

No One Named Johanna

by Michael Kimball

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Cast of Characters

NICK	<i>Male squirrel</i>
AUTHOR	<i>Male squirrel. Actually, this is Nick, a university author-in-residence reading from his memoir..</i>
CHIPMUNK	<i>Female.</i>
KITTY	<i>A female kitty</i>
MOUSE	<i>A transgendered mouse.</i>

PLACE: LOCAL LIBRARY, AN AUTHOR READING FROM HIS MEMOIR

TIME: DAY

PROPS: Two scarves. Bottle of pills.

SETTING: Play within a play. Real Setting: A university stage. Fictional Setting: A City Park in the afternoon. This will be a highly stylized, highly pretentious production.

AT CURTAIN: AUTHOR, a squirrel, an author-in-residence, strides confidently to the podium. He wears a cape that allows his tail to rise up behind him. His audience is mostly adoring female rodents.

He opens his book to a dog-eared page and begins reading.

AUTHOR
Yes, it is I, squirrel. Ever haunted. By-- a name. A face. Gray.

He should accentuate his inhalations, as 70s poets do, and break sentences in odd places. As he reads, NICK enters the stage and sits on a park bench, opening a pill bottle.

AUTHOR (CONT'D)
(reading)
And gray was the day in the park, so I shared my human pharmaceuticals with: One, a female chipmunk--

CHIPMUNK enters and sits beside Nick. Nick gives her a pill.

AUTHOR (CONT'D)
--Two, a transgendered mouse.

MOUSE enters and sits, taking a pill from Nick.

AUTHOR (CONT'D)
--Three, a cat named Kitty.

KITTY enters and sits, taking a pill from Nick.

In unison, they chew and swallow the pills. Then they sit in a stupor.

AUTHOR (CONT'D)
And we sat together on the bench--

A CAR APPROACHES.

CHIPMUNK
Car!

The squirrel runs halfway across the street, then starts running back, and forth, and back and forth. BRAKES SCREECH. Chipmunk glides straight across the street. Squirrel runs back again. THE CAR PASSES. Chipmunk glides back to the bench.

AUTHOR
--until the cat and mouse paired up and went away...

Kitty and Mouse pick up their chairs and exit together. Nick and Chipmunk will mime according to the narration.

AUTHOR (CONT'D)

**--leaving Chipmunk behind. And me. Haunted by--
(beat)**

**Johanna. And now when that wee creature gazed
at-- me with her chipmunk eyes all I could-- see
was Johanna, and when she-- brushed her hot fur
against mine, all I could feel was Johanna. So I
brush her back.**

Nick brushes Chipmunk's back.

AUTHOR (CONT'D)

Not her actual back with an actual brush.

Nick stops brushing Chipmunk's back and awaits clarification.

AUTHOR (CONT'D)

**I rub my furry leg against her furry leg, and a very
unusual sensation overtakes my soul.**

Nick's tiny penis hardens. SOUND EFFECT.

AUTHOR (CONT'D)

**What care I what specy she is? Hot animal-- desire
has invaded my brain--and so roughly I take her in
my-- arms and kiss her with my-- lips while hot
breath from her-- nostrils rang like jackhammers in
the insides of my-- ears.**

At this point, their love-making becomes stylized. Kitty and Mouse glide in and separate the lovers, then stand aside to watch, as Nick and Chipmunk continue miming their lovemaking from a distance, as in performance art.

AUTHOR (CONT'D)

**When our moist tongues touched, hot elec-- tricity
jolted through my compact body straight to my
throbbing-- manhood, which shot up like a real
man's-- penis, but not as large--especially when I
felt her furry-- breasts-es with my throbbing fingers
and opposable-- thumbs. When I pull her tail, she
remarks hotly--**

CHIPMUNK

Yes! Yes!

AUTHOR

**--wiggling her brown and tan and other shades of
body like a small-- excited-- woman.**

CHIPMUNK

Do it now, Nick! Oh God. Do it now!

AUTHOR

**How she wanted me. And how I wanted her, but I--
could tell-- she was inexperienced and needed to be
educated in the lusty-- lessons-- of-- love.**

NICK

Do you trust me?

AUTHOR

--I queried.

CHIPMUNK

OH YES--

AUTHOR

--she cried.

CHIPMUNK

Do it, Nick! Do it hard. Do it NOW! Even though it would be sodomy.

NICK

No. No!

KITTY AND MOUSE

No. No. No. No. NO!

NICK

I mean, no, I take issue with your assessment--

AUTHOR

--I disagreed.

NICK

Webster's Dictionary defines SODOMY as oral or anal copulation with a member of the same or opposite sex; *OR*-- copulation with an animal.

CHIPMUNK

And I'm a chipmunk--

AUTHOR

--she pointed out.

NICK

And I'm a squirrel--

AUTHOR

--I pointed out to her back.

Chipmunk turns her back to Nick.

AUTHOR (CONT'D)

Not her actual back. I mean, I replied:

NICK

Clearly, Webster was a human and meant it would only be sodomy for him to copulate with a squirrel. OR chipmunk.

CHIPMUNK

Now I understand--

AUTHOR
--she said, understandingly.

CHIPMUNK
But what about--

AUTHOR
--she inquired...

CHIPMUNK
Oral.

Beat. Kitty and Mouse exchange a meaningful look.

NICK
Mr. Webster only said it was sodomy. He did not say it was wrong.

CHIPMUNK
Then yes, Nick--

AUTHOR
--she said, gazing at me with excited breasts.

CHIPMUNK
OH YES, NICK!

Chipmunk drops to her knees.

AUTHOR
--she exclaimed as she started doing something-- to my manhood which I've only seen dogs, collars merrily-- jingling, do to their own.

Nick clasps his hands behind his neck. Kitty and Mouse prance circles around them, scarves fluttering in the wind.

CHIPMUNK
Oh Nick!--

AUTHOR
--she chattered--

CHIPMUNK
Nick! Nick! Nick! Nick! Nick! Nick Nick Nick Nick!!

KITTY AND MOUSE
Nick. Nick. Nick. Nick. Nick. Nick. Nick. Nick.

NICK
No, please--

AUTHOR
--I pleaded--

NICK
Don't talk.

Kitty and Mouse stop prancing. They stand together to watch the lovemaking.

AUTHOR

And so she stopped talking and we-- writhed in sweet ecstasy and then pain when we-- rolled off the sidewalk and hot gravity pulled us-- down-- to rock-hard asphalt, which was the street--

CHIPMUNK

OOFF!

AUTHOR

--she squeaked, and started to-- run, but I caught her tail and pulled her back...

Nick tries to pull on Chipmunk's back--

AUTHOR (CONT'D)

By the tail.

Nick pulls Chipmunk back by the tail.

CHIPMUNK

Oh, yes! Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes--

AUTHOR

--she agreed, clearly not saying "no," as I'm sensitive to both verbal and nonverbal cues--

Nick and Chipmunk await instructions.

CHIPMUNK

--so I pull her underneath me and delve--

In performance art, Chipmunk gets on her hands and knees, and Nick mounts her from behind. Kitty puts her arm around Mouse.

CHIPMUNK (CONT'D)

--into the depths of dark desire with machine-gun-like motions of my manhood, and other rapid movements.

Kitty and Mouse, mutually seduced, exit together holding hands.

CHIPMUNK (CONT'D)

"Oh, Nick, do it--

AUTHOR

--she cried.

CHIPMUNK

Do it! DO IT! DO IT!!

KITTY AND MOUSE

Do it. Do it. Do it. Do it.

NICK

I am.

AUTHOR

I assured her. And then . . . suddenly. . . without warning...she emitted a startled gasp.

CHIPMUNK

Ah!?

AUTHOR

And she stiffened, like a woman or animal about to--

CHIPMUNK

Ah? AH?--

NICK

Don't sneeze.

CHIPMUNK

AHH? AHHH?

NICK

Please. Don't sneeze--

AUTHOR

--I requested.

CHIPMUNK

AHH! AHH! AHH!

NICK

JOHANNA!

CHIPMUNK

WHAT?!

Beat. Coitus interruptus.

NICK

No, I was just saying-- If you were to sneeze and, uh, squeeze, the contraction could actually stop the blood flow to my squirrelhood--

CHIPMUNK

What did you call me?

Chipmunk marches over to him.

NICK

Call you? Did I call you--?

CHIPMUNK

I need a friggin' pill.

NICK

Yes, of course. Right away.
(fumbling to open the pill bottle)

CHIPMUNK
Who the hell is Johanna?

NICK
I'm sorry, Johanna? No one that I know of. Just a--

CHIPMUNK
(grabbing the whole bottle)
PILL!

NICK
--a no one I used to know.

CHIPMUNK
(She exits)
Friggin' squirrels--

AUTHOR
--she exclaimed, and walked down the road, out of my life.

NICK
(sadly walking around)
A no one...named Jo--

CHIPMUNK
NICK! THE ROAD! CEMENT TRUCK!

Nick looks up, startled. In slow-motion, Kitty and Mouse enter as a CEMENT TRUCK, scarves held tightly between them.

KITTY
HONK! HONK!

Nick, in their path, squirrel-jigs left-right-left-right...

CHIPMUNK
NOOOOO!

Kitty and Mouse mow Nick down, then continue off-stage.

CHIPMUNK (CONT'D)
(entering, kneeling at Nick's side)
Nick! Oh, Nick.

NICK
(eyes closed)
A no one. Named...

CHIPMUNK
Aw, Nick. Let me. Let me be your--

Nick opens his eyes, gazes at her.

NICK
...Johanna?

CHIPMUNK

Yeah. Johanna.

Nick dies.

CHIPMUNK (CONT'D)

Oh, why? Why?

(wails)

WHY?

AUTHOR

And-- Scene!

Author and Actors take their bows. Chipmunk hugs Author.

-- END--