

A Matter of Sole
by Phillip W. Weiss

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Characters

Steve Le Frank

Steve's left foot

Steve's right foot

Dr. Martha Kinsabi

A security officer

A police officer

Truth is in your sole.

Synopsis: two soles are fighting for control of a man who's on the path to destruction.

Scene 1

Time: The Present

Place: A street in Midtown Manhattan

A man named Steve is walking on the street. He is by himself. He is having a conversation with his right foot. (Note: the man is projecting his thoughts onto his foot. Hence, he is actually talking to himself, but believes that he and his foot are conversing.)

RIGHT FOOT

Walking to church again, eh?

STEVE

That's right. I've been doing this every Sunday for the past ten years.

RIGHT FOOT

Yeah, that's right. Meanwhile have you ever thought about what all that walking is doing to me.

STEVE

Don't worry, pal. You let me know every day. All those aches and pains of yours are hard to ignore.

RIGHT FOOT

If that's true, then why are you so hard on me?

STEVE

I'm not hard on you. You're my foot. That's your job.

RIGHT FOOT

I don't like being taken for granted.

STEVE

Who's taking you for granted?

RIGHT FOOT

You! That's who. Who else would I be talking about?

STEVE

Hey, there's no need to get so snippety.

Steve trips over a defect in the sidewalk stubbing his right foot.

RIGHT FOOT

Ouch! Watch where you're walking, man. That hurt!

STEVE

Well, if you'd stop making such a fuss and leave me be, maybe these things wouldn't happen.

RIGHT FOOT

How can they not happen in this crummy, crappy city?

STEVE

Don't blame me for the condition of the sidewalks. I don't run this town.

RIGHT FOOT

Who said you do?

STEVE

Look, I hate this place too, but this is where I was born and this is where I will die.

RIGHT FOOT

Boy, that's comforting to know.

STEVE

What do you want from me? It's enough that I'm even able to function.

RIGHT FOOT

With my help. But you don't care. You take me for granted.

STEVE

No, I do not, and I'd wish you stop saying such things.

RIGHT FOOT

You're so self-centered. No wonder you're alone.

STEVE

That's right, mock me. Just like everyone else does.

RIGHT FOOT

You used to have a lot a friends.

STEVE

That was in the past.

RIGHT FOOT

But even then you didn't treat me right.

STEVE

I gave you all the care you needed.

RIGHT FOOT

No, you didn't. Because of you I was in constant pain.

STEVE

And because of you my feet were always hurting me. You never hear your left foot complaining.

RIGHT FOOT

That's because he's stupid.

The Left Foot enters.

LEFT FOOT

Who you calling stupid, stupid?

RIGHT FOOT

You, that's who.

LEFT FOOT

Keep your mouth shut or I'll give such a kick that you won't know what hit you.

STEVE

C'mon guys, can that talk. I can't afford to have you two arguing, not while I have stuff to do.

LEFT FOOT

Well, he started it.

RIGHT FOOT

Did not!

LEFT FOOT

Did too!

RIGHT FOOT

I get blamed for everything.

LEFT FOOT

That's because you're always breaking down. I never break down.

RIGHT FOOT

That's because our master, our genius here, treats you better. He likes you more because he's a lefty.

STEVE

I do not play favorites.

RIGHT FOOT

Yes, you do. You've always favored him over me. I can't help being on the right side of your body.

LEFT FOOT

Always playing the victim, anything to get an edge on me.

RIGHT FOOT

You are so full of it.

STEVE

I need you guys to work together.

RIGHT FOOT

Why? So you can go to church and listen to all that religious prattle that you don't even believe in? How sick is that?

STEVE

Don't questions my motives.

RIGHT FOOT

I have to because I'm the one who has to work to get you there.

LEFT FOOT

That's right, take all the credit. You're so selfish.

RIGHT FOOT

I deserve all the credit. Ever since your toe was bashed, I've had to bear all the weight.

LEFT FOOT

That was an unfortunate accident, and you know it.

RIGHT FOOT

Unfortunate? No way. You set it up so you could kick back and relax while I do all the work.

LEFT FOOT

Are you listening to yourself?

RIGHT FOOT

No, the question is: are you listening to me? I'm on to you.

LEFT FOOT

My big toe got jammed. These things happen.

STEVE

And it hurt like hell. I was limping for two weeks.

RIGHT FOOT

With me having to support all your weight, and without even getting a thank you.

LEFT FOOT

I'd do the same for you.

RIGHT FOOT

I doubt that that. You're too nasty.

LEFT FOOT

I hate when you start with the name calling. It's so low.

RIGHT FOOT

You deserve it. At the podiatrist's office you got all the attention while I got nothing. NOTHING! Damn it! It's not fair.

LEFT FOOT

What did you expect? My big toe was injured! It needed treatment.

STEVE

Hey, guys, we're almost at the church.

RIGHT FOOT

Now we got to climb up the steps. I hate that. Why can't you go to a church that doesn't have stairs?

STEVE

Because this church is a special place.

RIGHT FOOT

What are you talking about? A church is a church.

STEVE

But this is the main church for the whole city.

RIGHT FOOT

So what? This church stuff means nothing to you. You're not even Christian.

STEVE

That doesn't matter.

RIGHT FOOT

How can it not matter?

LEFT FOOT

Complaining again.

RIGHT FOOT

I hate phonies.

STEVE

I'm not being a phony.

RIGHT FOOT

Yes, you are. You come here because you have nothing better to do.

LEFT FOOT

If coming here makes you happy, that's good enough for me.

RIGHT FOOT

Then how come you always leave this place looking miserable? It's just a bunch of hot air to you, and you know it. Admit it. For once be honest with yourself.

LEFT FOOT

It's not just a bunch of hot air. It's beautiful and I love it.

RIGHT FOOT

What beauty? It's all window dressing, cheap entertainment to keep the audience from leaving. And because of you I have to endure all that muck, and get stepped on in the process.

STEVE

I come here, listen to the sermons, sing the hymns. What's wrong with that?

RIGHT FOOT

What's wrong is that with you it's just an act. I could understand walking a mile and half to this place to try to pick up girls, but no, you have to act like you take this stuff seriously, which means getting me out of bed for nothing.

LEFT FOOT

You are so wrong.

RIGHT FOOT

And you are so dumb.

STEVE

I didn't know going to church was something so terrible.

RIGHT FOOT

Now you know. At least come on to the cuties. They're waiting for you. I love watching them pray, begging for forgiveness for all the dirty stuff they did to their boyfriends during the week.

LEFT FOOT

How can you think such repulsive thoughts?

RIGHT FOOT

Easily. And don't tell me you don't notice them either.

LEFT FOOT

I have better things to do.

RIGHT FOOT

Liar. I've seen you leering at them, you dirty pervert.

STEVE

I don't go around trying to pick up girls.

LEFT FOOT

That's right. You're finished with that kind of stuff.

RIGHT FOOT

No way. He's been hitting on women all his life and now he's stopped?
Give me a break.

LEFT FOOT

I can't even begin to imagine the kind of filth that must be swirling inside
that brain of yours.

RIGHT FOOT

On, stop sounding like such a self-righteous dick head, okay? You only live
once.

VOICE (*off stage*) – Will you shut up?

STEVE

The church teaches that there is life after death.

RIGHT FOOT

So what are you waiting for? Kill yourself now and find out for yourself.

LEFT FOOT

Whoa! What are you saying? I'm not ready to die.

RIGHT FOOT

I want him to live too. It's the church that telling him to die.

LEFT FOOT

No, the church wants him to live too, for eternity.

RIGHT FOOT

You got to be kidding. When you're dead, you're dead. Let's go home.

LEFT FOOT

No way. We're here to get saved.

RIGHT FOOT

No. We're here to waste time and watch Stevie make a fool of himself.

LEFT FOOT

Talk for yourself.

RIGHT FOOT

You're such a jerk.

STEVE

My foot is starting to hurt again.

LEFT FOOT

You're so spiteful.

RIGHT FOOT

Oh, shut up!

LEFT FOOT

You like to dish it out but can't take it.

RIGHT FOOT

You smug asinine jerk. You got an answer for everything.

LEFT FOOT

That's right. You said it.

RIGHT FOOT

So you agree that you're a smug asinine jerk?

LEFT FOOT

No. That I have answer for everything.

RIGHT FOOT

He who knows everything knows nothing.

LEFT FOOT

Where'd you pick that up from? There's no way you could have thought that up yourself.

STEVE

Guys, stop it. We're at the stairs.

RIGHT FOOT

Oh, no! Not the stairs. I'm aching all over already. Please, let's leave now!

LEFT FOOT

Stop your whining, fool.

RIGHT FOOT

Here he goes again, bearing down on me. You are so useless.

LEFT FOOT

He can't help it. I'm still recuperating. So you got to bear the load.

RIGHT FOOT

There's nothing wrong with you, you damn malingerer. That rock just glanced off you.

LEFT FOOT

I was hurt.

RIGHT FOOT

No you weren't. You just want to give me a hard time.

LEFT FOOT

Don't complain to me, complain to him.

STEVE

I don't want to hear any more complaining. I need you guys to stop giving me trouble and work as a team.

RIGHT FOOT

If you'd treat us right, we wouldn't give you any trouble.

LEFT FOOT

Speak for yourself, mister. I'm feeling just fine.

RIGHT FOOT

Well I'm not. Steve: why do I always have to wear a sock with the hole in it? Can't you buy a new pair of socks?

STEVE

Why? My socks are just fine.

RIGHT FOOT

But they're so worn out. It's embarrassing.

STEVE

A small hole in a sock is nothing.

RIGHT FOOT

It becomes something when you have to wear it. The chaffing is unbearable. I can't stand it anymore. Buy a new pair of socks already.

LEFT FOOT

Stop the theatrics. We've heard this complaint a thousand times already.

RIGHT FOOT

Stop minimizing my problems, okay?

LEFT FOOT

Such a prima donna.

RIGHT FOOT

Listen. I'm warning you. You're starting to push my buttons.

LEFT FOOT

On, blow it out your hole, you stupid windbag.

STEVE

Let's cool it, guys. We just made it up the stairs.

RIGHT FOOT

No thanks to you.

STEVE

Why do I have to thank you for doing your job? You're a foot. You're supposed to convey me places.

RIGHT FOOT

I hate being taken for granted.

STEVE

Nobody's taking you for granted.

RIGHT FOOT

Like hell you're not. The only time you ever pay me attention is when I start complaining.

STEVE

That's when I start feeling pain.

RIGHT FOOT

It's the only way I can get you to listen to me. Like when you were in the army. You didn't care a rut about me. Then I got those horrible callouses. They hurt like hell.

STEVE

That was the army. I couldn't help it.

RIGHT FOOT

That's bees wax. You didn't need to join the army.

LEFT FOOT

He was doing his patriotic duty.

RIGHT FOOT

At my expense. Those cheap army boots turned my beautiful toes into mush. I hated it.

LEFT FOOT

Hey, pal, I was there too, remember? I never complained.

RIGHT FOOT

That's because he took care of you. He's always liked you better. With you he wore an inner lining. With me, nothing! He made that shoe into a torture chamber. I hated it.

LEFT FOOT

You know I was prone to athlete's foot.

RIGHT FOOT

That was no reason for him to ignore me.

STEVE

You have no cause to complain. I've always taken good care of you ... both of you.

RIGHT FOOT

More bees wax! You know my arches are collapsing, yet you do nothing. I'm amazed that I can even walk ten feet.

STEVE

Didn't I give you arch supports?

RIGHT FOOT

They bent me into a pretzel. You're lucky I didn't break a bone.

STEVE

What do you want me to do? Go bare foot?

RIGHT FOOT

Don't you dare say that, you hear!

STEVE

Stop panicking. We're just talking.

RIGHT FOOT

I remember when you were a kid you'd be running around bare foot all the time, and the pain was so intense, that I thought I would lose my mind.

LEFT FOOT

That explains why you're such a fruit cake now.

STEVE

What's going on here? You both ganging up on me?

RIGHT FOOT

You keep talking that way and I'm going to kick your butt.

LEFT FOOT

Don't blame me for being a clod.

RIGHT FOOT

Your smugness infuriates me.

LEFT FOOT

We're back to that again.

RIGHT FOOT

It's been that way since day one. You got it good while I suffer.

STEVE

Look, I don't play favorites. I didn't see the nail. Blame the city, not me.

RIGHT FOOT

But why did you step on the nail with me? Why not him?

STEVE

I was eight years old.

RIGHT FOOT

That's no excuse. Your mother kept telling you to stop taking off your shoes, and you never listened. And because of that, I paid the price.

STEVE

I was a kid.

RIGHT FOOT

You were so obnoxious as a child. Always running, jumping, doing stuff just to aggravate me.

STEVE

I was normal kid who liked to go outside and play with his friends.

LEFT FOOT

That's right. You were a good kid.

RIGHT FOOT

That's easy for you to say. You never got hurt.

LEFT FOOT

Not true. Remember the time I almost broke my little toe?

RIGHT FOOT

That was nothing. Just a little bruise.

LEFT FOOT

Well, it hurt, and nobody did anything about it.

STEVE

There was nothing to do.

LEFT FOOT

You see! Nothing to do! You didn't hear me complaining.

RIGHT FOOT

That's because you're a brown-nosing suck up.

LEFT FOOT

Nor did I complain while you were getting all that tender loving care.

RIGHT FOOT

Tender loving care! Nothing! I was in excruciating pain. I wasn't being pampered. I was being prepped for further abuse.

STEVE

I never bore you any malice.

RIGHT FOOT

I had a nail go right through me and you didn't bear any malice? Bull! You were gloating like there was no tomorrow.

STEVE

No, my friend, I have always loved you.

RIGHT FOOT

No. You have always loved him.

LEFT FOOT

That's because I'm lovable while you're not.

RIGHT FOOT

Wrong. Steve's mother loved me. She used to caress me when Steve was asleep.

LEFT FOOT

But never me. Just you. I resented that.

RIGHT FOOT

I was recovering from the nail. Remember?

LEFT FOOT

But I deserved special treatment too.

RIGHT FOOT

I tell you what: let's have Steve step you on a nail and see how you like it.

LEFT FOOT

That's so cruel.

STEVE

I would never deliberately want to hurt either one of you.

RIGHT FOOT

Why do I suddenly feel so exhausted?

STEVE

We finally made it to the entrance to the church.

Is it crowded?

LEFT FOOT

Packed.

STEVE

RIGHT FOOT

Why do you always go to this church when it's crowded? Every time we go there people step on me. I hate that! It hurts!

And me too.

LEFT FOOT

VOICE (*off-stage*): Hey buddy, who're you talking to?

RIGHT FOOT

But I get it worse because he leads with me, not you. I'm the point man. Why can't you be the point man?

You're imagining things now.

LEFT FOOT

STEVE
Please, guys, I don't want either of you to get hurt. When you get hurt I feel pain.

No! It is I who feels the pain.

RIGHT FOOT

STEVE
But don't you understand that I feel the pain too?

RIGHT FOOT
I don't believe you. How can you feel pain when it is I who takes the hits?

LEFT FOOT
Try explaining that one, maestro.

RIGHT FOOT

Oh, you be quiet. He's always more careful with you. That's why I'm the point man.

LEFT FOOT

Apparently you don't remember the when my arches collapsed while Steve was in the army.

RIGHT FOOT

You let that happen because you were lazy and let yourself get flabby.

LEFT FOOT

I was not lazy. My arches were defective.

RIGHT FOOT

They were not. You made them defective so you could goldbrick.

LEFT FOOT

That not true, and you know it. These things happen.

RIGHT FOOT

Things like that just don't happen. You just wanted to avoid work.

STEVE

I remember that. Man, were my feet hurting. The sarge thought I was faking it.

RIGHT FOOT

You were. There was nothing wrong with you.

STEVE

At sick call the doc said I had flat feet.

RIGHT FOOT

He didn't know what was wrong with you. He just wanted to get rid of you.

LEFT FOOT

The problem was real. The pain was real.

RIGHT FOOT

You just wanted to help Steve get out of the army.

LEFT FOOT

If that's true, I could have done a lot more drastic stuff.

RIGHT FOOT

But that would have required courage, something you sorely lack. Get the pun? Sorely? Pain?

LEFT FOOT

Pun? What are you talking about?

RIGHT FOOT

You're not only lazy, you're stupid too.

LEFT FOOT

More name calling. I can't talk to you.

RIGHT FOOT

Who's asking you to?

LEFT FOOT

Since when do I need your permission to talk to you?

RIGHT FOOT

Since forever, and since forever you've never failed to ignore my request.

LEFT FOOT

You will not silence me.

RIGHT FOOT

Now you're threatening me?

LEFT FOOT

You'll know it when I do it.

STEVE

Okay, enough of this bickering. I'm opening the door.

RIGHT FOOT

And as usual, I'm bearing all the weight.

LEFT FOOT

But he's pushing off on me.

VOICE (off-stage, angry): Hey you, stop pushing me!

RIGHT FOOT

But I'm the one bearing the weight, you fool.

LEFT FOOT

Already I feel tired.

RIGHT FOOT

From what? You didn't do anything?

LEFT FOOT

You're so into yourself.

RIGHT FOOT

I have to be. I'm too busy just trying to survive, no thanks to you.

LEFT FOOT

Oooh! If I could I would give you such a kick. But I'm just too nice to do that.

RIGHT FOOT

That's right. Stroke yourself. That's all you're good for.

STEVE

We got through the door. Now to security.

Security Guard enters.

SECURITY GUARD

Please open your bag.

RIGHT FOOT

He should tell that guard to keep her mitts out of his bag.

LEFT FOOT

She's just doing her job.

SECURITY GUARD

I asked you to please open your bag.

RIGHT FOOT

She's looking at him kind of funny. I don't like her at all.

STEVE

Stop it! Now!

SECURITY GUARD

Stop what?

LEFT FOOT

She's just doing her job.

RIGHT FOOT

Which is to give him a hard time.

STEVE

It's nothing personal.

SECURITY GUARD

That's right, sir, it's nothing personal, but don't make me ask you again.

RIGHT FOOT

Wow, is she bossy. I hate women who are bossy. Put her in her place, Steve.

STEVE

I don't want to do that.

SECURITY GUARD

Sir, stop wasting my time. Either open up your bag now or get lost.

LEFT FOOT

I love when a woman take control.

RIGHT FOOT

If Steve has any guts, he'd sock her in the jaw.

STEVE

Will you please shut up!

SECURITY GUARD

You telling me to shut up?

STEVE

No! No! I didn't tell you to shut up.

SECURITY GUARD

You sure did.

STEVE

See, what you made me do?

SECURITY GUARD

I didn't make you do anything.

RIGHT FOOT

Stop being a pansy and sock her in the mouth. Then she'll respect you.

LEFT FOOT

Haven't done enough already? Don't provoke her!

RIGHT FOOT

Shut up, wimp.

LEFT FOOT

Let's get inside already. I want to rest.

RIGHT FOOT

Always thinking about yourself, you sissy. You're gutless.

SECURITY GUARD

I'll give you to the count of three to open up that bag. One ... two ...

Steve opens up the bag for inspection

SECURITY GUARD

You're good. Go on in. And don't cause any trouble.

LEFT FOOT

That wasn't bad.

RIGHT FOOT

It was terrible. So demeaning and humiliating. Treated like he's a nobody. Why does a church need to search people anyway?

STEVE

Because it's a famous public place and could be a target for bad guys who want to hurt us.

RIGHT FOOT

But it's a church. It's supposed welcome people, not treat them like terrorists.

STEVE

What do want from me? You know how things are.

RIGHT FOOT

No. I don't know. I only know what you tell me, and maybe you're not getting it right.

LEFT FOOT

He is getting it right.

RIGHT FOOT

How do you know that?

LEFT FOOT

Because Steve's a good guy.

RIGHT FOOT

Some good guy. Makes us walk a mile and half to a church that he doesn't believe in, then makes us climb up a bunch of stairs, and for what? So he can sing? Let him sing in the shower.

LEFT FOOT

I don't think it's a waste. It's spiritual.

RIGHT FOOT

What are you talking about? Steve can get all the spirituality he wants just by watching a preacher on tv.

LEFT FOOT

They're just a bunch of phonies looking to exploit people for money.

RIGHT FOOT

Oh, and the church doesn't do that? Then how come every time we're here they collect money?

LEFT FOOT

That's different. That's for the upkeep of the church.

RIGHT FOOT

What is this place, a business?

STEVE

The purpose of the collection is to support a worthwhile institution.

RIGHT FOOT

That spreads propaganda.

STEVE

No, it doesn't.

RIGHT FOOT

Either you don't listen to the sermons or you're not too bright.

STEVE

I resent that.

RIGHT FOOT

Because you can't handle the truth. The purpose of this place is to regulate how people think and behave.

STEVE

No, it isn't.

RIGHT FOOT

Yes, it is. And that requires money. The church wants to stay in business too.

STEVE

It's not a business.

LEFT FOOT

I agree with Steve.

RIGHT FOOT

Two against one. No surprise there.

LEFT FOOT

But Steve is right.

RIGHT FOOT

(angry)

The church owns this huge building that's furnished with all kinds of fancy ornaments, managed by priests who look very well fed and prosperous, and you're telling me that it's not a business? Don't make me laugh.

VOICE (off-stage, yells): Hey, mac, what's your problem?

STEVE

I find your cynicism disturbing.

RIGHT FOOT

You mean my honesty.

STEVE

You're just saying all those things to upset me because you think I don't like you.

RIGHT FOOT

Well, it's the truth. Why can't you admit it?

STEVE

Because it's not true.

RIGHT FOOT

You neglect me and then want me to believe that you like me. Now you're playing me for a fool.

LEFT FOOT

Because that's exactly how you sound, you doofus.

RIGHT FOOT

I wish Steve still had that girlfriend. I loved her. She used to do such nice things to me. Of course, he screwed it up.

STEVE

I did not screw it up. She left for a better a job.

RIGHT FOOT

She left because you didn't want to marry her.

STEVE

That had nothing to do with it.

RIGHT FOOT

It had everything to do with it. Meantime she used to touch me in such delectable ways. I loved it.

LEFT FOOT

She liked me better.

RIGHT FOOT

No she didn't. She used to kiss the top of my foot and rub her tongue along the tips of my toes. It made me tingle.

LEFT FOOT

That's nothing compared to what she did to me.

RIGHT FOOT

No way. You're just jealous. I never saw her do anything to you.

LEFT FOOT

That's because you were sleeping, fool.

RIGHT FOOT

If she was doing you, I would have heard it.

LEFT FOOT

You're delirious. Let me tell you what she used to do to me. She used to cup my big toe in her hand and then suck it like it was candy. Man, did that make me hot.

RIGHT FOOT

Now I know you're fantasizing. Who in their right mind would ever want to do suck an ugly toe like yours?

LEFT FOOT

My toe is beautiful! Steve, did you hear what he said about my big toe?

STEVE

Both you guys have beautiful toes, okay?

RIGHT FOOT

Why didn't you marry her?

STEVE

I told you. Because she left.

RIGHT FOOT

Rubbish! That's because you didn't do what any decent guy would have done.

STEVE

Now, you're making it personal.

RIGHT FOOT

It is personal. It affected me.

LEFT FOOT

And me too.

RIGHT FOOT

Oh, you keep out of this.

LEFT FOOT

I will not. And let me tell you something else. Steve did the right thing not to run after her. She wasn't worth it. Okay?

STEVE

I wouldn't go that far.

LEFT FOOT

Well, she wasn't. She would always be nagging you and ragging you and for what? Trying get you to stop drinking. You didn't need that.

RIGHT FOOT

Meanwhile she had a charming smile and a great body.

LEFT FOOT

So what? After a few turns, it's old hat. Time to change the candle.

RIGHT FOOT

You have no idea what you're talking about. She was hot! And I loved every second of it.

LEFT FOOT

She was prime beef, that's true. But like all meat, it eventually gets rancid.

RIGHT FOOT

Not if you keep on seasoning it. And she was worth it. Remember how she looked after she got out of the shower? All wet and primed for action. All we had to do is just lay back while she did all the work.

LEFT FOOT

Until that time when she tripped and dropped that pan on you. You were so pissed off that you wanted to kick her.

RIGHT FOOT

Not true. I knew you had something to do with it.

LEFT FOOT

And what about the time she stepped on your toe and almost broke it?

RIGHT FOOT

You made her do that, just to aggravate me.

STEVE

That's all in the past. Here comes security. Got to open my bag.

RIGHT FOOT

For once, try not to drop anything on me.

LEFT FOOT

That goes the same for me.

STEVE

Don't worry guys.

RIGHT FOOT

That's what you always say. Meanwhile, last week you dropped your book right on my toe. It's as if you deliberately wanted to hurt me.

LEFT FOOT

You deserved it. You never stopped complaining.

RIGHT FOOT

You'd be complaining too if you kept being abused.

STEVE

It was an accident.

RIGHT FOOT

With me as the intended victim.

LEFT FOOT

You should have moved.

RIGHT FOOT

That's right. Blame the victim. I'm the bad guy, always at fault.

LEFT FOOT

That's right. And you're a glutton for punishment too.

RIGHT FOOT

You mean like the time Steve was walking on Fifth Avenue and some guy came from behind and kicked me right on the heel? I asked for that?

LEFT FOOT

That's happened to me too.

RIGHT FOOT

Meanwhile I was the one with the bruised heel that took two weeks to clear up. And not once did you ask me how I was doing.

LEFT FOOT

I did ask you, but you wouldn't reply. All you did was glare at me with such a look of hatred.

RIGHT FOOT

That was a look of pain.

LEFT FOOT

It looked like hatred to me. As if I was responsible for your misfortune.

RIGHT FOOT

Your self-righteousness nauseates me.

Suddenly the sound of a heavy object hitting the ground, then glancing off the RIGHTFOOT.

RIGHT FOOT

Oh no! Not again! Hey, Steve, watch it! That hurt!

STEVE

You guys alright?

RIGHT FOOT

I don't know.

Are you hurt?
STEVE

I'm okay.
LEFT FOOT

Man, you got to be more careful. What the hell was that?
RIGHT FOOT

A book.
STEVE

You dropped another book!? Why do always have to carry those damn books with you?
RIGHT FOOT

VOICE (off-stage, yells): Quiet!

For school. I need them for my studying.
STEVE

Why can't you study at home?
RIGHT FOOT

You know I don't like staying at home.
STEVE

But at least it's safer there.
LEFT FOOT

Not for me it isn't. Even at home Steve's always tripping over something, and who gets the brunt of it? Me! But that doesn't stop him from putting more weight on me. It's not fair and I don't like it.
RIGHT FOOT

Oh, shut up. I carry the same weight too.
LEFT FOOT

RIGHT FOOT

No, you don't. He always favoring you over me.

STEVE

Stubbing your toe hurts me too.

RIGHT FOOT

You deserve it. You should wear shoes at home. And stop drinking! You can't handle the booze.

STEVE

I don't mean to hurt you. It just happens. And let's not talk about my drinking. Okay?

RIGHT FOOT

If you'd stop drinking like a fish, maybe you'd stop tripping over things. It's like you're trying to pick a fight with me.

STEVE

You're loony. Why would I want to pick a fight with my own foot?

RIGHT FOOT

Because I tell you the truth and you don't like it.

STEVE

I can handle the truth. What I can't handle is the pain you cause me.

RIGHT FOOT

You abuse me and I cause YOU pain?

STEVE

That's right. All you do is complain and complain and complain. You never stop.

RIGHT FOOT

Because you give me cause to complain. If it weren't for you that podiatrist wouldn't need to be injecting me with cortisone. Being stuck with a needle isn't exactly fun.

STEVE

It wasn't fun for me either, I can assure you.

RIGHT FOOT

But I'm the one who gets the needle.

STEVE

And I'm the one who feels the pain.

LEFT FOOT

What are you guys arguing about?

STEVE

Nothing. Just nothing.

RIGHT FOOT

You people think you have it over me, but you're wrong. You hear! Wrong! I'm onto you people.

LEFT FOOT

Oh, oh. You're in that paranoid mood again.

RIGHT FOOT

I just got hit with a book, so can that pseudo-psychology crap. I just hope I'm not injured.

LEFT FOOT

You'll survive.

RIGHT FOOT

Up yours.

Steve picks up the book.

STEVE

Made it through security.

RIGHT FOOT

Meanwhile I'm hurting.

STEVE

I'm really sorry, man. It's hurting me too.

RIGHT FOOT

I hope there's no broken bones.

STEVE

Now you're over-reacting.

RIGHT FOOT

Every time something happens to me you dismiss how I feel. I don't like when you do that. One day I could suffer a broken bone.

VOICE (*off-stage, yells*): Will somebody please tell that guy to can it!

LEFT FOOT

Our bones are fine.

RIGHT FOOT

Speak for yourself, big mouth. Heavy objects break bones. I don't want to spend six months in a cast, okay?

STEVE

I'm not minimizing anything. It's just that I don't think there's any cause to get hysterical.

RIGHT FOOT

Who's getting hysterical?

LEFT FOOT

You!

RIGHT FOOT

I almost got killed by a falling book, and now you're telling me there's no need to get hysterical? Talk about insensitivity.

LEFT FOOT

You are such a cry baby.

RIGHT FOOT

How would like it if I dropped a book on you?

LEFT FOOT

Get out of here.

VOICE (*off-stage, yells*): That's it. I'm calling security.

RIGHT FOOT

You don't think I could do it?

LEFT FOOT

No. Just more of your usual stupid talk.

RIGHT FOOT

Okay, smart guy. Let me tell you how I would do it. I stub my toes on some object while Steve is carrying something heavy. Steve stumbles, drops the object on you and you're done. So be careful how you talk to me.

LEFT FOOT

That you would actually think of such an evil scheme is scary.

RIGHT FOOT

I'm just warning you.

LEFT FOOT

You really have me worried now. Steve, my pal here is threatening to hurt me.

STEVE

What's all this talk about wanting to hurt each other?

RIGHT FOOT

We were just having a friendly chat.

STEVE

Listen, right now we're in a church, where there's supposed to be peace and serenity. So be a respectful and conduct yourselves accordingly.

LEFT FOOT

I'm behaving fine. It's him. He's causing the problem.

RIGHT FOOT

Shut up! You're the one provoking me.

STEVE

Come on guys, try to get along. Just this one time.

LEFT FOOT

I'm trying, but he won't stop.

RIGHT FOOT

How dare you lay this on me? I'm just speaking my mind. If you don't like it, tough.

STEVE

Look, guys, we're in a church and if you keep arguing we're going to get thrown out, and I don't want that.

A security guard enters.

SECURITY GUARD

Excuse me, sir. You've been acting rather strangely. Is everything alright?

STEVE

Everything's fine, sir. No problems.

SECURITY GUARD

Would you mind keeping your voice down?

STEVE

Oh, I am so sorry. It won't happen again.

SECURITY GUARD

Very good, sir. Have a good day.

STEVE

Thank you, officer, and a good day to you too.

Security guard exits.

STEVE

Now you see what you did? Now they're watching me. If I screw up, they'll throw me out.

RIGHT FOOT

So what? Who wants to be here anyway?

STEVE

I do.

LEFT FOOT

I do too.

RIGHT FOOT

Oh, shut your face! This place is so oppressive. Who could possibly feel good being here?

LEFT FOOT

People come here for spiritual comfort.

RIGHT FOOT

Baloney.

LEFT FOOT

You're incorrigible.

RIGHT FOOT

Hey, watch it with the big words.

LEFT FOOT

Now you're goofing on me.

RIGHT FOOT

And you're sounding like a clown. Stop trying to come off like you're some kind of college professor, because that shoe does not fit well on you.

LEFT FOOT

When you start mocking my personal beliefs, then you're crossing that line.

RIGHT FOOT

What are you gonna do about it, big shot?

LEFT FOOT

I'll show you.

Security Guard enters.

SECURITY GUARD

Sir, I asked you to lower your voice. However you have not complied. Do you have a hearing problem?

STEVE

No problem, sir.

SECURITY GUARD

You sure about that? Because I don't like repeating myself.

STEVE

I assure you that I'm fine. There'll be no further disturbances.

SECURITY

Okay. Keep it that way. Have a good day.

STEVE

Yes, officer, and thank you.

Security Officer exits.

STEVE

Do you see what you guys did? Now the security guard is on my case.

RIGHT FOOT

Good. Who wants to be here anyway?

LEFT FOOT

Why can't you just shut up?

RIGHT FOOT

I can't because every time we do what you want to do, it turns into a disaster. Like the time we went to Yankee Stadium. We were at home watching tv. Everything was fine. Then suddenly out of nowhere you started screaming about wanting to go to Yankee Stadium. I agreed to go just to shut you up.

LEFT FOOT

That's the only way I can get you to move. Otherwise we'd never go anywhere. Never meet women. Never have a life.

RIGHT FOOT

By the time we got to the Stadium, Steve, of course, was already drunk and almost dropped a 40-ounce beer bottle on me. I almost fainted.

LEFT FOOT

He was partying.

RIGHT FOOT

But we were doing what you wanted to do, not what I wanted to do.

LEFT FOOT

When Steve dropped that bottle you should have seen your reaction. I couldn't stop laughing.

RIGHT FOOT

Meanwhile I was a nervous wreck. And what about the time we went to Rockaway beach. I thought we were going to relax on the beach. Instead you insisted on jogging the entire length of that horrible boardwalk. I thought I was going to die.

LEFT FOOT

Exercising keeps you in shape.

RIGHT FOOT

Exercising can kill you. I just want to take it easy and not be in pain.

LEFT FOOT

You're just a pathetic wimp.

RIGHT FOOT

I am not, and I resent you saying that.

LEFT FOOT

Too bad. It's the truth.

RIGHT FOOT

It's a lie!

LEFT FOOT

It's the truth. Nothing you do or want or say makes any sense at all. You're just an arrogant, self-serving noise maker. You don't want Steve to live. All you want to do is loaf around, like a bum.

RIGHT FOOT

Can you blame me? Remember the time when Steve tripped while crossing the street? I was in pain for almost a month. The doctor even threatened to drill a screw into me.

LEFT FOOT

He just said that to shut you up. It was only a slight bruise. You're such a pathetic cry-baby.

RIGHT FOOT

No, I'm not! I suffered a major contusion.

LEFT FOOT

Meanwhile you loved it when that cute nurse came by to rub you down.

RIGHT FOOT

I needed that rubdown. I was in distress.

LEFT FOOT

Whatever you say. You always got to be right.

RIGHT FOOT

That's right.

LEFT FOOT

Listen, putz. I was being sarcastic.

STEVE

Guys, the mass is about to start. I hope you two can stay quiet long enough so I can enjoy this experience.

RIGHT FOOT

Enjoy what? Reciting prayers you don't believe in and hearing words that mean nothing to you? Is that your idea of fun?

LEFT FOOT

Have you no respect for this place?

RIGHT FOOT

No, I guess I don't.

LEFT FOOT

But I do.

RIGHT FOOT

That's your problem. Please don't make it mine.

LEFT FOOT

You said the exact same thing when we went to that fancy art museum in midtown Manhattan. I was really enjoying our visit there. But all you did was complain about your big toe.

RIGHT FOOT

That's right. I was in pain. Steve had tripped again. He was drunk.

LEFT FOOT

So what? That's the best time to look at art. When you're drunk. We were having so much fun and you ruined it.

RIGHT FOOT

That wasn't my fault. It was Steve's. He was the one doing the yelling.

LEFT FOOT

Because of you.

STEVE

If it weren't for you guys, I wouldn't have to be drinking.

RIGHT FOOT

That's right. Blame me.

STEVE

Guys, just cool it now. I don't want to be thrown out of here.

RIGHT FOOT

I'll cool it if he does.

LEFT FOOT

You're the one making trouble, not me.

RIGHT FOOT

Always distorting reality. You are so out of touch!

LEFT FOOT

I've had it up to here with you.

Security Guard enters.

SECURITY GUARD

Okay, sir, that's it. I warned you about causing a disturbance. Now you have to leave.

STEVE

But why? I've done nothing wrong.

SECURITY GUARD

You have not complied with my requests, so now I must ask you to leave. Will you leave voluntarily, or shall I call the police?

STEVE

This is a public place and I've done nothing wrong. I see no reason why I should leave.

SECURITY GUARD

Then, sir, you leave me with no choice but to call the police.

STEVE

For what? For going to church?

RIGHT FOOT

I knew this would happen.

LEFT FOOT

Because of you. You wouldn't shut up.

RIGHT FOOT

As if you had nothing to do with this.

LEFT FOOT

I didn't. It's all your fault. You just wanted to ruin things for me.

RIGHT FOOT

If it weren't for you, we wouldn't be here in the first place. I wanted to go see a movie.

LEFT FOOT

To watch mind-numbing crap.

RIGHT FOOT

You mean cinematic art.

LEFT FOOT

I mean potboiler junk that destroys brain cells.

RIGHT FOOT

Like this place doesn't?

STEVE

Guys, here come the police.

Police officer enters.

POLICE OFFICER

Who's the guy?

SECURITY GUARD

He's the guy, officer. (*points to Steve*)

POLICE OFFICER

What's your name?

STEVE

Officer, I've done nothing wrong.

POLICE OFFICER

I didn't ask you that. I asked you your name.

STEVE

Why do you need to know my name? I'm here to attend services.

POLICE OFFICER

We received a report that you've been disrupting the services.

STEVE

Me? No way.

POLICE OFFICER

I'm not here to argue with you. Either you leave voluntarily or you will be arrested and charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct.

STEVE

I have done nothing wrong, you hear? Nothing! (*speaks to his feet*) See what you have done? Thanks for nothing.

POLICE OFFICER

Sir, who are you talking to?

STEVE

No one.

POLICE OFFICER

Looked like you were talking to someone to me.

STEVE

Please, sir, leave me be. I just want to go to church.

RIGHT FOOT

We should have never come here.

Maybe you're right.

STEVE

You're such a loser.

RIGHT FOOT

Stop mocking me.

STEVE

POLICE OFFICER

I'm not mocking you, sir. Now turn around and put your hands behind your back.

I don't want to go to jail!

LEFT FOOT

RIGHT FOOT

I don't either. I heard about how they make you wear wooden shoes and do all kind of horrible things to you, like kick you and even step on you if you're bad. Now, I'm scared.

LEFT FOOT

Then you should have kept your mouth shut.

RIGHT FOOT

I didn't do anything. Oh, please, let's not go to jail. It will kill me, you hear! Kill me!

LEFT FOOT

You want to be killed? You keep on yapping and I'll do it.

POLICE OFFICER

You are resisting arrest. If you continue to resist I will have to use force.

LEFT FOOT

Steve, what are they doing to you?

RIGHT FOOT

Steve, I really didn't mean all that stuff I said. If you want to stay here, that's fine with me.

POLICE OFFICER

Sir, I will now read you your rights.

End of scene 1

Scene 2

Time: One hour later

Place: A psychiatric emergency examination room in a public hospital in Manhattan. In the middle of the room is a table. Two people are seated at the table: Steve and a woman, a psychiatrist, Doctor Martha Kinsabi. She is about 30 years old and attractive.

MARTHA

Hello. My name is Doctor Kinsabi. I'm here to examine you.

STEVE

For what? Like I told the police, I've done nothing wrong. All I wanted to do is attend church services.

MARTHA

Could you tell me your name?

STEVE

My name is Steve Le Frank.

MARTHA

How old are you?

STEVE

Forty-nine years old.

MARTHA

Married, single widowed or divorced?

STEVE

Single. Why are you asking me all these questions?

RIGHT FOOT

She's not bad looking babe. In fact, I think she's hot.

LEFT FOOT

Such a dirty mind.

C'mon guys, not now.

STEVE

Who are you talking to?

MARTHA

No one.

STEVE

Who are you fooling? She sees that you're talking to us. So why lie?

RIGHT FOOT

Stop calling Steve a liar.

LEFT FOOT

Yes, please don't.

STEVE

Please don't what?

MARTHA

I'm sorry. I just got a little distracted.

STEVE

That's okay, Mr. Le Frank.

MARTHA

See, she like you already. Maybe you can take her out on a date. Get some action.

RIGHT FOOT

That would be nice.

STEVE

But don't come on too fast.

LEFT FOOT

STEVE

Okay, I won't.

MARTHA

I'm sorry. You won't what?

STEVE

I'm feeling rather confused. There's so much going on.

MARTHA

Tell me about it.

STEVE

There's not much to tell. I went to church, was minding my own business and the next thing this security guard is calling the police and getting me arrested.

MARTHA

That must have been scary.

STEVE

Not scary. Confusing. I didn't know what to make of it.

MARTHA

Have you ever heard any voices?

STEVE

No.

MARTHA

Have you ever seen things that were not there?

STEVE

If you're trying to find out whether I'm a psycho, I'm not.

RIGHT FOOT

You're as batty as a fruit cake.

LEFT FOOT

He is not.

MARTHA

What is your level of education?

STEVE

I have master's degree in electrical engineering.

MARTHA

Are you currently employed?

STEVE

I was laid off two years ago.

RIGHT FOOT

You mean you were fired for trying to boff the company president's secretary, who was married to the president's son and four months pregnant.

LEFT FOOT

There you go again, being contradictory.

STEVE

Please, guys, I'm trying to talk with the lady.

MARTHA

Who are you talking to?

STEVE

To you.

MARTHA

Do you see anyone else in this room?

STEVE

No. Just the two of us.

RIGHT FOOT

Stop lying! There's four of us here, and you know it.

LEFT FOOT

Get off Steve's case already, will you? You want the lady to think that he's crazy?

MARTHA

Is anyone telling you that you're crazy?

STEVE

Why would anyone say that to me?

MARTHA

You tell me.

STEVE

I don't know.

MARTHA

I heard you ask if you want the lady to think that you're crazy.

STEVE

I was just mumbling to myself. I do that when I get nervous.

MARTHA

Are you nervous right now?

STEVE

No. I'm as calm as a corncob.

MARTHA

That's an interesting metaphor. I never heard such a metaphor before.

STEVE

What's a metaphor?

MARTHA

A metaphor is a literary device used to describe someone by comparing them to something else.

STEVE

Thanks for letting me know. Now you got me totally confused.

RIGHT FOOT

Why did you tell her that? Now you'll never score with her.

LEFT FOOT

You're doing fine, Steve.

MARTHA

So, how often do you go to church?

STEVE

Every week, for the morning mass.

MARTHA

What do you get out of it?

RIGHT FOOT

Nothing. It's a waste of time.

LEFT FOOT

A chance to sing. I love singing the hymns.

MARTHA

So, you like to sing?

STEVE

Did I say that?

MARTHA

Yes, you did.

STEVE

Guys, stop putting words in my mouth.

MARTHA

Who's putting words in your mouth?

STEVE

No one. Sometimes I talk to myself. I'm my own best company.

MARTHA

Do you have any friends?

STEVE

A few.

MARTHA

How about relatives?

RIGHT FOOT

Just me.

LEFT FOOT

And me.

STEVE

Two.

MARTHA

What are their names?

STEVE

I don't know. I just call them guys.

MARTHA

Are they like your buddies?

STEVE

Kind of like buddies.

RIGHT FOOT

Listen, Steve. We're not buddies. You got that?

LEFT FOOT

Steve, you're my best pal and I've got your back.

STEVE

I know you do, and I'm looking out for you too.

MARTHA

Are you speaking with your buddies now?

RIGHT FOOT

Boy, is she a nosy one. I hate pushy women who ask lots of questions.

LEFT FOOT

Look how interested she is in you. She must really like you.

RIGHT FOOT

Oh, shut your face. You don't know what you're talking about. She's horrible and she's starting to scare me.

LEFT FOOT

Calm yourself, man. You're getting worked up for nothing. She likes you.

RIGHT FOOT

I don't like people who pry. They make me very nervous.

LEFT FOOT

You are some piece of work. And you call yourself a foot.

MARTHA

You think you're a foot?

STEVE

Excuse me?

MARTHA

You just called yourself a foot.

STEVE

I did?

MARTHA

Yes. Just now. I heard you.

STEVE

You must have misheard me. I said no such thing.

MARTHA

What's going on?

RIGHT FOOT

Don't you dare tell her about us.

LEFT FOOT

Tell her everything. She won't believe you anyway.

RIGHT FOOT

Traitor!

LEFT FOOT

Wimp!

RIGHT FOOT

Dick brain.

LEFT FOOT

Con artist. You never want to work, never want to do your job, never want to pull your load, never want to do anything, except cause trouble.

RIGHT FOOT

Stop lecturing me! I don't want to hear it!

LEFT FOOT

Have you no shame?

STEVE

Guys, try to be friends. This no time for arguing.

MARTHA

I agree.

STEVE

Agree?

MARTHA

With what you said.

STEVE

What do you mean?

MARTHA

You just said that this is no time for arguing. Don't you remember saying that?

STEVE

I may have.

MARTHA

You did say it.

RIGHT FOOT

Now you see what you've done. She's blowing our cover.

LEFT FOOT

You mean your cover. I have nothing to hide.

MARTHA

Good. Then let's talk.

STEVE

About what?

MARTHA

About having nothing to hide.

STEVE

When did I say that?

MARTHA

Just now.

STEVE

Oh. I don't remember saying that.

MARTHA

But you did say it.

STEVE

If you say so.

MARTHA

I say so.

RIGHT FOOT

My, is she pushy.

LEFT FOOT

But so cute.

RIGHT FOOT

The way she's coming on to us, maybe it's about time we teach her a lesson in love. If you get my drift.

STEVE

You think so?

MARTHA

Do I think what?

STEVE

Oh ... nothing.

MARTHA

Oh. It's a secret.

STEVE

I have nothing to hide.

RIGHT FOOT

That's right. Show her what you got and make sure to give it to her, good and hard.

LEFT FOOT

Such a filthy mind. You're disgusting.

RIGHT FOOT

What are you waiting for? Do her! She wants it. It will take away my pain.

LEFT FOOT

You horny bastard. That's all you ever want.

MARTHA

Are you in pain?

STEVE

Doc, there's a lot of crap going on inside me right now.

MARTHA

What do you mean?

STEVE

I can't explain it.

MARTHA

Okay. Relax.

STEVE

Look, Doc, please leave this room now.

MARTHA

Why?

STEVE

I feel like I'm going to lose control and do something bad.

RIGHT FOOT

You stupid jerk. Why did you tell her that? Don't you want to have some fun?

LEFT FOOT

Don't do anything stupid.

RIGHT FOOT

Don't listen to him. She wants it, man! Go for it!

LEFT FOOT

You cannot afford to lose control.

RIGHT FOOT

Let it ride, man! Now's the time!

LEFT FOOT

Don't do it!

RIGHT FOOT

Shut up! She's begging for it.

STEVE

Doc, I'm warning you for the last time: get out of here, now!

MARTHA

I don't understand.

Steve leaps across table and grabs Martha by the throat.

RIGHT FOOT

Yes! Squeeze harder! Wow, this is fun!

LEFT FOOT

What the hell are you doing? Stop it!

RIGHT FOOT

Now give her a swift kick and then throw her onto the table! It's party time!

LEFT FOOT

You fool. You unmitigated fool. Let her go!

RIGHT FOOT

Now rip off her clothes and fuck her! Don't think about it! Just do it! Then kill the bitch! You'll be giving her eternal life.

LEFT FOOT

You sacrilegious pig! You deserve to die.

Hospital security officers rush into the room.

STEVE

Who are you guys?

RIGHT FOOT

Finish her off. What are you waiting for?

LEFT FOOT

Shut up! You've caused enough trouble already.

RIGHT FOOT

Like I said: you only live once. It's a matter of sole.

End of scene 2.

Scene 3

Time: Five years later.

Place: a prison cell in a penitentiary.

Setting: Steve is alone. He is sitting on the edge of his bunk. He is conversing with his feet.

RIGHT FOOT

Boy, I hurt all over.

LEFT FOOT

Every day I have to hear this. Steve please tell him to stop.

STEVE

You guys really are something. I take good care you, rub you down every day, treat you like kings, and you still complain.

RIGHT FOOT

I can't help it. I'm in pain.

LEFT FOOT

Every day I have to hear you complaining.

STEVE

Stop it! Both of you. If you keep on like this, I'm gonna do something drastic.

LEFT FOOT

You see what you're doing? You're gonna make him to do something drastic.

RIGHT FOOT

He's been saying that to the prison shrinks for the past five years. They know it's just a ploy to try to get himself transferred to the state hospital.

STEVE

Wrong! I hate that hospital. They dope me up with meds that make me sick to my stomach. I'd rather be here.

LEFT FOOT

Thanks to you we're in solitary.

RIGHT FOOT

Thanks to me?

LEFT FOOT

Yes. Thanks to you. You made Steve attack that prison guard.

RIGHT FOOT

The guard kicked me on the heel so I thought I'd just kick him back. What's wrong with that?

LEFT FOOT

It was an accident.

RIGHT FOOT

No accident. He's done it before.

STEVE

Shut up! Both of you! We've gone over this thousand times.

RIGHT FOOT

With the prison shrink.

STEVE

Yeah. With the prison shrink too.

RIGHT FOOT

I still think you'd rather be in the hospital.

LEFT FOOT

No! It's YOU who'd rather be in the hospital. You like their soft sandals.

RIGHT FOOT

Yeah, they're nice and soft. Like a lady's touch.

LEFT FOOT

Always thinking about you-know-what.

RIGHT FOOT

So? What else is there to do?

LEFT FOOT

Read a book?

RIGHT FOOT

That's your idea of doing something exciting?

LEFT FOOT

Keeps you mind active.

RIGHT FOOT

I'd rather keep something else active.

LEFT FOOT

That filthy thinking is what got Steve into trouble.

RIGHT FOOT

She was asking for it.

LEFT FOOT

But that doesn't mean he had to give it to her.

RIGHT FOOT

So he went a little bit overboard. Still, it was fun. Isn't that right, Steve?

STEVE

It was okay. Could have been better.

RIGHT FOOT

Remember how she was screaming and squirming! I really got off on that.

LEFT FOOT

You're no better than an animal.

RIGHT FOOT

Hypocrite. You loved it too.

LEFT FOOT

I did not.

RIGHT FOOT

I distinctly remember that you gave her several well placed kicks to her groin.

LEFT FOOT

I couldn't help it. I was panicking.

RIGHT FOOT

Didn't look that way to me.

STEVE

Please, guys, stop this talk, now.

RIGHT FOOT

What's the harm? We're just talking.

LEFT FOOT

You better stop. He's means it.

RIGHT FOOT

And then he pulled down her pants and got ready to ...

STEVE

Shut up! NOW! What do you want from me?

RIGHT FOOT

For you to take care of me.

STEVE

I do care of you but you don't take care of me. All you do is talk, and talk, and talk, and talk. It's torture!

LEFT FOOT

That's right

STEVE

You shut up! You're worse than he is.

LEFT FOOT

I am not.

STEVE

You always make me want to scratch you.

LEFT TIME

Because I itch.

STEVE

All the time? Even after I spend five hours straight scratching you?

RIGHT FOOT

He gets all the attention.

STEVE

I give you lots of attention too.

RIGHT FOOT

Not five hours' worth like you do him.

STEVE

What more can I do?

(At this point the dialoging becomes more frenzied.)

Scratch me more. LEFT FOOT

Scratch ME more. RIGHT FOOT

But you don't itch. STEVE

Now, I do. Now, scratch me. RIGHT FOOT

No! Scratch me! LEFT FOOT

Ignore him, Steve. Scratch me! RIGHT FOOT

He's faking, Steve. Scratch me! LEFT FOOT

No! Me! RIGHT FOOT

No! Me! LEFT FOOT

RIGHT FOOT and LEFT FOOT
(yelling over each other)
No! Me! No! Me! No! Me ...

Stop! You're killing me! STEVE
(Yells)

(pause)

Prison guard enters. Takes out a cell phone and makes a call.

PRISON GUARD

Le Frank is at it again. Call the doc.

Long pause

LEFT FOOT

Steve, are you there?

RIGHT FOOT

Steve, are you there?

LEFT FOOT

Steve, are you there?

RIGHT FOOT

Steve, are you there?

LEFT FOOT

Steve, are you there?

RIGHT FOOT

Steve, are you there?

LEFT FOOT

Steve, are you there?

RIGHT FOOT

Steve, are you there?

Long pause.

STEVE

I'm still here. (*Angrily*) Now get the hell out of my head!

The end

