



PAULINE & GEOFFREY

by David Proctor

EXCERPT

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**PAULINE  
&  
GEOFFREY.**

**A Play by**

**Dave Proctor**

# Characters

**GEOFFREY** - A recently retired male. Middle-class of about 60/65 years.  
He should have a chest wig

**PAULINE** - a plain woman of a similar age and again middle-class

# PAULINE & GEOFFREY

## Scene 1

**INT: A suburban dining room**

*PAULINE is alone on stage, serving Sunday lunch.*

**PAULINE**                   “GEOFFREY, GEOFFREY, lunch, Come on wash your hands and put your cardie on, “

*There is no reply.*

**PAULINE**                   “GEOFFREY- Your lunch is on the table and it’s getting cold.”

*GEOFFREY walks into the dining room, still wiping his hands on his trousers.*

**GEOFFREY**                 “Sorry about that, just had to put the mower away, What we got, then?”

**PAULINE**                   “Roast Pork, all the trimmings, here let me serve you.”

*PAULINE finishes serving lunch and they both sat down at the dining room table.*

**GEOFFREY**                 “PAULINE, we have got to talk, I’ve got something to tell you.”

**PAULINE**                   “Go on, you’re pregnant.”

*PAULINE laughs at her own joke.*

**GEOFFREY**                 “No, seriously, please listen, I am going to have gender realignment.”

**PAULINE**                   “Oh, that’s nice dear, pass the apple sauce would you please”

*He passes the sauce and she spoons a couple of spoonfuls onto her plate.*

**GEOFFREY** "Sorry love, did you hear what I said?"

**PAULINE** "Yes, you're going for a Gender retirement, I thought you were already retired, pass the mustard would you please?"

**GEOFFREY**

*As he passes the mustard*

"No, I said Gender realignment."

**PAULINE** "That's nice. This crackling looks good, If I say so myself,"

**GEOFFREY** "Do you understand what I am saying?"

**PAULINE** "Not really Dear, do you want any more gravy?"

**GEOFFREY** "Well what I am saying is, that I am not sure that I am gender fluid,  
you see I am definitely veering towards female."

**PAULINE** "No, sorry I still don't understand you, 'Fluid?' Are you saying you're wet or something, if you are, I'll get a cloth?"

**GEOFFREY** "You still don't get it, I am saying I'm transsexual."

**PAULINE** "You are silly, you're now saying you are a radio?"

**GEOFFREY** "Do what? Who said anything about radios?"

**PAULINE** "You did, something to do with Tranny's, you know transistor radios, do you want some more applesauce?"

**GEOFFREY** "No",

*At this, GEOFFREY put his head in his hands, shook his head and repeats*

“No.”

**GEOFFREY** “In modern speech, a Tranny is a transvestite, that’s somebody who dresses like a woman.”

**PAULINE** “What like that drag act we saw on holiday last year, I didn’t like him, he was very rude, all the effing this and effing that, you’re not like him are you?”

**GEOFFREY** “No, No I am not! I said I am transexual.”

**PAULINE** “Oh, well what’s one of them? You got enough peas love?”

**GEOFFREY** “What I’m saying is that I will be living the rest of my life as a woman, I want to change sex.”

**PAULINE** - “Now, don’t be silly. You’re a man, you’ve got a man’s bits and pieces  
Pass the salt.”

**GEOFFREY** “But there’s the problem, I really want to be a woman and want to identify myself as a woman. I’ve seen a Counsellor you know, she was very helpful.”

**PAULINE** “Oh.”

*PAULINE puts her knife and fork down.*

“Oh.”

*There is a silence, neither dare break the awkward quietness and neither touches their meal.*

**PAULINE** “So, Where’s that leave me?”

**GEOFFREY** “Well, of course, I still love you, and I hope we will always be together, I just thought we could be like, two ladies, together, you know. Just think of it, we could be like that same-sex couple down the road, the sex would be fantastic, just think we could...”

**PAULINE** “Stop that straight away, I am not talking about that kind of smut at the dinner table. And no I do not fancy ‘you know what’ with another woman, even if it is you.”

“A question then, Would we still be married?”

**GEOFFREY** “I don’t know, we might have to divorce and then get one of those partnership thingies or they might let us be, I will have to find out.”

**PAULINE** “This is rather silly, you’ve always been a man, I know we don’t ‘whatsit’ much nowadays, but you are still a man and I am still a woman, I don’t want to live with another woman, we’d bicker and fight over the silliest things, like who left the top off of the lipstick and whose turn it was to load the dishwasher.

“And what about the man’s jobs, like clearing the gutters, mowing the lawn, digging the beds, who’d do those if you were a Lady, heh?”

**GEOFFREY** “It’s not like that, I always wanted to be a woman and now I’m retired, I just thought...”

**PAULINE** “Well you’re not thinking are you? What would they say at the golf club?”

**GEOFFREY** “You know I don’t really like golf, I was told to take it up to help my career, It’s not that much fun, I can live without it.”

**PAULINE** “And what about the neighbours, they’d talk, ‘Oh look there’s Geoffrey and he’s wearing a dress. He really should change his lipstick colour, though, it clashes horribly with his handbag.’

“Talking of which you’d look silly in a dress, imagine it, you, a sixty-odd-year-old man in a dress.”

**GEOFFREY** “I don’t look that silly.”

**PAULINE** "How do you know?"

**GEOFFREY** "Well, I looked. Did you know we're roughly the same size?"

**PAULINE** "Have you been trying on my clothes?"

*GEOFFREY nods sheepishly.*

**PAULINE** "Please, not my undies as well"

**GEOFFREY** "No, no, no, nothing like that - only some dresses, you know the pretty summer ones"

**PAULINE** "Well, what about your hair?"

**GEOFFREY** "Well, actually you know you had those wigs when you weren't very well?"

**PAULINE** "You actually tried those on?"

*GEOFFREY nods, enthusiastically,*

**GEOFFREY** "They don't look too bad you know, not on me anyway."

**PAULINE** "GEOFFREY, have you been using my make-up as well?"

**GEOFFREY** "Uh, yes"

**PAULINE** "I wondered why I was getting through so much lipply, I thought they'd changed it, so it didn't last so long."

*PAULINE pauses in thought and they both just sit there in silence.*

*PAULINE picks up her knife and fork goes to eat but stops and puts them down.*