



## **Man**

From *Laughing Wild*

By Christopher Durang

Age Range: Young Adult

Style: Comedic, Contemporary

### Monologue:

“I used to be a very negative person. But then I took this personality workshop that totally turned my life around. Now when something bad or negative happens, I can see the positive. Now when I have a really bad day, or when someone I thought was a really good friend betrays me, or maybe when I’ve been hit by one of those damn people riding bicycles the opposite way on a one-way street, so, of course, one hadn’t looked in that direction and there they are bearing down on you, about to kill or maim you – anyway, I look at any of these things and I say to myself: this glass is not half full, it’s half empty. No - I said it backwards, force of habit. The glass is not half empty, it is half full. Of course, if they hit you with the stupid bicycle your glass won’t be half full or half empty, it will be shattered to pieces, and you’ll be dead or in the hospital. But really I’m trying to be positive, that’s what I’m doing with my life these days. I was tired of not being joyful and happy, I was sick of my personality, and I had to change it. Half full, not half empty. I had to say to myself: you do not have cancer – at least not today. You are not blind. You are not one of the starving children in India or China or in Africa. Look at the sunset, look at the sunrise, why don’t you enjoy them, for God’s sake? And now I do. Except if it’s cloudy, of course, and you can’t see the sun. Or if it’s cold. Or if it’s too hot. I probably need to take a few more personality workshops to complete the process. It’s still not quite within my grasp, this being positive business.”

### Play Synopsis:

The show is written for one actor and one actress. The woman's character is emotional and unstable, and talks about hitting someone in the supermarket who wouldn't get out of her way when she was trying to select some tuna. The man's character is giving a speech about positive thinking, but keeps spiraling into negativity. He, it turns out, is the man the woman hit in the supermarket. The show consists of two 30-minute monologues and a 30 minute second act, some of it monologue, some of it scenes between the two characters. The characters do not have official names.

### Read the Play Here:

<https://www.michelledanner.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/laughing-wild-christopher-durang-woman.pdf>