

# THE LIBRARIAN AND THE JOCK

A Ten-Minute Comedy Duet

by  
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**LIBRARIAN (F)** – good-natured and close to retirement age  
**JEFF (M)** – an obnoxious jock  
**STEVE (M)** – a timid nerd (omitted if performed in competition)

**\*IF PERFORMED AS A DUO PIECE IN A FORENSICS COMPETITION where each actor can only play one role, then the LIBRARIAN and JEFF will react as if STEVE is present, but the role of STEVE will not actually be performed. All props should be mimed. The piece will open as follows:**

*(JEFF should be in an “off” position—head bowed or his back to the audience.)*

LIBRARIAN: *(mimes handing a book to STEVE)* This will be due back in two weeks. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.

*(JEFF switches to his “on” position and the LIBRARIAN switches to an “off” position. JEFF mimes holding a thin book as HE talks to STEVE.)*

JEFF: Hey, geek. What are you reading today—*(mockingly)* more comic books? *(Comic books are an assumption on JEFF’s part—he does not actually “see” or even attempt to look at the book STEVE has checked out.)* Hey, wait—what *Star Wars* character’s on your shirt today? *(Waits a second for STEVE’s response.)* Luke Skywalker? Grow up, you little nerd, and get out of my sight.

*(The LIBRARIAN switches to her “on” position and the performance continues with the LIBRARIAN’s line “That wasn’t very nice,” below.)*

**\*IF PERFORMED ON STAGE, the play proceeds as follows:**

**AT RISE:** *The LIBRARIAN sits or stands behind a library circulation desk. Atop the desk are a computer, a phone, a pen, a note pad, a date due stamp, stamp pad, and a sign which reads, “Books are due two weeks from checkout.” The LIBRARIAN is a little old lady very near retirement age. Her clothing is a bit frumpy and SHE wears frumpy-looking glasses. Although her demeanor is sweet, SHE loves to torment obnoxious students. SHE is also a hardcore comic book/sci-fi fan, which is hinted at the beginning of the play and becomes gradually more apparent—and more significant—as things progress. STEVE is checking out a book at the library circulation desk and JEFF is waiting behind him. JEFF is an athletic, preppy-looking jock holding a very thin, sports-related book. STEVE is a timid kid in a Luke Skywalker shirt. If necessary, the shirt can be changed to a different sci-fi character and the dialogue adjusted accordingly. The LIBRARIAN has just stamped the due date in STEVE’s book and is handing it back to him. The book is a super hero graphic novel, and the cover should be visible to the audience.*

LIBRARIAN: Excellent choice. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

STEVE: Thanks.

*(STEVE turns to leave, but JEFF is standing in his way, scowling and pointing at STEVE’S shirt. STEVE is clearly intimidated.)*

JEFF: Hey, nerd. What *Star Wars* character’s on your shirt today?

STEVE: Luke Skywalker.

JEFF: Riiight. Luke Skywalker. Grow up, geek.

*(STEVE sheepishly exits, eyes downcast. The LIBRARIAN frowns in concern over JEFF’s treatment of STEVE.)*

LIBRARIAN: That wasn’t very nice.

JEFF: Whatever. Stupid, useless sci-fi junk. *(Hands the LIBRARIAN his book.)* Here, I wanna get this.

LIBRARIAN: What is your name, please?

JEFF: You’re the librarian. You know everything.

LIBRARIAN: *(pleasantly)* If I sit here long enough, I have no doubt that your name will eventually pop into my head. Do you mind me staring at you for an hour?

*(Pause. The LIBRARIAN stares at JEFF. JEFF is clearly uncomfortable.)*

JEFF: Jeff.

LIBRARIAN: I need your *last* name, dear.

JEFF: You wrote my name on that disciplinary referral that you sent to the assistant principal last week. If you don't remember, then get your copy and look it up.

LIBRARIAN: Do *you* know your name?

JEFF: Of course I know my name!

LIBRARIAN: Then why don't you prove to me that you're not as dumb as you think I think you are?

JEFF: I'm not dumb!

LIBRARIAN: I didn't say that you were. I'll bet that you could name every player in the NFL.

JEFF: Darn right. You want me to?

LIBRARIAN: The only name I need is yours.

JEFF: Jeff Sides.

LIBRARIAN: Could you spell that for me?

JEFF: S-I-D-E-S. What are you, stupid?

LIBRARIAN: Careful, now. Disrespect of staff is what got you into trouble last time.

*(The LIBRARIAN looks at her computer screen and types.)*

Hmm. I'm showing here that you have an overdue book.

JEFF: I haven't checked anything out this year.

LIBRARIAN: It's from two years ago.

JEFF: I didn't check out no book two years ago.

*(The LIBRARIAN frowns a little, feigning concern about the apparent breakdown in communication.)*

LIBRARIAN: Well, our records show that you did. Haven't you been getting notices about it?

JEFF: No.

LIBRARIAN: Your homeroom teacher hasn't handed you a piece of paper every Tuesday morning for the past two years?

JEFF: No.

LIBRARIAN: I'll have to contact her about that immediately.

JEFF: What, like a little white piece of paper?

*(The LIBRARIAN holds up her hands as if framing the sides of the piece of paper SHE is describing.)*

LIBRARIAN: Yes. A little white piece of paper. Flimsy. Like the kind you write on, only without the blue lines. Has black print on it—letters forming words.

JEFF: Oh, yeah. Those papers. Yeah, I guess so.

LIBRARIAN: The strength of your conviction is refreshing. Well now, you've been getting these notices for two years. How can you not know that you've had an overdue book?

JEFF: My teachers never told me what those papers were.

LIBRARIAN: That's terrible. I'll have to bring that up at the next faculty meeting.

JEFF: Yeah! You should!

LIBRARIAN: It's entirely too much to expect our students to actually read all of the random pieces of paper that get handed to them.

JEFF: Darn straight.

LIBRARIAN: So just out of curiosity, what did you do with all those little pieces of paper?

JEFF: Threw 'em away.

LIBRARIAN: I suppose that's better than some of the alternatives.

JEFF: Like what?

LIBRARIAN: Have you seen the movie *Demolition Man*?

JEFF: No.

LIBRARIAN: That's probably for the best.

JEFF: Why?

LIBRARIAN: Never you mind about that. Why did you think those little pieces of paper weren't about anything important?

JEFF: Well . . . they weren't disciplinary referrals, and they weren't about football.

LIBRARIAN: *(feigning a moment of clarity)* And thus, obviously, they didn't matter! I see. Excuse me a minute. *(writing herself a note)* Make . . . overdue . . . notices . . . resemble . . . disciplinary . . . referral . . . forms. I'm afraid we still have a problem, though.

JEFF: What's that?

LIBRARIAN: You have an overdue book. I'm afraid you can't check anything else out until you return it and pay the fine.

JEFF: But it's not my fault that I didn't know about it!

LIBRARIAN: Even though the faculty and the library staff have clearly failed in informing our students about their library infractions, it was still your responsibility to return the book on time. The due date was stamped in the back.

JEFF: But I have to finish reading the book to get to the back! You can't expect me to read a whole book! You're not my teacher! That's not fair!

LIBRARIAN: The due date was not stamped at the conclusion of the text. It was stamped on a slip of paper on the inside back cover of the book.

END OF FREE PREVIEW