

Five Short Plays



What do you do if you have a boring job in a restaurant, serving fast food to people who have no time to eat? Smile, and do your best? Perhaps it's better to find a place where time doesn't matter so much.

What if you dream of travelling to other countries, but your friends just laugh? Do you stay at home with them? Or do you decide to be more adventurous?

Perhaps you hear that someone has bought the last bag of salt in town. Do you buy a bag from him at a high price? Or try to make him give you a bag?

Our world is full of these kinds of problems. They make life interesting, and sometimes very funny. These five short plays show people trying to decide what to do in unexpected or difficult situations.

Cover illustration by Rob Davis

STAGE 1 PLAYSCRIPTS

OXFORD BOOKWORMS PLAYSCRIPTS are designed both for reading and performing. Each play offers the opportunity to learn and practise language in an imaginative and dynamic way.

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

www.oup.com/elt

OXFORD ENGLISH
ISBN 0-19-423218-2



9 780194 232180 >

FIVE SHORT PLAYS

Martyn Ford

OXFORD

OXFORD BOOKWORMS
PLAYSCRIPTS



Five Short Plays

MARTYN FORD



FIVE SHORT PLAYS

Stage 1

It's not always easy to know the right thing to do. For the people in these five short plays, life can be difficult and sometimes very funny.

Harry and his friends are fed up because they haven't got any money. But Harry has a plan to change all this. It's a good plan, but even the best plans can go badly wrong . . .

'Listen,' says Ron, 'My friend over there has got a gun. Give me the money! Give it to me now!'

'What money?' the woman answers. 'I'm sorry, this is not a bank. This is a library.'

Sid and Ron must steal something, but it isn't easy to rob a library. The woman happily gives them library cards so they can borrow books, and not steal them. In fact, she's very pleased to help . . .


Things are often more difficult than they seem. But as in all these plays, people are often more interesting, and much funnier, when they're trying to do the right thing.

Martyn Ford, the author of these plays, is a writer, teacher, actor and illustrator, who lives and works in Brighton, on the south coast of England.



OXFORD BOOKWORMS PLAYSCRIPTS

Series Editor: Clare West



OXFORD BOOKWORMS

For a full list of titles in all the Oxford Bookworms series,
please refer to the *Oxford English* catalogue.



OXFORD BOOKWORMS PLAYSSCRIPTS

Stage 1

The Butler Did It and Other Plays
Bill Bowler (retold by Clare West)

A Ghost in Love and Other Plays
Michael Dean

The Murder of Mary Jones
Tim Vicary

Sherlock Holmes: Two Plays
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (retold by John Escott)

Stage 2

The Importance of Being Earnest
Oscar Wilde (retold by Susan Kingsley)


Much Ado About Nothing
William Shakespeare (retold by Alistair McCallum)

One Thousand Dollars and Other Plays
O. Henry (retold by John Escott)

Romeo and Juliet
William Shakespeare (retold by Alistair McCallum)

MARTYN FORD

Five Short Plays



OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.
It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship
and education by publishing worldwide in

Oxford New York

Auckland Bangkok Bogota Buenos Aires Cape Town Chennai
Dar es Salaam Delhi Hong Kong Istanbul Karachi Kolkata
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Mumbai Nairobi
São Paulo Shanghai Taipei Tokyo Toronto

OXFORD and OXFORD ENGLISH
are registered trade marks of Oxford University Press
in the UK and in certain other countries

© Oxford University Press 2003

The moral rights of the author have been asserted

Database right Oxford University Press (maker)

First published 2003

No unauthorized photocopying

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval
system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior permission in
writing of Oxford University Press, or as expressly permitted by law, or under terms agreed
with the appropriate reprographics rights organization. Enquiries concerning reproduction
outside the scope of the above should be sent to the ELT Rights Department, Oxford
University Press, at the address above

You must not circulate this book in any other binding or cover and you must impose this
same condition on any acquirer

Any websites referred to in this publication are in the public domain and their addresses are
provided by Oxford University Press for information only. Oxford University Press
disclaims any responsibility for the content

ISBN 0 19 423218 2

Illustrated by Rob Davis

Printed in China

CONTENTS

The Robbery	1
The Right Thing to Do	9
Canada Can Wait	17
Salt	25
Slow Food	33
EXERCISES	39
GLOSSARY	41



'I have a plan, a very good plan.'

WILF AND GLADYS OK, Harry.

HARRY Sid—

SID *(Excitedly)* Yes, Harry? What do you want me to do?

HARRY You must go into the bank and speak to everyone there. Say to them, 'Stay there! Don't move! I've got a gun in my pocket.'

SID But Harry, we haven't got a gun.

HARRY I know that! You just put your hand in your pocket like this. Move your hand up and down in your pocket and say, 'This is a gun!'

SID I understand.

The Robbery

HARRY Good. Now, Ron, I want you to go with Sid—

RON Yes, Harry, and then what?

HARRY Go to one of the bank workers and say, 'My friend has a gun. Give me the money!'

GLADYS What are *you* going to do, Harry?

HARRY I'm going to wait in the car with Wilf. Do you have any questions?

ALL No.

HARRY OK. So let's look at the plan again . . .

SCENE 2

The robbery

Sid and Ron run into the library. The people there look up from their books.

SID Listen to me, all of you. This is a robbery. Don't move. I've got a gun in my pocket.

PEOPLE Oh, don't shoot! Please don't shoot! We don't want to die.

SID Nobody's going to die, but you must do what I say. *(To Ron)* Go on, Ron. What are you waiting for? Get the money! Quick!

Ron goes over to the woman who works there.

RON Listen, my friend over there has got a gun. Give me the money! Give it to me now!