

# The Head That Wouldn't Die

*By*  
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### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

A madman is on the loose and college student Penny, somewhat flighty, has gotten a gun for protection over the objections of her brainy roommate Janice. The objections prove all too true when Penny accidentally shoots her boyfriend, Glen. Granted, his sense of humor often makes people want to shoot him, but this was truly an accident. Fortunately, Janice is a pre-med genius and she is able to use a very unorthodox method to save Glen's life...kind of. His head at least, but only temporarily.

While Glen protests to being stored in the TV cabinet, Penny is concerned that not all of Glen's body could be saved. After all, what's a boyfriend without all his body parts? Janice is frantic as to what to do next as the unusual events have attracted the attention of a nosy neighbor and a curious police officer. Janice and Penny try their best to conceal the horrible secret but events soon start to spiral out of control. Janice calls upon her nerdy scientist friend, Luke. Perhaps his newest creation, the B7 robot, can save the situation. But then, what about the werewolf?

### **ORIGINAL PRODUCTION**

"The Head That Wouldn't Die" was originally performed at the 2007 Last Frontier Theatre Conference by the TBA Theatre of Anchorage, Alaska. The director was Shane Mitchell and the cast was as follows:

*Janice Arden: Elle Janecek; Glen Logan: Todd Glidewell; Penny Taylor: Lindsay Lamar; Flora March: Erin Dagon Mitchell; Pete Virdon: Leif Sawyer; Luke Lacombe: Carl Bright; B7 - Wayne Mitchell; WW: Kristen Fernandez.*

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(3 m, 3 w, 2 flexible. In order of appearance.)*

**JANICE ARDEN:** Pre-med student, about 21 years old.

**GLEN LOGAN:** College student, also 21.

**PENNY TAYLOR:** Pre-med student, Janice's roommate,  
Glen's girlfriend. Also about 21 years old.

**FLORA MARCH:** Around 50, neighbor to Janice and Penny.

**PETE VIRDON:** Around 30, policeman.

**LUKE LACOMBE:** Late 20s, graduate student.

**B7:** A robot.

**WW:** Werewolf. (Note: One of these characters turns into a  
werewolf, but the role is best played by a separate actor.)

### **SETTING**

It is April, 1958, in a small college town somewhere in the heart of America. The play takes place in the living room of Janice and Penny's apartment. There is kitchen table with chairs around it and a typewriter on top of it. A few other chairs are scattered here and there. Most prominent is a cabinet with an old-style television set. (This cabinet has a special removable back.) Doors are seen leading outside, to the kitchen; and to the bedrooms. There is also a window big enough for someone to jump through.

## **ACT I**

*(AT RISE: A lone spot rises to find JANICE alone on stage. She faces the audience.)*

**JANICE:** I will tell you of these extraordinary events exactly as they occurred. You may choose to believe me. You may choose not to believe. That I cannot help. For only the infinity of the depth of the human mind can fully comprehend this sad tale. *(A beat.)* It was a dark and stormy night. I had just arrived home when the rains began to fall.

*(The LIGHTS come up full to reveal the entire set as the SOUND of a spring rainstorm can now be heard outside. JANICE gets down on her hands and knees and looks around as if she is afraid someone is following her. Slowly she stands up. She feels her face and seems surprised by the smoothness of it. She starts to brush her clothes off but stops short as there is suddenly a loud KNOCKING on the front door. A voice calls out from outside the door. It is GLEN, but he is disguising his voice and is using a megaphone. The lighting indicates that it is nighttime.)*

**GLEN:** Open up! This is the police! *(A beat.)* We have the place surrounded! Come on out with your hands up!

*(JANICE is wide-eyed with fright. She begins to look around the room trying to find a place to hide.)*

**GLEN:** *(Offstage.)* Janice Arden! We know you're in there! Come on out with your hands up!

*(A look of recognition comes over JANICE's face. She slowly crosses to the front door.)*

**GLEN:** *(Offstage.)* Janice Arden! Surrender immediately or we'll send in the attack dog!

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*(JANICE opens the front door to reveal GLEN standing on the other side with a megaphone up to his mouth. PENNY is behind him. He lowers the megaphone, laughs for a moment, then puts it back up to his mouth.)*

**GLEN:** Pay no attention to that man behind the megaphone!

**PENNY:** *(To Glen.)* Let me in, Baby. It's starting to rain.

*(PENNY brushes past GLEN and walks through the front door. She carries a purse with her. JANICE crosses to her desk and sits as GLEN follows PENNY in.)*

**GLEN:** Was that a funny joke? Was that a funny joke? That was a funny, funny joke!

**PENNY:** Glen. Baby. You know everyone's a little edgy these days. *(GLEN crosses to JANICE.)*

**GLEN:** Oh, just a little joke. A funny, funny joke with my friend Janice. Right, Janny girl?

**JANICE:** Good night, Glen. *(JANICE puts some paper in the typewriter and begins to type.)*

**GLEN:** Give me a big smile, Janny girl! What's going on in your life these days anyway? Any new developments?

*(GLEN pulls open the top of JANICE's shirt and takes a quick peek.)*

**GLEN:** Whoops! Guess not! *(HE laughs loudly.)*

**JANICE:** You moron!

**GLEN:** Say, you might want to put some lotion on those mosquito bites! *(GLEN laughs.)*

**PENNY:** All right, Baby. Janice probably has some work to do.

**GLEN:** Hey! What did the policeman say when he saw Janice topless at the beach? He said "Excuse me, sir, do you have the correct time?" *(Laughs.)* Was that a funny joke? Was that a funny joke? That was a funny, funny joke! *(GLEN laughs.)*

**JANICE:** What's the most perfect vacuum in the universe?

**GLEN:** Oh, finally getting into the spirit of things, are we? I don't know. What is the most perfect vacuum in the universe?

**JANICE:** Glen Logan's jockstrap. *(A beat.)*

**GLEN:** I didn't get that one but I'll assume it's an insult.

**PENNY:** *(Starts to push GLEN towards the door.)*

Goodnight, Baby. Be careful on your way home, all right?

**GLEN:** Oh, yes! There's a madman on the loose! *(With a bad accent.)* Igor! You impetuous fool! Look what you let escape from the basement! *(GLEN laughs.)*

**PENNY:** It's not a joking matter. Two deaths are not a joking matter.

**GLEN:** No, no. Two deaths are still a joking matter. It isn't until the third that you have to stop the jokes. Say, have you heard what this madman is supposed to look like?

**PENNY:** Glen. Baby—

**GLEN:** Half man, half beast! Claws three inches long! Eyes that paralyze you with fear!

**PENNY:** Glen, please. We're jumpy enough as it is. You go home and I'll see you tomorrow. All right?

**GLEN:** Yes. Bowling tomorrow night. Say! How about we double date? Shall we double date? I could find someone to go with Janice. *(Shouts to JANICE.)* You up for a double-date, Janny girl?

**PENNY:** Who would you find for Janice?

**GLEN:** How about my friend Burke? Burke's a nice guy.

**PENNY:** But you told me Burke is ... *(Whispers.)* ... a homosexual.

**GLEN:** Yes. I think he is. So he probably likes little boobies! *(Shouts to JANICE.)* Why don't you come with us, Janny girl? What else are you going to do on a Saturday night? Sit around here and work on your cure for migraines?

**JANICE:** Good night, Glen. Sorry you have to rush off.

**PENNY:** She's not working on migraines anymore.

**GLEN:** No? Then what's she working on? *(Crossing back to JANICE.)* What you working on there, Dr. Arden? *(GLEN rips the paper out of the typewriter before JANICE can stop him.)*

**JANICE:** Stop that!

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**GLEN:** *(Reads.)* "The preservation of vital organs for—" *(Drops the paper.)* Ew! I don't want to read that!

*(PENNY starts to push GLEN back out the door.)*

**PENNY:** It's for transplants, Baby. Preserving organs for transplants.

*(SFX: There is a loud clap of thunder outside and THEY ALL pause for a moment to listen.)*

**GLEN:** Transplants? Amazing stuff. So first she cures migraines. Now she's curing what? Defective hearts and livers? You'd think she might also be able to find a cure for—

**PENNY:** Little boobies. Right. Good night, Glen. *(PENNY pushes GLEN out the door and shuts it behind him. PENNY looks to JANICE.)* Sorry. He's a little wound up tonight.

**JANICE:** A little?

**PENNY:** He had a couple of beers. Sorry.

**JANICE:** Apologize to yourself, Penny.

**PENNY:** All right. What is that supposed to mean? Tell me. What is that—

*(The front door bursts back open and JANICE and PENNY jump. GLEN runs back inside.)*

**GLEN:** From the fiery depths of hell! He's half man, half beast! Claws three inches long! Eyes that paralyze you with fear! While you stand frozen in terror he rips into your chest and takes out your still-beating heart!

*(PENNY pushes GLEN back out the door.)*

**PENNY:** All right, Baby. Goodnight. We'll talk about the madman tomorrow. *(With GLEN outside, PENNY slams the door shut and locks it.)*

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