

THIS IS AN ONLINE SAMPLE  
OF THE FIRST TEN PAGES OF

JUPITER ZOOM  
By Callie Kimball

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No wonder you're happiest now  
riding on trains from one lover to the next.  
In those black, night-mirrored windows  
a wild white face, operatic, still enthralls you:  
a romantic heroine,  
suspended between lives, suspended between destinations.

—*Katha Pollitt, from "Turning Thirty"*

For Caroline  
*My favorite sister.*

## PRODUCTION HISTORY

JUPITER ZOOM was first produced  
by DC DOLLIES & THE ROCKET BITCH REVUE  
as part of the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts  
annual Artists' Project on March 22, 2006.  
It ran for one week with the following cast:

ELIZABETH.....	Theresa Flynn*
MARY.....	Tamara Johnson*
KEENAN.....	Paul MacWhorter
JUPITER.....	Sasha Olinick
CAROL ANN.....	Lindsay Haynes
HEATHER.....	Heather Haney
BAXTER.....	Kevin Casey

*\*Member, Actors' Equity Association,  
the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.  
Produced under an Actors' Equity Association  
Members' Project Code presentation.*

It was directed by Callie Kimball.  
Set, Properties, and Costumes by Callie Kimball.  
Lighting by Dan Martin.  
Sound by Callie Kimball and Dan Martin.  
The Production Stage Managers were Sara Van Voorhis and Elizabeth Johnson.

## SETTING

December 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005, and January 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006.  
A family room and a minivan in Washington DC.

## CHARACTERS

### ELIZABETH

60 but looks much younger. Beautiful aging hippie. White.  
Lives in Boulder. Manages a socially conscious mutual fund that loses money.  
Is a potter and braids rugs on the side.

### MARY

50 but looks much older. Elizabeth's conservative sister. White.  
Got pregnant and married at 17, divorced in the '70s,  
ran a finishing school in the '80s while married to an investment banker,  
and profitably divorced her cheating husband in the '90s before the market tanked.  
Has lived with Keenan since '98 but has no intention of ever marrying again.

### JUPITER

30s. Elizabeth's boyfriend. Any race.  
Earnest and callow in a sometimes charming, often annoying way.  
Wants to change the world.

### KEENAN

50s. Mary's "fiancé." A chiropractor. Sensible, regular guy. White.  
Smokes a pipe. Recovering from prostate cancer. Loving and a bit slow on the uptake.  
Retreats when there's too much estrogen in the house.

### HEATHER

34. Mary's daughter from her first marriage. White.  
A spinning instructor in NYC. The family diplomat.

### CAROL ANN

25. Mary's daughter from her second marriage. White.  
An aspiring mortgage officer in Annandale, Virginia.

### BAXTER

23. Mary's son from her second marriage. White.  
Skateboarder. Is on the six-year college plan but is currently taking a break.

## **SCENES**

### **Act One**

**Scene 1:** Friday, 5pm, Mary's family room.

**Scene 2:** Friday, 5:15pm, Carol Ann's minivan.

**Scene 3:** Friday, 5:35pm, Mary's family room.

**Scene 4:** Saturday, 1pm, Mary's family room.

### **Act Two**

**Scene 1:** Sunday, 3pm, Carol Ann's garaged minivan.

**Scene 2:** Sunday, 7:30pm, Mary's family room.

**Scene 3:** Sunday, 9pm, Carol Ann's garaged minivan.

**Scene 4:** Monday, 9am, Mary's family room, then  
Carol Ann's minivan.

## JUPITER ZOOM

ACT ONE

## Scene 1

*Friday, 5pm. The play begins with MARY sitting in an easy chair, sipping a glass of Viognier. There are fresh cut flowers in vases and birthday cards standing about on various surfaces.*

*Offstage we hear ELIZABETH in a high-pitched baby voice.*

ELIZABETH

Agave? Agaaaaave? AGAAAAAve? *There* you are! How's my little sweetums? See? That wasn't so bad, you did so good on your first plane ride. (*MARY rolls her eyes and sips her wine.*) Mommy loves you so much. Want some catnip? There you go. Yes, what a good kitty. Okay, well, Mommy's gonna go in the other room now and talk to Aunt Mary. You wanna come with me? You wanna come with me? You wanna come with me?

MARY

(*Sotto voce*) Jesus. (*Then, louder.*) Elizabeth!

ELIZABETH

(*Not missing a beat.*) Okay. Well, you stay under there. I'll be back in a little bit. (*ELIZABETH enters.*)

MARY

You two are co-dependant, Elizabeth, you know that.

ELIZABETH

I've never understood what that means. She's just a little afraid being deaf new place and all.

MARY

I can't believe you brought her along just for the weekend. I'd think the plane ride would be more traumatic than leaving her alone.

ELIZABETH

It's really for Jupiter. They can't bear to be separated. Sorry it took me so long to find the cards—they were in the bottom of my luggage. Aaaand I had to find *this*. (*Hands her a gift.*)

MARY

What's this?

ELIZABETH

An early birthday present for my baby sister.

MARY

Oh thank you.

ELIZABETH

Where's Jupiter?

MARY

Keenan took him for a walk.

ELIZABETH

Oh. That's nice. Keenan looks well.

MARY

Well, they said they got it all. I made sure he had the best care up at Hopkins. He just has to go for radiation. They take these little seeds and put them up in his... (*Embarrassed to say specific anatomy.*) You know.

ELIZABETH

Well he looks good. He's quite a catch.

MARY

Thanks. (*During the above, MARY has been unwrapping the gift very daintily. It's an obviously homemade clay pot of some kind. Not at all MARY's taste. Nonetheless, she gushes.*) Oh it's gorgeous. You *made* this?

ELIZABETH

Yes. I was working on a rag rug for you too but I haven't finished it. I brought it though so I could work on it in case you had any scraps around the house.

MARY

We don't keep scraps.

ELIZABETH

Oh, you should Mary. We re-use everything. That's the beauty of the rag rugs—you're making something beautiful and useful from bits you'd throw out.

MARY

Well thank you. You're my favorite sister.

ELIZABETH

I'm your *only* sister.

MARY

All right. How do we do this?

ELIZABETH

Just sit tight for a minute. Do you have a candle?

MARY

No, Keenan's allergic.

ELIZABETH

Try soy candles. All right. Now think of a question. It can be a specific question or just a general wish for knowledge. Usually I get better results if I just let the cards tell me what they want to tell me, you know sort of let my angels take over. Do you have a question in mind?

MARY

I'm thinking. (*As she thinks, ELIZABETH unwraps her tarot cards from a purple scarf and closes her eyes and sort of prays over them. Then she shuffles them a few times with her eyes closed.*)

ELIZABETH

Take your time.

MARY

*(Finally.)* All right.

ELIZABETH

*(Hands her the cards.)* All right. Now hold the cards face-side up in your left hand. Use your right hand to shuffle the cards. Just focus on your question and I'll tell you when to stop. *(MARY does this.)* All right. Now put them face down and cut them with your left hand once towards you. *(MARY does this.)* Great. *(ELIZABETH picks up the cards and begins to lay them out in a row, exclaiming over each one.)* Oh, wow. Interesting. Oh look at that. Well all right. The owl card in this position means that whatever plans you're making right now any kind of project you *won't* be successful.

MARY

I don't have any projects.

ELIZABETH

Well, it's a short-term card dealing with immediate projects, maybe it's your birthday party?

MARY

Keenan's in charge of that.

ELIZABETH

All right. Well...and *this* one's interesting. Here you've got the mountains AND the scythe right next to each other.

MARY

Is that good?

ELIZABETH

Well, the mountains mean danger and the scythe is fate and, well, in this position it means evil fate pursues you. *(MARY looks at her and then drains the rest of her wine glass and then gets a refill.)* It's not as bad as it sounds. It just means there are things outside your control. Maybe we shouldn't do this.

MARY

Oh no we started we're finishing. Please. Go ahead.

ELIZABETH

All right. Well here's a good one—the dagger! In this direction it means you'll be protected in time.

MARY

What a relief.

ELIZABETH

Maybe this is all about Keenan's cancer. Of course I don't know what your question was.

MARY

Well...

ELIZABETH

Nevermind don't tell me. Oh you got the bridge! I love the bridge! It's about change. And here it means you'll build a bridge to bring you closer to a loved one.

MARY

Really?

ELIZABETH

When are the girls getting here?

MARY

Tonight. (*Looks at her watch.*) Actually they should be here any minute. Carol Ann's picking Heather up at National. Knowing her they're lost on the Parkway somewhere.

ELIZABETH

I haven't seen Heather since she moved to New York. That was two three years ago?

MARY

Six. I'm sorry did you want some wine?

ELIZABETH

No thank you. Did she come home for the holidays?

MARY

Heather? No she has so many clients up there in Manhattan it's hard for her to get away. Just Keenan and Carol Ann and I. Baxter drifted in and out. He's taking the semester off to go snowboarding.

ELIZABETH

Oh I know, he had a great time with us in Colorado. Hit the slopes every day for two weeks. Jupiter just adores him.

MARY

Baxter went to visit you?

ELIZABETH

Yes. I thought you knew.

MARY

Maybe he mentioned it. I worry about him going off and doing such dangerous things on his own.

ELIZABETH

He's a big boy, even if he is your youngest. You can't protect him all his life. He's coming this weekend right?

MARY

He's already in town but I have no idea where he is. You know he's a busy boy. So many friends from St. Albans.

KEENAN

*(Offstage, then entering with JUPITER.)* –we've got one but we never use it. It's here in the garage somewhere. There you go! Tell you what if you can get it down from there you're more than welcome to use it as much as you like this weekend. *(JUPITER's carrying a branch.)*

JUPITER

Thanks Keenan.

KEENAN

Hello girls. Did we give you enough time to catch up? (*Goes over to kiss MARY on the forehead and maybe massage her shoulders. If so, she shifts away from his touch.*)

ELIZABETH

We were just talking about the kids. It'll be so nice to have everyone in the same house again after so long. And Jupiter you'll get to meet my nieces and nephew! You remember Baxter?

JUPITER

Of course. Oh he's just great.

KEENAN

(*Is fixing himself a drink.*) So anyway what's your poison Jupiter?

JUPITER

Oh thanks I don't drink. I'm sober. Eight years now.

KEENAN

Oh. Good for you. Cheers! (*Raises a glass.*)

ELIZABETH

What's that?

JUPITER

(*Holds up branch.*) It was so beautiful just lying there in the middle of the street. I thought of you. Strong and flexible. You know me I'm not much of a flower guy because I think it's so wrong to kill them just to bring them indoors but this was already broken and in the road. There's such beauty in the little things you don't ordinarily notice. (*ELIZABETH is moved by the kind gesture but a little embarrassed at the display. JUPITER sits down and starts to rub ELIZABETH's feet, which embarrasses her more.*)

ELIZABETH

Oh no my feet are fine.

JUPITER ZOOM

JUPITER

Are you sure?

ELIZABETH

Yes.

JUPITER

I thought they were hurting.

ELIZABETH

Maybe later.

JUPITER

How's Agave? Isn't it time for her thyroid medicine?

MARY

*(Dryly, indicating branch.)* You oughta put that in some water. *(Pause.)*

KEENAN

Right. So anyway I'm gonna take a nap. That walk tuckered me out.

MARY

Did you take your medicine?

KEENAN

*(Actively ignoring her.)* Jupiter, a pleasure to meet you. Please make yourself at home. And I mean it about that kayak.

JUPITER

Thanks, Keenan.

ELIZABETH

I'm a little tired too after the plane ride. Think I'll lie down. Wake me when the girls arrive?

MARY

JUPITER ZOOM

Sure.

ELIZABETH

Remind me to show you something I found in one of Mother's journals.

MARY

All right. (*ELIZABETH leaves, taking her branch with her. JUPITER and MARY are left alone. MARY refills her wine glass, then offers some to JUPITER.*) Wine?

JUPITER

No thanks.

MARY

Of course. Sorry. (*Pause.*)

JUPITER

You have a beautiful place.

MARY

Thank you.

ELIZABETH

(*Offstage.*) Agaave? Agaaaaaave?

MARY

She says you adore that cat.

JUPITER

Really? Well I love her because Elizabeth loves her and I love Elizabeth. But I have an ethical issue with pet ownership. (*Pause.*) You don't have any pets do you?

MARY

No. Keenan's allergic. Do you want an iced tea or anything?

JUPITER

JUPITER ZOOM

No caffeine. Makes my heart race. Thanks though.

MARY

I can't function without my morning coffee.

JUPITER

Have you ever tried weaning yourself off it by mixing it with decaf? That's how I did it. I had a headache for about a week but then I felt great.

MARY

Good for you. *(Pause.)*

JUPITER

My skin cleared up and everything. *(Pause.)* You have a beautiful place.

MARY

Thanks.

JUPITER

Thanks for letting me be a part of your birthday weekend. I can't believe you're turning sixty. You look great.

MARY

I'm turning fifty.

JUPITER

Right. I meant fifty. I forgot about the age difference. You guys had different moms, right?

MARY

Different fathers. Elizabeth's father died in the war.

JUPITER

Viet Nam?