

## From Too Fabulous to Fail

By Don Zolidis

ANNA, a temp (secretary)  
CARLY, a temp (secretary)  
TODD, a temp (secretary)  
SAM, a temp (secretary)

Carly's cubicle at a New York Investment Bank.

SAM

We come bearing gifts.

ANNA

This is Sam and –

TODD

You don't need to know my name, I'll be dead soon.

ANNA

You're funny! This is Todd. He's been a temp here for thirty-one years.

TODD

Kill me. Kill me now.

ANNA

I love that sense of humor!

CARLY

Thanks for getting me lunch. You didn't have to do that.

SAM

No problem. You don't want to go outside alone anyway.

ANNA

It's noon, Sam.

SAM

That's when the CHUDs come out.

CARLY

CHUDs?

ANNA

Don't listen to him.

SAM

Cannabilistic Humanoid Underground Dwellers. They live in the Subway tunnels.

CARLY

They do?

TODD

Probably. Who knows? The whole city is falling apart.

CARLY

Wasn't the whole city falling apart in the seventies and now it's doing really well?

SAM

That's all a media conspiracy. It's a nightmare out there. People are dying, man! Look at Todd! You think he was born that way?

TODD

It's true.

ANNA

Guys. Guys? Let's keep a positive attitude all right. Carly just got here from Iowa.

SAM

Go back. While you still can. Let me give you some advice: Never get on the Subway. Ever. It goes *under* the ground. Where do you think the cannibals live?

CARLY

Thanks.

ANNA

Don't listen to Sam.

SAM

I'm lucky to be alive in this nightmarish hellscape. This is like what happens after the apocalypse.

CARLY

Where are you from?

SAM

Chicago.

CARLY

Isn't it more dangerous in Chicago?

SAM

In Chicago – the trains are *elevated*. As God intended them to be. All right? We don't go underground in Chicago! We're not trolls! We're not troll people!

TODD

You're thinking of dwarves.

SAM

Trolls live underground too!

TODD

Mostly in caves.

ANNA

Toronto has a really nice subway. It's clean.

SAM

I'm not going there either!

CARLY

Guys? I kind of have to do my work. It's nice meeting you.

SAM

You're kicking us out? I'm not going back out there man. There are *pigeons* on the street! Just walking around! You ever see a pigeon fly off with a baby?

ANNA

They don't fly off with babies.

SAM

They do! I've seen it! Baby walking along the street – pigeon swoops down –

*(makes pigeon warbling sound)*

Snatches it in its jaws! Baby's like aaaah aaah! Mother pulls out a machine gun – blows the pigeon away – baby drops into her arms.

CARLY

Do pigeons have jaws?

SAM

In New York they do! This place is crazy, man!

TODD

Yup. I forgot your name.

CARLY

Carly.

TODD

I don't really care. I suppose I should go back to my mindless busy work. My facebook status isn't going to update itself.

SAM

Remember what I told you! Stay safe!

*(SAM darts off, followed slowly by TODD. ANNA remains.)*

ANNA

So...?

CARLY

What?

ANNA

What do you think?

CARLY

About what?

ANNA

About the guys.

CARLY

Those guys?

ANNA

Yeah.

CARLY

They seem nice.

ANNA

I'm *so* glad you said that. So which one do you want?

CARLY

What?

ANNA

At first I was thinking like – I should go for Sam cause he's younger but then I'm like... Todd's got that great old man smell, you know? So I'm like... he could be nice. But I could really go for either one. So you can have first pick and then I'll just take the other one.

CARLY

What are we... picking them for?

ANNA

Duh.

CARLY

Duh what?

ANNA

To date, silly.

CARLY

Oh. Uh... See the funny thing is... I kinda met somebody today.

ANNA (*super excited*)

You did?!

CARLY

Yeah and um... we really hit it off so...

ANNA (*even more super excited*)

Who is he?!

CARLY

Promise not to tell anybody?

ANNA (*ecstatic, hopping up and down*)

Ohhhhhhhh! It's a secret. Shh... My lips are sealed!

CARLY

His name is Spencer. He's the Vice President in charge of... mergers.  
(ANNA is aghast.)

ANNA

He's your *boss!*

CARLY

Yes, but –

ANNA

You can't like your *boss!* That's totally frowned upon.

CARLY

But –

ANNA

No no no no no! Bosses date other bosses! Temps date other temps! There's a strict class system here!

CARLY

Not for me it isn't. You see – my path is clear.

*(she takes out her phone and starts to sing)*

MY HEART BELONGS IN MERGERS  
I'D LIKE TO MERGER WITH YOU  
BECAUSE I –

ANNA

Carly! We are not in a musical!

CARLY

Then why is everyone singing?

ANNA

You're the only one singing! You can't date your boss! I'm disappointed in you! Plus – it's a violation of corporate policy.

CARLY

Who cares?

ANNA

He's not going to date you. He could get fired! So no no no no no! I gotta go.

*(ANNA leaves, then stops.)*

In Canada, we know how to deal with these things.

CARLY

What do you do?

ANNA

You'll find out. By the way we have a date tonight.

To read the rest of this play, visit [www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com)