

# WHAT IF...

by Kamron Klitgaard

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# WHAT IF...

*A One Act Comedy*

by **Kamron Klitgaard**

**SYNOPSIS:** Whitney is great at “what ifs.” She’s always inventing scenarios in which she explains to her friend, Kendra, “What if this happened?” Or “What if that happened?” To Kendra, it’s like watching a blooper reel as they imagine what would happen next. After recreating what would happen if they tripped a random stranger in the park, Whitney discovers that she’s lost her keys. In order to find them, they decide to use her repeating “what if” skills to recreate the day in real life by retracing their steps exactly how they happened. But soon, real life and the “what if” fantasy collide, which leads to hot peppers, vomiting, romance, and of course, a zombie apocalypse.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(3 female, 1 male, 4 either; gender flexible)*

WHITNEY (f).....	Daring and imaginative. <i>(102 lines)</i>
KENDRA (f).....	Concerned friend. <i>(98 lines)</i>
RYLEE (m/f) .....	The boss. <i>(27 lines)</i>
JESSIE (m/f).....	Friend with peppers. <i>(16 lines)</i>
JORDAN (m/f).....	About to have a medical procedure. <i>(17 lines)</i>
BOOK GUY (m).....	Romantic book reader. <i>(31 lines)</i>
JOGGER (f).....	Romantic runner. <i>(34 lines)</i>
SKATEBOARDER (m/f) .....	Chemical delivery guy. <i>(18 lines)</i>

**DURATION:** 35 minutes.

**TIME:** Present day.

**SETTING:** A park.

**SET:** All that is needed is a bench.

## COSTUMES

WHITNEY, KENDRA, JESSIE, and JORDAN – Casual attire.

RYLEE – Business attire.

BOOK GUY – Nice casual attire.

JOGGER – Exercise attire.

SKATEBOARDER – Skater attire.

## PROPS

- Medical Bag
- Lab Coat
- Stethoscope
- Set of Keys
- Bag of Peppers
- Water Bottle of Cleanse
- Book
- Skateboard
- Paper Bag labeled “Volatile Chemicals”
- Candy Bar
- Bottle of Water
- Wrench

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

**BOTTLES OF LIQUID** – This can be pantomimed using empty bottles. If you want a more realistic look, you can use water for both the Skateboarder's water bottle and bottle of the cleanse. Using water is a nice effect on stage, but it may cause the floor to become slippery.

**HOT PEPPERS** – This can be pantomimed using an empty bag. But if you want to use something real, some sort of Gummy Candies look like peppers on stage and gives the actors something real to chew without making a mess.

**SKATEBOARD** – If easier for casting or production space, a scooter may be used or the actor can carry the skateboard.

BOOK – Several times during the play, a book flies out of the Book Guy’s hands and hits the Jogger. When blocking this scene, make sure the Book Guy is close enough to the Jogger that it will be an easy “hit.” However, if, by chance, the Book Guy misses the Jogger, the Jogger should react like she almost got hit. Be sure to use a paperback book, so that it won’t hurt.

VOLATILE CHEMICALS – This can be pantomimed using an empty bag. For some extra fun, use slime! When they struggle for the bag in the finale, Skateboarder can pull the open bag and smash the slime into their face. If using slime, it’s recommended to use it only at the end, and pantomime it before. This helps with the flow and ease of the production and adds to the climax.

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**AT RISE:** *WHITNEY and KENDRA enter. KENDRA carries a medical bag with a lab coat and stethoscope inside.*

**WHITNEY:** I'm just saying, what if...

**KENDRA:** You always say, what if... What if this happened? What if that happened? You always have some future made-up scenario that's so far-fetched it could never happen.

**WHITNEY:** Hey, it could happen. Whatever it is, it could happen.

**KENDRA:** I'm just more interested in what is happening or what did happen or even what will happen. You know, reality?

*WHITNEY and KENDRA sit on the bench.*

**WHITNEY:** You think I live in a fantasy world, but— *(Standing.)* Ouch!

**KENDRA:** What happened?

**WHITNEY:** *(Pulling a set of keys from back pocket.)* I sat on my keys!

**KENDRA:** Hey, here comes Rylee.

*RYLEE enters WHITNEY sits and puts keys on bench.*

**WHITNEY:** Pretend we're not here!

**KENDRA:** Don't be ridiculous.

**RYLEE:** *(Approaching the bench.)* Hello, ladies.

**KENDRA:** Hi, Rylee.

**WHITNEY:** *(With contempt.)* Hello, Rylee.

**RYLEE:** Whitney, did you practice your part for the company talent show?

**WHITNEY:** *(Mocking.)* Yes, I practiced my part for the company talent show.

**RYLEE:** Let's see it.

**WHITNEY:** We're not at work right now. You're not the boss of this park. Besides, that dance is humiliating.

**RYLEE:** My division is poised to win that talent competition, but if the unthinkable should happen and you're the one responsible, I will personally make your life a—

**WHITNEY:** Fine! *(Stands and does a short, silly, humiliating dance, calling out the names of the moves.)* Plie. Leap. Twist. Monster claws. Double leap. Sprinkler. Hands up with spin. And floss.

**RYLEE:** *(Smiling.)* I love that dance. Keep practicing. *(Exits.)*

**WHITNEY:** *(Sitting.)* That Rylee really rips my wrinkles.

**KENDRA:** Hey, there's Jessie.

*JESSIE enters with a bag of peppers.*

**WHITNEY:** Hi, Jessie.

**JESSIE:** Hey, you guys. I just bought a bag of Carolina Reapers! You want one?

**KENDRA:** No. Those are the hottest peppers in the world.

**JESSIE:** Come on, they're delicious!

**WHITNEY:** No way, you gotta be crazy to eat one of those.

**JESSIE:** Oh, is it because you're... chicken? Chicken! Chicken! Bawk, bawk, bawk! Chicken!

**WHITNEY:** Give me one of those! *(Grabs a pepper out of the bag and pops it in her mouth. She chews. Her eyes widen and she screams.)*

**KENDRA:** Peer pressure is so glamorous.

*WHITNEY runs around, moaning and screaming, looking for something to squelch the burning. JORDAN enters with a water bottle. WHITNEY sees it, runs to JORDAN and grabs the bottle and drinks it. While this is happening KENDRA sneaks the keys from the bench and puts them in her bag.*

**JORDAN:** Hey.

**WHITNEY:** *(Catching her breath and handing bottle back to JORDAN.)* Oh! That's better. That was the hottest—*(Contorting face.)* Yyyyyyyuck! What is that stuff?

**JORDAN:** That's my cleanse. I'm having a colonoscopy tomorrow.

**WHITNEY:** *(Spitting.)* Bleegch!!! That's horrible!

**JORDAN:** I know! Right?

*JORDAN and JESSIE exit. WHITNEY sits on bench.*

**WHITNEY:** Remind me to never have another Carolina Reaper... or a colonoscopy.

**KENDRA:** Some things are unavoidable.

**WHITNEY:** That's why "what ifs" are better than reality.

**KENDRA:** What do you mean?

**WHITNEY:** I'll show you. See that guy walking toward us?

**KENDRA:** The guy reading the book?

**WHITNEY:** Yeah. What if... I trip him?

**KENDRA:** Why would you wanna do that?

**WHITNEY:** Because it would be hilarious.

**KENDRA:** Do you ever think of the consequences of your actions?

**WHITNEY:** Yeah, I think the consequences would be hilarious.

*BOOK GUY enters reading a book. WHITNEY sticks out her foot and trips him, sending him to the ground. His book goes flying. Then all is still.*

**KENDRA:** In no way do I condone this, but since this is just a "what if," I'll play along. What if you do trip him? He falls to the ground and his book goes flying.

**WHITNEY:** Hilarious.

*BOOK GUY gets up, grabs his book and exits back the way he came.*

**KENDRA:** But you don't think any further than that. After the "hilarity" is over, what happens?

*BOOK GUY enters as before. JOGGER enters from the opposite side, jogging. WHITNEY trips BOOK GUY, his book goes flying and hits JOGGER.*

**JOGGER:** Hey, who threw the book at me?!

*JOGGER exits back the way she came as BOOK GUY grabs book and exits as before.*

**KENDRA:** So, some jogger gets hit by a book.

**WHITNEY:** Even more hilarious.

**KENDRA:** Yeah, but you started it. Aren't they gonna yell at you or something?

*BOOK GUY enters, WHITNEY trips him, JOGGER enters and gets hit by book.*

**JOGGER:** Hey, who threw the book at me?!

**BOOK GUY:** *(Getting up and helping her.)* I'm so sorry! I lost my footing and my book just flew out of my hand. Are you okay? Are you hurt?

**JOGGER:** *(Liking what she sees.)* Oh... no. It didn't hurt at all. In fact, I like being hit by books.

**BOOK GUY:** *(It's love at first sight.)* You do?

**JOGGER:** Sure. When they're flung by the right person. I'm Victoria. Hi.

**BOOK GUY:** Victoria? Wow. I'm Victor. Would you like to, maybe, go get an Organic French Roast Blend Blue Mountain Decaf Cappuccino?

**JOGGER:** Absolutely.

*All is still. JOGGER and BOOK GUY exit back where they came.*

**KENDRA:** Really? Your random act of cruelty sparks a new romance.

**WHITNEY:** So it would seem. If I trip this guy he'll throw his book, hit the jogger, and they'll fall in love.

**KENDRA:** I admit it, that's kinda fun. I like romance. Then what would happen?

*BOOK GUY and JOGGER enter, WHITNEY trips him, JOGGER gets hit by book.*

**JOGGER:** Hey, who threw the book?!

**BOOK GUY:** *(Getting up and helping her.)* I'm so sorry! Are you hurt?

**JOGGER:** *(Liking what she sees.)* I like being hit by books.

**BOOK GUY:** *(It's love at first sight.)* Wanna get an Organic French Roast Blend Blue Mountain Decaf Cappuccino?

**JOGGER:** Absolutely. Let me get changed and I'll meet you at Denny's.

**KENDRA:** *(Standing to admire them.)* Awww!

*BOOK GUY picks up book as JOGGER jogs away. SKATEBOARDER enters riding a skateboard carrying a bag labeled "Volatile Chemicals" and almost hits JOGGER.*

**SKATEBOARDER:** Watch it lady!

**KENDRA:** Whoa! She almost—

*SKATEBOARDER runs into KENDRA sending her into the arms of BOOK GUY. JOGGER turns around to see the commotion and sees KENDRA in BOOK GUY'S arms. JOGGER puts her hand over her mouth, hurt. All is still.*

**WHITNEY:** Nice going.

*JOGGER, BOOK GUY, and SKATEBOARDER exit back where they came. KENDRA returns to the bench.*

**KENDRA:** How did I get mixed up in this?

**WHITNEY:** I trip the guy, the book hits the girl, they set a date, you stick your nose in where it doesn't belong, and the skater dude does the rest.

**KENDRA:** I wasn't sticking my nose anywhere! I just wanted a better look. Besides, she's gonna see it was an accident, right?

*BOOK GUY enters, WHITNEY trips him, JOGGER enters and gets hit by book.*

**JOGGER:** I like being hit by books!

**BOOK GUY:** (*Getting up and helping her.*) Sorry! Wanna meet at Denny's?

**JOGGER:** Absolutely.

**KENDRA:** (*Standing.*) Awww!

*BOOK GUY picks up book as JOGGER jogs away. SKATEBOARDER enters.*

**SKATEBOARDER:** Watch it lady!

**KENDRA:** Whoa! She almost—

*SKATEBOARDER runs into KENDRA sending her into the arms of BOOK GUY. JOGGER sees it and covers mouth.*

**JOGGER:** I thought I meant something to you! *(Exits in tears.)*

**BOOK GUY:** Wait! It was all an accident!

*BOOK GUY exits chasing after JOGGER. All is still. SKATEBOARDER exits and KENDRA goes back to the bench.*

**KENDRA:** It's all that skater's fault!

**WHITNEY:** Wrong place, wrong time.

**KENDRA:** Well, he's not gonna get away with it.

*BOOK GUY enters, WHITNEY trips him, JOGGER enters and gets hit by book.*

**JOGGER:** Let's meet at Denny's!

**KENDRA:** *(Standing.)* Awww!

*BOOK GUY picks up book as JOGGER jogs away. SKATEBOARDER enters.*

**SKATEBOARDER:** Watch it lady!

**KENDRA:** Whao!

*SKATEBOARDER runs into KENDRA sending her into the arms of BOOK GUY. JOGGER covers mouth.*

**JOGGER:** I never wanna see you again! *(Exits in tears.)*

**BOOK GUY:** It was all an accident!

*BOOK GUY exits chasing after JOGGER. SKATEBOARDER pulls out a candy bar and opens it. JOGGER enters and cries with mouth open wide.*

**KENDRA:** You stupid idiot!

*KENDRA shoves SKATEBOARDER as they are about to take a bite, but then they all freeze in mid shove.*

**KENDRA:** *(Unfreezing.)* We didn't get very far that time.

**WHITNEY:** Sorry, next time will be longer. I just wanted to see what the skateboarder is carrying.

**KENDRA:** *(Turning Skateboarder's bag.)* The bag says, "Volatile Chemicals." Volatile means unstable, unpredictable, erratic—

**WHITNEY:** I know what volatile means! I am a doctor!

**KENDRA:** No you're not. I'm the doctor.

**WHITNEY:** Oh, yeah. I meant, what if I was a doctor.

*SKATEBOARDER and JOGGER exit back where they came and KENDRA goes back to the bench.*

**KENDRA:** Well, what happens after I shove the skater?

*BOOK GUY enters, WHITNEY trips him, JOGGER enters and gets hit by book.*

**JOGGER:** Denny's, book dude!

**KENDRA:** *(Standing.)* Awww!

*KENDRA stands. BOOK GUY gets book as JOGGER jogs away. SKATEBOARDER enters.*

**SKATEBOARDER:** Watch it lady!

**KENDRA:** Whao!

*SKATEBOARDER runs into KENDRA sending her into the arms of BOOK GUY. JOGGER covers mouth.*

**JOGGER:** I hate you! *(Exits in tears.)*

**BOOK GUY:** It was all an accident!

*BOOK GUY exits chasing after JOGGER. SKATEBOARDER pulls out a candy bar and is about to take a bite. JOGGER enters and cries.*

**KENDRA:** You stupid idiot!

*KENDRA shoves SKATEBOARDER who goes flying toward JOGGER in slow motion. The candy bar accidentally goes into JOGGER'S mouth and SKATEBOARDER falls to the ground. JOGGER takes an accidental bite and swallows, then starts moaning and holding stomach. WHITNEY pulls out a lab coat and stethoscope from KENDRA'S bag and approaches JOGGER and examines her.*

**WHITNEY:** I'm sorry to have to tell you this, but you have sugar poisoning.

**JOGGER:** From one bite of a candy bar?

*JOGGER dies. BOOK GUY enters and kneels by her body.*

**BOOK GUY:** Nooooooo!

*All is still. ALL gather their stuff and exit or return to the bench.*

**KENDRA:** I like the slow-motion part.

**WHITNEY:** It's a nice touch. Makes it more dramatic.

**KENDRA:** And you look good in my doctor's outfit.

**WHITNEY:** We're just lucky you had it with you.

**KENDRA:** So, you tripping the book guy eventually causes the death of the jogger chick.

**WHITNEY:** That's not all.

*BOOK GUY enters, WHITNEY trips him, JOGGER enters and gets hit by book.*

**JOGGER and BOOK GUY:** Denny's!

**KENDRA:** *(Standing.)* Awww!

*BOOK GUY gets book as JOGGER jogs away. SKATEBOARDER enters.*

**SKATEBOARDER:** Watch it lady!

*SKATEBOARDER runs into KENDRA sending her into the arms of BOOK GUY.*

**JOGGER:** I am betrayed! (*Exits in tears.*)

**BOOK GUY:** It's not my fault!

*BOOK GUY exits chasing after JOGGER. SKATEBOARDER pulls out candy bar. JOGGER enters and cries.*

**KENDRA:** You stupid idiot!

*KENDRA shoves SKATEBOARDER who flies toward JOGGER (faster this time.). The candy bar goes into JOGGER'S mouth as SKATEBOARDER falls. JOGGER swallows and moans. WHITNEY puts on doctor stuff and examines JOGGER.*

**WHITNEY:** I'm sorry, but you have sugar poisoning.

**JOGGER:** From one little nibble?

*JOGGER dies. BOOK GUY enters and kneels.*

**BOOK GUY:** Nooooooo!

**SKATEBOARDER:** (*Standing and looking at elbow.*) Ouch. I scraped my elbow.

**KENDRA:** Oh, no! I can't stand the sight of blood.

*KENDRA dry heaves and grabs SKATEBOARDER'S bag and vomits into it.*

**SKATEBOARDER:** Hey, you're not supposed to mix those chemicals with vomit!

*KENDRA and SKATEBOARDER fight over the bag. They spill the chemical/vomit mixture on JOGGER.*

**BOOK GUY:** That's disgusting! Just leave her alone!

**SKATEBOARDER:** Mister, you better move away. Those volatile chemicals are even more volatile when they're mixed with throw up. There's no telling what might happen.

*JOGGER who is now a zombie, sits up.*

**JOGGER:** Brains!

**BOOK GUY:** Zombie!!!

**SKATEBOARDER:** Run for your lives!

*ALL, except WHITNEY, runs around being chased by JOGGER. JOGGER catches BOOK GUY and bites him on the arm. BOOK GUY gets away and exits along with SKATEBOARDER and KENDRA. JOGGER chases them off. Then KENDRA enters and returns to the bench.*

**KENDRA:** So, you trip the guy, he hits jogger with the book, they start a romance, skater ruins it, she dies from a candy bar, skater bleeds, I puke into the chemicals, starting a zombie apocalypse.

**WHITNEY:** In a nutshell. But I wasn't finished.

*SKATEBOARDER enters running with a bottle of water, stops in front of the bench and takes a drink.*

**SKATEBOARDER:** You guys better scam! There's a zombie a-poc coming this way.

*JOGGER and BOOK GUY, who is now a zombie, enter and head for SKATEBOARDER.*

**JOGGER and BOOK GUY:** Brains!

*JOGGER and BOOK GUY chase SKATEBOARDER around the bench. SKATEBOARDER jumps around spilling the water on WHITNEY and KENDRA.*

**KENDRA:** Hey watch it, meat head!

**WHITNEY:** You're spilling your water on me!

*JOGGER and BOOK GUY chase SKATEBOARDER offstage.*

**KENDRA:** You trip the guy, book hits jogger, romance in the air, skater destroys it, sugar gets her, skater bleeds, I puke, zombie apocalypse, skater spills his water.

**WHITNEY:** On me!

**KENDRA:** Here comes the book guy for real. This isn't a "what if!" This is real life. Think of the consequences of your actions. Are you really gonna start a zombie apocalypse?

*JOGGER and BOOK GUY are no longer zombies. BOOK GUY enters reading his book. WHITNEY looks like she might trip him but then doesn't. JOGGER enters and passes BOOK GUY as he exits. SKATEBOARDER enters and passes JOGGER. They exit without incident. KENDRA questions WHITNEY with a look.*

**WHITNEY:** I don't wanna get wet.

**KENDRA:** Good call. But I do wish the jogger and the book guy would get together. I like romance.

**WHITNEY:** Hey, where are my keys? (*Looking around.*) Where are my keys? Do you see my keys?

**KENDRA:** When's the last time you saw them?

**WHITNEY:** I don't know. I know I grabbed them when I left the house.

**KENDRA:** Did you have them when the skateboarder hit me?

**WHITNEY:** I don't know. Besides, the skateboarder didn't hit you. That was a "what if."

**KENDRA:** Oh yeah.

**WHITNEY:** I need my keys!

**KENDRA:** Alright, relax. I'll help you. What we need to do is retrace your steps.

**WHITNEY:** Fine, I met you at the park, we sat down, we saw Rylee, then Jessie, then—

**KENDRA:** Wait, wait, wait! We can't just say it. We have to reenact what we did. Re-do everything; kinda like your "what ifs" but only in real life. And listen, I learned this from a psychiatrist, so I know what

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