

HOW'S YOUR HEART?

by Dawn E. Conroy



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How's Your Heart?

A comedy in one act

by Dawn E. Conroy

*This play is dedicated to the Painter Players
of Trinity United Methodist Church,
Brackenridge, Pennsylvania.*

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Interviewer

Heavy Heart

Faint Heart

Broken Heart

Cold Heart

Jarvic 7 Heart

True Heart

PRODUCTION NOTES

This is a lighthearted look at who we are deep down. The premise is a woman replacing every imaginable part of her body to make herself perfect. The only thing left to replace is her heart. She interviews the various “hearts” that we find in the world today.

If you need to double up on the parts, it is possible to perform this play using only four people: the Interviewer plus a second person playing Heavy Heart and Cold Heart, a third person playing Faint Heart and Jarvic 7 Heart, and a fourth person playing Broken Heart and True Heart.

This play was originally written and produced for a church women’s group using an all-female cast. However, it may also be used as entertainment at a Valentine’s Day banquet, with the cast made up of both men and women.

COSTUMES and PROPS: Interviewer may be costumed with a neck brace, crutches, a sling, etc., to look as though she’s had surgery done head to toe. Each character wears or carries something indicative of her character’s heart. In addition, each one could wear a heart large enough to be seen by the audience that is decorated differently to carry out the theme. Heavy Heart should wear chains and may also wear a heart that looks metallic (e.g., covered with aluminum foil). Faint Heart carries smelling salts and a small notebook and pen and may wear a light pink heart. Broken Heart carries a box of tissues and may wear a heart that is jaggedly cut in two pieces. Cold Heart wears winter apparel — coat, scarf, hat, mittens or gloves, etc. She may wear a white or frosted-looking heart, or possibly one with icicles hanging from it. Jarvic 7 Heart may wear jumper cables and a battery and have other assorted mechanisms affixed. She may wear a heart with wires coming out of it. True heart needs a genuine smile, a paper “application,” and possibly a nice bright red heart.

SET: Two chairs facing each other at a slight angle.

1 *(INTERVIEWER enters with all the trappings of someone*
 2 *who has had replacement surgery on every imaginable human*
 3 *part.)*

4 **INTERVIEWER:** *(To the audience)* Phew! This is hard work.
 5 It's taken a lot of time, but I finally completed just
 6 about everything I wanted to do to my body to make it
 7 perfect. My spinal cord has been replaced, which will
 8 definitely make me more upstanding. I've had new legs
 9 attached to help me walk the straight and narrow path
 10 better. I got a hip replacement, so that I might turn
 11 over a new leaf in my living. These new elbows will
 12 give me the opportunity to reach out to others more. I
 13 even got a face-lift to rid me of all my frowns! There's
 14 only one thing left to replace to make me perfect — and
 15 that's my heart. I was told I could interview the hearts
 16 that are available and pick the one I want. Let's see ...
 17 I believe the first heart is here. Come in!

18 **HEAVY HEART:** *(Enters carrying chains that are huge and*
 19 *walking laboriously.)* Ugh! *(Can't catch breath. Groans,*
 20 *moans, and plops down in chair with great effort.*
 21 *INTERVIEWER also sits.)* I made it! Boy, am I tired. It's
 22 tough carrying this around all day.

23 **INTERVIEWER:** I bet it is. But I don't understand what it's
 24 for and why you do it.

25 **HEAVY HEART:** Oh, well, I'm a heavy heart. I carry around
 26 all the burdens of the world. You got any worries or
 27 concerns?

28 **INTERVIEWER:** Well, as a matter of fact, I *am* concerned
 29 about my family, and my job is really stressing me out
 30 right now.

31 **HEAVY HEART:** No problem. *(Pulls out more links of the*
 32 *chain.)* I'll just add that to everything else I'm lugging
 33 around. I'll put yours with this one. *(Shows chain.)* It's
 34 from the lady I just met in the waiting room. She told
 35 me about her husband leaving her, and then there was

1 the paperboy who doesn't do well in school, and the
2 bagger at the grocery store who needs new glasses.
3 INTERVIEWER: Wait a minute. You mean to tell me you
4 pray for these people you don't even know?
5 HEAVY HEART: Pray? Who said anything about praying? I
6 just add them to all the things I'm burdened with
7 myself. That's not to mention all the hunger in the
8 world, the earthquakes and tornadoes, the homeless
9 people, the rising crime rate ... *(With the mention of each*
10 *issue, HEAVY HEART sinks deeper into the chair under the*
11 *weight of these burdens.)*
12 INTERVIEWER: But it seems to me that your heart would
13 be much lighter if you gave your burdens to God.
14 HEAVY HEART: *(Holds chains closer.)* Hey, these are mine!
15 Let him get his own.
16 INTERVIEWER: Hmmm ... I see. Well, thank you for
17 coming. I'll get back to you if I'm interested.
18 HEAVY HEART: All right. *(Rises and painfully leaves the stage,*
19 *muttering.)* Oh, I hope there's no one on the elevator
20 who has a problem. My back is killing me!
21 INTERVIEWER: Well, that was interesting. Next! *(FAINT*
22 *HEART, holding smelling salts, peeks around the curtain,*
23 *very fearful.)* Yes? Come on out. There's nothing to be
24 afraid of.
25 FAINT HEART: Are you sure? I get so nervous when I talk
26 to people.
27 INTERVIEWER: You do? Why is that?
28 FAINT HEART: Why, I'm Faint Heart. I'm scared of
29 everything.
30 INTERVIEWER: Well, there's nothing wrong with being
31 cautious. You can never be too careful in this day and
32 age. *(FAINT HEART gingerly sits.)* How do you feel
33 about serving others?
34 FAINT HEART: Serving others what?
35 INTERVIEWER: You misunderstood. How do you feel about

1 doing things for other people? You know, like missions.
 2 **FAINT HEART:** You mean getting involved? You mean like
 3 talking to others? You mean like going out and serving
 4 on a committee? You mean like leaving home and
 5 helping someone else? Ohhhh ... where are my smelling
 6 salts? (*About to faint, lifts smelling salts to nose.*) I'm going
 7 — I'm going fast!

8 **INTERVIEWER:** There, there. Please calm down. I didn't
 9 mean to upset you.

10 **FAINT HEART:** You had me going there for a while. I
 11 thought you were serious. You know, (*Looking around*
 12 *slyly*) about getting out and actually doing something.

13 **INTERVIEWER:** But I *was* serious. I mean, really — how do
 14 you expect to serve the Lord if you won't get involved?
 15 You wouldn't be so fainthearted if you experienced the
 16 joy of serving others. You would gain confidence and
 17 assurance. So what do you think? Want to give it a try?

18 **FAINT HEART:** I tell you what ... I'll think about serving
 19 others. You can put my name down on the list. Don't
 20 call me, though — I'll call you. (*Starts to exit and then, to*
 21 *the audience*) Phew! That was a close call. (*Nervous*) Oh,
 22 my ... oh my!

23 **INTERVIEWER:** Oh my is right! Where *do* they get these
 24 applicants? Surely there's a heart out there somewhere
 25 for me. Next! (*Out comes BROKEN HEART, holding a box*
 26 *of tissues and small notebook and pen. She's sobbing into a*
 27 *tissue or hanky.*)

28 **BROKEN HEART:** (*Cries, sniffles, etc.*) Is this the place that's
 29 looking for a heart?

30 **INTERVIEWER:** Yes, yes it is. But, my dear, you seem very
 31 upset. Is something wrong?

32 **BROKEN HEART:** Why, of course there's something wrong.
 33 I'm Broken Heart. (*More sniffing*)

34 **INTERVIEWER:** (*To the audience*) Oh no, not another one!
 35 (*To BROKEN HEART*) What seems to be the matter?

- 1 **BROKEN HEART:** *(Sits.)* Matter? The matter?! Why,
2 everything is the matter! Everyone I've ever known has
3 broken my heart.
- 4 **INTERVIEWER:** *(Laughing)* Oh, I think that's a bit of an
5 exaggeration. Surely not everyone!
- 6 **BROKEN HEART:** What's your name?
- 7 **INTERVIEWER:** Uh, Sandy. Why? *(Any name will work as*
8 *long as it has an alternate spelling.)*
- 9 **BROKEN HEART:** Just wanted to add your name to my list
10 of heartbreakers.
- 11 **INTERVIEWER:** Oh, come on. I didn't do anything to you
12 but merely point out the fact that —
- 13 **BROKEN HEART:** It's OK. No need to explain. I'm used to
14 it. My parents broke my heart when I was little by not
15 getting me a dog. My so-called "friends" would never
16 let me join in playing their games. The boy I had a
17 crush on took someone else to the prom. My college
18 roommate never had time for me.
- 19 **INTERVIEWER:** Don't you think you're being a bit hard on
20 these people? I mean, really.
- 21 **BROKEN HEART:** *(Writing in notebook)* Do you spell your
22 name with a y or an i-e?
- 23 **INTERVIEWER:** *(Exasperated)* I'm sorry. Please continue.
- 24 **BROKEN HEART:** Let's see, where was I? Oh, yeah. And
25 then I got married. Well, you know where that led. My
26 husband never thought about my feelings. He was
27 always doing things to break my heart, and then one
28 day he took the garbage out and never came back. And
29 my kids? They break my heart every day! They never
30 say "thank you" or "I'm sorry." They don't do their
31 homework, and they don't help around the house. Not
32 one of them has even *thought* about becoming a doctor.
33 Talk about breaking a mother's heart!
- 34 **INTERVIEWER:** I see, but —
- 35 **BROKEN HEART:** And my friends. Ha! Do they ever call to

1 check up on me or ask me to go places with them? And
 2 then there's the church! I go to the (*Makes quote marks*
 3 *with fingers*) "church with the warm heart." Yeah, right!
 4 They are always thinking of others, but never of me.
 5 They didn't like my idea for the Christmas cantata, and
 6 then they had the nerve to use someone else's idea! I
 7 didn't think there was anything wrong with having the
 8 director suspended from the ceiling like an angel while
 9 she directed the choir. But noooo. Boo hoo! All my life
 10 people have broken my heart.

11 INTERVIEWER: God heals broken hearts. Have you gone to
 12 him and asked for patience and strength to endure
 13 heartache and disappointment?

14 BROKEN HEART: What?! And add another one to my list?
 15 No way!

16 INTERVIEWER: Well, unless you let God in, I don't think
 17 there's anything that anyone can do or say that will
 18 help you.

19 BROKEN HEART: I've obviously come to the wrong place.
 20 Good-bye.

21 INTERVIEWER: Oh, please don't leave mad.

22 BROKEN HEART: (*Exiting with tissue box*) That's OK. I'm
 23 used to it. (*Muttering while going Off-stage*) I'm used to
 24 disappointments. My whole life is a big soap opera ...

25 INTERVIEWER: (*Hand to head*) I can't take much more of
 26 this. Surely there is a heart out there somewhere that
 27 isn't crying or timid or worried about everybody and
 28 his brother.

29 COLD HEART: (*Enters bundled in a coat, very determined.*) I
 30 believe you're ready for me. (*Sits.*)

31 INTERVIEWER: I am?

32 COLD HEART: You bet, sister! No sniveling, teary-eyed sob
 33 story from me. You want a heart, you got one. I'll beat
 34 forty-five times a minute without fail. Want to run a
 35 race? I guess I'll pump a little faster. Take a nap? No

1 problem — I'll slow down. (*Shivers.*) Gee, is it cold in
2 here!

3 INTERVIEWER: Oh, this is great! Finally, a heart willing to
4 do its work. Now, I do have a few questions to ask.

5 COLD HEART: Fire away. Can't they turn the heat up?

6 INTERVIEWER: I hadn't noticed it being cold. Anyway,
7 let's say there's someone who needs help. What would
8 you do?

9 COLD HEART: They got family?

10 INTERVIEWER: Uh, probably.

11 COLD HEART: Then it's not my problem.

12 INTERVIEWER: Oh, I see what you mean. No, there are no
13 family members or even close friends. You're the only
14 one who could help this person.

15 COLD HEART: I got my own problems. It's sink or swim in
16 this world. Brrrr ...

17 INTERVIEWER: (*Confused*) I don't believe I caught your
18 name.

19 COLD HEART: Cold Heart. Now, give me another one of
20 those questions.

21 INTERVIEWER: Well, OK. The church is in need of
22 someone to give of her time for volunteer work. You
23 know, maybe in the office, or planning a dinner, or
24 teaching a Sunday school class. Would you feel
25 comfortable doing this?

26 COLD HEART: Doing what?

27 INTERVIEWER: Volunteering. Helping out. Giving of
28 yourself.

29 COLD HEART: Me?! You've got to be kidding. I'm not one
30 of those bleeding hearts. I look out for number one,
31 (*Points to self*) and you would be lucky to have me as
32 your heart. So what do you think? Is it a deal?

33 INTERVIEWER: I don't know. What about your
34 relationship with God? Can you tell me how he's
35 changed your life?

1 COLD HEART: God? There's no room in this heart for God.
 2 I've got a hard enough time keeping myself warm, let
 3 alone worrying about what *he* wants. I do just fine
 4 without him. (*Trying to get warm*) Boy, I wish they'd pay
 5 their gas bill in this place!

6 INTERVIEWER: Well, I think I've heard enough. I'll be in
 7 touch.

8 COLD HEART: Better hurry. There are a lot of people out
 9 there who would love to have a heart like mine. No
 10 guilt, no concerns, just *me, me me!*

11 INTERVIEWER: Yes, well, thanks for coming.

12 COLD HEART: (*Exiting*) I think I'll go find a nice hot cup of
 13 coffee. Maybe I can find some homeless people and
 14 take theirs.

15 INTERVIEWER: There are only two candidates left. Oh,
 16 please let this be one I might use. (*JARVIC 7 enters with*
 17 *hardware and jumper cables affixed.*) Hello. My, aren't you
 18 carrying quite a contraption!

19 JARVIC 7: Yes. I have to go everywhere with them, but you
 20 get used to it.

21 INTERVIEWER: You don't look like the other hearts. What
 22 is your name?

23 JARVIC 7: I'm Jarvic 7. I'm an artificial heart. (*Sits.*)

24 INTERVIEWER: Wow! How do you manage? I mean, are
 25 there any problems or complications?

26 JARVIC 7: I'm just like a real heart. I can do everything
 27 those other hearts can do. I pump and beat. I can even
 28 murmur, if that's what you want.

29 INTERVIEWER: Well, that's all important, of course, but
 30 what about your emotions? Can you be happy?

31 JARVIC 7: (*Obvious fake smile*) Why, of course I can be
 32 happy. See?

33 INTERVIEWER: Do you show concern?

34 JARVIC 7: (*Patting INTERVIEWER's hand*) Yes, yes. I can
 35 show plenty of concern.

1 **INTERVIEWER:** Sadness and despair?
2 **JARVIC 7:** Oh, I can show all kinds of emotions. (*Sobs and*
3 *makes various sad expressions, but the display of emotions*
4 *causes JARVIC 7 to lose its charge and shut down.*)
5 **INTERVIEWER:** Oh, my! What should I do? (*JARVIC 7 points*
6 *weakly to jumper cables, and INTERVIEWER zaps battery*
7 *with a charge.*)
8 **JARVIC 7:** Phew, that was a close one! Anyway, how did I
9 do? Did you notice the real tears?
10 **INTERVIEWER:** Uh-huh. But what about love? Can you care
11 for others?
12 **JARVIC 7:** (*In a highly caring tone*) My dear, I've been so
13 worried about you and all of your surgeries. Have you
14 been managing well? How's the family? Is there anything
15 I can do? (*Switches tone.*) There. How was that? Sweet
16 enough? Sometimes I get too sugary.
17 **INTERVIEWER:** You didn't mean it?
18 **JARVIC 7:** Of course not. I'm an artificial heart. All my
19 emotions are there. They just aren't real. Who would
20 know?
21 **INTERVIEWER:** I would! God would!
22 **JARVIC 7:** There are a lot of phony Christians out there, and
23 they supposedly have real hearts. You won't be noticed.
24 **INTERVIEWER:** I don't think so. Besides, I don't think I
25 could carry that contraption around all the time.
26 **JARVIC 7:** It's up to you. Just remember, with me there is no
27 broken heart, no faint heart, no heavy heart, and you'll
28 laugh and cry so no one will accuse you of being a cold
29 heart. I'm even made in the U.S.A.
30 **INTERVIEWER:** But I want to be real!
31 **JARVIC 7:** Suit yourself. There is a waiting list for me. A lot
32 of politicians just want a beating heart. And I know a few
33 TV evangelists who would think my artificial qualities
34 were a real plus. Time for me to get a tune-up anyway.
35 (*Exits.*)



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