

RAW PROVOCATIVE HUMANE PLAYS

royalty-free plays from **The CRY HAVOC Company**

Plays from the Royalty-Free One Act Collection may be performed without royalty. We do ask that you notify CRY HAVOC of any productions so that the company and the playwright can know where the play is being performed, and also to appropriately credit the playwright and CRY HAVOC in promotional materials and programs.

Terms of Use

By downloading this script, you agree:

- 1) To notify CRY HAVOC of any production of the play by emailing oneacts@cryhavoccompany.org.
- 2) To credit the playwright in all promotional material and programs.
- 3) To include the following text in all promotional materials and programs:
"[Name of Play] was developed with The CRY HAVOC Company (www.cryhavoccompany.org)."

For more royalty-free one-acts from The CRY HAVOC Company, visit:
www.cryhavoccompany.org/royaltyfreeoneacts



These terms and conditions are subject to change at any time.

WAIST DEEP
by Jennifer Reichert

April, 22, slightly crunchy, sits by the window, reading a book. Daisy, 25, "fresh as", comes in the room.

DAISY

Come back downstairs.

APRIL

I'm good here.

DAISY

It's a party. You should be there.

APRIL

It's not my party. I think it's better if I'm up here. I think this is the right distance for everyone to enjoy the party. Did you also get tired of listening to the ways our new president is going to re-build relationships with Russia?

DAISY

No. (beat) It's hot up here.

APRIL

So go back down.

DAISY

You're acting like a brat.

APRIL

I actually thought this was the grownup way to handle things. Squash down your unfavorable opinions so others are more comfortable around you. If you can't say something nice...

DAISY

Go hide in the attic? Mom is looking for you. Again. C'mon, you can't keep doing this.

APRIL

I tried, Daisy. I came here. I tried. (beat) He's glad that I lost my job. Dad is happy about it. My dream job.

DAISY

He never said he was happy about that. He's not glad you got fired.

APRIL

I didn't get fired. The show was canceled. Because it's hard to do a show without a host.

DAISY

Ok.

This play may be performed royalty-free.

All theaters/producers must obtain permission to perform this play before production by sending a request to oneacts@cryhavoccompany.org.



APRIL

He said he was glad to see the show gone. Specifically, that "that radical piece of garbage that my daughter was working on is finally off the air. Hoo-yah."

Daisy purses her lips.

DAISY

It's not about you. It's about the show.

APRIL

Really? He could have phrased that differently in front of me I think.

DAISY

Probably, but he doesn't have to like the show because you were working on it. He disagreed with everything they said. And I heard it was canceled because the network wasn't happy with the show.

APRIL

That's bull!

DAISY

April!

APRIL

The show was canceled because that bozo can't take a joke!

DAISY

The joke wasn't that funny.

APRIL

What did you say?

DAISY

You can't make fun of the President like that. It's disrespectful and just name calling.

APRIL

Yes you can. And it was funny. You didn't laugh?

DAISY

When he called them morons? It's not even a joke, it's just name-calling. Who's gonna be convinced by a third-grade joke?

APRIL

Oh come on. He didn't just out and call them morons, there was a whole setup bit. People loved it.

DAISY

The people who laughed at that are people who already agree. And the people who don't agree with you-like Dad-you're just making them mad.

(MORE)

This play may be performed royalty-free.

All theaters/producers must obtain permission to perform this play before production by sending a request to oneacts@cryhavoccompany.org.



DAISY (CONT'D)

And instead you've given them a reason to decide that you're not that smart, and that's why sponsors back out.

APRIL

It's free speech. And it wasn't half as bad a joke as they were going to use.

DAISY

But he's the President.

APRIL

And he's a moron.

DAISY

No he is not. And you know he isn't. Most people think he's an excellent negotiator and you know he's got a plan to-

APRIL

What plan? Please someone tell me what this magic plan is. They were right to call it like they see it.

DAISY

People should be respectful. I mean, we're all Americans. We should act like Americans.

APRIL

You mean "I" should act like it, or I deserve to lose my job. "Acting" like an American isn't a thing. Me and about 170 other people lost our jobs, Daisy. For not "acting" like Americans. Who's next?

DAISY

I know it's terrible that people lost their jobs.

APRIL

My job! Do you know how hard it is to get a job even as a writer's assistant? For me to get one?

DAISY

I know how hard you worked. I know you can do it again. Please, let's go down.

APRIL

I *hope* I can! But-- But why should I lose my job that I already worked so so hard to get because it makes someone feel bad to hear that people don't like what they're doing or how they're doing it? Especially when they're doing it so badly.

DAISY

It had nothing to do with you, I'm sure--

This play may be performed royalty-free.

All theaters/producers must obtain permission to perform this play before production by sending a request to oneacts@cryhavoccompany.org.



APRIL

If you're so sensitive to who likes you maybe "leader of the free world" isn't the job for you. Toughen up!

DAISY

It's not about being liked, it's about respect. We have to show respect for each other.

APRIL

I don't respect him.

DAISY

Then respect the office.

APRIL

He doesn't respect the office. He's petty and vindictive. He called the president of CBS to complain about a joke. He sat in the White House and picked up the phone and told a television network to fire their employees.

DAISY

We don't know that for sure.

APRIL

And they complied. It's censorship!

DAISY

It's not censorship if it was the network that made the decision.

APRIL

He shouldn't be calling a network and saying they should fire people he disagrees with.

DAISY

Even if he did call them, the network didn't *have* to fire anyone. They chose to do that, that's not government censorship. If you want people to take you seriously, be careful about not calling things something they're not.

APRIL

Imagine if the President of the United States of America called you and asked you to do something. How much of a choice is that? The network is also gross, but someone was disagreeing with him and he took away their place to disagree with him. And Dad is happy about it.

DAISY

Maybe he's a bit rougher than most people, but he has a right to the say what he wants, too.

This play may be performed royalty-free.

All theaters/producers must obtain permission to perform this play before production by sending a request to oneacts@cryhavoccompany.org.



APRIL

And I have a right to say what I want. I can't keep quiet when Dad is supporting that idiot. How does he not see he's going to march us off a cliff?

DAISY

He is not. You're over-reacting.

APRIL

You know how North Korea is launching missiles at us? He almost nuked them! Did you know that? This is the exact right amount of reacting. The exact right.

DAISY

But he didn't. He showed restraint.

APRIL

Thank Jesus. This time no nuclear holocaust for Asia.

DAISY

That's right. They should stop shooting at us.

APRIL

Wow. And I can't say anything about it?

DAISY

Of course people can say whatever they want, but should we always? If we don't have respect for our own President, how is he going to be respected by other countries? We'll lose our standing in the world. If people don't support him.

APRIL

We should lose our standing. And he's not doing anything he said he would do, so why should people still support him? They don't. Look at all the protests.

DAISY

I don't want to look at them, all the violence.

APRIL

The protesters aren't violent! The police are. Of course, you wouldn't know that listening to Dad. On TV the other day, we saw a cop clubbing a peaceful protester over the head. You know what he said? "Good for him for fighting back."

DAISY

They're not all peaceful.

APRIL

I should tell him I go to those protests. See if he thinks I should be locked up.

DAISY

He knows you go, he's trying to scare you to protect you.

This play may be performed royalty-free.

All theaters/producers must obtain permission to perform this play before production by sending a request to oneacts@cryhavoccompany.org.



APRIL

Oh.

DAISY

He doesn't want you to get hurt.

APRIL

When I told him the police attacked those protesters, he asked if anyone was hurt, and when I said yes, he said "good, now they know what can happen". Should I ignore that? Do you ignore that?

DAISY

I do.

APRIL

How can you?

DAISY

Because it's just stuff Dad says. He's not the only one who says that kind of stuff. And it's just talking.

APRIL

But he says that because he *believes* they deserve it. If people upset "business as usual" and say things you don't like, they deserve to get teargassed, and beaten or shot at. That's what citizens should expect from their police. Assault and murder.

DAISY

He thinks that there's a time and place for disagreement and it's not the middle of the street. If they had a permit, people wouldn't be upset.

APRIL

Sometimes there needs to be civil disobedience.

DAISY

Yes. And then disobedient people might have to deal with police trying to stop them from disobeying. That's what those people signed up for. It's the whole point of civil disobedience.

APRIL

Stop them with hoses.

DAISY

I don't know. But shouldn't the police be able defend themselves when people are attacking them?

APRIL

They're in riot gear. And armed. I think they'll be ok, if some dumbass wings something at them.

(MORE)

This play may be performed royalty-free.

All theaters/producers must obtain permission to perform this play before production by sending a request to oneacts@cryhavoccompany.org.



APRIL (CONT'D)

Dad thinks if there's one dumbass then everyone standing near him deserves whatever some trigger-happy officer dishes out.

DAISY

Well, people think that maybe everyone should take a break and step back. If people are getting hurt, maybe they should try something else. It's getting worse and worse.

APRIL

But who's making it worse? It's the police. Not the protestors.

DAISY

Where did you get this radical attitude?

APRIL

What's so radical about caring what is happening to our country and speaking up about it?

DAISY

You don't have a monopoly on caring, you know? I care about it too. And I can be reasonable. And Dad especially cares about it. And we care about you. So can we just take a break for once?

APRIL

He doesn't specially care. He cares like everyone else cares. People can care the same even if they haven't served. He's the one who thinks I don't care about the country. But caring means holding people accountable. Just because my candidate didn't win, doesn't mean I have to let his run amuck.

DAISY

So you're just pissy about an election. Sour grapes and all.

APRIL

No, I'm saying he has to be the president for all of us. Not just the people who like him.

DAISY

And if the election had gone the other way...?

APRIL

Yes, we would have been better off with anyone, than the thin-skinned censoring windbag, but I don't care about that anymore. I care about what's happening here and now. About people not being allowed to say something is wrong without getting shut down.

DAISY

You're over-reacting. It's a TV show.

This play may be performed royalty-free.

All theaters/producers must obtain permission to perform this play before production by sending a request to oneacts@cryhavoccompany.org.



APRIL

It was *my* TV show. And maybe it's just the first show. I mean, this time he gets people fired for a joke and their show canceled, but then what? A news broadcast he doesn't like, and there goes the anchor?

DAISY

That's ridiculous. There's a huge difference between the news and a comedy show.

APRIL

Is there?

DAISY

He's not going to do that. He's just getting started. Maybe we should give him a chance.

APRIL

I can't believe you can defend him. I came up here to get away from that kind of hate and you come up here and defend it.

DAISY

I come up here because I just want my family to be a family.

APRIL

And yet you defend Dad and his blind support of that man. I can't believe he voted for him.

DAISY

It's not blind. Dad's not an idiot, and he thinks he was the best choice available. He has a job to do and people aren't letting him do the job. They should let him do his job.

APRIL

And now you're defending that moron.

DAISY

He's not a moron. Stop saying that. He's smart. And it's a complicated job. That's why I voted for him.

APRIL

You did what?

DAISY

I voted for him.

APRIL

No. We talked about it. A lot. You agreed with me.

DAISY

We talked about it. I listened to you.

This play may be performed royalty-free.

All theaters/producers must obtain permission to perform this play before production by sending a request to oneacts@cryhavoccompany.org.



APRIL

I told you why it was important to me and for all of us.

DAISY

I listened to you. You didn't listen to me.

APRIL

There's never been a president that acted this way. It's never been this bad.

DAISY

I don't think it's so bad. I think things will turn around.

April looks at Daisy like she's never seen her before.

APRIL

You actually voted for him?

DAISY

Yes.

APRIL

You voted for Nixon?

DAISY

I did.

APRIL

When I got that job working on the Smothers Brother's show, I thought we'd be able to change people's minds. Turns out, I can't even change my own sister's.

April heads for the door.

DAISY

April! Listen--

APRIL

No. I can't listen to you. The only thing I am grateful for is it can never get worse than Nixon.

April exits.

This play may be performed royalty-free.

All theaters/producers must obtain permission to perform this play before production by sending a request to oneacts@cryhavoccompany.org.

