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Dramatic Publishing

Phoning It In

by
Michele Markarian

From...

35 in 10

Thirty-Five Ten-Minute Plays

Compiled and Edited

KENT R. BROWN



Dramatic Publishing

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PHONING IT IN

By
Michele Markarian

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Phoning It In premiered in 2003 at the Piano Factory in Boston, Mass., as part of Devanaughn Theatre’s “1st Annual Dragonfly Festival.” The play was directed by Andrew Sarno, and featured Carl Schwaber and Molly Kimmerling.

CHARACTERS

BRIAN
STEPHANIE

SETTING: A city park.

TIME: The present.

PHONING IT IN

AT THE CURTAIN: *BRIAN and STEPHANIE are seated on a bench. They are holding hands.*

BRIAN. You know, I really love you.

STEPHANIE. Oh, that's nice. I really love you, too.

BRIAN. Really?

STEPHANIE. Yeah. Really. (*BRIAN tries to speak. Cell phone rings.*) Excuse me. (*Answers cell phone.*) Hello? Oh, hi! Hi! How are you? I'm—oh. Oh. Really? Really? You like him that much? Of course it's a lot! Carrie! Come on! You're telling me you want to marry the guy, well, that's liking someone an awful lot. Wouldn't you say? Oh. Yeah. (*Nods head.*) Okay. Carrie, I'm kind of—oh, is that your buzzer? It could be him? All right, I'll let you go. Bye. (*She hangs up.*) Sorry.

BRIAN. What was that about?

STEPHANIE. Oh, Carrie's just— (*Cell phone rings.*) Excuse me. (*She picks up phone.*) Hello? (*She hangs up.*) Wrong number.

BRIAN. So anyway, I really—

STEPHANIE. I was telling you about Carrie. She wants to marry this guy.

BRIAN. What guy?

STEPHANIE. The guy she's been seeing!

BRIAN. What's wrong with that?

STEPHANIE. Brian, come on! I mean really!

BRIAN. What, really?

STEPHANIE. I mean, she's only been seeing him two months!

BRIAN. So?

STEPHANIE. You can't just marry someone you've been seeing for two months! It's not right!

BRIAN. Why not?

STEPHANIE. Well, jeez, we've been seeing each other for eight months.

BRIAN. Yeah? *(He leans closer.)*

STEPHANIE. Exactly!

BRIAN. What do you mean, exactly?

STEPHANIE. Exactly!

BRIAN. Are you saying that—you think we shouldn't—
(A cell phone rings.) Excuse me. *(He answers phone.)*
Hello? Scott. Yeah. Yeah, well, I'm kind of—no. No, not yet—
(He looks at STEPHANIE.) What? What do you mean, don't do it? You said last week that—what? She *what?* Scott, are you sure? Uh-huh. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, that's pretty serious. That's really serious. Just be sure you got your information right, buddy. You wouldn't want to—oh. That's your call-waiting. Okay. Good luck. *(He hangs up.)*

STEPHANIE. Who was that?

BRIAN. Scott. *(He looks glum.)*

STEPHANIE. Oh. *(BRIAN starts to speak, then stops.)*
Why the face?

BRIAN. What face?

STEPHANIE. You know. *(She exaggerates glum face.)*

BRIAN. I don't wanna talk about it.

STEPHANIE. Is it about Scott? *(BRIAN nods.)* What about Scott?

BRIAN. I don't wanna talk about it.