



ONCE UPON A TIME AT THE HAIRDRESSER'S

by Neil Rathmell

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a short play by Neil Rathmell

CHARACTERS

Rapunzel

Hairdresser

Boyfriend

(RAPUNZEL sits facing the audience, HAIRDRESSER stands behind her.)

HAIRDESSER I really like your name.

RAPUNZEL Do you?

HAIRDRESSER Yes. It's really unusual, isn't it? Rapunzel. Is that how you say it?

RAPUNZEL My mum calls me Rapunzell. She thinks it sounds more posh. She's a bit of snob, my mum. My dad just calls me *Punzel*.

HAIRDRESSER Aw, that's nice as well.

(Short pause. Runs her fingers through RAPUNZEL's hair.)

So, what are we going to do with it today, Rapunzel?

RAPUNZEL I want it really short.

HAIRDRESSER Ooh! That's a big change! Are you sure?

RAPUNZEL I'm sure.

HAIRDRESSER Well, so long as you're sure. I mean, it's a big decision, isn't it, when you've had it really long like you have.

RAPUNZEL I know. I've been thinking about it for a while though and I've made my mind up. Take it all off!

HAIRDRESSER What? All of it?

RAPUNZEL All of it!

HAIRDRESSER Well, it's your choice, Rapunzel. But if I can just make a suggestion.

RAPUNZEL Go on.

HAIRDRESSER What I sometimes suggest to clients who want to do something different is to do it in stages. You know. Not all at once.

RAPUNZEL Well...

HAIRDRESSER Don't get me wrong, Rapunzel. I'm not trying to get you to change your mind. It's your choice entirely. Only it is a bit drastic, isn't it? Going from really really long to really really short.

RAPUNZEL Well...

HAIRDRESSER The thing is, I've known clients do something like that and then burst into tears when they see themselves in the mirror.

RAPUNZEL I won't do that.

HAIRDRESSER You say that now, Rapunzel, but can you be sure? All I'm saying is take it one step at a time. Short enough for you to see the difference, but not so short that if you change your mind it'll soon grow back. Do you see what I'm saying?

RAPUNZEL I see what you're saying, yes, but...

HAIRDRESSER Just a little bit short to begin with, not...