

From Too Fabulous to Fail

By Don Zolidis

ANNA, 20s, a secretary

CARLY, 20s, her roommate and co-worker.

New York.

ANNA

Wow! All this time you were Melissa Stone and I never knew!

CARLY

Well –

ANNA

I totally believed you were a struggling actress too! I should've known that wasn't realistic. You were so crazy with the singing and videotaping yourself all the time. Man!

CARLY

Yeah.

ANNA

To be honest, though, I thought you were a terrible actress. Now I know you were just pretending to be a terrible actress. Brilliant. We never think of things like that in Canada. Most of our ideas are straightforward.

CARLY

Anna – can I tell you something?

ANNA

What?

CARLY

My name's not Melissa Stone.

ANNA

Oh my gosh, you're a third person!

CARLY

No – I'm... I'm Carly Jackson. I'm just pretending to be Melissa Stone.

ANNA

Wait, so you're lying to everyone?

CARLY

I'm *acting!* Don't you get it? I've finally got the part I was born for! I'm so good at it!

ANNA

But... but this is crazy.

CARLY

I know! It's so crazy it just might work! Plus – now I can sing all I want and it's just a charming eccentricity!

ANNA

But what if the real M. Stone comes back?

CARLY

M. Stone hasn't been at the company in years. We're a rudderless ship.

ANNA

You've only been here for two weeks! You don't know! M. Stone emails occasionally, doesn't he!

CARLY

Only his administrative assistant. Which is still me. The plan is foolproof. Listen: in a musical, the heroine must take drastic measures to win over the love of the hero. Usually this involves deception. It's perfect!

ANNA

So wait – the whole point is to make Spencer fall in love with you?

CARLY

Isn't it romantic?

ANNA

It's crazy!

CARLY

Same thing. And it's not only for Spencer to fall in love with me. We're also going to give ourselves raises so we can get a new apartment. I'm the CEO – I should be paid a lot.

ANNA

You're not the CEO.

CARLY

But I *believe* I'm the CEO, and they *believe* I'm the CEO, therefore, I am the CEO. Look, what does a CEO do anyway? Mostly nothing! And they get paid the most! It's a great job. I'm just as qualified as any other CEO out there.

ANNA

You have no idea what a CEO does!

CARLY

No one does! That's why it's such a great job.

ANNA

Carly – if you give yourself a raise, that's embezzling.

CARLY

I'm pretty sure it's not.

ANNA

I'm pretty sure it is. It's a crime.

CARLY

What are they gonna do, arrest me?

ANNA

Yes!

CARLY

Two things: One. If I go to prison, and that's a big *if*, there are a lot of chances for some pretty cool dance numbers there. And Two – this is a white collar crime. No one ever goes to prison for white collar crimes.

ANNA

I can't believe you're doing this.

CARLY

It's love, Anna. You were the one who convinced me. Spencer can't date a subordinate. But he never said anything about a superior. Just promise you won't say anything.

ANNA

I still don't like this.

CARLY

I'll give you a three hundred percent raise.

ANNA

Then I'm a criminal too!

CARLY

You already are a criminal, remember? Or would you like me to contact the INS?

ANNA

All right fine. I'll go along.

CARLY

Yay! Remember: we all get what we want in the end.

To read the rest of this play, visit www.playscripts.com