

Zoe, the Office Superhero

A skit by Dwayne Yancey

Selected from his collection, "Skits 24/7"

Cast: 2 females, 3 flexible

Length: 5 pages of dialogue (900 words)

Performance time: About 5 minutes

The Story

Zoe, an office assistant, quickly fixes the copier without calling in for repairs, enabling the report to get finished on time, rescuing the important project and ultimately saving the whole company! Not only can she fix a copier, but she knows everyone's passwords, pass codes, account numbers -- and sometimes even the dates of their anniversaries. She's Zoe, office superhero!

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ZOE, THE OFFICE SUPERHERO

(Four white-collar OFFICE WORKERS are huddled around a jammed-up printer. George is working on it; Frank is looking over George's shoulder. Charlie is the layabout, just chattering. Amy, the office assistant, looks through the manual.)

FRANK: Can you get it?

GEORGE: I think I've almost got it.

FRANK: Did that get it?

GEORGE: Almost.

FRANK: Because I've got to get that report in by the deadline or we won't get the contract.

AMY: I'm trying to find the instructions here. I don't know why they have to make these things so complicated.

CHARLIE: Remember, that time Mr. Hayward tried to fax that report off to corporate and instead he faxed it to everyone else in the building? You remember that one - the one stamped "confidential"? The one with everybody's personnel file in it? Oh yeah, that was something.

FRANK: Any luck?

GEORGE: OK, I think I've got it un-jammed.

FRANK: Oh, thank goodness. Because I've got to get that report put together in time for the overnight delivery service pick-up and I need that document.

GEORGE: It's moving. Something's moving.

FRANK: All right!

GEORGE: Now it's stuck again.

FRANK: Oh man!

AMY: OK, I found the instructions.

FRANK: What do they say? What do they say?

AMY: I don't know. They're in Chinese.

GEORGE: OK, let me try this again a different way.

FRANK: Careful now. I need that copy. I really need that copy.

AMY: Ah, here's an 800 number for technical support. (*SHE dials the number.*)

CHARLIE: Remember that time Mr. Hayward told us to cut costs and we got that automated voice mail system and he pushed the wrong buttons for his password and suddenly it started giving all the prompts in some other language - and we lost that contract on the Acme deal because the Acme people thought they'd dialed the wrong number?

AMY: Oh! (*SHE slams down the receiver.*)

FRANK: What's wrong?

AMY: The number's changed to some kind of phone sex service.

CHARLIE: Oh, well, that reminds me of the time that --

FRANK: Charlie? Shut up.

CHARLIE: Sorry. But it's a funny story.

GEORGE: All right! I've got it! I've got it!

FRANK: He's got it!

(The piece of paper tears.)

GEORGE: It tore.

FRANK: Geez!

CHARLIE: Guess we're just sunk, huh? No commission for you this month, eh, Frank?

FRANK: What are we gonna do? Our whole division is counting on that contract!

(ZOE enters, with a flourish.)

ZOE: Have no fear! Your hard-working office assistant superhero is here! Fax machine jammed up? It's Zoe to the rescue! No toner in the copier? Call Zoe, she'll fix it in a flash! See her wrestle deadlines to the ground with her bare hands! See her conjure office supplies out of thin air! It's magic! No, it's multi-tasking! It's Zoe, your local office assistant superhero!

FRANK: Who are you?

ZOE: You need to brush up on your active listening skills. I'm only going to repeat this once, OK?

FRANK: OK.

ZOE: It's Zoe, your local office assistant superhero!

CHARLIE: Whoa. Nice outfit, lady. But aren't you supposed to be wearing your underwear on the inside? Not that I have any problem with how you have it, mind you.

ZOE: What seems to be the problem here?

GEORGE: The printer's jammed up. It's got something stuck in it.

FRANK: And if we don't get it out of there, I can't get my report in on time and if I can't get the report in, we lose the contract, and if we lose the contract, our profit and loss statement for the quarter goes into the red and then our

FRANK: *(Continued.)* stock price goes south and then stockholders start complaining about their dividends and there's dissension on the board and then --

CHARLIE: Pensions. What's that do for our pensions? You've got to think about that, Frank.

AMY: *(AGAIN looking in the directions.)* OK, I think I've the after-hours number for a local tech support guy.

ZOE: *(Taking away the book.)* You don't need that.

AMY: What?!

ZOE: You just need this. *(SHE slaps the machine.)*

CHARLIE: Heck, I could have done that.

ZOE: Yes, but could you have done this?

(SHE produces Frank's document, in perfect condition.)

FRANK: My report! Oh thank you! Thank you!

GEORGE: How'd you do that?

ZOE: If I told you, I'd have to kill you.

CHARLIE: But - but - but -

ZOE: Any other problems today?

CHARLIE: Uh, I've got some work piled up in my in-box I haven't gotten to.

ZOE: Sorry, Charlie, that's still your problem. Zoe, the office superhero, only deals with administrative emergencies.

CHARLIE: Dang. Hey, how'd you know my name?

ZOE: Because I'm Zoe, your local office assistant superhero! I know all your names! With my amazing superpowers, I know all your passwords, your pass codes, your account

End of Freeview

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