

MY BETTER HALF

A One Act Play

By

Megan Kemery

Cast of Characters

MARK BROWN: A white man in his late 20's; Boyfriend to
GARY CHARLES.

GARY CHARLES: A white man in his late 20's; Boyfriend to
MARK BROWN.

DONNA MILLER: A white housewife in her mid 30's; wife to
FRANK MILLER.

FRANK MILLER: A white man in his late 30's; husband to
DONNA MILLER.

SIGN HOLDER: A person of any gender dressed in black
holding signs to signal what the audience
should do.

PRODUCER: A person of any gender dressed in a business
suit, working the show.

Scene

Located in Mark and Gary's new living room and kitchen.

Time

1960's.

Scene 1

SETTING: Opens up in the living room with a part of the stage that has the lights off.

AT RISE: MARK and GARY are in their new living room unpacking boxes that are spread across the room.

(Off stage DONNA's voice is overhead)

DONNA

My Better Half is performed in front of a live studio audience.

MARK

Gary have you seen my baseball cards?

GARY

Are they not upstairs in our bedroom?

MARK

Nope they aren't there.

GARY

Oh then they might have been in that box that I buried under other boxes in the garage.

MARK

Come on Gary those are my collection.

(Knock comes from their front door.)

GARY

Who could that be?

(MARK walks over and opens the front door. DONNA and FRANK enter their living room. SIGN HOLDER changes sign to applause and turn on recording of audience applauding)

FRANK

So sorry to bother you boys but we had to come meet our new neighbors. I'm Frank and this is my wife Donna. We also have two boys who run around the neighborhood.

(FRANK shakes hands with MARK and GARY)

MARK

Oh of course. I'm Mark and this is Gary my boyfrrrrr—

(MARK coughs)

MARK (continued)

Roommate! We are roommates, since college.

GARY

Yes, roommates!

DONNA (to the audience)

And they were roommates.

(SIGN HOLDER changes sign to the laugh sign and a laugh
track plays.)

FRANK

It is a little weird for two young men like you two to buy
a house like this one.

GARY

We are currently renting to maybe own.

DONNA

One of you to own with your girlfriend or future wife?

MARK

Oh, yea if we get lucky or if we even like the house after
all that time.

FRANK

You have girlfriends don't you?

DONNA

Frank honey of course they have girlfriends. Two handsome young men like them. They have to have girlfriends.

MARK

Well umm-

GARY

Well I don't have a girlfriend but of course Mark has a girlfriend.

DONNA

Oh how sweet! What is the young girl's name?

MARK

Oh ummm-

(MARK and GARY look at each other with panicked looks)

GARY

Mary! Her name is Mary.

(SIGN HOLDER changes sign to the laugh sign and a laugh track plays.)

DONNA

What a pretty name and I'm sure she's a gorgeous girl.

GARY

Oh she is and they met in college.

FRANK

Wow a girl in college you better watch out.

(FRANK and DONNA start laughing. MARK and GARY join in
awkwardly)

DONNA

Well we have to meet this girl now. We will be back around
6 tonight for dinner that Mary would of course be cooking.

So let her know and we will be back tonight. See ya
tonight.

(DONNA and FRANK leaves)

GARY

Fun! Dinner party tonight.

(SIGN HOLDER changes sign to the laugh sign and a laugh
track plays.)

MARK

Yes, now where am I supposed to find a girlfriend named
Mary in a few hours?

GARY

I made up Mary so let me figure that out for you.

(Stage goes dark)

Scene 2

(Opens back up in their living room later that night. The stage on one end now has lights on showing part of a small kitchen. MARK is pacing in the living room.)

MARK

Gary, hurry up they'll be here soon. According to Donna's note they'll be here on the dot.

(GARY walks into view wearing a dress, wig, and make up. SIGN HOLDER holds up a sign to laugh while a laugh track plays.)

GARY (In a female voice)

What do you think of Mary?

MARK

Not what I was expecting you to do.

GARY

How else are we supposed to make a girlfriend appear for
you?

MARK

You got a point what girl would come with two strange guys
and pretend to date one of them for a night.

(SIGN HOLDER holds up a sign to the laugh sign and a laugh
track plays.)

GARY (In a female voice)

Exactly therefore here I am to be your girlfriend but for
one night only... I hope.

MARK

We will work it out so we can have Mary dump me soon.

GARY

Thank goodness I don't know how women wear all of this
crap. The makeup took forever to get just right.

MARK

I can't believe you committed to the whole look.

GARY

Well I love you and we just moved here. It's important that we get along with these people. We don't know how they would react to us and who we are.

MARK

I hope one day life won't always be this hard for people like us.

GARY

Hey look on the bright side. You will forever hold this night over my head for the rest of our lives.

(MARK and GARY laugh while SIGN HOLDER holds up a laugh sign as a laugh track plays.)

MARK

Okay, so you have everything you need to make dinner in the kitchen including the instructions for it.

GARY

I'm a little nervous since you are the one who normally does the cooking. You know I can only make pasta.

MARK

And even then you don't cook the noodles long enough.

GARY

Thanks for reminding me. That's just making me more nervous.

(Then there was a knock at the door)

MARK

That's them. Are you ready?

GARY

Yes, I'm just worried I'll screw it up.

MARK

Don't worry it'll be fine.

(MARK walks over and opens the door. DONNA and FRANK walk into the living room.)

DONNA

Well this must be Mary. How wonderful to meet you darling.

GARY (in a female voice)

I'm so excited to meet you both.

MARK

Yes, Mary this is Donna and Frank who live next door to me.

Well aren't you a pretty little thing.

GARY (in a female voice)

Oh well thank you. Aren't you sweet?

DONNA

We both have nice men to take care of us. Now do you need any help getting dinner ready?

GARY (in a female voice)

Don't worry about it. Everything is ready it'll just be an hour.

DONNA

Well that's great just let me know if you need anything sweetie.

MARK

Come on in and sit down. We can talk while Mary cooks dinner for us.

(GARY walks into the kitchen area and starts to mess around with the pots and pans on the counter.)

FRANK

Of course. Now where is Gary tonight? I thought he would be joining us for dinner as well.

MARK

Well Gary didn't want to be a fifth wheel. He wanted it to be a couple's night. So he decided to go out to the local bar trying to find new friends in the area.

DONNA

That was sweet of him. So what do you two do for a living?

MARK

Well I am a loan officer.

(GARY drops a pan creating a large crashing sound. SIGN HOLDER holds up a laughing sign along with the laugh track playing)

MARK (continued)

Gary is a social worker at the moment working on his doctorate in psychology to be a therapist.

FRANK

Now see I don't believe in that stuff but I know it can really help some people.

MARK

Gary really just wants to help people which I admire the most about him.

(GARY in the kitchen creates a big crash. SIGN HOLDER holds up a sign to the laugh sign and a laugh track plays.)

DONNA

Does Mary need help in there? Maybe I should go help her.

MARK

NO! Don't worry this is just her process with cooking.

She's fine.

(GARY in the kitchen seen throwing ingredients into a bowl when he knocks it over creating a crash and ends up covering himself in flour. SIGN HOLDER holds up a laugh sign along with the laugh track playing.)

FRANK

Maybe Donna should go help.

MARK

Seriously Mary is just fine in there she just needs a few more minutes.

(GARY then stumbles out of the kitchen covered in flour.)

DONNA

Oh no! Mary are you okay?

(As DONNA goes over to help clean up GARY his wig falls
off.)

GARY (in a female voice)

Oh dear! This has never happened before.

(SIGN HOLDER holds up a laugh sign along with the laugh
track playing.)

FRANK

Gary? Is that you?

(MARK and GARY share a look of defeat)

GARY

Yes. It's me Gary. Dressed up as a beautiful woman.

(SIGN HOLDER holds up a sign to the laugh sign and a laugh
track plays.)

MARK

We're sorry to deceive you like this we just didn't know
how to explain that we were dating to such nice people like
you. But we are scared to tell people here that we are gay.
I hope you don't judge us just based on who we decide to
love because we are happy with our lives. We just don't
want to be targeted in the neighborhood because we are gay.

DONNA

Oh sweetie, we knew.

(SIGN HOLDER holds up a sign to the laugh sign and a laugh track plays.)

MARK

You knew?

FRANK

Donna is a little nosey so when she saw you two moving in we had to come meet you.

DONNA

We didn't want to jump to conclusions if you weren't gay so we wanted to get to know you better. We continued to play along with this scheme when we saw Gary dressed as a woman.

GARY

You knew it was me and not Mary?

FRANK

You looked great but it was a little obvious that it was you.

(SIGN HOLDER holds up a sign to the laugh sign and a laugh track plays.)

MARK

So you don't hate us for being gay men living together?

DONNA

No of course not. As long as you two are happy and are in love with someone who will care for you that's all that matters. You shouldn't care what others think.

GARY

It's not easy to just not care about what others think.

DONNA

I understand but we won't judge you. Therefore let's try dinner again tomorrow night and this time I will cook.

MARK

That's probably for the best. And thank you.

(SIGN HOLDER holds up an applause sign along with a
applause track plays.)

(Off stage PRODUCER yells)

PRODUCER

Cut! That's a wrap!

(A bell rings overhead and DONNA, FRANK, MARK, and GARY all
drop character.)

GARY

Nice job guys.

DONNA

I need a smoke break after that.

MARK

You're telling me, I'm going out for a beer after changing.

FRANK

I might have to join you on that trip.

(DONNA, FRANK, MARK, and GARY walk off stage)

PRODUCER (To the audience)

Thank you all for coming out for the stage production of My
Better Half. Have a great night.

END OF PLAY