

PLAYING GAMES

by dallas jones



First in a comedy trilogy similar to 'There's Something About Mary'

Genre

Romantic Comedy

Logline

Outsider discovers himself and his perfect mate as he helps a band of eccentric misfits coalesce and utilize their unique talents to save their home.

An outsider discovers himself when he helps a band of misfits come together and utilize their unique gifts to save their home.

Tagline

Crazy people making their way in a crazy world!

Synopsis

An outsider, **Joe Johnson**, our protagonist, moves into the neighborhood because of an inheritance. He hopes to fix up a beaten up old mansion and make a killing on the real estate market.

Complications arise as the nearly penniless Joe, whose house is badly in need of major repairs is threatened with foreclosure. Nearly broke and living next to a house of crazies, the action begins when one of the house members of the next door Special Needs Board & Care steals his wallet and humiliates him in front of the facilities owner, **Kathy Hollis**.

Kathy's hot and he wants to help her but alas, she thinks he's shallow. Joe discovers one of the residences, a **Mr. Holmes**, has a unique ability that Joe could exploit and make a fortune on a popular game show.

Problem, Mr. Holmes is not interested and Kathy doesn't want Joe to bother him.

Joe's unable to penetrate Mr. Holmes security supplied by a jealous, neurotic, overly protective parrot sidekick named **Doc**, who hates Joe.

Kathy has a single minded agenda, protect her people from an outside world that wish to prey on them. But she also wants a father who believes she's wasting her life and his financial support. Facing bankruptcy she also needs the community to accept her and the facility.

Joe discovers a life changing truth about the relationship he shares with Mr. Holmes. He and Mr. Holmes are brothers. And with this knowledge he figures out how to get Mr. Holmes on the game show.

Complications arise when it's discovered that the game show host is a crook who has no intention of letting anyone win.

More complications arise between the different possible relationships. Mr. Holmes likes **Amanda** who also likes him but under stress Amanda's hidden personality transforms into **Amy** who is a wild kleptomaniac who likes **Martin**.

Martin likes Amy and **Samantha** but Samantha wants nothing to do with Martin while he's running around with Amy.

Doc is crazy about **Lady Bird**, a wild parrot that's taken up residence at Joe's place, but Lady Bird thinks Doc's a gutless worm.

Kathy won't open up to Joe because of her preoccupation with keeping the facility together and her belief that he's only interested in money.

Finally, the stars align and Joe with the help of the family gets Mr. Holmes on the game show where they meet with an assortment of obstacles before finally prevailing.

Crazy people making their way in a crazy world.

Rough Outline

- Stately community homes surround a quiet roundabout. It's Sunday, Open House signs mark a gentrified neighborhood of remodeled houses. JOE, a casually dressed young man in his early twenties talks to a REAL ESTATE BROKER. A tall athletic young man, MARTIN, bolts through the front door. In a plastic bag he scoops up a tray of cookies, barely breaking stride. The next instant he is out the back door.
- Incredibly athletic, he hurdles fences and gates until he stumbles and falls hurdling a community security car. MIKE (bad back) & TIM (arthritis), community guards, haul Martin back to a home, HOLLIS HOUSE, for people who suffered trauma that now keeps them from living alone.
- MANDA, a long legged redhead from the HOME takes charge of Martin who with the skills of Houdini releases himself from handcuffs and lifts a set of handcuffs. A young brunette, Samantha, perched on the roof films the exchange. The mysterious MR. HOLMES, a man in his mid-twenties, watches from the big picture window out front. Startling is a large parrot, DOC, perched on Mr. Holmes' shoulder, a giant macaw with impersonation skills extraordinaire and a penchant for sarcasm.
- Joe stops at a lemonade stand manned by Martin and Amanda, now transformed into a wild girl that goes by the name AMY. Martin handcuffs Joe and the two absconds off with Joe's wallet.
- Inside Hollis House Joe encounters obstacles. Cuffed to the table, shoe laces tied together he falls lunging after Martin. Attacked by Doc KATHY HOLLIS, an incredibly gorgeous blond and facility head intervenes. Joe finally relents in his pursuit of his wallet. It's lost at first sight.
- Kathy invites Joe to watch a new show PERFECT RECALL, hosted by an arrogant underhanded GAME SHOW HOST. A group of contestants must answer a series of jeopardy like questions about a murder scene they have just seen. Joe knows the game is impossible to win.
- Amazed at Mr. Holmes' ability to actually win the game, Mr. Holmes then astonishes Joe further by dissecting the truth out of Amy and Martin with a nearly magical ability at observation and deduction. Joe sees dollar signs with the aid of Mr. Holmes but Kathy sends him home.
- Joe discovers termites eating away at his hopes for sizable profits from selling the house he has inherited from his aunt. He's also pressed by a foreclosure notice.
- Joe comes back from Home Depot. He's armed with books and supplies to attack remodeling with a vengeance.

- Late into the night, Joe collapse exhausted. When he awakes he uses a can of TERMITE LOVE. Guaranteed to attract the termites right out of the wood. Joe sprays a little on his hand - nothing. An announcement on the TV tells him about PERFECT RECALL coming to Los Angeles for one time. A racket outside sends him outside to meet LADY BIRD, a large red macaw.
- She's friendly. Together, they watch PERFECT RECALL. Joe gets an idea. Get Mr. Holmes on the show and they'll all be rich.
- Excited, Joe calls and gets Amanda on the phone. Pretending to be Kathy she invites him over for dinner the next day.
- Evening dinner at Hollis House, Kathy wants to know why Joe's here. Joe must work for his dinner by rounding up the group milling around the TV. He encounters Amy who goes ballistic then he drags over an old man against his will - Kathy's father, GEORGE. Not good.
- While Kathy talks to George in office. Joe finds out about problems with Hollis House finances.
- Joe can't convince Mr. Holmes to go on the show and Doc jealously attacks him. Doc's mesmerized by Lady Bird and Mr. Holmes and Amanda make eye contact. Joe finds out about the neighborhood party put on tomorrow night by Hollis House. Finally Kathy throws Joe out, upset because Joe bothered Mr. Holmes.
- At Joe's house, he bonds with Lady Bird watching old movie.
- Next day, at pet store Joe and Kathy meet. They have common interest.
- Joe weasels his way into shopping with Kathy on her errands. During there travels from print shop, police station, candy store, market they learn about each other. She invites him to party if he doesn't bother Mr. Holmes.
- The party's in full swing. The piñata breaks sending presents and candy scattering. Special presents handed out to neighbors. To bullies fight over candy. Martin separates them with amazing dance moves and tie them into knots. Invitations to a summer dance class are handed out. Joe confronts Doc about his relationship with Mr. Holmes. Samantha puts on a Candid Camera movie of neighbors.
- Tim's upset thinking he's a blunt of a joke but Kathy explains to Tim & Mike why the gifts they received are perfect for them. The neighbors feel a little better about Hollis House.
- Hollis House the next day. Joe, Kathy and Amanda trick Doc into being hypnotized so they can cure his fear of the outdoors. They learn why Doc and Mr. Holmes are so screwed up.
- Doc, Joe, Amanda and Kathy convince Mr. Holmes to go on the game show now that Doc's no longer afraid of going outside the house.
- The group waits to be chosen for the game show. Skipped by the selector, Kathy comes up with a scheme of forming words by joining hands to attract the news copter covering the event overhead. As the copter starts to pull away before Kathy formulate the first letter, Joe sends Doc with a message skyward to make the news reporter turn around. The report realizes what a human interest story this might be and informs the game show host. The entire groups selected.

- Inside Martin jumps a private section and the group follows. A man, CONTESTANT #2, reads a set of notes that have the answers and questions. Amanda sends them flying and saves retrieves one of the sheets herself. The man moves off to prepare for the show.
- The game show host explains the show rules and runs a video that everyone in the audience must answer. The best scores are said to decide the next round of contestants.
- Three famous people are chosen over Mr. Holmes. The group knows this can't possibly be. Doc takes action by removing the wig off one of the famous contestants who run off screaming and embarrassed.
- The game show host chooses Mr. Holmes. Doc and Mr. Holmes insult each other.
- During the show which we view step by step, Joe and Kathy and finally the audience realize that the game is rigged.
- Joe discovers the notes with the questions and answers on them.
- Messages are pasted by Lady Bird to Doc and Mr. Holmes.
- Mr. Holmes wins the regular play and goes into the PERFECT RECALL, ten million dollar round.
- Mr. Holmes appears to answer the final question incorrectly. Any answer given can be shown to be wrong by the game show host. The game show host shutdowns Mr. Holmes mic so he can't revealing the truth.
- The game show host tries to wrap up the show but Doc gets word to Joe of how the deception occurred.
- Joe, Kathy, Lady Bird, Martin and Amanda go on the offensive. Joe rushes up the isle and grabs a mic used for audience participation that is still on. He starts telling the audience about the two different videos. The game show host sends attendants out to restrain Joe but Martin puts himself between the attendants and Joe and they can't seem to grab Martin or get past him as he does some amazing dance steps around them. They escalate the attack with a Taser and still can't touch him. Kathy and Amy jumps on the backs of two more security guards sent over to stop Joe. Samantha stays back standing on her seat her arms extended like a robot pointing toward the action. She secretly records the results. The game show host reaches for the switch to shut off Joe's mic but Doc flies down to block him. While Doc keeps the host off balance Joe rallies the audience to the truth. Lady Bird flies down and presses the other video button and suddenly the hoax is exposed.
- The game show host tries to control the mob that is forming and calls on the judges for a decision. They reverse the decision and Mr. Holmes is declared the winner.
- That evening at Hollis House everyone's excited to see the tape delayed broadcast. Samantha wants to watch a video. She'll have to wait. Everyone is horrified as they watch an edited PERFECT RECALL that shows none of the shenanigans but a cleaned up version clearly showing Mr. Holmes losing.
- Samantha slips in her tape of the real show that she secretly recorded with a hidden camera
- Joe calls the news channel with the helicopter and tells about what really happened. It's shown on the 11pm news. Fraud uncovered.

- Next morning, dozens of reporters are at Hollis House. They inform Kathy that the FCC has shutdown the show for fraud and that the show has declared bankruptcy.
- Joe mysteriously informs Kathy he must leave. She's crushed at Joe leaving. Doc tries to tell her that Joe's a straight shooter.
- Joe talks to the Real Estate Broker we first met.
- The next day, Joe's back at Hollis House but Kathy upset over his initial disappearance wants him to leave.
- Joe drops an envelope in the donation box. And Mr. Holmes tells Kathy what the envelope probably contains.
- Kathy's father shows up and reconciles with Kathy.
- Mr. Holmes' right about the envelope. It contained a cashier's check for over one hundred thousand dollars. Joe's sold the house.
- Kathy and the family rush over to Joe's to invite him back and to live with them. He's part of the family.
- They're all around watching the news cast. It talks of a new show that will fill the time slot vacated by 'Perfect Recall'. It's called the 'The Astaire Dance Award'. The show will hunt down the most talented dancer in the world and the winner will receive a million dollars and a movie deal. Kathy and Joe swear off any more game shows. As everybody laughs, Samantha turns on a VCR she has created which shows Martin dancing away from Joe, eluding the guards on 'Perfect Recall' and performing some amazing moves with Doc chasing him when Martin takes his bird treat. Everybody's mouth drops and Joe looks at Kathy and they both ask, what's that new show's number?

Characters

- **Amanda** - female, 20's, exotic sensuous young woman, on the edge of going supernova
- **Amy** - female, 20's, unstable personality of Amanda
- **Dr. Phil Newton** - male, 40's, game show contestant

- **Doc** - male parrot (CGI), Mr. Holmes' sidekick, with a penchant for sarcastic & salty voice impersonations
- **Game Show Host** - male, 50's, Sir Nigel Dyson, flamboyant sarcastic game show host
- **Martin** - male, 20's, fantastic athletic dancer
- **Joe Johnson** - male, 26, protagonist, lost about his future
- **Kathy 'Katt' Hollis** - female, 22, love interest, gorgeous, with an air of weary authority
- **Mr. Holmes** - male, 28, brother of Joe, a man with an intense penetrating stare and photographic memory
- **Samantha** - female, 20's, musician
- **Lady Bird** - female parrot (CGI), Joe's pet
- **Mr. Steven Albright** - male, 40's, game show contestant
- **Pamela May** - female, 40's, game show contestant
- **Mike** - male, 50's, community security guard
- **Tim** - male, 30, community security guard
- **George** - male, 70's, father of Kathy Hollis
- **Real Estate Agent** - female, 40's, community pain in the ass
- **Gladys** - female, 70's
- **TV Champion** - male, 30's, with the rounded shoulders of an intellectual