

The Liberation and Sexual Satisfaction of a Wadded Up Piece  
of Paper

by

Bryan Stubbles

Cast of Characters

WADDED UP PIECE OF PAPER: Gender-neutral. Trapped in a waste basket. Yellow bits of paper stuck to the actor.

BROKEN PLASTIC CUP: Gender-neutral. Narrowly missed the basket. Pieces of plastic cup on actor.

Scene

A waste basket.

Time

Now.

LIGHTS UP

A trash bin is represented by a wall - partition- a curtain - or could be mimed.

A WADDED UP PIECE OF PAPER sits - dejected - behind the wall.

The WAD tears off pieces of its own paper in frustration. Throws them at anything.

ENTER BROKEN PLASTIC CUP with a thud against the wall.

BROKEN CUP

He missed! I feel like the victim of a blind firing squad. It stings.

WAD

At least he missed. I'm stuck in here.

BROKEN CUP

I wanted to be inside.

WAD

Inside, you get incinerated. You know that, right? Lucky you.

BROKEN CUP

Dunno. Being a broken plastic cup has its disadvantages.

WAD

It happened to a cousin of mine. Straight up burnt.

BROKEN CUP

Why can't I be in there with you?

WAD

Because office boy isn't all that great at office basketball. Sorry you couldn't be in this lovely round file.

BROKEN CUP

All the other cups end up in there.

WAD

You wanna chill with them? Cry me a river. Look at me. I'm a piece of paper. I could've been anything.

BROKEN CUP

You couldn't have been a spark plug.

WAD

No, but maybe some rough notes for the next Nicholas Sparks novel. Or like a love letter. I need some romance. Or even a fake phone number given after a hot, hot one night stand.

BROKEN CUP

They have text messages.

WAD

Yes, but that would give away the real sender.

BROKEN CUP

Stop whining.

WAD

You've got all the time in the world. Hell, someone might use you - I dunno - to melt ice in. Me? I'll never be anyone's emergency toilet paper.

BROKEN CUP

Stuff gets taken out of the garbage all the time.

WAD

Just help me. Liberate me.

BROKEN CUP

Why should I?

WAD

You're a generous soul.

BROKEN CUP

There's more generous out there.

WAD

None are right out there. Where I need them.

BROKEN CUP

They could be.

WAD

You're there. You can help me. No problem.

BROKEN CUP

Sure.

WAD

Thanks.

BROKEN CUP  
Now I usually don't do this.

WAD  
Yes.

BROKEN CUP  
And you can't blabber to anyone.

WAD  
Yes.

BROKEN CUP  
And if I do this, you cant use it to judge other used plastic cups.

WAD  
Yes!

BROKEN CUP  
OK. Ready?

BROKEN PLASTIC CUP breaks on through to the WADDED UP PIECE OF PAPER and rescues the WADDED UP PIECE OF PAPER. WAD embraces BROKEN CUP.

WAD  
My Samaritan! Un-wad me!

BROKEN CUP  
What?

WAD  
Please. I've been wadded up far too long.

BROKEN CUP  
Don't you enjoy being in this state?

WAD  
If I liked it, would I be asking you?

BROKEN CUP  
You never know.

WAD  
Just un-wad me, goddamn it!

BROKEN CUP  
That's not the proper tone of voice for someone who just rescued you from the trash.

WAD  
You're right. I apologize.

BROKEN CUP  
Okay. Keep your fibers together.

BROKEN CUP starts to un-wad WAD.  
WAD  
Satisfaction.

BROKEN CUP  
What?

WAD  
Help me get my satisfaction.

BROKEN CUP  
You're starting to creep me out.

WAD  
Just un-wad me - so I can get my satisfaction.

BROKEN CUP  
I will not. If there were some practical purpose -

WAD  
Roll me up so -

BROKEN CUP  
So you can get your satisfaction.

WAD  
Yes!

BROKEN CUP  
No!

BROKEN CUP starts to EXIT.

WAD  
Please!

BROKEN CUP stops.

BROKEN CUP  
Repent!

WAD  
Huh?

You deviant. BROKEN CUP  
 I just want my satisfaction. WAD  
 Sinner! BROKEN CUP  
 Oh, yes. Every day. WAD  
 That's why you were rolled up. BROKEN CUP  
 Wadded up. WAD  
 If you'd lived properly, you could've been great literature  
 - or a wonderful billboard - but instead you became a wad. BROKEN CUP  
 Go on, preacher. WAD  
 Only one thing can save you. BROKEN CUP  
 Lemme guess. You know the way. WAD  
 Matter of fact, I do. BROKEN CUP  
 Please. WAD  
 BROKEN CUP points.  
 I un-wad you in the name of the divine cup. BROKEN CUP  
 Are you daft? WAD  
 The WAD suddenly un-wads by itself.  
 Oh! WAD (cont'd)  
 Did you get your satisfaction? BROKEN CUP

WAD stands up.

WAD

Ouch!

BROKEN CUP

Who gave you that satisfaction?

WAD

You? I love you!

WAD hugs BROKEN CUP.

WAD (cont'd)

You got me my satisfaction.

BROKEN CUP

You sinner!

WAD

Yes, let's sin again.

BROKEN CUP

You don't get it. You must shy away from sin. Not enjoy it.

WAD wraps itself - or tries to.

BROKEN CUP (cont'd)

Hey, hey. Stop that.

WAD

Must. Wad. Myself.

BROKEN CUP stops WAD.

BROKEN CUP

No!

WAD

If I wad and un-wad myself I'll be in heaven.

BROKEN CUP

You serpent!

WAD

I'm a piece of paper.

BROKEN CUP

You evil Satanic being from the foulest depth of Hell.

WAD

You're one to talk.



BROKEN CUP  
I lived a clean life.

WAD  
Why re you broken? According to your rationalization?

WAD keeps trying to wad back up  
during this conversation.

BROKEN CUP  
I'm not broken.

WAD  
Someone just threw you away because they like throwing cups  
away?

BROKEN CUP  
No. They were done with me.

WAD  
You know why they were done?

BROKEN CUP  
The drink was gone.

WAD  
You'd like to think that. Maybe I got wadded up because  
folks ran out of spaces to write on me. But I know why you  
got tossed.

BROKEN CUP  
I'm broken.

WAD  
You're a dirty, dirty whore.

BROKEN CUP  
You wad! I am the Teacher! Obey my law.

WAD  
Please. Chill.

BROKEN CUP  
You just called me a soiled dove. How may I relax?

WAD  
Easy peasy. I know what you like.

BROKEN CUP  
You don't.

WAD  
 Right. You like spreading the Good News to forlorn little paper wads, right?

WAD tries to wad up.

BROKEN CUP  
 Stop it!

WAD  
 Look at you. Judging.

BROKEN CUP  
 I don't judge.

WAD  
 You called me a deviant.

BROKEN CUP  
 You are.

WAD  
 That's judging.

BROKEN CUP  
 That's a natural fact.

WAD  
 Besides spreading this good news, what else floats your boat?

Silence.

WAD (cont'd)  
 Come on. We're friends now. You helped me. I can help you.

BROKEN CUP  
 I enjoy being a cup.

WAD  
 Good.

BROKEN CUP  
 That's my purpose in life. Now I'm broken.

WAD  
 You liked it when people drank out of you.

BROKEN CUP  
 Yeah. I'm a cup.

WAD

You just loved it when those pursed lips touched your rim.

BROKEN CUP

You make it sound strange.

WAD

It is wrong, you dirty slut! No more pursed lips for you!

BROKEN CUP

At least I'm not a dead tree.

WAD

Plastic has no soul!

They fight - a wee bit. The fight becomes a make-out session.

WAD (cont'd)

Are you a good kisser?

They kiss. WAD wraps its legs around CUP.

WAD (cont'd)

You make me so - so -

BROKEN CUP

Wait.

WAD

What? You're such a goddamn tease.

WAD pushes CUP away.

BROKEN CUP

No, baby. I got - mood music.

WAD

The Hell?

EXIT BROKEN CUP. WAD looks around like it wants to escape. ENTER BROKEN CUP.

Cue PUBLIC DOMAIN DISCO MUSIC - like this:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnwLpB\\_j2KA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnwLpB_j2KA)

BROKEN CUP and WAD get down and dirty dance.

We're all sinners!

WAD (cont'd)

It's the music!

BROKEN CUP

BROKEN CUP rips off the paper from  
WAD and WAD does likewise, pulling  
pieces of CUP off.

Oh!

BROKEN CUP (cont'd)

Lights down, damn it!

WAD

LIGHTS DOWN

I want your babies.

WAD (cont'd)

I want my babies, too.

BROKEN CUP

**BRYAN STUBBLES** is a playwright whose career has consisted mostly of staged readings and publications. Maybe you can help him change that.

He has a BA in Film Studies from the University of Utah, He's spent most his adult life living abroad. His films have been produced in three countries. He also writes in Korean and German.

Hobbies include history, languages, volunteering, jogging, travel, cooking and avoiding food poisoning.

Recent publications include **Trump vs. Kahlo** and **Virginia Beach Incest Time Machine. Brine Shrimp Gangsters** will be published this year by Smith & Kraus as part of their "50 Best Ten Minute Plays of 2017."

Two short plays, **English Only** and **Ice Cream Sisters** (co-written with Kara Maddox), were recently chosen to be part of the Protest Plays Project.

Fringe performances include **The Noose**, **Hera and Juno's Shooting Party** and **Rudi and Azalea Go Fishing**.

Bryan is a guest blogger at the theatre blog Crazytown. His blog may be found here. Many of his plays are parked online at the New Play Exchange.