackie! He's gonna trip.

JACKIE: He's twelve. He can tie.

GLORIA: I'm going out there.

JACKIE: Sit down! You'll get trampled.

GLORIA: That blue team has such big boys.

JACKIE: Look at their coach wearing a suit. Thinks he's coaching the New York Knicks.

GLORIA: **(sweetly calling)** Pull up your shorts, Johnny, dear. Your underwear's showing.

JACKIE: Ah, come on coach. He walked!

GLORIA: Oh, boy! The Knicks coach is fist fighting with that man in stripes.

JACKIE: That was a good call. Pass the ball, Johnny! Pass!

GLORIA: Ah! Look how nice he passed the ball.

JACKIE: He passed it to the other team, Mother.

GLORIA: So. You don't have to get technical.

JACKIE: Look at this. Fourth quarter, down six, he puts TJ in - kid's practically a midget. (**LORRAINE enters, harried, almost breathless. SHE wears a sweat-suit, tennis shoes and clutches a large day timer to her chest.**) We need TJ in there, Lorraine.

GLORIA: You just said TJ was a midg...

JACKIE: (**interjecting loudly**) STICK AN ORANGE IN IT! (**sweetly**) They're so good for you... oranges. Lorraine, this is... my mother, Gloria.

(**GLORIA puts an orange slice in her mouth. SHE smiles an orange peel smile.**)

LORRAINE: (**looking through her bag for glasses**) I almost didn't make it. What quarter is it?

JACKIE: Fourth.

GLORIA: How many more quarters to go?

JACKIE: (**beat; SHE looks at GLORIA in disbelief**) What time is your plane?

LORRAINE: (**SHE finds her glasses, puts them on, checks the scoreboard**) Thirty-six, thirty.

JACKIE: We're the thirty.

LORRAINE: You see? The blue team brought a victory banner.

JACKIE: That's so inappropriate, so snotty.

LORRAINE: Tacky is what it is. Ticky-ticky-tacky, honey, let me tell you. I know Rhonda Rinderman is behind it. Her perfect little Chuckie can't possibly lose. Talks like that boy is Jordan and Einstein rolled into one.

JACKIE: Yeah, well, Chuckie got caught taking a five finger discount at Wal-Mart.

LORRAINE: Rhonda's little Einstein may be doing his undergrad at the State Pen.

(**LORRAINE and JACKIE share a laugh.**)

GLORIA: Which one is yours, Lorraine?

LORRAINE: The one with glasses, TJ.

GLORIA: (**locating him on the court**) Jackie, TJ... he's really not such a midge...

JACKIE: (**quickly overlapping**) All the way, TJ!!

LORRAINE: TJ! That was a bad shot! What's the matter with you... shooting from all the way out there?!

JACKIE: Johnny is wide open. Pass it, Ben! Pass it!

GLORIA: What is this, hot potato? Pass-it, pass-it. Let the boy hold the ball if he wants.

JACKIE: You have to dribble, pass or shoot. It's a violation to stand around holding the basketball.

GLORIA: Well, that's mean.

LORRAINE: Johnny got a technical.

JACKIE: *(calling)* ZIP IT UP, JOHNNY!

GLORIA: His fly is open?

JACKIE: Arguing with the ref. He knows better than that.

LORRAINE: They're taking TJ out, putting Michael Morgan in. Why'd the Morgans sign that kid up?

JACKIE: He doesn't want to play basketball.

LORRAINE: For good reason. He stinks at it.

JACKIE: It's not fair to his teammates. They wanna win!

*Thank you for reading this free excerpt from KEEPING SCORE by Terri Collin.
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