

Holy Stromboli

By John D. Smitherman

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STORY OF PLAY

John and Maria are happily celebrating their first wedding anniversary when Maria's mother, Nicolette, shows up unexpectedly. Nicolette announces that she is divorcing Maria's father, Sal, because he forgot their twenty-seventh wedding anniversary. And if that isn't enough to ruin John and Maria's celebration, Sal pays a visit. A fight breaks out, and one thing leads to another until, eventually, Sal and John end up sleeping in the guest room. This leaves Maria no other choice but to share a bed with her talkative mother.

To save his sanity and his own marriage, John solicits help from his friend, Anthony, and concocts a plan to reunite the older couple by arranging a fabulous anniversary dinner. However, just when things are looking up, John's recently divorced father makes a surprise visit with his new, much younger wife to meet their new grandson.

The only problem is that John and Maria don't have a baby! But with the help of a toy dinosaur and a puppy, the phantom baby makes an appearance. This is the perfect play for an evening of hilarious door slams, witty banter and ageless romance.

(Cover art by John D. Smitherman.)

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 m, 3 w)

JOHN DOUGLAS: Late 30s, average build.
MARIA DOUGLAS: Late 20s, John's wife.
SAL D'ANGELO: Late 50s, Maria's father.
NICOLETTE D'ANGELO: Late 50's, Sal's wife.
ANTHONY: Mid 30s, John's flamboyant friend.
DR. DOUGLAS: Late 50s, John's father.
NICKI: 21, Dr. Douglas' sexy new wife.

COSTUMES

JOHN: Vacation attire, sneakers, casual outfit.
MARIA: Vacation attire, sandals, pajamas, casual attire.
NICOLETTE: Nightgown, slippers, hair curlers.
SAL: Boxer shorts, t-shirt, and knee-high black dress socks; Hawaiian shorts and shirt outfit; and black-and-white striped gondola shirt, capri pants, and pink beret.
ANTHONY: Blue cotton pajamas with cloud pattern (or the like), fuzzy slippers, tight leather pants, shiny shirt, sunglasses, apron, chef's hat.
DR. JOHN: Tan safari outfit.
NICKI: Tight sweater, short skirt, high-heeled sandals.

SETTING

A New York apartment. There are three doors and an archway leading to two offstage bedrooms. From stage left to right two doors lead to the kitchen and the bathroom, and there is a front door. The stage contains a sofa, chair, coffee table, and telephone. A desk, coat rack and umbrella stand are located near the front door.

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PROPS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Suitcases | Travel case |
| Beach bag | Swimming mask |
| Snorkel | Flippers |
| Beach towels | Tablecloth |
| (2) bed sheets | Coin |
| (3) watches, for John, Maria, Anthony | |
| Cocktail with straw, umbrella | Large handbag, for Nicolette |
| Tray of cocktails | Toy dinosaur |
| \$40 in bills | Pill bottle marked "Aspirin" |
| Pills | Glass of water |
| Coffee cups | Apron |
| Several plates of food | Dessert box |
| Phone book | Bag of groceries |
| Man's wallet with credit card | Large teddy bear |
| Glass of juice | Wedding ring, for John |
| Fold-up card table, chairs | Plate of cannoli |
| (2) baby dolls | (2) baby blankets |
| Napkins | Silverware |
| Puppy (or realistic stuffed toy) | Bottle of red wine |
| Wine glasses | Umbrella |
| Bouquet and vase | Candles |
| Pad and pencil | |

SOUND EFFECTS

Doorbell ringing
Phone ringing
Italian-themed music

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: The LIGHTS come up on John and Maria's apartment in New York. Front door opens. JOHN and MARIA ENTER wearing vacation attire. John is carrying a suitcase in one hand and a smaller travel case under his arm. With his other arm, he embraces Maria and gives her a passionate kiss. In one hand, Maria holds a beach bag full of swimming equipment (snorkel, masks, flippers, towels.) Her other hand is around John. Once inside, they kick the door closed behind them. John drops the suitcases and hits the light switch on the wall next to the door, never releasing his kiss with Maria. She, in turn, drops her bag next to the sofa as they make their way down to the back of the sofa. Just then, Maria breaks the embrace.)

MARIA: I've got to pee. *(SHE races to the bathroom.)* I'll be right back.

JOHN: *(Just before SHE goes in.)* Maria. *(SHE stops and turns toward HIM.)* Happy anniversary.

MARIA: Happy anniversary. I'll be right out. *(SHE EXITS into the bathroom.)*

(HE sits on the sofa and starts to go through the things in the beach bag, pulling them out one by one and then returning them to the bag.)

JOHN: Snorkel ... mask ... flippers ...

(MARIA returns and strikes a sexy pose at the bathroom door.)

MARIA: Now, where were we?

JOHN: Costa Rica, the Keys --

MARIA: I mean, just now.

(JOHN turns.)

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JOHN: Oh. *(Jumping up, HE meets HER behind the sofa for a passionate kiss. He breaks the kiss for a moment to speak.)* This has been the best anniversary ever.

MARIA: It was our first.

JOHN: *(Looking at HIS watch.)* I believe we still have another 21 minutes till it is officially over.

MARIA: *(Coyly.)* Hmm. I wonder what we could do in those 21 minutes?

JOHN: *(In a sexy voice.)* I have a few ideas.

(THEY start to kiss passionately once again. Just then, NICOLETTE ENTERS from the bedroom. She is in a nightgown and slippers, hair in curlers. She's carrying a large handbag.)

NICOLETTE: Maria?

(JOHN and MARIA fall over the back of the sofa onto the floor in front. They recover quickly, standing on opposite sides of the sofa like they were caught doing something wrong.)

MARIA: Mom?!

JOHN: Mrs. D'Angelo?!

NICOLETTE: Please ... call me "Mama."

JOHN: Mrs. Mama --

MARIA: What are you doing here?

(NICOLETTE looks at JOHN.)

JOHN: I'll get us some drinks. *(HE EXITS into the kitchen.)*

MARIA: What is it?

(THEY both sit on the sofa.)

NICOLETTE: I left your father.

MARIA: Where?

NICOLETTE: Your father and I are no longer together.

MARIA: Did you forget where you left him?

NICOLETTE: We're separated.

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MARIA: I got that part.

NICOLETTE: We're getting a divorce!

MARIA: What? Why? What happened? What did he do?

(JOHN peeks his head out from the kitchen.)

JOHN: Would you like a cup of coffee?

NICOLETTE: Yes, with a large glass of whiskey on the side ...
no ice.

JOHN: Right. *(Starts to leave and realizes what NICOLETTE
just requested.)* What?

MARIA: I'll have the same ... hold the coffee.

JOHN: Right. *(HE EXITS, a bit confused.)*

NICOLETTE: If I never see your father again, it will be too
soon.

MARIA: Tell me what he did.

NICOLETTE: It's what he didn't do. That's the problem.

MARIA: All right. What did he "didn't do"?

NICOLETTE: Two weeks ago, as you know, was our
anniversary.

MARIA: Yes. What? Did he forget?

(NICOLETTE stands and then moves to the back of the sofa.)

NICOLETTE: I don't mind if he forgets an anniversary now
and then. He's done that for 26 years. But for him to forget
this one ... the big one. That's unforgivable.

MARIA: Wasn't it your twenty-seventh?

NICOLETTE: Yes. The big one.

MARIA: I'm sorry. Why is the twenty-seventh the big one?

NICOLETTE: Because ... we were married on the twenty-
seventh. Therefore, the twenty-seventh was the big one.
(Sits on the chair.) Now it's come and gone. Lost. Never to
return.

(JOHN ENTERS with a tray of drinks.)

JOHN: So, what's the story?

MARIA: My father lost his big one.

End of Freeview

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