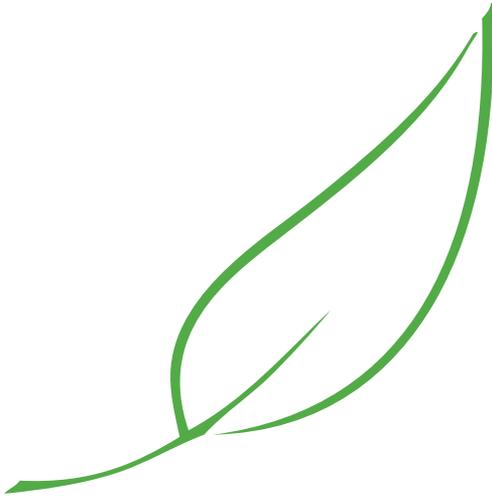


Melting Pot

By Edan Schappert



GREEN ROOM PRESS

greenroompress.com

MELTING POT

By Edan Schappert

Copyright © MCMXCIX by Edan Schappert, All rights reserved.

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Green Room Press, INC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Green Room Press, INC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Green Room Press, INC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Green Room Press, INC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: *Produced by special arrangement with Green Room Press, INC.*

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Green Room Press, INC.

GREEN ROOM PRESS, INC.
P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406
TOLL FREE (888) 350-5005 • FAX (319) 368-8011

MELTING POT
By Edan Schappert

SYNOPSIS: A couple enters a world where everyone and everything is different...a dizzying new land of sounds and colors. Just as they begin to adapt...wham...more changes crash around them. When they encounter their final transformation, is it something they should have expected? A fast-paced, surprising, and innovative competition piece.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 male, 1 female)

PETE (m)A young enthusiastic male who's anxious to see the world. *(53 lines)*
SAMANTHA (f)A plump, cozy, homebody woman, about the same age as PETE. She has a less curious nature than he has. *(54 lines)*

NOTE: For contest purposes, where costumes and props are not allowed, this play can easily be performed without either.

AT RISE: *A dim green light shines on stage. In the center of the stage, both characters are sitting on the floor, in tight little balls, hugging their knees. They're dressed from head to toe in green. They are sitting in a canoe-shaped white spotlighted area. PETE is frowning.*

SAMANTHA: *(Shyly.)* Love ya', Pete.

PETE: Fooley.

SAMANTHA: How come you don't say you love me?

PETE: Bug! Bug! Bug!

SAMANTHA: Why are you talking so hard? So mean?

PETE: Not mean.

SAMANTHA: Are too.

PETE: I'm not mean— *(Shouts.)* I'M MAD!

SAMANTHA: *(Shouts.)* DON'T SHOUT!

PETE: Right...

SAMANTHA: You upset my equilibrium. *(Holds hands up to cheeks.)*

And all the chlorophyll drains out of my face. That's no good.

PETE: *(Apologetic.)* I love you, Samantha. Very much. I'm just in a bad mood today.

SAMANTHA: Why?

PETE: *(Angry.)* Because nothing's happening! We're going nowhere!

SAMANTHA: *(Wraps her arms around herself tightly.)* Look, we're in awfully cramped quarters here, and getting mad doesn't help.

Can't you lighten up?

PETE: The reason I can't lighten up is *because* we're in such cramped quarters!

SAMANTHA: *(Looks around.)* But it's always been this way. Why are you getting so cranky now?

PETE: Doesn't life ever get you down, Sam?

SAMANTHA: Sure, once in a while.

PETE: This sitting here gets to me. Why doesn't anything ever happen? Life in general...it gets me down. You know? Life?

SAMANTHA: Oh, what do I know about life. All I know is I've been sitting here next to you in this pod for as long as I can remember.

We're round and green, and we get bigger all the time.

PETE: Well, don't you think we should do something about it?

SAMANTHA: We're sitting here in tight balls. What *can* we do?

PETE: We can put in a complaint.

SAMANTHA: And where, may I ask, are we going to put in the complaint?

PETE: (*Looks around.*) Maybe there's a Head Green Pea around here somewhere.

SAMANTHA: I haven't seen one.

PETE: And if there were, he'd probably say something like, (*Voice changes into a deep booming voice.*) "Tend to your work, my children, tend to your work."

SAMANTHA: Sitting here is work.

PETE: Probably wouldn't want us to complain.

SAMANTHA: No matter what, here we are. Just us.

PETE: So it's the old two-peas-in-a-pod routine, is that it?

SAMANTHA: Yes, as cozy as two—

PETE: I know. I know. You've told me that before.

SAMANTHA: Well, we *are* two peas—we're in a pod—and we are cozy. What's wrong with that?

PETE: I don't want to be cozy. I want to go out and see what's happening.

SAMANTHA: I'm sure we have to grow bigger before we go out.

PETE: We've grown as big as we're going to get. I'd like to know why they don't call us...ask us to report somewhere. Peas are put on earth to do something, not just sit here like two—

SAMANTHA: Exactly. Like two—

PETE: Oh, forget it! (*HE knocks on floor or something near him to try to break out of the pod.*) Hey! You out there! Can you hear me? (*Hand to ear.*) Wait. I heard something.

Sound of jangling, popping noises in background.

SAMANTHA: (*Scared.*) What's that commotion?

PETE: There's lots of chopping noises – and I hear water bubbling.

Spotlight gets bigger on the couple.

SAMANTHA: (*Looks up.*) Someone's opening the top of the pod!

PETE: (*Looks up and smiles.*) There's light up there!

SAMANTHA: (*Sternly.*) Now wait *just* a minute...



GREEN ROOM PRESS

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

MELTING POT

by Edan Schappert.

*For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script,
please contact us at:*

GREEN ROOM PRESS, INC.
customerservice@greenroompress.com
www.greenroompress.com