

JOINED AT THE HIP

a South African award winning comedy

in one act

by Dave Morgan

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Joined at the Hip

30 minute Play by Dave Morgan

Cast of 7

Jack and Jill:

These positions can be filled by one male and one female of similar height and build. They do not need to look similar but it would help if they had a brother and sister resemblance. Alternatively 2 similar stature females where one acts and is made up to look like a man and the other as his sister.

Leonie:

Is a female role. She is the receptionist/ waiter/ general dogs body who cannot think for herself. She is totally scatter brained and can be any age or build.

Greta:

Is a female role. She is the owner of the B&B. She should be overpowering, of any age and play a very conservative role breaking into over the top sweetness when the situation demands it.

Janie:

Is Greta's husband and is under her thumb in her presence. It is a male role. He should be shorter than Greta and be of any age, i.e. older or younger. He should be capable of poking fun at anyone. The role demands a total change of personality when Greta is in his presence.

Marcus:

A well-built handsome chap with a chick winning smile alternatively a Cape Town hippy.

Jim:

A suave easy going sort of guy. The part is small and would suit a newcomer.

Set

A reception desk, bell, telephone, Lamp, window, door. Small table, 2 chairs, 2 wine glasses, 2 plates, tray, Sofa . Background sound effects for a vicious dog, telephone. A sign Reception. A sign Royal Hotel. Combined costume for Jack and Jill i.e. baggy tracksuit bottoms with a shared leg and a skirt wrapped around one leg or similar. Combined blouse t-shirt, huge middle shoe and a stiffening device across the back of Jack and Jill to ensure stiff movement. A large surgical stocking or similar to hold 2 legs.

Background

Jack and Jill are Siamese twins; they are joined at the hip and the shoulder. When they were younger they played well together and were the best of friends. Now that they have grown up they no longer see eye to eye and drive each other nuts. Jack is on the left and Jill is on the right. They have one arm each and share a centre leg. Jack is a keen sports man and Jill is a feminist who is getting in tune with her sexuality. Jack is at home in a track suit and Jill much prefers a skirt. When excited they both wave their individual arms in unison.

The actors have their legs tied together and put their arms around each other making them look a bit hump backed and share an oversized coat.

They were on their way to Cape Town for their Christmas break but their car has broken down in a little Dorp and they now need somewhere to stay for the night until they can get it fixed. The only available place is the Royal Hotel which is run by a very conservative old couple, Janie and Greta with the desk run by a scatterbrained farm girl called Leone.

The phone rings and the curtain opens with Leone trying to accept a telephone booking in English with a strong Afrikaans accent.

Leonie: Yes, this is the Royal Hotel. You want a room that's a stone's throw from the beach?

Leonie: Yar we all have rooms that are a stone's throw from the beach. We're just outside of Klerksdorp and you can see everything from here; you can even throw stones at the beech if you wish, but don't hit old Phileas cause he's got a bit of a temper.

Leonie: Ya the beech.... But Janie says that there's mostly Eucalyptus.

Leonie: Oh.. well I don't know about that.

Leonie: So you're Americans

Leonie: but you are only here on a vacation

Leonie: Janie used to have a vacation, but it was always breaking down, so he bought a Toyota.

Leonie: Now how many days are you wanting to stay?

Leonie: Ja it can also include the nights if you want.

Leonie: Ok then, 5 days from the 3rd

Leonie: so when will you be leaving?

Leonie; o'er, and you want B&B, well that's ok cos Janie tells everyone we've got a "B" BEE certificate or something like that, but Phileas doesn't know yet.

Leonie: Ja... Phileas..... the gardener.

The door opens and in comes Jack and Jill. Jack has a large suitcase and Jill is texting on the phone.

She has a big silly grin while she is texting and a scowl when she talks to Jack.

Jack: Well this is a one horse town and this place looks no different.

Jill: Look we've never stopped over on the way to Cape Town, so it could be some sort of adventure and these little places can be so quirky.

Jack: Well if you'd let me drive we would never got into this mess.

Jill: Oh yes..... and where are we going to get a left hand drive automatic for a short trip to Cape Town?

Jill: You're always moaning about my driving and you just sit there, in the passenger seat, trying to press the brake when we're going up a hill.

Jack: I can't help it... I just get bored when I'm just sitting there and you are controlling my foot.

Jill: It's not your foot..... it's our foot, we share it.

Jack: well..... it was my turn today

Jill: It's never your turn when I'm driving. You can have extra use of it when we get to the Cape.

Leonie puts down the phone and looks up at Jack and Jill. Jill stops texting.

Leonie: Hello! And welcome by the Royal Hotel..... Can I help you?

Jack: Yes, we need a room..... Jack and Jill Saunders?... We called about half an hour ago???

Leonie: You were quick and I never even heard your car.

Jill: That's because we walked. Our car has broken down,

Leonie: You make quite a cute couple.... Is that your young wife then?.... Here you're not on honeymoon are you coz we've just changed the sheets.

Jack: No!!..... we're brother and sister

Leonie: O'er... Well I don't know about that coz Mrs. Greta has a lot to say about what goes on in her rooms.

Jack: Does it look like anything will be going on in her room?

Jill: Yes.... Does it look like anything will be going on in the room with this idiot?

Leonie ...well I don't know about that. You two look awfully close.

Jack, Well of course we do..... We're Siamese twins.

Leonie: You are??? I thought you were from Jo'burg.

Jill: We are from Jo'burg, we're just joined at the hip.

Leone: So you've only joined on this trip. Is there more of you then?

Jack: JOINED.....ATTHEHIP..... We are, joined at the hip!

Leonie: Well I can see that. Here, where's he got his hand....and where have you got yours?

Jill: These are the only hands we have.

Both shaking there only arm wildly in tune with each other.

Leonie: I'm not on about them..... I want to know where you've got your other two hands.

Jack and Jill in unison: We don't have other two hands so there is nothing to see.

Leonie: You can't fool me with that..... Now cut it out..... Mrs. Greta, can you come out here for a minute.

Greta comes out with a big smile on her face.

Greta: What is it now Leonie?

Turning to Jack and Jill she enquires in a very subservient way:

Greta: Can I help you?

Jill: Well yes..... We'd like a room.

Greta: At 10 o'clock in the morning? and how long do you expect to need the room?

Jack: Well it may be till this evening or tomorrow morning, but we're not sure.

Greta: Not sure.....Not Sure.... Think you're a stallion do you then turning to Jill asks "and what kind of woman are you to sign up for this sort of thing. What do you think this is a whore house?"

Jack: Gasps in shock

Jill is quick to retaliate.

Jill: How dare you make accusations like that that; we're brother and sister.

Jack: Our car broke down on the way to Cape Town and we need somewhere to stay till it's fixed. The guy at the garage says he should have it ready later today or tomorrow morning.

Greta: Well why didn't you say? I'm so sorry to pick it up the wrong way, but it's already 32 outside and you are standing together as if it's freezing cold out there.

Greta to Leonie: Why didn't give these 2 lovely people two of our nicest rooms?

Leonie: Cos they only want one room.

Grata: No you silly girl they want separate rooms, isn't that so dear?

Jack: No, we must share a room.

Greta: Oh so you're on a budget and can't afford two rooms. Well I'm sorry sir but we don't have any rooms with twin beds.

Jill: We require a room with a double bed.

Greta: Well I never. This is worse than ever. What sort of people are you and what kind of home did you come from?

Jack and Jill in unison: WE'RE SIAMESE TWINS

Jack: Get used to it

Jill: Yes WE had to

Greta: So you're stuck together then.

Jill: Yes...At the hip and shoulder.

Greta: So you can't ...you know can't...

Jack: NO! we can't

Greta: So what do you do when you..... when you... (glancing down and back up again)

Jill: When we what? Go on say it, when we what?

Greta: When you.... Her head goes up and down then glances behind them

Jill: We don't look. Got it? Can we move on?

Greta: HmMMM

Jill: HmMMM?

Greta: So how do I know you wont you won't.....when you are in bed together?

Jack getting furious: Does it look like we can do anything when I'm over here and she's over there?

Greta: but you've hands.... haven't you.

Jack: yes we've got hands.. Count them . One, two! They are on the sides of our bodies and we're lucky to scratch our own arses with this set up.

Greta reluctantly agrees to give them a room.

Greta: So you are brother and sister and to keep the books right and the hotels reputation intact I'm going to have to charge you for two single rooms.

This time Jill gasps and Jack jumps in.

Jack: What the hell are you on about woman..... you are only giving us one room and that's what we are paying for?

Grete: Well I can hardly put you down for a double room when you are brother and sister.

Jack: Well put ME down for the room.... Jill is just part of me so she doesn't count.

Jill: What the hell do mean I don't count? I'm equal to you in every way and since you keep harping on, expecting me to clean up after you because it's a woman's job... you can kiss my ass.

Jack: Ha! What do you think I am ... A contortionist?

Greta: Hey, Hey, you two; are you telling me that you can do that that sort of thing coz if you can, that room is out.

Jack: Does it really look as if I could do that? You've really pissed me off now so I'll pay for a single room since we are already a single person so take it or leave it.

Greta: Well a single room is the same price as a double room so it makes to difference.

Jack and Jill together: Then what the hell are you on about and why are you arguing with us.

Jack: Just give us the keys for the room and let's get freshened up.

Leonie checks them in: What's your name?

Jack: Jack and Jill Saunders, here's our ID book.

Leonie: o'er it's got 2 photos. Which one is you?

Jack grabs the keys and asks "Where's the room"

Leonie looks confused as she points her finger in all directions and hopes she is giving the correct directions.

Leonie: Through the curtain and upstairs; third door on the right.

They both make off to the room with a slow pronounced Clump, clump clump, Clump clump clump with their 3 legs as they climb up the stairs.

Leonie watches them leave the reception walking slowly behind them, peering up and down and scratching her head. She then turns back to the desk.

Leonie: well that's an odd couple, no pair, noI don't know, Here... shouldn't we have given them a Family rate?

Greta: Just get on with your work will you.

Janie comes bursting on with a tea towel, a cup, wearing shorts and an apron.

Janie: There's a lot of noise coming from here. Who did we chase away today Leonie?

Greta: We didn't chase any one away Janie. We've just booked in a very nice couple, pair, whatever.

Leonie: Yes, a whatever..... and there was 2 of them. They've come all the way from China.

Greta: No they didn't Leonie, they are Siamese twins.

Janie: What real ones? Go and fetch them so I can see.

Greta: Certainly not..... and Janie, you had better be on your best behavior when you meet them.

Janie: What me? I wouldn't dream of anything less.

Janie turns and winks at Leonie who smiles back.

The Lights go down and come up with Jack and Jill sitting on the sofa looking at some tourist information.

Jill: There seems to be a nice trail out from the back of the hotel and down to a stream. Do you fancy going there to put a few hours in?

Jack: Not really, I'm hungry and its lunch time.

Jill starting to text again: Well I'm not ! But I can't just sit here all day.

They both try to cross their legs over the centre one at the same time.

Jack and Jill in unison: Do you mind

Jill: A lady likes to cross her legs when sitting.

Jack: and what am I supposed to do with my other leg?

Jill quickly crosses the centre leg over her leg.

Jill: See you don't have one anymore so you don't have to worry.

Jack starts to tap his own leg in annoyance.

Jill: Will you stop doing that.

Jack starts to tap with the other leg which is crossed over Jill.

Jill: and there is no need to start that either.

Jack: Why not? It's still my turn to have the leg and I'm bored. And stop texting when I'm talking to you.

Jill's Smile disappears as she turns Jack saying : Get a life Jack. I've got one and it's about time that you woke up to life. But OK, let's sit at the table and get some lunch if that's what you want.

They both get up and cross to the table trying to set the chairs and table into a position where they can sit and read the menu for supper. In unison they look at each other and say. " Back to the couch"

Jack: I'm really hungry and could murder a pizza but they don't have anything like that on the menu. Do you fancy sharing a plate of ribs?

Jill: I think I'll just have a salad.

Jack: Do you always have to pick something different from me?

Jill: Well I've got to look after my figure.

Jack: How can you do that with me on the end of it? You know I can't eat ribs unless you help me cut them and we haven't had them for ages.

Jill: I can't help that. Anyway you should have a salad for a change; it would be good for you.

Leonie trots over

Leonie: Are you ready to order yet?

Jill: I'll have a Greek Salad please, with croutons.

Jack: And I'll have a tee bone steak, with chips and onion rings.