

A WING AND A PRAYER
A short Play

By Josie Seid

CHARACTERS

LAYLA	The Activist
OCTAVIA	The Conspiracy Theorist
MARIE	The Spiritualist
HARLOW	The Artist
BEGONIA	A Fairy

SETTING

The apartment of 4 roommates.

TIME

Current Time.

(It is early evening. The four roommates are in the living room discussing a lecturer they are planning to go see soon.)

LAYLA

For me the most appealing thing about Dr. Mkimbe is her authenticity. I'm so impressed with the way she can objectively articulate ideas from a myriad of perspectives.

MARIE

Remind me what tonight's lecture is on, again.

HARLOW

The faces of feminism.

LAYLA

I am literally salivating. Do you have any idea how deep this is going to be? There are so many layers to this subject matter that haven't even been delved into!

OCTAVIA

I'm going to wait and see. These things are often just glorified sales pitches constructed for the singular purpose of selling books.

HARLOW

Truth be told, I don't care what she talks about. I just love hearing radical ideas shared with such passion. It's like watching theater.

(She looks at Layla.)

Are you wearing that out?

LAYLA

What?

HARLOW

I'm saying this because I'm your friend and I have your back—That outfit is fifty shades of nay!

MARIE

For different reasons than the shallow purpose of fashion, I have to agree with Harlow. Your attire should be a compliment to your aura. All that gray is dulling your violet frequencies.

HARLOW

Don't you dare put on anything purple! You are a summer through and through. Do you have anything orange?

OCTAVIA

Can we just go? Nobody cares about fashion, it's a trapping of the man.

HARLOW

You know what I wish? I wish that just once, someone would see fashion for the art it is. Every time I try to—

(There is a bright light and a puff of smoke—soo much smoke. Begonia the fairy emerges coughing and waving the cloud away. She is clad in full fairy attire to include a tiara and a sparkly wand.)

BEGONIA

Whooooo!! Did someone say wish? From the amount of umph in that transport I'd lay ten bags of the Evil Queens gold on it. That hope had some huxpah behind it!!

(She lays eyes on the women.)

Well wiggle my wings, I happened into a package deal. Such "colorful" style but definitely inappropriate for a ball.

(She adjusts her tiara and starts to rev up her wand.)

All right then. Who's first?!

OCTAVIA

What the bleep is this? Am I losing my ever loving mind? Do you all see her too?

HARLOW

(She is completely down for this.)

Oh YES I see her! She is full stop magnificent!

OCTAVIA

I'm serious Harlow! Stop messing with me. See! I told you all that stuff they put in the water wasn't just fluoride and minerals. They are pumping us full of antibiotics and now we're having a group hallucination.

BEGONIA

(With authentic but sugary sweetness.)

An-ti-body?! Nobody here is against anybody's body! I'm here to dress up ya body! Now do me a twirl and let me see what I'm working with here.

MARIE

I think she's some kind of angel, ya'll. I mean. Look at her. She's got wings and everything.

BEGONIA

You are too kind. Flattery will get you everywhere. A little extra sparkle for you!

(Again, she winds up with her magic wand.)

LAYLA

Hold on! Hol—Could you PLEASE stop swinging that thing around? Who are you and how did you get in here? Seriously.

BEGONIA

OOHHHH! Ugh! I am SO embarrassed! If my head wasn't wearing this spectacularly shiny and freakishly heavy tiara, I may have forgotten it was firmly screwed on to my shoulders!

(She resets and smooths her dress.)

Ladies! I am your fairy godmother—although I'm really way too young for that title, it's just what they call us; I'd prefer god-sister, really, but anyway—I'm here to grant your wish and send you to the ball!

LAYLA

Ball!?! Nobody's going to a ball?

OCTAVIA

Wish?! Nobody made a wish!

HARLOW

Well. Um, actually...I did say something about a wish—but I didn't click my heels or anything.

BEGONIA

You're getting the magic mixed up friend. Heel clicking is level 2 magic. Anyone can do that with a talisman and it's strictly for travel. I, on the other hand perform level 5 magic. It's far more advanced. Now don't all come at me at once. At this rate, you'll only have 15 minutes at the ball and nobody's bagging a prince in that amount of time unless you're really good, but then, who am I to judge—

MARIE

Stop right there! Do you always go on like that? You're giving me a headache. So, you're not an angel; you're a fairy?

BEGONIA

Yes!

MARIE

And you're here to send us to a ball?

BEGONIA

Precisely!

LAYLA

Well! That settles it. You can flit off back to wherever you're from. We are going to a lecture; NOT a ball. We're about to get our consciousness on!

BEGONIA

A lecture? That can't be safe!

MARIE

Of course it's not safe! Life is not safe. That's why we attend lectures. To educate ourselves. Fairy—Do you have a name? For some reason calling you fairy feels hella sexist *and* classist.

BEGONIA

Now that's a hard one! No one ever calls me by name. It's always, "Fairy Godmother, I want this!" And, "Fairy Godmother, I need that." Ask, ask ask. I'm nothing more than a magical servant, really.

LAYLA

Why haven't you rebelled under all of that oppression?!

MARIE

Yes! Start by taking back your name! You are a free woman with a mind and something to offer this world.

(An awkward beat.)

OCTAVIA

So...What is it?

BEGONIA

What is what?

HARLOW

Your name?

BEGONIA

Right! My name...give me a second. Peggy! No, that's not it. Appolonia? Ooh! That's pretty, but it doesn't sound familiar...Gardenia? I'm getting closer I can just feel it—bear with me...

OCTAVIA

I can see this goin' on all night.

BEGONIA

Begonia!!! That's it! Ha! It's a little rusty but if we say it a few times, I'm sure it'll shine right up!

MARIE

Well done, Begonia! Now, see. Don't you feel better already?

BEGONIA

I don't know how I feel. Feeling is not my job. My job is to make sure my charges feel good. Wherever I am I wait and then I hear—well, I don't specifically hear, I more feel the wishes, and then pop! I'm off on a wing and a prayer to make those dreams come true. I don't have time—Well fire breathing dragons, look at the time!

LAYLA

Don't start with the ball stuff again!

BEGONIA

May I ask a question?

MARIE

By all means.

BEGONIA

Why would you willingly go to a lecture? Don't you want to have fun and meet a prince? This lecture thing sounds so dry and boring and kind of like punishment.

HARLOW

I'm with Begonia.

MARIE

We're going to expand our minds. To ignite our power as a collective use our strengths to make a better and more just life for women!

BEGONIA

You can do that? You, just openly go to these things and talk about power? So, you're a coven of witches! That explains the odd clothing. Well, you're a mighty attractive coven if I do say so myself. Not a wart amongst you!

HARLOW

You've been oppressed so long you don't even know how to think freely, do you?

BEGONIA

All I've ever been is a fairy. I've never really thought about it, I guess. I can't imagine what else I'd be. All I've ever been is—

(She waves her wand and does a little bit of flitting around and oohing and ahing over a make believe, well dressed charge.)

OCTAVIA

Start with who you *want* to be.

MARIE

What calls to your spirit?

LAYLA

What makes your heart beat faster?

HARLOW

What do you dream about?

BEGONIA

Going to the ball!

OCTAVIA

Come again?

BEGONIA

I want to go to the ball. I've spent my whole existence dressing up everyone else and sending them off to see the world and dance and love--and I love that, I really do; and I'm good at it! Actually, I'm great at it. But the reason I'm so good is I just dress them up in my dreams.

OCTAVIA

Oh! I see what you're trying to do! You almost made me feel something there.

MARIE

Octavia, stop messing around! I think that's beautiful.

HARLOW

So. Why *don't* you go? Use your magic and just zippity boppity bamboozle yourself to the ball.

BEGONIA

Oh! That's catchy but it's not the way it works. I can't leave here until I fulfil *your* wish.

HARLOW

Well. I wished for an appreciation for fashion, but I didn't say for whom. I also said nothing about a ball.

LAYLA

(Looks around at her roommates)

Unless...Ladies. I have an idea.

MARIE

I'm feeling the vibes you're putting out.

OCTAVIA

Let's stick it to the man.

HARLOW

Allow me to do the honors. Ahem. Begonia. I wish you could have your wish of going to the ball in full finery.

(There is a puff of smoke and when it clears we see Begonia in a fabulous modern fairy tale version of fairy fabulosity. She marvels at her makeover as she spins.)

BEGONIA

I can't believe this! I look amazing and I feel like my mind has just awakened! How can I thank you all!

HARLOW

You better hurry. You'll be late for the ball.

BEGONIA

I've changed my mind. I think I want to explore this new female power consciousness. Do you mind if I go with you to the lecture?

LAYLA

Please do! The more the merrier.

HARLOW

What will happen to all of those fairytale girls who need you to make their wishes come true?

(Begonia is silent. Her countenance falls as she realizes she will be letting them down and won't be able to discover her dream after all. Harlow steps forward and takes her wand.)

Say no more. I've got this. You're not the only one with dreams.

(She taps herself on the head with the wand and there is another puff of smoke. She is her own brand of fabulous contemporary fairy.)

MARIE

Girl, what are you about to do?

HARLOW

I'm off to wake those sisters up in fairy land! This is what I was made for!

BEGONIA

Well what do you know? Dreams do come true!

End of Play