

Right Girl, Wrong Guy

By Tony Howell

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DEDICATION

*This show is dedicated to the original cast.
They added, worked, polished and loved these characters as much as I did.
Thank you for bringing the Graysons to life.*

STORY OF THE PLAY

The wealthy Grayson clan has gathered for daughter, Juliet's, wedding shower. Her brother, Jefferson, has brought along his new girlfriend, but Jefferson's former girlfriend and Juliet's former boyfriend both show up as well and things start to get complicated. Things really heat up, however, when older brother, Jesse, falls for his brother's new girlfriend. When Juliet's fiancé has his secrets revealed, the wedding falls apart, and tears and accusations ensue... but in the end, the women come to realize that happiness is not that far away. They were simply with the wrong guy.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

The show premiered at Central Noble High School on April 21, 2018 with the following cast:

Jesse Grayson: Reggie Parker; Hope O'Reilly: Ellie Cole; Joseph Grayson: Jesse Sade; Caroline Rockefeller Grayson: Meleah Leatherman; Joseph "JJ" Grayson, Jr.: Tadd Owen; Celia Cabot Grayson: Sidd Wesson; Jefferson Grayson: Giran Kunkel; Kendall Lodge: Hannah Weiss; Juliet Grayson: Camryn Leatherman; James "Jimmy" Grayson: Dakota Kline; Neveah: Maggie Kaiser; Luke Hunter: Cole Knox; Ethan Lodge: Brandon Rittenberg; Ava Johnson: Alyson Robinson; Breeze Summers: Jaclyn Marker; Henley Rogers: Maddy Gordon; Ali Leighton: Jaylin Norris; Dana Forrester: Kelsie Conley; Ellen Grant: Emma Knox; Barbara Lodge: Addison Longardner; Blaine Brooks: Lukas Magnuson; Chauncey Randolph: Logan Vance; Winston Wordsworth: Braiden Bell; Sterling Standish: Noah Jank; Cabbie: Landon Kish

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(12 m, 13 w, optional extras)

WOMEN:

HOPE O'REILLY: A young artist with an offbeat style of dress.

CAROLINE ROCKEFELLER GRAYSON: Matriarch of the Grayson clan; classy, poised and nearly always calm.

CELIA CABOT GRAYSON: A snotty, rich girl.

JULIET GRAYSON: A spoiled princess with a good heart; fourth child.

KENDALL LODGE: A determined, upper-crust girl who loves her man.

HENLEY ROGERS: Juliet's selfish best friend.

ALI LEIGHTON: Juliet's loud and not-so-classy friend.

DANA FORRESTER: Juliet's not-too-bright friend.

ELLEN GRANT: Juliet's sad and whiny friend.

BARBARA LODGE: Mother of Kendall and Ethan.

NEVEAH: Longtime family housekeeper/surrogate mother.

BREEZE SUMMERS: Luke's new girlfriend, pretty low class.

AVA JOHNSON: Jesse's new girl, very low class.

EXTRAS: Wedding shower guests. (Optional.)

MEN:

JOSEPH GRAYSON: Business-minded father of the Grayson clan.

JOSEPH "JJ" GRAYSON, JR.: Oldest child, married, just like his father.

JESSE GRAYSON: The second son & black sheep of the family.

JEFFERSON GRAYSON: Third son, who is closest to Jesse.

JAMES "JIMMY" GRAYSON: Fifth child, acts out to get attention.

LUKE HUNTER: Jesse's best friend, once dated Juliet.

ETHAN LODGE: Juliet's fiancé and a playboy.

BLAINE BROOKS: Ethan's pal.

CHAUNCEY RANDOLPH: Ethan's pal.

WINSTON WORDSWORTH: Ethan's pal.

STERLING STANDISH: Ethan's pal.

CABBIE: The hard-of-hearing taxi driver.

EXTRAS: Wedding shower party crashers. (Optional.)

SETTING

The stage is a terrace. This is the back patio of the Grayson family's summer home. Center stage is a pair of French doors that lead inside. Stage right is a patio table with a tablecloth and chairs, perhaps an umbrella. There are patio chairs, a couch, and a coffee table stage left. There are also some potted plants and/or flowers scattered around to help complete the picture of a very up-scale terrace overlooking a beautiful lake.

SET AND COSTUME NOTES

This show can be staged very simply with just some patio furniture on a bare stage, or as elaborately as desired with an upper-class residence as the backdrop. Costumes are modern day and in many cases can be found in the actor's personal wardrobe. However, for both the set and the costumes, care should be taken to preserve the image that the Grayson family is very well off.

ACTING NOTES

The success of the show depends in many ways on the actor playing Jesse. The character can come across as unsympathetic if he's not played with charm and a joyous sense of humor. If his love of life comes across, then his romance with his brother's girlfriend seems less like betrayal. It is also important that Caroline is played as the calm center of her family... indeed, of the entire neighborhood. The role works beautifully with an actress who has an air of nobility about her. Hope should be portrayed as a free spirit with a rebellious independence. This allows the audience to see that she and Jesse belong together. If the actor who plays Jefferson emphasizes the logical, business-oriented side of his character, then the audience is aware from the beginning that Hope and Jefferson don't mix and that keeps them from investing in that relationship. Finally, Ava's attitude is vital to the show. She's loud, brassy, low-class, and must come across with an obnoxious and voluminous voice. Without that, her match-up with the hard-of-hearing cabbie as the final joke of the show doesn't work at all.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: JULIET storms on from inside in pajamas and/or bathrobe with a hairbrush in hand. She is followed by CAROLINE, who is followed by NEVEAH. Neveah is carrying a tray with breakfast food, a pitcher of juice or water, perhaps coffee and some glasses. Shortly after entering, Caroline moves over and begins arranging the cut flowers lying on the table near the empty vase. She continues to do this for most of this first scene. Neveah arranges the food on the coffee table.)

JULIET: *(Brushing her hair.)* I don't want her here. I can't stand her. She'll ruin everything. I want her to stay in Paris and I can't believe you invited her. I hate her. I hate her. I hate her.

CAROLINE: She's your sister-in-law, angel.

JULIET: I don't care if she's the royal queen of Bulgikstani.

CAROLINE: There is no such place as Vulkanistan, angel.

JULIET: Bulgikstani.

CAROLINE: It doesn't matter how it's pronounced because it doesn't exist. But your sister-in-law does exist, and she will be here this morning and you will be polite and treat her well. I will not have any more rumors about this family flying around the lake.

NEVEAH: *(Exiting back into the house.)* Don't forget to eat your breakfast, Juliet.

JULIET: *(Grabbing some of the food on the coffee table and starting to eat.)* Who cares what they think, Mother?

CAROLINE: I care. And so should you. After all, without your reputation, you would never have been able to catch your Ethan.

JULIET: I can't believe it. I'm getting married to Ethan Lodge. But Ethan is marrying me because he loves me, not because of my reputation. No matter what my past would have been, he would have loved me just the same.

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CAROLINE: Don't fool yourself, angel. Without your reputation, your romance would have crashed upon the rocks of society's judgments.

JULIET: You mean Mrs. Leighton, don't you?

CAROLINE: I mean several people, angel.

JULIET: But it's mostly Mrs. Leighton, isn't it?

CAROLINE: That's not the point, Juliet. The point is...

JULIET: It's Mrs. Leighton. *(Pause.)* She's such a snob, Mother. You shouldn't pay any attention to her. Just because they have the most bathrooms on the lake doesn't make her the queen, you know. They may call them thrones but having a bunch of them doesn't make you royalty. After all, you can only go in one at a time.

CAROLINE: JULIET! I hope you're not going to be vulgar today. And besides, I do not worry about Francesca Leighton in any way, shape or form, and I certainly do not care about the fact that she has two more powder rooms than we do. *(To herself.)* Francesca Leighton, indeed. I knew her when she was Frankie Jones and selling vacuum cleaners door to door.

JULIET: Mrs. Leighton was a vacuum cleaner saleswoman? Oh, that's hilarious! I can't wait until I see her. I'm going to ask her if she shows her maids the proper way to use a vacuum cleaner!

CAROLINE: Juliet!

JULIET: No! No! I'm going to ask her what she thinks about people who sweep things under the rug!

CAROLINE: Juliet!

JULIET: I've got it! I'm going to ask her if her maiden name was Hoover!

CAROLINE: YOU WILL NOT! You will do nothing to even indicate that you have heard of her sordid, ridiculous and embarrassing past. I will not have people believing that my only daughter listens to gossip and rumors.

JULIET: But if it's true...

CAROLINE: Oh, it's true, all right. She swept up Ronald's dirt and then swept up his bank account.

JULIET: Well, then it's not gossip and rumors.

CAROLINE: It is as far as you're concerned, angel. Besides, you have your own problems. You have to be nice to Celia. And when you do see Mrs. Leighton, you are going to treat her like the fine, moral, upstanding role model that she is. *(To herself.)* Even if she is a sneaking, lying, conniving, cleaning woman.

JULIET: Please, Mother! I wanted my wedding shower to be fun and be about me. If Celia's here, she'll look down her nose at everyone and make fun of my friends and give me disgusted looks all morning and try to be the center of attention when I should be the center of attention. Can't you send her off on an errand or something?

CAROLINE: Celia will be here. But you can focus on Barbara Lodge and Kendall. As the mother and sister of your future husband, you will need to be properly attentive to both of them anyway.

JULIET: I don't mind Kendall. You can't help but feel sorry for Kendall. I always thought she should have married Jefferson. What happened between them?

CAROLINE: I don't know, angel. Sometimes things just don't work out.

JULIET: Poor thing. I guess not everyone is as lucky as me.

CAROLINE: You remember that when Celia and Junior get here.

(JULIET pouts and CAROLINE sees her, feels sorry for her and moves over to comfort her.)

CAROLINE: *(Cont'd.)* But I will ask her to help me play hostess and I'll send her to the kitchen as often as I can.

JULIET: *(Hugging her MOTHER.)* Oh, Mother! You're the best!

CAROLINE: Thank you, angel.

(JAMES bolts out across the terrace and skids to a stop when he sees the food. He begins to eat.)

JULIET: That's my breakfast!

JAMES: You weren't eating it!

End of Freeview

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