



COURIER

by John Crompton

A SMITH SCRIPT

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COURIER
A Fantasy Play in One Scene
By
John Crompton

Note: Can be played as a sound-only piece, for which indications are given in the text in Bold Italic.

Characters

COURIER Female. Winged baseball-cap, winged trainers, tee-shirt with *Quicksilver Couriers*, shorts or tights.

HOUSEHOLDER Male or female.

SYNOPSIS Householder opens door to receive parcel from unusual courier.

SCENE AND TIME A door and door-step. Present.

[COURIER, carrying parcel, runs into view, slows, stops, smooths down shirt and tights, knocks on door. Pause. Opens]

[Or: Sound of running feet coming to a stop. Knock on door]

COURIER Number seventeen? Sign here **[offers tablet]**.

HOUSEHOLDER **[Takes parcel. scrawls]** Thank you.

COURIER **[Turns away, starts to run off] *[Sound of starting to run]*** Up, up and away, then.

HOUSEHOLDER Wait a minute. I didn't really see you coming down from above, did I? Through my upstairs window? I mean that's impossible, isn't it?

COURIER **[Turns back]** Is it?

HOUSEHOLDER Of course it is. Unless you came by drone. I've heard about drones doing deliveries.

COURIER Oh no, we don't use drones. Noisy, dangerous.

HOUSEHOLDER Then how on earth...?

COURIER More in heaven, you might say.

HOUSEHOLDER There's something weird going on, here. Some technology I don't know about.

COURIER Well, I suppose there's a touch of tech, but it's part of the system, so to speak.

HOUSEHOLDER What system?

COURIER My system, of course.

HOUSEHOLDER How do you mean?

COURIER See these bosoms?

HOUSEHOLDER Well, yes, but I don't like to stare.

COURIER **[Hefts]** Buoyancy.

HOUSEHOLDER What?

COURIER Well, *girlancy* would be better. Help us stay up.

HOUSEHOLDER Awesome! Like balloons.

COURIER Not that big, and don't need any flames, either, fortunately. And they look good in the tee-shirt, wet or dry. Fill out the logo nicely, don't 'they?

COURIER **See Quicksilver Couriers.**

HOUSEHOLDER Oh, well, yes. Did you have special surgery?

COURIER Oh no, it's just how we are.

HOUSEHOLDER There are more of you?

COURIER Not much of a service with only one agent.

HOUSEHOLDER But how do you do the flying?

COURIER See the **winged** hat? Cop the **winged** shoes.

HOUSEHOLDER I thought those were just part of the uniform.

COURIER Funny thing, not many people notice them.

HOUSEHOLDER But...they, you know... work?

COURIER Not much get up and go otherwise.

HOUSEHOLDER They don't look big enough to, like, do lift-off.

COURIER Ah, well, we're very light.

HOUSEHOLDER Why haven't I seen one of you before?

COURIER I'm the first in this location, but you'll be seeing a lot more of us.

HOUSEHOLDER Why's that?

COURIER Global warming. Climate change.

HOUSEHOLDER Climate change?

COURIER Yes. We finally got fed up with you humans wrecking the planet. Sabrina got us going.

HOUSEHOLDER You mean the one with the big... buoyancy – she died a long time ago.

COURIER No, Sabrina is the River Severn. She and the Lorelei and the Syrena from the Vistula got together and summoned us all out of the vasty deep, kind of thing.

HOUSEHOLDER *Vasty deep*. That's in Shakespeare, isn't it?

COURIER Yes, well. Swan of Avon – listening to the river, wasn't he? I'm rather proud that I was trained by Ariel. I can't get round the globe in forty minutes, like him, but I'm pretty quick.