

RADIO SCRIPT

"WHO DONE IT?"

A COMEDY

By Mary Engquist

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Mary Engquist

Props: Microphones (Characters each have one and are sitting in a half circle. You can make it look like a radio station. In a radio show you read all that is in the script to describe the scenes. Remember, they can see nothing and they need you to describe what is going on. Your audience is watching you broadcast this show.)

Four Cast of Characters: Detective Friday—Betty
Jo---Butler—Husband

Sounds---Bangs on a door (You can have someone beat their hands against wood or a cardboard box.) Squeaky sounds (You can use a bunch of old keys and they will create a squeaky sound.) Sounds of birds. (You can find bird sounds on CD's.)

Sounds of falling rain. (You can use a hose with fast running water and hitting it against a wall and record it on a tape. Another way is to clap your hands together and slap your hands on your legs. You can flip a light switch on and off to represent lightning, and use a drum for thunder. You can also stomp your feet and clap your hands. Your audience is watching everything that you do.)

SCENE ONE

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

My name is Friday and I work on Tuesday. I only take cases that I can solve. It's a cold and rainy day in February and I have been called out to Betty Jo's, by her husband. He seemed uneasy. Was he going to be murdered? Where's the body? Why so many birds here? Who done it? That is my job to find out.

(Detective Friday bangs the door. Bang, Bang)

BUTLER

(Opens the door. (Squeak, squeak was the sound from the door on old castle in desperate need of repair.)

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

Hi! My name is Friday and I only work on Tuesday.

(He steps into the house. He is wearing his pajama bottoms with a large black overcoat and slippers. He has on an orange necktie that is hanging out. He also is wearing a black hat tilted on his head and halfway down his forehead.)

BUTLER

Then tell me why you are here on a Thursday when you only work on Tuesdays may I ask?

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

I knew that you would ask me that and there is only one good reason.

BUTLER

I'm waiting!

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

I wanted to see how smart you are. If you did not ask me any questions then I would know you have no brains. Then if you had brains you would not ask me any questions. Duh!

(The detective walks over to the couch and sees something shining in his face.)

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

Aha, what is this? Gotcha.

(He picks up the shining piece of paper and looks at it and then he crackles in his hands. (Crunch, crunch))

BUTLER

You ain't got nothing on me. You old geezer.

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

Well, we will see about that. Don't you ever watch the old movies? In every movie the butler always does it.

BUTLER

Well, that does not prove that I did it.

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

Where is Betty Jo? Her husband called me. I bet she might know something more than you, ha, ha.

BUTLER

Well, la, de, da and she thought I cleaned up her mess. You found the shining paper. Now you make something out of it. Hee, hee to you.

BETTY JO

(Walks in the room with her mouth wide open and her arms swinging.)

Well, I'll be. I've heard it all now. Talking about my butler's bad housekeeping. So he missed a shining piece of paper that caught your eye. Well, let me give you something that will change your mind.

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

And what is that? Besides, not much will change my mind.

BETTY JO

You just need to find out why my husband called you.

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

How did you know that he called me?

BETTY JO

Let me put this another way. I know everything and I know every Tom, Dick, and Harry, and if they are missing or dead we are not losing much. Besides, my time is valuable. Got that? You will find that my husband is paranoid.

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

Do you “Got This” lady, there is blood throughout your house. This one is not the real butler. Why I knew that when I first met him.

BETTY JO

And what makes you so smart?

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

Well, for your information, his face is splattered all over the news. He is on the America’s Most Wanted and I have already called for backup. So back out of my way and you are under arrest, you fake butler. Hands behind your back.

BUTLER

(Pulls out a gun from his vest)

Mess with me and I will kill you both. You thought that you were so smart, ha-ha. Well, I killed the old man who you came to rescue and you were too late. By the way, how does it feel to get shot on Thursday, hee, hee, hee, when you only work on Tuesdays? Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah!

BETTY JO

Hey, before you kill him, I want him to tell me everything he knows.

BUTLER

Yea, hear that? Tell the woman what she wants to know. Why are you here?

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

There are a lot of birds outside and there is reason to believe that they all came from the Birdman of Alcatraz.

BUTLER

How can that be? He has been dead for over 50 years. What did he do? Come back to life to see Betty Jo?

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

It's easy, you dumb wit. You are the one that took over for him after he died when you were staying at the Leavenworth Penitentiary. Maybe they followed you here.

BETTY JO

How could that be?

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

Did you notice that all the birds were sparrows? How else would you explain it? Plus the wrapper that I found? It was a dead giveaway. It had the word "A bird treat" written on it and A stood for Alcatraz.

BUTLER

Okay, you figured it all out. A lot of good it will do for you both.

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

There is one thing that I am still working on. I need to know why you killed the husband or was it a butler?

BUTLER

Well, you have nobody yet. Hee, hee, husband or butler you say, so eenie-meenie-mighty-moe, catch a birdie by its toe. Need I go on?

Detective Friday

No, and besides the one you killed is standing right behind you.

Butler

And that is where you are wrong, you doe, doe. Now do you think that I will fall for that one? Besides you say he's right behind me. That is the oldest trick in the book.

BETTY JO

Look, you dumb wit.

BUTLER

I killed you. How can you be alive?

HUSBAND

Thank goodness for my bullet-proof vest.

BUTLER

But what about all the blood that came out of you?

HUSBAND

Well, when I saw the birds all show up I knew that was bad news. When you were coming down the driveway, I called the detective. I put two bottles of ketchup on each side of my vest and when you shot me all the ketchup blew up. You, like a dummy, thought it was blood. When you dragged me to the other room it got all over the floor.

BUTLER

Well, I guess, my half-brother, you are not as dumb as I thought.

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

You mean to tell me you are brothers?

BUTLER

Yea, and with him out of the way I would inherit all the family fortune. You see, my dad left it all to him unless he died and then it would be all mine, just because I went to prison. Then he just had to get married. Then it complicated the problem.

If I had known that the birds would give me away I would never have taken them over after the Birdman of Alcatraz died. I was training them to be jailbirds.

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

I see, and then you would train them to fly in and out of the prison with notes, money and cigarettes.

BUTLER

Right again, Mr. Detective.

HUSBAND

I knew that you might pull something like this. But I never thought you would resort to murder.

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

Well, he sounds like he had this planned for years.

BUTLER

Well, you both forgot one thing.

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

What is that?

BUTLER

I'm still holding the gun. Ha, ha, ha.

HUSBAND

Not for long for there are no bullets in the gun.

BUTLER

Yea, right, that is an old trick also and we will see, big brother.
(He aims the gun at himself and pulls the trigger. Bang, bang. He drops to the floor.)

HUSBAND

He was always good at not believing me when I would tell him something. This time it got him killed. Yea, my poor brother. He didn't know what hit him. Let him rest in peace.

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

There is one thing that bothers me, Betty Jo.

BETTY JO

What is that, Detective Friday?

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

I believe that you and the butler were in cahoots with each other. I found a piece of paper outside that the birds had dropped. It was a note that he sent with the birds to you to warn you that he was coming to kill your husband so you and he would inherit all the money. So he played you for a fool. All the letters that you each wrote back and forth while he was in prison. No wonder he worked with the birds. Did you kill the real butler?

BETTY JO

You will have to prove that, Mr. Detective. Besides, I did not kill the old butler. I sent him on a wild goose chase for a few days.

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

Well, that was too easy. You see all the letters and notes that the birds delivered, they used most of it to build their nest. Almost every note and letter you wrote is all around in the eaves of your home.

When I was on the front porch I could see that in all the nests were balls of paper with writing on it. I did not put it together until now. You are under arrest, Ms. Betty Jo.

HUSBAND

Oh, Betty Jo, why? I would have given you anything.

BETTY JO

Well, your brother told me that he was the one that would inherit all the money, and with you out of the way, well, he would marry me and you would be no threat to him.

HUSBAND

Get her out of my sight, Detective Friday.

DETECTIVE FRIDAY

Let's get these cuffs on you right now. Hey, do you hear that?
(Play the bird sounds)

The birds are chirping. They are now flying south. Yea, and to think a few more days you guys could have pulled it off.

(Betty Jo and Detective Friday exit the room.)

(Curtain closes.)

THE END