

A SMART ALEC AND TWO IDIOTS WALK INTO A CLOSET BY

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Á Smart-Alec and Two Idiots Walk into a Closet

Characters:

Connie Anderson
Shawn
Lewis Jenkins
Janitor

Opening Scene:

(Scene opens in a very large version of an average janitor closet. Stage-left is a large mop-and-yellow-bucket. Stage-right is a shelf full of paper towels, toilet paper, and cleaning detergents. Up-stage center is the door.)

(Before the lights come up fully, the audience becomes aware of raucous noise coming from three middle-school students who are pounding on the door, screaming and shouting over top of each other's words phrases like (but not limited to) "let us out," "help," and "we're locked in!")

Connie

LET US OUT! HELP! HELP!

Shawn

We're locked in!

Lewis

Let me out! I don't like it in here!

(The three children stop shouting long enough to listen to the door and realize that no one can hear them.)

Connie

No! This isn't happening! I have to take a test in Ms. Hertzburgher's English class!

Lewis

WE ALL DO! HELP HELP HELP!

Shawn:

(stepping away from the door and giving up)

There's no point. It's stuck, and no one can hear us. Calm down, guys.

Connie

No! I can't calm down! My grade in that class is a 94%, and if I don't take this test I'll end up at a 72%!

Shawn

Cs get degrees, though, right?

Connie

I've never gotten a C before in my life. And I don't intend to get one now. HELP HELP HELP!

(Shawn moves downstage. He picks up a bottle of spray liquid and looks back at Connie and Lewis who persist at shouting and pounding on the door. He takes the spray bottle and goes over to spray them both from behind.)

Connie
What? What? No! Stop! Gross. You're disgusting, Shawn.

Lewis
He's trying to kill me! Help!

Shawn
I am not trying to kill you. I'm trying to help you. You guys need to cool down. Someone will come find us soon.

Connie
I don't need to cool down! We need to escape.

Shawn
"Escape?" You've spent too much time in English class, Connie. We're not war prisoners.

Connie
Well, we might as well be!

Lewis
How did we get in here anyway?

Shawn
I don't know. The door was open and I think we accidentally got pushed in. It was probably just a mistake.

Connie
YOU were a mistake!

Shawn
Your MOM was a mistake!

Connie
WHAT????

Lewis
Wait! What's in that spray? I might be allergic.

Shawn
(pausing to look at the label)

I think it's bleach.

Lewis
Oh my gosh!

(Lewis falls to the floor in a dead faint)

Connie
Oh no! Help! Somebody help! Shawn killed Lewis!

Shawn
I did not!

Connie
You did!

Shawn
Did not!

Connie
Did too! Did too! Did too! Look at him!

(Connie throws herself down onto the floor and attempts to perform CPR on Lewis's seemingly life-less form. Lewis springs back awake the instant her face gets close to his.)

Lewis

What are you doing?! This isn't the time for kissing, Connie.

Connie

I wasn't trying to kiss you! I was trying to help you!

Shawn

(sarcastically)

Isn't that the same thing?

Lewis and Connie:

Shut up, Shawn!

Shawn

Oh, come on, guys. Everyone knows that you two are in luuuuuuuuuuuuuvvvvv. You've been in love since the second grade.

Connie

(getting to her feet and brushing herself off)

I don't know what you're talking about.

Lewis

Yeah. I don't like her.

Connie

What? You don't?

Lewis

Well... I guess... I don't know! No, I don't.

Connie

Lewis Jenkins, I'm never speaking to you again! I don't care if you DIE from bleach-poisoning either.

Lewis

Oh right.

(falling back onto the floor in a "dead faint.")

Shawn:

Oh my gosh, guys.

(Connie grabs the bleach spray from Shawn and starts spraying Lewis all over. The three of them start yelling at each other as Lewis runs around the room trying to get away from Connie, and Shawn tries to grab Connie to keep her from killing Lewis.)

Shawn

Stop! Connie, stop! We'll all die from the fumes.

Connie

Serves you both right for making me miss my English exam!

Lewis

But, Connie, we'll ALL die! It won't just be me and Shawn who dies. You'll die too!

Connie

Well, I don't want to live with a GPA that is less than a 4.0 anyway!

(The three keep running around and around in circles and figure-8's until Lewis trips over the mop-and-bucket, Connie trips over Lewis, and Shawn trips over both of them. They all land in a pile downstage with loud grunts. Finally, Shawn peels himself up off the floor and into a sitting position.)

Shawn
So, you do like him, right Connie?

Connie
I do not.

Lewis
I don't like you either.

Connie
Fine.

Lewis
Fine!

Shawn
Well, I'm glad we got that cleared up.

(The three remain sitting on the floor, breathing heavily, and looking anywhere but at each other. Finally, Shawn looks at Connie and then at Lewis.)

Shawn
I guess we're going to be stuck in here forever.

(Connie yanks herself up to her feet and goes back to the door.)

Connie
Somebody! Help! Let me out! I'm locked in here with two idiots!

Lewis
Two idiots?! I'm smarter than you are!

Connie
Are not!

Lewis
Are too!

Connie
Are not!

Lewis
Are too!

Connie
Are not!

Lewis
Are too!

Connie
Are—

SHUT UP!!!! Just stop it, guys.

Shawn

Lewis
(quietly)

You, shut up, Shawn.

(Connie lays back against the door and slides down it, all hope lost.)

This is the worst day of my entire life.

Connie

Then you must have it pretty good at home.

Lewis

This morning, I woke up—

Connie

(ignoring Lewis)

On the wrong side of the bed.

Lewis

(speaking to Shawn)

and Mom had burned my toast *and* my bacon.

Connie

(continuing)

Toast and bacon for breakfast. . .

Lewis

I couldn't find my favorite green sweater, so I had to wear this hideous yellow one.

Connie

Looks like mustard, to me.

Lewis

And then I went outside to say goodbye to Jack. I wanted him to wish me "good luck" on my English exam . . . but he was dead.

Connie