

# What Party?

A One-Act Comedy

*by Emilio Regina*

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### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

Chelsea is throwing a party while her parents are away, or so she thinks she is. When uninvited guests start showing up including her grandma with gout-ridden episodes, a stern police officer with neighborhood complaints, Bonnie and Clyde-like outlaws, and even last year's grads, you end up with a different type of bash all together. And that's not even including a sleepwalker and paranormal activities. This wild and crazy party is 35 minutes of escalating, nonstop hilarity!

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**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(4 M, 9 W, 4 Flexible, doubling possible)*

**CHELSEA:** (F) The birthday girl. She is sweet and somewhat naive.

**BROOKLYNN:** (F) Chelsea's best friend. She is more studious.

**JORDYN:** (F) Chelsea's other best friend. She is more artistic and a free spirit.

**ASHLEE:** (F) Chelsea's friend and a drama student.

**GRANDMA:** (F) Chelsea's grandma. She was a party animal back in her day.

**GLADYS:** (F) The almost retired mail carrier.

**MARTHA:** (F) An old friend of the family.

**DOROTHY:** (F) Chelsea's mom.

**BONNIE:** (F) A contractor.

**SAM:\*** (M) Chelsea's dad.

**VOICE 1:\*** (M) A hired hand.

**JAKE:\*** (M) (offstage voice)

**PIZZA GUY:\*** (offstage voice)

**OFFICER O'BRIEN:** Flexible

**CAPTAIN\*** Flexible (offstage voice)

**OFFICER\*** Flexible (offstage voice)

**A VOICE\*** Flexible (offstage voice)

Note: Characters in asterisks\* can be doubled.

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## **What Party?**

*(AT RISE: Chelsea's home. There is a couch, two end tables, coffee table, a cabinet, and optional standing lamps at one end. DOROTHY and SAM are checking their overnight bags.)*

**DOROTHY:** Are you ready to go, dear?

**SAM:** My bag is packed. And you?

**DOROTHY:** I'm ready but I hate leaving when our baby is turning 16. We've never not been with her on her birthday.

**SAM:** Don't remind me. It's just for the night and we can celebrate when we get home. You can't beat the opportunity for networking and that possible promotion. Well, let's say our goodbyes.

**DOROTHY:** Sounds good. *(Calling.)* Chelsea, can you and Brooklynn come downstairs, please. We're ready to go now.

**CHELSEA:** *(Offstage.)* Coming, Mom.

*(CHELSEA and BROOKLYNN enter.)*

**DOROTHY:** Well, girls, looks like we're ready to go. *(SHE does a final check of her bags, etc.)*

**CHELSEA:** Have fun.

**SAM:** So, what are you girls planning to do? Rent a movie? Video games?

**CHELSEA:** We're going to study for a big test on literary terms. It's a huge part of our mark. That's why Brooklynn is sleeping over, and Jordyn is going to join us later this evening.

**SAM:** You're all so admirable. So, it's just the three of you?

**CHELSEA:** Just the three of us.

**DOROTHY:** Have fun. Order anything you want for your birthday dinner. Anything they need to know before we go, Sam?

**SAM:** Shoot, there were a couple things, but I can't think of them right now.

**DOROTHY:** They couldn't've been that important. Well, bye-bye, girls. We will celebrate when we get home.

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**CHELSEA:** Sounds good to me.

**CHELSEA and BROOKLYNN:** See you. / Have fun.

*(SAM and DOROTHY exit.)*

**CHELSEA:** Quick! Let's set up the streamers! Set the pop and chips on the table. We'll leave some snacks in the kitchen as well.

*(BROOKLYNN exits to get the snacks and, depending on the set, CHELSEA opens cabinets, moves couch cushions, etc. to reveal decorations.)*

**BROOKLYNN:** *(Offstage.)* What's the rush, Chelsea?

**CHELSEA:** What's the rush? Are you kidding me!

**BROOKLYNN:** *(Offstage.)* We got loads of time.

**CHELSEA:** We got loads of time? Sheesh, listen to you.

**BROOKLYNN:** *(Offstage.)* OK, I guess it all depends, like if a hundred are coming to your birthday party, then we may as well start...

*(BROOKLYNN enters with snacks and they start decorating the coffee table, end tables by the couch, standing lamps and any stage prop that can be decorated.)*

**CHELSEA:** A hundred. Give your head a shake, friend. It's only about twenty of our friends.

**BROOKLYNN:** That's not too bad. Who's all coming?

**CHELSEA:** Let's see, there's Anne, Lacey, Tamara, Axil, Matteo, Devin, Clay, Tony.

**BROOKLYNN:** How about Ashlee? She's always with Tony. And she's right next door.

**CHELSEA:** No, she's not coming, she's got some kind of drama production to do this weekend with some students from school.

**BROOKLYNN:** Too bad. She's a real party animal. Who else is coming?

**CHELSEA:** Um, oh, there's the Muffin Man.

**BROOKLYNN:** The Muffin Man?

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**CHELSEA:** Sure, he's always bringing muffins to parties and then he does his card tricks. He knows so many of them and can keep us entertained for hours just like he did at Jolene's party, remember?

**BROOKLYNN:** Oh, I remember that party. Things were going really well with the Muffin Man, but then all hell broke loose.

**CHELSEA:** Who can forget that. Jolene sure got in a lot of hot water, especially when last year's grads crashed the party and trashed the joint. They set the lawn on fire, and then Jake had the brilliant idea of swinging off the chandelier that came crashing down on the oak table that knocked all the drinks and food on the oriental rug.

**BROOKLYNN:** Well, let's stop talking about that party. It might us bring bad luck. So, who else is coming?

**CHELSEA:** Well, to top things off, there's Nickie and the Snippy Boppers. And they're going to sing the Beatles' birthday song just for me!

**BROOKLYNN:** Cool! Where are they setting up?

**CHELSEA:** They want the drum kit right in front of the couch and their amps on either side. Their lead singer, Nickie of course, wants to have her own space on a platform off to the left of Paula who's on bass. It's like the same kind of set up they had at Julie-Anne's party when they played in her backyard and used the patio lanterns for lighting.

**BROOKLYNN:** Sure, who can forget that party. It was really cool, until Jake and the boys showed up uninvited and ripped the front door off its hinges and used it for firewood in the backyard.

**CHELSEA:** Yeah, don't remind me. That was a nightmare.

**BROOKLYNN:** Well, we got the streamers, the chips, the dip, pop and all the other good stuff set up.

**BROOKLYNN:** Looks like we're ahead of the game. Maybe we can start working on the big test for next Tuesday.

**CHELSEA:** I didn't know we had a test. I just thought it was a good alibi to use on my parents.

**BROOKLYNN:** Well, it was, but we really do have a test on the lit terms on Tuesday.

**CHELSEA:** Funny I just kind of made it up on the spot.

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