THE PROGRESS

KYLE REYNOLDS CONWAY

OF CONFUSION
The Progress of Confusion 1.4

by: Kyle Reynolds Conway

♥ Copying is an act of love. Please copy and share.

Text © 2011 Kyle Reynolds Conway,
under a Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike (3.0) license.
http://kylerconway.wordpress.com/

Cover image © 2011 Erich Thielenhaus,
under a Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike (3.0) license.
https://theboomflash.wordpress.com/

Copyheart: http://copyheart.org/
Creative Commons: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/

This play is part of the Twenty-five Tens Project
@ https://twentyfivetens.wordpress.com/
Dramatis Personae

BRIAN
A computer user.

EVA
A computer user.

Some Influences:

HTTPS://WWW.EFF.ORG/
HTTP://WWW.FSF.ORG/
HTTP://XKCD.COM/743/
The Dilemma

_BRIAN sits behind a laptop._

_BRIAN

Ugh! What is the problem with this stupid thing?

_BRIAN hits his computer. EVA enters from offstage brushing her teeth._

_EVA

What’s the problem now.

_BRIAN

I can’t get my music back on. It says it wants to “reformat” the hard drive, or something, and that reformatting will erase all of my music. This is ridiculous.

_EVA

Okay. Can I get you a drink or something to calm down.

_BRIAN

Calm down? I sent it into the company. It was under warranty, and they erased all of my files.

_EVA

And why did you send it into the company?

_BRIAN

Because it was broken.

_EVA

And why was it broken?

_BRIAN

Whatever, Eva, let me break your computer and see how happy you are about it.
EVA

You lose your ebooks too?

BRIAN

No.

EVA

Okay.

EVA exits. We hear her spit, rinse, etc.

BRIAN

Oh! How could you? How did they? How could they?

EVA from offstage:

EVA

What’s wrong now?

BRIAN

I’m going to bite somebody’s fingers off, right off of their hand. This is ridiculous.

BRIAN pours himself a drink. EVA reenters.

EVA

You lost your ebooks too?

BRIAN

Yep.

EVA

They didn’t save anything, huh?

BRIAN

Nope.
EVA
So, what’s the problem?

BRIAN
Dammit, Eva! You know what the problem is. I’ve lost everything.

EVA
And why did you lose it?

BRIAN
The company erased everything.

EVA
And why did you give it to the company?

BRIAN
Cause it was broken.

EVA
And why was it broken.

BRIAN
I dropped it! Okay. Onto the floor. I broke it. Me. I broke it. I tripped over an apple on the ground.

EVA
A macintosh?

BRIAN
Granny Smith, okay. So there! Are you happy now or something? Does it make you laugh?

EVA
A little.
BRIAN

A little. Huh. A little.

EVA

How many times have I told you about...

BRIAN

Don’t talk to me about backing up. I’m not in the mood. Besides, I got all my music and my audiobooks here, anyways.

EVA

Did you put them back on?

BRIAN

That’s what that reformatting thing I was telling you about was... about. Geez, it’s like you’re not listening.

EVA

I was brushing my teeth.

BRIAN

And you can’t listen at the same time? You chew your bubblegum and walk, don’t you?

EVA

Fine. I won’t help.

BRIAN

Whoa! Hey. Sorry. Hold on a minute, okay? I didn’t mean anything by it. Listen, all I want to do is put the stuff on this little device here, back onto this big mess of a machine here. Easy, right? There’s got to be a way.

EVA

Well...

BRIAN

Well what? Come on! I got things to do.
EVA
They don’t want you to.

BRIAN
Who’s they? Who’s they? Why don’t they want me to? It’s my stuff.

EVA
They’re blocking your ability to do this simple, seemingly obvious thing, because they’re afraid people will steal music and other files without paying.

BRIAN
But I paid for them! and people do that anyway! You see that guy on the corner with those DVD’s all the time? They aren’t real. People buy them like hot cakes. They buy them like hot butter on a knife.

EVA
Yeah, but that’s the reason.

BRIAN
Yeah, but it’s a stupid reason.

EVA
Well, whatever, cause that’s the reason.

BRIAN
Really?

EVA
Yeah.

BRIAN
But I already bought it already! It’s right here. I paid for it. I bought it from them even! I bought it from them! Agh! This is supposed to be easy!

EVA
Sorry, Brian.
BRIAN

So there’s no way to do it then?

EVA

Nope.

BRIAN

I thought I was paying for easy! Easy! “Easy,” he says, “It’ll be easy. That’s why you’re paying so much.” Easy my ass!

*BRIAN starts yelling at the computer.*

BRIAN

I’M GONNA FIND YOUR LIES, COMPUTER. I’m gonna find them all. Hey, hey hey! I remembered something. There’s this plug in the side, right, there’s this plug in the side and I want to put them together, connect them up, not reformat it but, uh, you know, make it like one of those portable things. It’s a different plug but I think I saved the cord or whatever in this box somewhere. Huh? Can I do that.

EVA

You can try it, but that program will open up and tell you to erase your drive again. I don’t think it’ll fit anyway. Don’t they make “special” cords for that little thing?

BRIAN

I’LL FIND YOU COMPUTER! How can they LIE to ME about this being EASY? How can they do that? I’m gonna sue them.

EVA

You probably signed a EULA that says you can’t sue them.

BRIAN

I’m gonna sue them for all they’re worth, the dirty liars!

BRIAN

Then they can’t do that.

EVA

Do you really want to buy a lawyer to find out?
BRIAN
That’s just great then. This little thing’s got all my stuff on it… but I can’t add anything new or take anything – agh! – this is so stupid!

EVA
Yep.

BRIAN
Who made this stuff up, huh? Who made it so this didn’t work right? Ooo! I’m gonna wring their little necks!

EVA
At least your computer works again, right?

BRIAN
It turns on, yeah. What use is a computer without my stuff though? I can’t listen to my music. I can’t listen to my books. I can’t… I don’t even have any of my files – and before you even start: I don’t need a lecture on backing up.

EVA
Sorry about that. Unfortunately you’ve got to find the time to listen before something like this happens. I can’t really help too much once it has already happened.

BRIAN
I don’t want to hear it. You’re always, you’re always going on about that crazy stuff. Just keep your crazy to yourself.

EVA
Alright. Should I grab your toothbrush?

BRIAN
I’m not done drinking, thank you.

EVA
Alright.

EVA gets up to leave.
BRIAN
Where are you going?

EVA
I’m gonna go do some reading, maybe a little work, before bed.

BRIAN
*On your working laptop.* Just rub it in my face! Thanks a lot.

EVA
I’m not rubbing it in your face. You asked me what I was going to do.

BRIAN
Whatever.

EVA
And I’m gonna listen to my music! HA!

BRIAN
Stop kicking me while I’m down!

EVA
Bring your broken device in here.

BRIAN
You can – you’ve been lying to me this whole time? You can fix it?

EVA
Just bring it in here.

BRIAN
You’re cruel.

EVA
And you’re hopeless. It’s going to happen again, you know that don’t you?
BRIAN
I don’t want to hear any of your zealot stuff! None of it.

EVA
Okay. I’m just saying.

BRIAN
I know you are.

EVA
I love you you know.

BRIAN
I know. I...

EVA
I know you do. (Pause.) But you know the only reason this can be fixed is because I’m a “zealot,” right?

*BRIAN throws a pillow at EVA.*

END OF PLAY