

Revolution

## **CHARACTERS**

### **STEVE LEE - Korean male, 21**

Steve is tall and skinny and has that waxy, pasty pallor of someone whose exposure to the outdoors has been furnished by a scenic screensaver. He may look a bit awkward, but Steve is not an awkward person. He's an articulate young man who unfortunately is in a whole heap o' trouble. Because he was brought up by parents possessing diametric political views, he's used to seeing things from different sides.

### **PHIL LEE - Korean male, late forties**

Phil has long black hair with gray streaks, tied into a neat ponytail. Phil is an easygoing guy, but not when it comes to matters of social importance. He was, is, and will be a hippie.

### **MARGIE LEE - Korean female, late forties**

Margie has a short pageboy haircut. She's the realist, the practical one in the family, whose primary purpose in life is to ensure the safety and wellness of her children. She may come down hard when her kids do the wrong thing, but she's only trying to protect them, as good mothers tend to do.

### **DENISE LEE - Korean female, 10**

Denise is a smart and perky girl, and even though she and Steve have an eleven-year difference in age, they get along fabulously. But of course, Denny isn't so smart and perky that she gets on people's nerves. Nobody comes to the theater to watch a wisecracking kid. That is, unless people want to see a really terrible play.

### **NANCY - white female, 21**

Despite her green hair which is spiky short, Nancy is stunningly pretty. She wears threadbare thrift store clothes, but no matter how much she tries to make herself ugly, she just can't (think of Cameron Diaz in Being John Malkovich). Nancy is an intense young woman who believes very strongly in women's rights.

### **JOE LIPTON - male, 21**

Joe is a good friend of Steve's. Thanks to his career-criminal father, Joe's seen the darker side of life from a very young age. For this reason, Joe tends to be both paranoid and a bit of a loose cannon. Joe wears a Burger King uniform because everything else is in the wash.

### **JACOB LECLAIR - white male, fifties**

Jacob is a distinguished lawyer with a dark, healthy tan. His brown hair has gone mostly silver, and he wears a suit throughout the play.

**MINOR CHARACTERS** (can all be played by the main characters)

**ANGUS** - male, fifties, even a bigger hippie than Phil.

**AGENT LEWIS** - male.

**SEDULUS** - male.

**VOICEOVER #1** - male voice.

**VOICEOVER #2** - female voice.

Please keep in mind that even though the play calls for Korean actors, anybody Asian (or Amerasian) would suffice.

Furthermore, there are no issues with language in this play - all the Korean characters speak in clear English, with little or no accents.

**TIME**

The play runs from March to May of 2005.

**PLACE**

The play primarily takes place in the Lee living room. Although there are set changes, the living room should be able to handle these with minimal effort.

*Living Room*

The living room is decorated with vases, paintings, and photos of family. The Lees are Korean-American, so there should be a Korean tint to what they own. Two couches, a two-seater loveseat and a three-seater sofa, form an L in the center of the living room. An armchair sits opposite the loveseat. There are three exits: the front door, the door to the kitchen, and a staircase leading upstairs. On stage left, there's a small dining table with four chairs. A tree shown in the window marks the time of the year.

*Barbershop*

A simple barbershop. A large mirror facing the audience, a spinning/reclining chair in front of it

*Joe Lipton's Living Room*

A coffee table, a couch, a chair, and a lamp.

*Hospital Room*

A simple hospital room. A bed with white sheets and several pillows. A drip stand and a small monitor that outputs vital signs. Her head is bandaged, and she's resting with her eyes closed. Next to the bed is a little nightstand, with a telephone on it. An armchair is next to the bed. On the other side of the bed is a drawn curtain.

## **LIST OF SCENES**

### Act I

- Scene 1: Homecoming
- Scene 2: The Argument
- Scene 3: His Big Red Rag
- Scene 4: Angus's Beef
- Scene 5: Lipton's Lair
- Scene 6: The Short Goodbye
- Scene 7: Dinner for Three

### Act II

- Scene 1: NewFem
- Scene 2: Should I Stay or Should I Go
- Scene 3: Truth and Consequence

ACT I

SCENE 1: HOMECOMING

*This play takes place in an upper-middle class New Jersey suburb in the spring of 2005. We see before us the living room of the Lee household. It is decorated like a typical living room, with vases, paintings, and photos of family. The Lees are Korean-American, so there should be a Korean tint to what they own.*

*Two couches, a two-seater loveseat and a three-seater sofa, form an L in the center of the living room. An armchair sits opposite the loveseat. There are three exits: the front door, the door to the kitchen, and a staircase leading upstairs.*

*On stage left, there's a small dining table with four chairs. A tree shown in the window marks the time of the year (March).*

*There are no issues with language in this play - all the Korean characters speak in clear English, with little or no accents.*

*PHIL LEE, a man in his late forties, is sitting on the sofa. He has long black hair with gray streaks, tied into a neat ponytail. PHIL is an easygoing guy, a sort of a hippie.*

*PHIL is married to MARGIE LEE, a woman in her late forties, who is sitting on the loveseat. She has a short pageboy haircut. MARGIE is the realist, the practical one.*

*PHIL and MARGIE are both reading magazines as the play starts, but it is obvious they are waiting for something, as they glance at their watches, tap their feet, etc.*

*When we hear the sound of a car pulling into the driveway, they rise. MARGIE walks to the window.*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHIL

Yeah?

MARGIE

(tight/uncomfortable)

He's here.

PHIL

Margie...

MARGIE

I'm doing the best I can, Phil.

PHIL

Just breathe.

MARGIE

(sarcastic)

What, am I not breathing?

PHIL

You know what I mean, a big one, deep into your stomach.

(She takes a huge, exaggerated  
breath for him and lets it out  
loudly.)

There you go. Come on.

*They walk up to the door. PHIL opens it. STEVE LEE, a twenty-one year-old male, enters with a large duffel bag slung over his shoulder. STEVE, the son of PHIL and MARGIE, is tall and skinny and looks very tired. STEVE has the pasty look of someone who hasn't spent much time outdoors.*

PHIL (CONT'D)

Hey, Stevie.

*PHIL takes the duffel from STEVE and places it on the floor.*

STEVE

Hi Dad.

*PHIL gives STEVE a long, warm hug.*

STEVE (CONT'D)

Mom.

*MARGIE gives STEVE a shorter hug. They all walk to the couches and sit down as the next few lines are spoken.*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

*STEVE and PHIL sit on the sofa while  
MARGIE sits in the armchair.*

MARGIE

How was the drive down?

STEVE

Some construction on I-81, but otherwise it was fine.

PHIL

Weren't the trees just gorgeous? All those little leaves,  
all that fragile, light spring green.

STEVE

That's right. It was kinda strange, actually. I never come  
home at this time of the year, so it was almost like I was  
driving on a different highway.

MARGIE

(to STEVE)

Did you stop for lunch?

STEVE

No.

*MARGIE gets up, heading for the  
kitchen.*

MARGIE

You must be starving.

STEVE

Not really.

*MARGIE stops.*

MARGIE

Then you must've had a big breakfast.

STEVE

Yeah, I guess.

MARGIE

What did you eat?

STEVE

A banana.

MARGIE

That's a big breakfast?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

PHIL

(to MARGIE)

Give the kid a break. He just drove for five and a half hours.

MARGIE

(to PHIL)

And that's why he should eat something.

STEVE

Mom, I'm just not hungry, okay?

*Pause.*

MARGIE

(to STEVE)

What the hell were you thinking?

PHIL

Margie!

MARGIE

Two months from graduation, and what do you do? Have you any idea how much trouble you're in?

STEVE

(deadpan)

Considering I spent all of yesterday in a little dark room talking with a pair of CIA agents, yeah, I think I do.

*MARGIE falls into the armchair.*

MARGIE

Oh my God.

PHIL

(angry more than surprised)

The CIA?

MARGIE

What's gonna happen to you?

STEVE

I don't know.

PHIL

What did those spooks ask you?

*Pause.*

STEVE

You wanna know the funniest thing? They asked me how I felt about 9/11.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (4)

MARGIE

What does that have to do anything you did?

STEVE

Because I froze the D.O.D. The Department of Defense, their entire network.

PHIL

Holy shit...

MARGIE

They think you're some kind of a *terrorist*?

STEVE

No, they're just fishing, trying to find all the angles. You know how it is, with the way things are.

MARGIE

What do you mean, "the way things are"?

PHIL

Come on, Margie, you read the news. You know what's going on with our personal freedom and privacy since 9/11.

MARGIE

(realizing where this is going)

Oh yes, I certainly do.

PHIL

(speaking with determination)

You make a call on the pay phone, it'll be tapped.

MARGIE

Phil...

PHIL

(even more forceful)

You drive on the highway, you'll be tracked.

MARGIE

Okay, all right.

PHIL

(full ranting mode)

Anything you buy with a credit card - magazines, a prescription, a friggin sandwich, all these will be logged into the government's Total Awareness database, not to mention every website you visit and every email you send out. Orwell's *1984* is becoming a reality, thanks to the fascists who now rule this country. It's only a matter of time until Roe vs. Wade is overturned.

*Pause.*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MARGIE

(to STEVE)

Please tell me you didn't go on a rant like that yesterday in front of these agents.

STEVE

I didn't.

MARGIE

Thank goodness you at least have some sense.

PHIL

What else did they say?

STEVE

(sighs)

Can we talk about this later?

PHIL

Of course. I'm sorry.

MARGIE

Do you wanna go upstairs, to your room?

STEVE

I'll just sit here for a while.

(PHIL looks at his watch.)

PHIL

We should get going, Margie.

MARGIE

(to STEVE)

Jacob just came back from his vacation.

STEVE

I thought he was in Barbados.

MARGIE

He cut it short, when he heard what happened.

PHIL

We'll do everything we can, son.

MARGIE

He'll be coming over tomorrow to talk to you.

STEVE

That's fine.

*PHIL and MARGIE get up. The front door opens and DENISE LEE, a ten-year-old girl, enters wearing a backpack.*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

*DENISE is a smart and perky kid, and even though she and STEVE have an eleven-year difference in age, they get along fabulously.*

DENISE

Steve!

*DENISE runs over to STEVE and jumps on top of him. STEVE sinks his face into her hair.*

STEVE

Oh, Denny. I missed you.

DENISE

I missed you, too.

MARGIE

Get off of your brother, Denise. He's very tired.

*DENISE sits down next to STEVE. She removes her backpack.*

MARGIE (CONT'D)

(to STEVE)

We'll see you in a bit. If you do get hungry, there's food in the fridge.

DENISE

Just don't eat the meatloaf. Ugh!

MARGIE

Your sister is now a vegetarian.

*MARGIE gives PHIL a look.*

PHIL

A vegan.

MARGIE

Whatever.

DENISE

Not whatever, Mom.

(to STEVE)

Vegans, in addition to avoiding meat, don't eat eggs or drink milk. And we don't wear any leather. Except I still have to wear these disgusting shoes, because Mom won't get me a new pair.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

MARGIE

If you're still a vegan after you grow out of those murderous shoes, I promise you a pair of cruelty-free sneakers.

DENISE

Made out of hemp.

MARGIE

Whatever.

PHIL

(to STEVE)

I think it's great what she's doing.

DENISE

Thank you, Daddy.

MARGIE

Come on, we're late.

(pecks a kiss on STEVE's cheek)

I'm glad you're home.

STEVE

Me too.

*PHIL and MARGIE exit through the front door. DENISE watches them leave, and the second the door closes shut, she whips around and questions STEVE.*

DENISE

What is going on??!?!?

STEVE

They didn't tell you?

DENISE

No. But I found out anyway, I mean it was all over TV and in school, too.

STEVE

Oh jeez, I'm sorry, Denny. Are people making fun of you?

DENISE

Are you kidding? I'm like a celebrity!

STEVE

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

DENISE

Steve, you were on the six o'clock news!  
(She opens her backpack and  
shows him a folded newspaper.)  
And look, here, too.

STEVE

(staring at the newspaper)  
They used my high school graduation picture.

DENISE

I know, you look so smart.

*STEVE gives the newspaper back to  
DENISE. He closes his eyes and leans  
back, sinking into the sofa.*

STEVE

But I'm really stupid, Denny. I did a really stupid thing.

DENISE

But you're like a hero in my school.

STEVE

Kids are just dumb.

DENISE

No we're not!

STEVE

(opens his eyes again, talks  
directly)  
I didn't mean you.

DENISE

When you say kids are dumb, you're saying I'm dumb, too.

STEVE

I'm sorry.

*Pause.*

DENISE

I asked Mom and Dad to explain what happened to you. "You wouldn't understand," Mom said. "You don't know anything about computers," Dad said. Like he should talk! You should see him every time he sits in front of ours. Like when he tries to double-click on the AOL icon with the mouse, he ends up dragging it halfway way across the desktop.

STEVE

You know what a virus is, right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

Of course. DENISE

The one that I wrote... STEVE

MiracleThong? DENISE

Yeah. STEVE

Why did you call it that? DENISE

I'll get to that. The virus I wrote, which is technically classified as a worm, was initially distributed through a website. STEVE

Victoria's Secret. DENISE

Right. So when somebody visited [www.victoriasecret.com](http://www.victoriasecret.com) with Internet Explorer running Microsoft Windows, their machines got infected. STEVE

But what if they had virus protection software? DENISE

Hey, you do know your stuff. STEVE

Told you. DENISE

My code shut down all anti-virus software. STEVE

You can do that? DENISE

If you know how, yeah. So the virus got on your machine, then it used your Outlook email list and AOL Messenger buddy list to spread itself all over the world. It didn't erase anyone's hard drive or anything like that. All it was supposed to do was repeatedly connect to Victoria's Secret's website in the background. STEVE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

DENISE

So all these infected computers were going to that website at the same time?

STEVE

It's known as a D.O.S. - a denial of service attack. It shut that website down for two whole days.

DENISE

That's so cool!

STEVE

No it's not, Denny, because the emails and instant messages completely clogged up the Internet, messing up a whole lot more than just that one website.

*Pause.*

DENISE

They really won't send you to jail, will they?

STEVE

I don't know, Denny. I hope not.

*DENISE goes into her backpack and pulls out sheets of paper. STEVE takes them.*

DENISE

Do you think that'll help?

STEVE

(looking through it)

Whose signatures are these?

DENISE

Ms. Whitaker thought it was a great idea to start a petition, so I got the whole school to sign. She signed it, too.

STEVE

And so did Mrs. Reynolds. I had her in third grade, like eons ago. I thought she'd retired.

DENISE

She did. She came in her wheelchair to sign it.

*STEVE gives the sheets back to DENISE.*

STEVE

Thanks, Denny. I'm sure this will help a lot.

DENISE

No it won't.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

STEVE

Denny...

DENISE

(voice breaking)

I don't want you to go to jail.

*Pause.*

STEVE

(brightly)

Hey, I haven't told you why I called the virus MiracleThong. It's because Victoria's Secret is famous for making the MiracleBra, which pushes up women's boobs to make'em look bigger?

DENISE

It's tight, too.

STEVE

How do you know?

DENISE

Everybody knows this, Steve.

STEVE

So I guess you know what a thong is, too, huh?

DENISE

Yes, and I think they're kinda gross.

STEVE

Depends on who's wearing it.

DENISE

Is that why you made the virus? Dad said you were "making a statement," but I don't get it.

STEVE

He's saying I did it as a protest. Some people think a company like Victoria's Secret forces girls and women everywhere to be objectified.

DENISE

(not understanding)

Uh-huh...

STEVE

You know, like you should be pretty and thin and have big boobs.

DENISE

What's wrong with that?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (12)

STEVE

See, they've gotten to you already.

DENISE

Dad also said something about Sri Lanka and child labor...?

STEVE

I hadn't even thought of that, but it figures Dad would. Victoria's Secret isn't the only one, but a lot of those clothing companies have their stuff made in third-world countries, like Sri Lanka, where they have kids your age working like twelve hours a day with no breaks, and they get paid like a dollar a week.

DENISE

Sucks to be them.

STEVE

We have it pretty good here.

DENISE

Mom said you did it for...Nancy.

STEVE

I thought they didn't tell you about any of this.

DENISE

I overheard them argue. All right, I eavesdropped. Who's Nancy?

STEVE

I guess she's my girlfriend.

DENISE

(hurt/angry)

Since when? You didn't tell me you got a girlfriend! You promised you'd tell me the second you got one!

STEVE

It all happened really suddenly. And I don't even know if she is my girlfriend.

DENISE

(demanding)

Well is she or isn't she?

STEVE

Jesus, cut me some slack, Jack! I don't know. It's complicated.

DENISE

What's complicated about a girlfriend?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (13)

STEVE

I couldn't even begin to answer that question.

DENISE

Why not?

*Pause.*

STEVE

Don't hate me for saying this...

DENISE

Don't bother. I know what you're gonna say. "You're too young."

STEVE

But you are. And I love you because you are.

DENISE

And I love you because you're so old.

STEVE

So we're even.

DENISE

I guess.

*STEVE gets up.*

STEVE

You know, Denny, I haven't eaten anything all day.

*DENISE gets up.*

DENISE

Aren't you starving?

STEVE

I wasn't, but now, after talking to you, I am.

DENISE

I can make you a plate. You must be tired after that long drive.

STEVE

I was, but I'm not tired anymore, either. It's all because of you.

DENISE

That's because I'm a little bundle of sunshine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (14)

*STEVE crouches down for DENISE to get on piggyback. They head for the kitchen.*

STEVE  
I think I'll have some meatloaf.

DENISE  
No!

STEVE  
A nice fat slab of cow.

DENISE  
You will not!

STEVE  
Okay, okay. I'll just chew some raw ground beef.

DENISE  
Noooooooooooo!

*STEVE and DENISE exit to kitchen.*

*Blackout.*