

The Chosen Ones
(As performed during Fairfield University's Festival '99)
Written by Gil Hizon

Cast of Characters:

Cassie, a strong woman whose only weakness is her best friend

Sam, the best friend, a football player whose passive demeanor makes him seem emotionless

Amanda, a woman with major issues, an escapee from the mental hospital and **The Seer**, a semi-celestial being who can only watch and record events that happen throughout time; he takes over the body of a **Bum**.

Act One

Scene One

(Blackout. Then a spotlight on center stage, where the Bum is standing in front of a bench. There's also a garbage bin upstage left. The Bum looks at the audience and puts his finger on his mouth to shush them. Then he lies down on the bench, covering his face with a newspaper. Lights up on stage as the spotlight fades out. Cassie, wearing a green coat, comes in from stage right.)

Cassie

(Looking at her watch.) Twenty minutes... *(She notices the Bum. She nudges him slightly but he doesn't move. She tries again but he still doesn't move.)* So I stopped talking to him a couple of weeks ago and then this whole thing happened to everyone and now I'm realizing I want to tell Sam the truth before... you know, it happens. So I figured, hey, I mean, I'm not even gonna have time for some form of humiliation or whatever, so...

(Flashes of light and sound effect as the Bum's eyes light up, suddenly possessed. He stands up abruptly, moves to downstage left, and looks at himself.)

Cassie

Did something just happen?

Bum/The Seer

Ah... found a body at last! I didn't think it would be possible! *(Pause. Looks at his ragged clothes. To an audience member.)* Mortals actually go out like this?

Cassie

My God! You *can* talk!

The Seer

(Notices Cassie.) I didn't realize I could be seen already. Well, gotta take care of that.
(Zips down an invisible opening in thin air using his fingers and suddenly, he's invisible to Cassie as he crosses over the "opening".)

Cassie

(Starts looking around.) W-what the hell?

The Seer

Now, to take care of this wardrobe.

(The Seer exits. Sam enters from audience right.)

Sam

I got your message.

Cassie

(Takes her a second to notice that Sam is even there.) Hi... Oh, hey! I mean... hey.
(Slight pause.) Something really weird just happened, this guy... never mind.

(Long pause as Cassie and Sam sit down.)

Sam

So, what's up?

Cassie

Um, nothing really. I just need to talk to you about... something.

Sam

(Stands up.) I can't believe you waited 'till now to do this.

Cassie

Sam, please don't be bitter. This is really hard for me.

Sam

This is hard for you? Cass, we used to be best friends, and now you can't even look me in the eye.

Cassie

I know. Sam, I...

Sam

(Sits down again.) What is it? Just tell me. Shit like this happens all the time we always get by. *(Pause.)* Was it something that I did?

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Cassie

No, Sam, it's not you, it's me. *(Pause.)* I really don't know how to start. This is really weird. I don't even remember why I decided to do this. *(Pause.)* I stopped talking to you because... I mean things had changed when... Oh God...

Sam

What is it Cass? Just spit it out. I can't stand this anymore, and neither can you. Cass, look at me. *(She does.)*

Cassie

I...I don't know how to say it. How I see you, has changed. You've become someone that...*(Takes a deep breath.)* And I... I... I have all these feelings... and I...

(Long pause. Sam knows what's up.)

Sam

Feelings... for me?

Cassie

(Long pause.) Yeah. *(Pause.)*

Sam

I would never... so uh... when did this start happening?

Cassie

I don't know, for a while? Sam... I'm in love with you—

Sam

(Interrupting.)—Cass—

Cassie

I-I guess when you started going out with other girls, I realized how much I care about you. I felt so bad it came to the point when I just can't stand being around you, especially when you're with them. I don't know what else to say. Sam, I tried so hard to fight this, but...

Sam

(Hearing noises inside the garbage bin.) Someone's listening. *(He stands up and pulls Cassie to stage right. To the garbage bin.)* Hey listen! We know you're there so whoever you are just come out, all right?

(Amanda comes out of the garbage bin with a sigh. She is wearing a huge black wig and a pink tattered dress. She is carrying a white purse and is holding an open bag of Cheetos. The Seer, wearing a black suit and holding a black pen and a black journal also enters, then stops when he realizes that it was Amanda who they were talking about. He stays on stage, invisible to the other characters.)

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Amanda

I didn't mean to interrupt. (*Slight pause.*) Okay, I did. Let me get this straight, uh...
what are your names? (*Puts a cheeto in her mouth.*)

Cassie

Cassie... You look really... (*Starts walking towards Amanda.*)

Sam

(*Pulling Cassie away from Amanda.*) Sam...

Amanda

Amanda. So you're spending this time—of all times—to somehow release your sexual
frustrations instead of—

Cassie

Sex?

Sam

Who said anything about sex?

Amanda

—Whatever. Point is, we're about to die. Nobody cares.

Sam

What the... Hey! I think I've seen you around.

Amanda

Uh, no you haven't.

Cassie

(*Breaks out of her reverie.*) Me too, I just don't remember... Oh that's right! I used to
work for...

Amanda

(*Recognizes Cassie.*) Yeah, yeah! You used to be that intern—

Cassie

(*Interrupting.*)—right—

Amanda

—at the loony bin. God, we hated your ass.

Cassie

(*Contemplates.*) Yeah, you did. (*Then to Sam.*) It was really weird.

Amanda

(Hanging her left leg over the trash bin.) I'm pretty weird.

Cassie

I'm sorry, I didn't mean for it to come out like—

Amanda

—like what? That I'm a psycho-bitch or something? Well that's kind of true. I mean right now, I'm sane, fun-loving Amanda, but when I don't take any meds, Evil Marcy takes over.

Sam

(Pause.) Interesting.

Cassie

(Sits down as she looks at Sam, then to Amanda.) We can deal with that... Amanda. Why don't you sit down and join us?

Amanda

(To Sam.) Hey pretty boy, come over here.

Sam

(As he crosses to Amanda and pulls her out of the garbage bin.) Are you sure you don't know me?

Amanda

(Tosses the bag of Cheetos into the trash bin.) I'm just one of those faces. Everyone thinks they know me but they don't. *(Pause as she sits down beside Cassie on the bench and starts looking through her purse.)* Even my own mom didn't get a chance to know me, but that's beside the point—

Cassie

What do you—

Amanda

—and something I should never bring up in front of strangers so I don't want any questions from anybody anymore. I'll be leaving soon. *(Stands up and tosses her bag on the bench.)* I mean, why would the two of you choose to spend your last moments here?

I mean a park, come on!

Sam

Where would you like to die, Amanda? In a bowling alley?

Amanda

It's closed.