



Cedric & Sibyl's Tale

A Cautionary tale
(also available as part of Perilous Tales)
by
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Sibyl & Cedric's Tale

Notes:

This sketch was written as part of a series of 4 sketches called 'Perilous Tales'. They are all available on the Offbeat Theatre website individually or as part of the Perilous Tales one act show (which includes linking dialogue).

Originally they were all designed to be played by an ensemble cast, so you can use 8 people or more – up to you. Eight characters have lines in this sketch but you could split the narrator if you wished.

Narrator

Sibyl: Small minded, suspicious & manic. Married & devoted to Cedric.

Cedric: Small minded, suspicious & manic. Married & devoted to Sibyl.

Man, Girl, Woman, Boy, 2nd Woman

Others characters surrounding them

Narr: This is a rather sad tale about the perils of too much happiness
Cedric and Sibyl were a very lucky couple who were so devoted and glued together that they hardly knew that the world existed beyond their noses...

A murmuring of approval from the company

Ah, you like that?

How cosy, you're thinking

How very romantic

Fools!

Watch ... see what befalls those who cannot bend with the winds of change

Sibyl and Cedric take CS.

Our tale begins as Cedric and Sibyl make an extraordinary discovery

Sibyl: Life is good Cedric. Everything is as it should be. Everything is just fine.

Cedric: We must strive to maintain this excellent state of affairs, Sibyl my angel.

Sibyl: Indeed we must, Cedric my sweet.

Narr: And months passed and our happy couple were occupied with attempting to remain exactly the same for fear that a change to their circumstances might dissolve their happiness

Cedric: Is everything still the same Sibyl. Has anything changed?

Sibyl: Changed? Of course not. Who would do such a thing?

Cedric: We must strive not to change anything

Sibyl: Were we striving before?

Cedric: Before what?

Sibyl: Before we decided not to change anything

Cedric: *(A flash of panic crosses Cedric's face as he thinks)* I ... I have always striven to maintain our happiness my love

Sibyl: Yes, I'm fairly sure I was striving as well

Cedric: Then all is well and we should continue to strive

Sibyl: Well, now we've started it would be foolish to stop.

Man: *(Walks up casually)* I say, do you happen to have the time?

Cedric: Time? You're after the time are you ... is that all?

Sibyl: What sort of time are you after? Do you want our time or have you misplaced your own?

Man: I just thought you might have the time

Cedric: We have our own time, but not enough to share

Sibyl: Find your own, ours is a very special time and we're not giving it away

Man: Well, I'm sorry to have wasted it, good day *(walks off)*

Girl: *(As they watch the man depart a girl approaches from the other side)* Excuse me. I wonder if you would care to give something to the local Orphanage to help the children towards a better happier life

Sibyl: *(Surprised)* Oh! Well that was a bit sneaky. Creeping up and surprising innocent people like that

Cedric: And what is it that you think we can give

Girl: Well, I just thought you might like to share some of your good fortune with others

Sibyl: Certainly not!

Cedric: Here, take some money instead and be on your way!

They thrust money at her & she wanders away confused

Woman: *(wanders by)* Could you tell me....

C&S: NO!

People are generally wandering around in close proximity to Cedric & Sibyl. Gradually people get closer & C&S are more intimidated

Cedric: Nothing must intrude on our happiness

Sibyl: Nothing and nobody Cedric my sugar

Cedric: We'll keep them away

Sibyl: We will not let anyone ruin our happiness

Cedric: We'll stop them even trying

Sibyl: They won't even get close

Narr: And weeks passed and fear grew in their hearts

They are getting more agitated by the people around

Cedric: *(to a passing man)* You Sir, *(he turns)* yes you. Keep away from us, I know what you're thinking ... you don't fool me

Sibyl: Cedric - look at that woman, what is she planning to do

Cedric: *(Watching the man depart)* What are the symptoms my dearest

Sibyl: *(Looking at a woman who is smiling at her)* She's looking at us my darling... I don't think she likes me

Cedric: These people are jealous of our wonderful happiness and our carefree existence. Avert your eyes Sibyl, don't get sucked in, she's probably a witch

Sibyl: A witch! What can we do oh no ... look over there *(other people passing by, some in a small group talking)*

Cedric: We're surrounded stay calm

Sibyl: *(Shrieking)* I'm perfectly calm Cedric do something!

Cedric: Perhaps we can negotiate

Sibyl: With witches? They'll take what is most precious to us

Woman: *(Coming over to them)* I say, are you folks alright? You look a little worried.

Sibyl: *(She screams)* Cedric. She spoke to us..... are we under a spell?

Cedric: *(Transfixed in fear)* Errrrrr.... what I ummmmmmm

Sibyl: Cedric! RUN!

Narr: And they ran
And they reached their home
They locked the door
They drew the curtains
And they lived in terrible fear
That one day something might change
And their happiness
Would be lost or stolen
Or turned into something else

Sibyl and Cedric go to bed, they don't sleep but look around, wide-eyed and fearful until morning. They speak & act in a nervous and suspicious manner

Sibyl: Good morning my dear

Cedric: Good morning my dear

Sibyl: Shall we stay in and keep the windows shut my sweet?

Cedric: That is exactly what we shall do today my love

Sibyl: We could lock the front door

Cedric: You mean it isn't already locked?

Sibyl: Oh, silly me, of course it is *(laughs nervously)*

Cedric: *(laughs with her)* And what about the garden gate, it is locked and barred ... isn't it sugar..?

Sibyl: Of course it is! Why, if it wasn't someone might gain entry to our garden

Cedric: Walk down the path

Sibyl: And

Cedric: Knock on the door

S&C: Nooooooooooooo

Narr: But guess what?
The hinges on the gate were rusty
That happens if standing by your gate
Oiling your hinges
Strikes fear into you
Lest you should be approached by a neighbour
And the gate fell off *(Loud crashing sound)*
And the path to Sibyl and Cedric's front door
Was exposed to all

Sibyl: What was that noise?

Cedric: It came from out there

Sibyl: You mean:

Cedric: Yes

Sibyl: What?

Cedric: Exactly

Sibyl: It's gone quiet again

Cedric: Phew!

Narr: But then

A lad comes rushing to their door and hammers on it.

Boy: Let me in please, help let me inplease!

Cedric & Sibyl look at each other, but don't move

I'm being chased by a pack of wild man-eating creatures with fangs and big claws and ferocious body parts ...

They stand still, eyes closed, fingers in ears, pretending not to be there

I know you're in there. I can see you. It's coming ... I'm going to ...dieeeeeeeee....

Completely over-the-top sounds of a wild animal - inflatable monster of some sort - or puppet - devouring the boy, then silence

Sibyl: *(Long pause as they listen at the door)* Has he departed?

Cedric: It would seem so