

Excerpt terms and conditions

This excerpt is available to assist you in the play selection process.

Excerpts are not intended for performance, classroom or other academic use. In any of these cases you will need to purchase playbooks via our website or by phone, fax or mail.

A short excerpt is not always indicative of the entire work, and we strongly suggest you read the whole play before planning a production or ordering a cast quantity.

The War of the Worlds: **A Totally Teen Online Theatrical Event**

By

FLIP KOBLER and CINDY MARCUS

Based on the book by

H.G. WELLS

Dramatic Publishing Company

Woodstock, Illinois • Australia • New Zealand • South Africa

*** NOTICE ***

The amateur and stock acting rights to this work are controlled exclusively by THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., without whose permission in writing no performance of it may be given. Royalty must be paid every time a play is performed whether or not it is presented for profit and whether or not admission is charged. A play is performed any time it is acted before an audience. Current royalty rates, applications and restrictions may be found at our website: www.dramaticpublishing.com, or we may be contacted by mail at: THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., 311 Washington St., Woodstock, IL 60098.

COPYRIGHT LAW GIVES THE AUTHOR OR THE AUTHOR'S AGENT THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO MAKE COPIES. This law provides authors with a fair return for their creative efforts. Authors earn their living from the royalties they receive from book sales and from the performance of their work. Conscientious observance of copyright law is not only ethical, it encourages authors to continue their creative work. This work is fully protected by copyright. No alterations, deletions or substitutions may be made in the work without the prior written consent of the publisher. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, videotape, film, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. It may not be performed either by professionals or amateurs without payment of royalty. All rights, including, but not limited to, the professional, motion picture, radio, television, videotape, foreign language, tabloid, recitation, lecturing, publication and reading, are reserved.

For performance of any songs, music and recordings mentioned in this play that are in copyright, the permission of the copyright owners must be obtained or other songs and recordings in the public domain substituted.

©MMXX by
FLIP KOBLER and CINDY MARCUS

Printed in the United States of America
All Rights Reserved
(THE WAR OF THE WORLDS:
A TOTALLY TEEN ONLINE THEATRICAL EVENT)

ISBN: 978-1-61959-255-1

IMPORTANT BILLING AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

All producers of the play *must* give credit to the authors of the play in all programs distributed in connection with performances of the play and in all instances in which the title of the play appears for purposes of advertising, publicizing or otherwise exploiting the play and/or a production. The names of the authors *must* also appear on a separate line, on which no other name appears, immediately following the title, and *must* appear in size of type not less than fifty percent (50%) the size of the title type. Biographical information on the authors, if included in the playbook, may be used in all programs. *In all programs this notice must appear:*

“Produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., of Woodstock, Illinois.”

The War of the Worlds: A Totally Teen Online Theatrical Event

CHARACTERS

DAWN (w): Co-host of the “Morning Announcements” show.

BEAN (either): The other co-host.

AMANDA (w): Bean’s sister. An overly curious seeker of truth.

CHESTER (either): Head of the computer club. Certified genius.

CARLY (either): Journalism major, wants to score her big scoop.

PIERSON (either): Head of the astronomy club.

LANSING (either): Corporal in the ROTC.

ROBBINS (either): Bitter stranger with a sour vision of the future.

PRODUCTION NOTE

Our two morning-show announcers are named after the comedian ORSON Bean and actress Dawn WELLS. This is our little hat tip to the great Orson Wells, who inspired such a radical retelling of H.G.’s work. Stay safe. Stay healthy. Be kind.

(On our device, BEAN and DAWN appear doing the video morning school announcements. You know, those cheesy video announcements that play every morning, usually with two kids who don't want to be doing it.)

BEAN: Good Morning Grover's Mill High School.

DAWN: Go Badgers.

BEAN: Go Badgers.

DAWN: These are your morning announcements for this Friday the thirteenth.

BEAN: Drama club will be holding auditions for Much Ado About Nothing after school today.

DAWN: Auditions are for Drama Club members only.

BEAN: The football team goes against our arch rivals Westbrooke High, right here at Grover's Mill High.

DAWN: Go Badgers.

BEAN: Go Badgers. We will annihilate them. Kill them. Destroy them.

Westbrooke, get the body bags ready.

DAWN: The computer club has finished their own Grover's Mill High Network.

BEAN: Go Badgers.

DAWN: Go Badgers. All students can stay connected on this network, even if the rest of the internet is offline. Way to go computer club.

BEAN: Racial tensions broke out at a pep rally again last Friday--

(Suddenly we hear a huge explosion off screen. Our camera is shaking and suddenly snaps to black. After a beat a card fills our screen. TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES – PLEASE STAND BY. After a few moments, BEAN and DAWN comes back on screen, picking themselves up off the ground.)

DAWN: What was that?

BEAN: I dunno.

DAWN: Does anybody have any idea what just happened?

BEAN: Was that an explosion?

DAWN: I'm not sure.

BEAN: Felt like an explosion. *(His phone beeps.)* Wait a sec. I'm getting an emergency call from my sister.

(Now AMANDA comes on the screen. She's over amped and jittery at what she's just seen. She's outdoors and behind her we mostly see sky.)

AMANDA: Bean, is that you?

BEAN: Yeah, sis, what's goin' on?

AMANDA: Did you feel that?

BEAN: We felt something. Got no idea what it is.

AMANDA: I'm out here in the quad. Something just crashed into the football field.

DAWN: What?
AMANDA: Are you still doing announcements?
BEAN: Yeah.
AMANDA: Okay, wait a sec, I'm gonna go check it out.

(She vanishes from the screen. BEAN and DAWN try to cover. DAWN's on her phone, punching buttons.)

BEAN: Okay, uh, I guess we'll ah.... Keep you informed as we figure out what just happened.
DAWN: I'm trying to do a google search to see if they know anything. But I got no internet access. *(To the unseen camera crew.)* What about you guys? You got a signal? No?
BEAN: Me neither. I'm gonna call my mom, she works for the police, she might know something. *(Dial. Beat.)* Call cannot be completed.
DAWN: So what, we got no internet and no phone service?
BEAN: Looks like.

(Now Amanda comes back on, waaay over excited.)

AMANDA: Bean! You guys there?
BEAN: We're still here.
AMANDA: You are not gonna believe this. A UFO just crashed into the football field.
DAWN: What?
BEAN: No.
AMANDA: I'm tellin' you man, a UFO crashed into our football field.
BEAN: Well that can't be right. It's probably a meteor or something.
AMANDA: It's not a meteor.
BEAN: Well, it's not a space ship.
AMANDA: You don't know, you haven't even seen it.
DAWN: Maybe it's like a crashed satellite or something.
AMANDA: It's not a satellite. It's a UFO.
BEAN: You don't know that.
AMANDA: I'll show you. *(She starts to walk toward the stadium.)* I'll take my phone down there and get some images, you are gonna freak your geek man, it's like nothing—

(Suddenly her phone goes dead. ZIP she's off screen.)

BEAN: Amanda? Amanda?! What is goin' on?
DAWN: I dunno. But she couldn't have meant—
BEAN: Nah.
DAWN: That'd be stupid.

BEAN: Really stupid. Maybe something fell from a plane or something.
DAWN: *(Her phone rings.)* I'm getting a call here. From Chester McGinty?
BEAN: The computer club guy? Can you put him on?

(Punch punch button button. Then CHESTER appears. He's on overdrive.)

DAWN: Hello? Chester?
CHESTER: Hey. You guys still doin' morning announcements?
DAWN: Yes. You're on live right now.
CHESTER: Awesomeness. You guys know what's happening here?
BEAN: Not really. We heard something crashed in the football field.
CHESTER: Yeah, but whatever crashed did waaaaaayyy more damage than just the new field. The entire internet is down across the whole planet.
DAWN: What?
CHESTER: There's no internet service. Anywhere. I mean anywhere.
BEAN: Is that possible?
CHESTER: I dunno. Phone are down too. You can't call anybody.
DAWN: But we're talking to you.
CHESTER: Yeah, baby. That's because we installed the new Grover's Mill High—
DAWN: Go Badgers.
CHESTER/BEAN: Go Badgers.
CHESTER: --high school network. We're a closed system. Anybody that's got our ap can still communicate, but outside our network, no phones, no computers, no nothin'.
BEAN: So we can't talk to anybody outside the school?
CHESTER: No man. I built the best communication systems in the world!!!
DAWN: Thank you Chester.
CHESTER: Yeah man. You guys stay on live. You're the only centralized news source right now.
BEAN: But we're not a news source.
CHESTER: You are now. I'm gonna go see what's up. Later 'gators.

(He vanishes from screen just as CARLY PHILIPS reappears. She's a no-nonsense high school reporter.)

CARLY: Are these morning announcements?
BEAN: For Grover's Mill High, yes.
DAWN: Go Badgers.
BEAN/CARLY: Go Badgers.
CARLY: You need to stop what you're doing?
BEAN: Stop what?
CARLY: Talking. All of it. You guys are not qualified reporters.
DAWN: Well, we're not really news—