

RACHEL AND RUTHIE
By Karen Sokolof Javitch

SYNOPSIS: When Ruthie wanders into Rachel's room at her sorority house, it seems at first to be a random meeting. Soon, however, it becomes apparent that Ruthie may have wandered farther than she originally thought. *Rachel and Ruthie* is the poignant story of two 21 year-olds in their last year of college who discover they have much more in common than they originally thought. Each girl has something to gain from their encounter, and the experience will prove incredibly rewarding for both. This riveting show will bring tears to your eyes and inspire you to reach for your loved ones.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(4 FEMALES, 1 EITHER)

Major roles:

RACHEL21 year-old college senior. Wearing jeans with holes in them and a University of Wisconsin sweatshirt. *(94 lines)*

RUTHIE.....21 year-old college senior. Wearing clothes from 1947. Ages at the end of the show to be a youthful 81 year- -old. *(83 lines)*

SETTING

One set - - a sorority house bedroom at the University of Wisconsin. Has a bed, desk with a computer, chair and many photos and pictures to represent the year 2007.

TIME: The year 2007.

AT RISE:

RACHEL is on the computer working on a paper for one of her college courses. She is in her room in her sorority house. The year is 2007. Another college student, RUTHIE, walks in the room. RACHEL looks up.

RUTHIE: Hello. *(She is a little disoriented.)*

RACHEL: Hi. Are you looking for someone? My roommate just left and should be - -

RUTHIE: I'm not sure. I was studying in my room and got up to get a drink of water and all of a sudden I'm in your room. Do I know you? I'm Ruthie.

RACHEL: Hi Ruthie. I'm Rachel. Where do you live?

RUTHIE: Well, I live at the SDT House, but somehow I don't think I'm there anymore.

RACHEL: This is Chi Omega. It seems like you're a little ways from home.

RUTHIE: I don't remember walking into this building. Do you mind if I sit down? I feel a little out of sorts.

RACHEL: Sure. *(RACHEL pulls out a chair for her.)* Can I get you some water? *(Grabs a bottled water.)* Here. *(Hands it to her.)*

RUTHIE: *(Looks at the bottle.)* Oh my goodness. Water in a bottle. What will they think of next?

RACHEL: *(Laughs nervously.)* Uh huh. So, I've been to the SDT house - - I have a few friends there, but I've never seen you. Where are you from?

RUTHIE: I'm from Omaha.

RACHEL: Seriously? For real?

RUTHIE: Yes. *(Takes a sip of water.)* You too?

RACHEL: Sure am. How amazing is that? Does everyone think you live on a farm?

RUTHIE: Yep. With cows and the whole bit. *(They laugh.)* No one knows how great it is living there.

RACHEL: That's so true. Especially now with the new mall out west. Have you been there?

RUTHIE shakes her head, a little confused.

RACHEL: I went to Westside High School. Where did you go?

RUTHIE: I went to Central. Funny, I never heard of Westside.

RACHEL: Huh? That's strange. What year are you?

RUTHIE: I'm a senior.

RACHEL: Me too. It will be nice to graduate and then hopefully get a job next year. What are you studying - - when you're not at the SDT house?

RUTHIE: Psychology, with a minor in sociology. I hope to graduate early so I can go home and get my M.R.S Degree. *(She says the letters M, R, S.)*

RACHEL: Your what?

RUTHIE: My M R S degree. I'm almost engaged.

RACHEL: Wow! That's awesome! I think.

RUTHIE: Yeah, awe . . . some. Does that mean swell?

RACHEL: Yeah, swell. Maybe that's a Central word. Who are you almost engaged to?

RUTHIE: My sweetheart from Omaha. He's a real intelligent and handsome fella. Four years older than me. He sings. He's about to ask me - - he just doesn't know it yet. I write him so many letters dropping him hints. I also keep telling him about all of the other guys on campus who are asking me out. To make him jealous, you know.

RACHEL: Is it working? That's so romantic that you are writing him letters. Maybe I ought to try that.

RUTHIE: You don't write letters ?

RACHEL: Only to one person - - I have a friend who's in Iraq, so I write to him. Do you have any friends in the service?

RUTHIE: My brother enlisted, but then the war ended. Where's Iraq?

RACHEL: What? Oh, yeah - - hah - - like you don't know.

RUTHIE: (*Ignores RACHEL's comment because she doesn't understand it.*) How do you communicate with your family then, if you don't write letters?

RACHEL: Oh, you know - - my cell phone.

RUTHIE: *(Doesn't understand.)* Oh, of course: cell . . . phone. Sometimes I call home, but it's expensive - - long distance, you know.

RACHEL: *(Only half-listening.)* Oh, sure. I email, too.

RUTHIE: E . . . mail.

RACHEL: Do you have a laptop?

RUTHIE: *(Looks at her lap.)* Well, yeah. Don't you?

RACHEL: No, I just use my desktop - - over there. *(Points to her desktop computer.)*

RUTHIE: Your what?

RACHEL: My computer. Over there. I was typing on it when you walked in.

RUTHIE: *(Puts her hands to her head, like she doesn't feel well.)* This is getting spooky. Maybe I'd better go. But I don't know where to go. Frankly, I'm not sure how to get home. *(Pause.)* This room. These photos. Email, laptop, Iraq - - I don't understand. You know, you look like someone I should know - - or that I have known - - somewhere, but I don't know how exactly. You look familiar, but somehow this place is not right.

RACHEL: I know. You showing up kind of out of nowhere - - this situation - - it's so strange.