

Spotlight Publications

Walkies

**A comedy in one act
by Jane Lockyer Willis**



COPYRIGHT © JANE LOCKYER WILLIS 2012
Published by Spotlight Publications

All rights are reserved including performances on stage, radio and television. **No part of this publication may be copied by whatever means without the prior permission of the copyright owner.** It is an infringement of the copyright to give any performance or public reading of the play before a licence has been issued.

Drama groups must obtain a full acting set of scripts (a minimum of one script per actor plus one for the director) before a performing licence can be issued.

The name of the author shall be stated on all publicity including posters and programmes. Programme credits shall state "script provided by Spotlight Publications".

All enquiries to:
Spotlight Publications, 259 The Moorings, Dalgety Bay, Fife, KY11 9GX
Tel. 01383 825737

Email: enquiries@spotlightpublications.com

Website: www.spotlightpublications.com

ISBN 978-1-907307-40-9

CHARACTERS

Jen - 50s, well-spoken, well dressed, polite.

Steve - 40s, cockney, shabbily dressed, eccentric.

Woodcutter - 20s-40s, direct and to the point.

Time - present day, summer, midday.

Place - a footpath, Steve's place.

Scene 1

A footpath leading through a wood. When the lights come up we see two people walking towards each other

Steve *(stopping and pointing into the distance)* That dog yours?

Jen What dog? I don't see any dog. I don't possess a dog.

Steve Yes, you do. I've seen you walk it.

Jen I beg your pardon?

Steve You come up 'ere regular.

Jen I come up here regular, minus a dog.

Pause

Steve Who is it then looks like you what 'as a dog?

Jen I really don't know.

Steve Someone your spittin' image.

Jen Really?

Steve Trips me up regular. You should learn to control it.

Jen I've just told you, I don't have a dog.

Steve Go on!

Jen There are plenty of people walking their animals in this wood at this time. Take your pick.

Steve Yeh, but not plenty as looks like you - Highland terrier or somefink like it. Must be yours. Come on!
Own up.

Jen I don't wish to get into an argument. I have to get on.

Steve A poodle then? You got a poodle?

Jen No, I have not got a poodle. Now, if you'll excuse me.

Steve Nice to 'ave a dog to walk though. Gives a reason for your morning dunnit? Gives a certain shape to your day.

Jen My day is perfectly well shaped, thank you.

Steve Sure about that are you?

Jen Quite sure. I don't need an animal in order to go for a walk. I'm quite happy with my own company. If I wanted a pet I'd acquire a pet.

Steve I could have sworn it was you. I could have sworn it was you with your pit bull.

Jen *(flustered)* Pit bull? You just said poodle. Or was it terrier? Yes, you accused me of biting your ankles. No, that's not right. Tripping you up - the dog, I mean. Look! I'm sorry but I must have my walk. If I don't walk two miles every day, I become, I become...

Steve Yeh?

Jen Fretful, unfit. And I feel, I feel...

Steve Yeh?

Jen Short changed. Unhappy, confused.

Jen sits down on a wooden seat. Steve joins her

Steve Short changed, unhappy, confused. My! That's some symptoms. Maybe you should get yourself a dog.

Jen Oh please! No more dog!

Jen starts crying

Steve *(hands her a grubby handkerchief)* Would this 'elp?

Jen (*takes handkerchief, looks at it then hands it back.*) No, it wouldn't. Thank you.

Pause

Steve So what *is* your shape?

Jen What?

Steve To your day. How is your day shaped, after you've 'ad your walk with one of your many dogs you says you don't 'ave?

Jen Well, I get on with things.

Steve And what fings would they be?

Jen My flat's quite small. There isn't much housework as such. But what little there is, I do.

Steve Then you'd 'ave to wash the dog's muddy paws.

Jen If I *had* a dog, yes, I suppose I would.

Steve I've never fancied living in a flat meself.

Jen No?

Steve No

Jen What do you live in?

Steve A box.

Jen You mean a mobile home?

Steve No, I mean a box. A cardboard box.

Jen You're homeless?

Steve No. I've just said. I live in a box.

Jen And you sleep in it overnight?

Steve That's right. Now's not so bad. Winter freezes your balls off.

Jen I'm sorry.

Steve My choice, wannit?

Jen Well, yes. I suppose it was.

Steve Nah, when it's warm, when it's summer, like now, I kip down 'ere among the trees, and I'm as 'appy as Larry. Me and the stars, we do all right.

Jen Do you work at all?

Steve Casual labour when I can get it: knife sharpening, drains, a bit of gardening, a bit of cleaning... a bit of this and that. I'd do your flat lovely. Fresh as a daisy I'd make it.

Jen No, no thank you. (*Pause*) I really must get on now, if you'll excuse me.

Steve You couldn't spare a few bob, could you? I'm a bit short of the readies.

Jen (*stiffly*) I don't carry money with me when I walk. I'm awfully sorry. I'd help if I could.

Steve Frightened of being done?

Jen Yes, in a way. It can get quite lonely in these woods.

Steve So you see the sense of getting a dog, ma'am.

Jen Jen. Jen's my name. Yes, well perhaps.

Steve Tell you what, Jen - why don't you come back to mine for a cuppa?

Jen Good heavens! No!

Steve It's a very nice box. It's got a curtain. I could make you tea on my Primus stove.

Jen I really must get on. But thanks awfully for your invitation.

Steve Scared, are yeh?

Jen Of course not.

Steve Need to shape up, do yeh?

Jen (*laughs*) Something like that. (*Pause*) Where is your box then?

Steve See that clump of firs over there, opposite the deer park.

Jen Oh yes. Yes, I do - yes.

Steve I'm there. Not far. If you scream you'll be 'eard by all those dog walkers you go on about.

Jen (*stealing herself*) Well, as it's not so far, then perhaps just for a few minutes.

Steve Look, I can tell you're a bit apprehensive - 'ow about I bring the box over 'ere. (*Makes a polite bow*)

Steve at your service.

Jen No, I wouldn't dream of putting you to all that trouble, Steve. And there's your stove - you couldn't carry that without a fuss. No, I'm all right with it, really. Yes, I am.

Steve Good on yeh! Follow me.

They exit

Lights fade