

OUTTA CONTROL

By Pat Cook

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Terry Campbell just wants to have a little fun when her parents go out of town. So, she invites her three best girl friends over for a slumber party. But as soon as Mom and Dad leave the door, the party turns into a bash, which turns into a police raid, which turns into a mind-boggling spy intrigue when illegal aliens and the FBI show up.

"I just wanted a few friends and a little pizza," Terry whines as she and her friends are held at gun-point by Olga Swink, a desperado who's hiding out from the authorities.

Goofy boyfriends and smug neighbors drop by to help out ... until the lights blow out and people start disappearing. Then the SWAT team shows up.

As things get "curiousier and curiousier," Terry realizes the situation has a strong tie to the homework she never got around to starting. Here's a great comedy of what not to do when you're left home alone and your homework is not done. Things tend to get outta control!

(The story of "Alice in Wonderland" originated from impromptu tales told to a group of young girls by the Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, who wrote his scholarly works under the name of Lewis Carroll.)

CHARACTERS

(7 men, 9 women)

ARNOLD CAMPBELL: Father, 40s, something of a worrier.

HAZEL CAMPBELL: Arnold's wife, the ultimate mother.

TERRY CAMPBELL: Their 17-year-old daughter, rather radical and always a bit too curious.

MOLLIE: Teenage friend of Terry's, sort of an introvert.

PATTY: Teenage friend of Terry's, bossy but level-headed.

ELAINE: The fourth member of the teenage slumber party, a little slow on the facts.

OLGA SWINK: A mysterious woman out of the dark, wears thick glasses and speaks with an untraceable accent.

JIMMY: Around 18, thinks he is something of a take-charge type.

PETE: Also around 18, always with Jimmy. The class clown.

CHAD: Something of a hunk, Chad is a rather normal type compared with the rest.

MARGARET: A pompous, overweight teenager, always ready to show Terry up.

BOB: Margaret's boyfriend, he usually does what she says.

OFFICER DODGSON: A uniformed policeman who's hiding something.

CHARLOTTE MADDOX: An FBI agent, or is she?

MRS. MARCUS: The nosy next door neighbor, in her late 40s.

OTTO: A big brute of a man, he's on the SWAT team ... maybe.

Time: The present.

Place: The Campbell's house.

SETTING

The setting for this rather bizarre adventure is the living room of the house belonging to Arnold and Hazel Campbell. It is a tastefully decorated room and a bit upper class.

There are two practical doors, a wide arch and a staircase utilized in the floor plan. The arch is located on the UPS wall. Inside the arch, SL is the front door. The staircase is also inside the arch and is located SR. Behind the stairs, SR, is a hall, leading to the kitchen. Further into the room, DS of the arch, is the living room itself. On the SR wall is the second door, which leads into the dining room. A fireplace resides on the SL wall, flanked by two windows.

The furniture, like the house, is very tasteful but comfortable. The main item is a large couch, which sits near the fireplace and has a matching chair on its SR arm. There is a writing desk against the SR wall, on which rests a telephone. A large bookcase stands near the dining room door. Various other furnishings such as end tables, lamps, plants, etc., round out the room.

PROPS

Telephone, phone book, paper and pen at desk, flashlight in desk
2 suitcases, overnight case, purse on desk, watch, whistle, newspaper, blanket and large bowl of popcorn, cassettes (or CDs) and player, 2 chessmen (black and white kings), cooler, several bags of party snacks, sack, wallet with a badge; photo; 2 pistol, lighter, and several pizza boxes.

SOUND EFFECTS

Two car doors closing, car horn, another car horn blast, car door closing, receding motor, phone ringing, doorbell (several times), gunshot, door opening/closing, door rattle/pause/rattle, door opens/slams

ACT I

(AT RISE: ARNOLD is on the telephone. Two suitcases are at his feet. He is dressed for a trip and is writing on a piece of paper. HAZEL's purse is by the phone.)

ARNOLD: *(Into the receiver)* Okay, is everything clear now? *(Pause.)* No, we're just about out the door right now. Listen, Gina, there shouldn't be any problem. *(Pause.)* That's right. Terry is staying here unchaperoned. Well, she's got her army with her upstairs now. I can hear them giggling every time we pass her door. *(Pause.)* Okay, but don't be obnoxious. *(HAZEL comes down the stairs, carrying HER overnight case.)* I'll call you as soon as we're there. You have your car phone just in case? Right.

HAZEL: Well, I guess that's everything.

ARNOLD: I gotta go. Right. Love you, too. Bye.

(HE hangs up the phone and picks up the suitcases.)

HAZEL: Talking to your other girl friend?

ARNOLD: Of course. *(HE crosses to HER.)* Your oldest daughter sends her love and says not to worry.

HAZEL: Easy for her to say. You remember the first time we left her alone in the house?

ARNOLD: Don't remind me. *(HE places the suitcases near the front door.)* All that screaming, people running around and blood.

HAZEL: It wasn't your fault, dear. We didn't know they were rehearsing "Richard the Third."

ARNOLD: That's what I get for letting her go into drama.

HAZEL: *(Calls up the stairs.)* Terry! Terry, can you come down here a minute?

ARNOLD: I'm still not sure about this. Spending the night out. Going to your brother's. I think we're in for another round of catastrophes and destruction.

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HAZEL: Terry will be fine.

ARNOLD: I'm talking about your brother.

(TERRY comes down the stairs dressed in her bathrobe.)

TERRY: What is it?

HAZEL: We're leaving now for Uncle Joe's. *(SHE straightens TERRY'S robe.)* Now, you know where we'll be, his phone number's in the book on the desk. And your dad wrote down Gina's dorm number. And there's plenty of cold cuts in the fridge, so no need to order out.

TERRY: Oh, Mother!

ARNOLD: Do we have to threaten you to listen?

TERRY: With what?

ARNOLD: We could make you go with us.

TERRY: Good threat, Dad.

ARNOLD: *(Kisses HER cheek.)* I thought that would work. You've kept your part of the deal, right?

TERRY: Of course. What part?

ARNOLD: You've already done your paper! Remember, that was our deal? You had that big report on Lewis Carroll due next week. It was to be done before tonight!

TERRY: All done, except for a few odds and ends.

ARNOLD: Right. Like researching Lewis Carroll, writing the paper ... *(HE opens the front door and picks up the luggage.)* That stuff might come in handy, you know.

TERRY: *(Memorized.)* Yes, Dad. Along with algebra and geometry ...

HAZEL: And don't wreck the place, dear. We've worked so hard and it would be a shame to come home to a smoldering cinder of what used to be our house.

TERRY: I'll do what I can, Mom, but I can't make any promises.

ARNOLD: *(Very stern.)* Hey!

TERRY: Will you two get going? I'm practically grown, you know.

End of Freeview

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