

Fallen Goldfish

By Dean Phillips II

Performance Rights

It is an infringement of the federal copyright law to copy or reproduce this script in any manner or to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co., Inc. Contact the publisher for additional scripts and further licensing information. The author's name must appear on all programs and advertising with the notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Company."

ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY

© 2024 by Dean Phillips II

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing

<https://histage.com/fallen-goldfish>

Fallen Goldfish

- 2 -

This play is dedicated to the memory of John Traxler.

STORY OF THE PLAY

When Thomas hurriedly flushes the deceased family goldfish down the toilet to replace it with a new one while his young son, Lewis, is at school, he receives a knock on his front door. Greeting him is a golden-cladded warrior claiming that he and his Viking-like associates knew and fought alongside the deceased Stanley (the goldfish). With his living room now invaded by these unusual warriors demanding to have the funeral in his house, Thomas must make them leave before Lewis and his mother come home. All just because of a dead goldfish. About 35-minute runtime.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

“Fallen Goldfish” was first presented to an audience as part of the Texas Wesleyan Theatre Playmarket contest in 2017. May 7, 2017 at Texas Wesleyan University and May 16, 2017 at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre in New York City. The show featured the following cast and crew:

THOMAS: John Traxler
JANE: Holli Price
LEWIS: Gabe Crowley
JAZAR: Trey Cardona
TIESIC: Amanda Fitzgerald
DAUFSON: Alfredo Tamayo
ORN: Kate McGehee
HURNG: TJ Curry

ERMEN: Kevin Dawson
WARRIOR 1: Michelle Phillips
WARRIOR 2: Bria Huckaby
WARRIOR 3: Tristen Brown
WARRIOR: Alexi Sinclair
WARRIOR: Ray Newton
STORYTELLER/Stage Directions:
Jacob Rivera-Sanchez

Director: Connie Whitt-Lambert
Assistant Director: Kim Owen
Production Manager: Tyler Guse
Stage Management: Jasmine Mesre, Malik Offor
Tech: Jorge Flores, Christina Carter-Mallory
Costume Coordinator: Crystal Salazar-Byerly
Asst. Costume: Brianna Hunter
FOH: Akira Owens, Rayven Harris, Jackie Puga

Fallen Goldfish

- 3 -

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 m, 1 w, 1 child, 6 - 16 flexible roles)

FAMILY

THOMAS: Father of Lewis and husband of Jane. Is one to try to streamline or hasten things, as if to keep things rational. When drained or overly perplexed can become very eccentric and anxious.

JANE: Mother of Lewis and wife of Thomas. Jane is a fixer. She sees a present problem, or an imminent problem coming, and wants to help fix it.

LEWIS: Son of Thomas and Jane, age range of 7 and 8. Soft-spoken but definitely takes in all around him and can think on them carefully.

THE OPPOSING REBELLION

**Warriors can be played by either male or female.*

JAZAR: (Jay-zar) The very wise General of the Opposing Rebellion. He has a voice that encapsulates strength even though it's always speaking a soft and kind word.

TIESIC: (Tie-sick) One of three scholars of the group.

DAUFSON: (Do-f-son) Scholar.

ORN: Scholar.

HURNG: (Her-ung) Warrior.

ERMEN: Warrior.

WARRIORS: Ideally it would be a group no smaller than 10. Feel free to assign the lines among the available warriors regardless of the number listed in the script.

COSTUMES

The family dresses in current day clothing.

The warriors dress in gold-clad armor. Some have small instruments and a Canadian flag.

PROPS

Goldfish in a bag	Fishbowl and net
Vase	Breath mints
Golden-clad instruments	Crested flag

Fallen Goldfish

- 4 -

Fallen Goldfish

(LIGHTS up on a living room as THOMAS barges through the front door holding a plastic bag with a goldfish inside it. Thomas goes to a glass bowl on a table CR and replaces a dead goldfish with the new specimen. He takes the former out and then offstage. SFX: a toilet flush. Thomas returns, relieved, and then makes a call.)

THOMAS: *(On phone.)* Jane... Yeah, I got it done, looks just like Stanley ... I'm sorry Jane, but we talked about this ... He'll be fine and when he's good and ready we'll have that talk with him... That joke was funnier the first time. *(SFX: a knock at the door.)* Honey, there's someone at the door. I'll have to go. You haven't ordered anything lately, have you? ... Oh ... OK ...I'll see you two then... Bye.

(THOMAS heads to and answers the door to see the warrior JAZAR in golden armor.)

THOMAS: *(Cont'd. A little confused.)* May I help you, sir?

JAZAR: Is this the residence of Stanley the goldfish?

THOMAS: ...I'm sorry, what?

JAZAR: Is this the residence of Stanley the honorable, dedicated goldfish?

THOMAS: Are you trying to sell me something?

JAZAR: No, my dear sir. All shall be explained, once I know about Stanley, that is.

THOMAS: Well, this is...was the residence of Stanley.

JAZAR: So it is true. *(Sighs.)* Thank you, sir.

THOMAS: You're welcome.

(THOMAS begins to close the door but JAZAR stays where he is and turns slightly to outside the door.)

JAZAR: This is the place, warriors!

Fallen Goldfish

- 5 -

(A large clan of WARRIORS wearing similar armor as Jazar enter all at once, some chattering, some chanting, few silent.)

WARRIOR #1: *(To another WARRIOR.)* Just like you said, Stanley had a great sense of humor. I say we continue that notion.

WARRIOR #2: *(Chanting to himself separate from the two before them.)* We dance, we sing, to celebrate an honored thing.

WARRIOR #3: *(To themselves and others around them.)* Peace, peace to those who mourn.

THOMAS: *(Utterly surprised.)* What the? Who are?

(3 WARRIORS approach THOMAS, all from different sides, asking him questions.)

WARRIOR #1: Tell me, did he go peacefully?

THOMAS: What? Yes? I...

WARRIOR #2: Will you be reading his will, or will that be at another date?

THOMAS: Will?

WARRIOR #3: *(Looking around curiously.)* Where did you get the carpet?

JAZAR: My friends, I must speak with our dear host before the proceedings begin. *(The THREE back off as JAZAR advances to THOMAS.)* I am sorry about that, friend. These soldiers are so caring that they can forget how brash they can be sometimes. *(THOMAS is silent in bafflement.)* Oh, my apologies. I am Jazar, *(Shakes THOMAS' hand by the wrist.)* General of this great army. You must be Thomas.

THOMAS: *(Surprised.)* Yes...how did you...?

JAZAR: Stanley told me all about you, Lewis, and Jane in his letters.

THOMAS: Letters?

JAZAR: You are good people to care for him.

(A WARRIOR nearby chimes in.)

Fallen Goldfish

- 6 -

WARRIOR: Who couldn't care for Stanley when he cared for so many?

(ALL WARRIORS exclaim in agreement.)

JAZAR: Valid point, mate, but still noble, nonetheless.

WARRIOR: Yes, indeed.

(ALL WARRIORS, again, exclaim in agreement.)

JAZAR: Now then friends, shall we...

THOMAS: Explain!

JAZAR: Explain?

THOMAS: *(Exacerbated.)* Yes! Explain! I require information! Understand?

JAZAR: Oh, of course! Great scholars, to this presence, posthaste! *(Three warriors, TIESIC, DAUFSON, and ORN, come closer to JAZAR and THOMAS.)* Begin.

(The THREE simultaneously begin ranting on great inquiries, life, morals, etc.)

TIESIC: What we perceive and believe to be reality is primarily based on the scientific approaches of said perception. One of the most basic explanations of reality is Newton's three laws of motion. The first being...

DAUFSON: The human personality, as theorized by Freud, is separated into the ego, the superego, and the id. The id refers to the unconscious and impulsive part of the being that reacts directly to what it is exposed to. The ego...

ORN: How do we know that we exist? How do we grasp the knowledge that all of this is really here? René Descartes brought forth the idea of cogito, ergo sum, which translates from Latin to I think, therefore I am. This gave...

THOMAS: *(While the three are still speaking.)* Wait, wait, wait!

JAZAR: Halt!

End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
<https://histage.com/fallen-goldfish>

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!