

The Devil, You Say!

A Comedy in Two Acts

by

R. Eugene Jackson

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STORY OF THE PLAY

You should never make a pact with the--well, you know--because the consequences can be disastrous. Jimmy Faust, Jr. Jr., great, great (etc.) grandson of the legendary Faust, makes that mistake. In exchange for his--you know--he first demands to be made valedictorian of his class, even though Essie outscores him on every test. Big mistake. Then he tells the--you know--that he wants a date with Deshara, the sexiest girl on campus. Bigger mistake. Greedily, he further requests great wealth. Biggest mistake. His friends and Essie disown him, and he becomes an outcast. But even the--you know--can be defeated when an entire class of teens turns the tables on him--er, her. Great fun with a class full of colorful characters, surprising turns of events, and exciting entrances, but easily staged and costumed.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

16 characters, approx. 8 m, 8 w. Extras as desired.

Jimmy Faust, Jr. Jr.: Wants to be the best student.

Terrell: Jimmy's best friend.

Essie: The smartest student on campus.

Eleanor: Sweet, but not the best student.

Myrtie: Another student.

Kaye: Another.

Ursula: Another.

Morris: Another.

Patten: Another.

Cedric: Another.

Deshara: The sexiest girl on campus.

Alfonso: The richest boy on campus.

Cray: Alfonso's valet.

Mrs. (or Mr.) Donovan: A teacher.

She: The ... you know.

Bull: The King Kong of football players.

Other students as desired.

Casting Note

Feel free to add appropriate current teenage slang and/or to change characters' names to correspond with the actors' ethnic background or gender. (Some roles may be played by either gender.).

Running time: About 90 minutes.

TIME: The present.

PLACE: Mrs. Donovan's government classroom. The teacher's desk is at stage right with a door behind it leading off right. Rows of student desks extend to the left, with the main entry behind them at the far left.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Act I

Scene 1: A school day in fall.

Scene 2: A school day in Mid-December.

Act II

Scene 1: A school day in February.

Scene 2: A school day in May.

PROPS

Text books and backpacks

Test papers

Various other school supplies

Red shovel

Red pen

Red paper

Christmas wreath

Dust rag

Endust spray can

Tape or CD player

Wrapped box of chocolates

Unwrapped box of chocolates

Handkerchief

Wrapped chocolate candies

Soda can

\$5 bill

Valentine

COSTUME NOTES

Graduation caps and gowns

Red horns

Red devil tail

Two crazy hats

Cape

Crown

ACT I

Scene 1

(AT RISE: A very happy JIMMY and his friend TERRELL enter classroom from left. Both carry books and/or book bags or backpacks. Jimmy is looking over a test paper. Terrell wears a colorful, crazy hat and a similar offbeat, light jacket.)

JIMMY: *(Proudly.)* Look at this, Terrell. Will you look at this? Ninety-six. I got a ninety-six on the algebra exam.

TERRELL: So did I. *(HE holds up his paper.)*

JIMMY: *(Surprised.)* That's not a ninety-six.

TERRELL: It is if you look at the numbers upside down. *(HE turns paper upside down.)*

JIMMY: Either way, that's sixty-nine. That's not very good.

TERRELL: Tell me about it. For the next exam, I may have to study a little.

JIMMY: Studying helps.

TERRELL: It doesn't help me. I stayed up all night for this test.

JIMMY: You did?

TERRELL: Yeah, but I was watching TV the whole time.

JIMMY: So that's why you made a sixty-nine.

TERRELL: Hey, I didn't want to miss the late-late-late show that's so late, it's early.

JIMMY: For you, Terrell, there's no hope. For me, there's hope.

TERRELL: Hope for what?

JIMMY: I want to be valedictorian. I plan to be valedictorian. I will be valedictorian.

TERRELL: Valedictorian? That's some kind of tropical disease we studied in biology, isn't it?

JIMMY: It's number one in the senior class, that's what.

TERRELL: I know what it is. I was making a wookie--a joke.

JIMMY: It's being the best. It's being the top.

TERRELL: If they had a deca-dictorian, that's what I'd be.

JIMMY: And what's that?

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TERRELL: The most decadent of the senior class.

JIMMY: Yeah, well, with your crazy hats and coats, you could be class clown.

TERRELL: Thanks a lot. But enough about me. *(Pretending HE is at a microphone.)* Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Worst Case High School graduation of *(Insert the current year.)*. And now, here is Jimmy Faust, Junior-Junior, the top of his class, who will deliver the Vall-e-Victory oration.

JIMMY: Yeah! *(HE pretends to take the microphone from TERRELL.)* Fellow classmates and ...

TERRELL: *(HE pretends to snatch the microphone back.)* That is, he would give that speech ... if it weren't for Essie Michels.

JIMMY: *(HE grunts.)* Argh! *(HE goes tense all over.)* Essie Michels, Essie Michels. It's always Essie Michels.

TERRELL: My sixty-nine might look bad, but even ninety-six looks bad next to one hundred. *(HE drops the pretend microphone.)*

JIMMY: She didn't.

TERRELL: Bet she did.

JIMMY: Algebra's *my* subject.

TERRELL: Every subject's *her* subject.

JIMMY: *(Angrily.)* No! That's not right. Can't be.

(ESSIE enters. She is an average-looking senior who wears glasses and frumpy clothes.)

TERRELL: Essie, what did you make on the algebra exam?

ESSIE: A hundred.

TERRELL: *(To JIMMY.)* See?

JIMMY: *(To ESSIE.)* Uh, could you possibly be mistaken about that?

ESSIE: Mistaken? Me?

JIMMY: I guess not. *(HE flops down in a chair.)*

ESSIE: Something wrong?

TERRELL: He wants to be perfect.

JIMMY: *(Angrily.)* I don't want to be perfect. I just want to make ... perfect ... grades.

End of Freeview

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