

## **Bang Day**

**A short play**

**By Rich Espey**

### **Characters**

Rain, 18, female

Maria, 18, female

Luke, 18, male

### **The Time**

The present

### **The Place**

A courtyard in a high school

**Synopsis:** *Bang Day* is a play about a young woman who tries to dissuade a friend from participating in a protest against the teaching of Evolution. It takes place in a courtyard in a high school at lunch. Rain tries to dissuade Maria from participating in Luke's plan to commemorate Creation Day as a protest against his AP Biology class, but Maria is committed to standing by Luke. Rain's action forces Maria to choose either Luke or her. Maria chooses Rain.

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**Bang Day**

*A courtyard in a high school. MARIA and RAIN, both 18, are sitting with books. MARIA wears a skirt and has a green hair ribbon. RAIN has piercings, wears pants and has a lunch bag.*

Do you want some of my lunch?	<b>RAIN</b>
I'm fine.	<b>MARIA</b>
You didn't eat anything. Again.	<b>RAIN</b>
I ate.	<b>MARIA</b>
I didn't see you –	<b>RAIN</b>
I ate, all right?	<b>MARIA</b>
Relax. I have an extra apple –	<b>RAIN</b>
I'm not hungry!	<b>MARIA</b>
Ok, chill. Jesus.	<b>RAIN</b>
I'm going out with Luke later, OK?	<b>MARIA</b>
Fine.	<b>RAIN</b>
A big dinner, so don't worry.	<b>MARIA</b>
I wasn't worried.	<b>RAIN</b>

For our anniversary. **MARIA**

God. **RAIN**

And I wish you wouldn't do that. **MARIA**

Offer you an apple? **RAIN**

Take the Lord's name in vain. **MARIA**

Oh, Jesus. **RAIN**

Rain, I'm serious! **MARIA**

Whatever. *(beat)* You don't have to do this. **RAIN**

I know. **MARIA**

But you're going to. **RAIN**

Well...yeah. **MARIA**

Because it's what your boyfriend and his buddies want? **RAIN**

It's not 'cause of Luke. **MARIA**

I thought you really liked Mr. Wagner. **RAIN**

I do, but... **MARIA**

Sure.

**RAIN**

*LUKE, 18, enters, with a package.*

I got something for you.

**LUKE**

For our anniversary?

**MARIA**

Yeah. Kind of. Well, yeah. In honor of today. Happy Creation Day.

**LUKE**

Maria, please tell me you do not honestly believe that today is the anniversary of the creation of the Earth, and that this is Earth's six thousand and thirteenth birthday.

*MARIA opens the package...of knives.*

Oh my God!

**MARIA**

Aren't they awesome?

**LUKE**

What are those for?

**MARIA**

For Biology class.

**LUKE**

OK, Luke, um, standard procedure is to bring a fully loaded automatic weapon with a couple of clips in your backpack.

**RAIN**

Clips are what liberals call them. The proper term is magazines.

**LUKE**

The New Yorker is a magazine. Mother Jones is a magazine. Popular Mechanics -

**RAIN**

Just shut it, Rain.

**LUKE**

You shut it, Luke.

**RAIN**

Where did you get those?!

**MARIA**

Jackson.

**LUKE**

The sandwich guy?

**RAIN**

He's righteous, Rain, all right?

**LUKE**

But why -

**MARIA**

I told Jackson what we're gonna do. And he handed me these.

**LUKE**

You're gonna kill Mr. Wagner, too???

**RAIN**

They're for the books. The walkout is one thing, but to make a really bold statement... we pass out the knives and everybody cuts out the chapter. Then we walk. A cut, a slash, then we're gone...

**LUKE**

You are so disgusting.

**RAIN**

No, Rain, the lies in that book are what's disgusting. Lucy? Turkana Boy? Ape-people who never existed?

**LUKE**

If you were smart enough to understand the concepts of fossils and radiometric dating -

**RAIN**

A couple of shoeboxes of bone fragments stuck together with silly putty and b.s. and twisted into godless shapes so teachers could refute the Word -

**LUKE**

Why don't you just open your eyes?

**RAIN**

**LUKE**

Second Peter, Chapter two. “There will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Bold and arrogant these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings. They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done.”

**RAIN**

You really need to get laid.

**MARIA**

Rain!

**RAIN**

Your virginity pledges have made you insane. Or stupid. You’ve been accepted to four top tier colleges, and you are going to walk out of AP Biology in some ridiculous Creation Day protest of Mr. Wagner teaching the Theory of Evolution?

**MARIA**

It’s called “True Love Waits.”

**LUKE**

We’re not the ones poisoning ourselves by sticking chunks of metal through our skin. Come on, Maria.

**MARIA**

You don’t really believe that part of the book, do you?

**RAIN**

So you took AP just so it would look good on your transcript?

**MARIA**

You can’t just forget everything we learned in Sunday School. Ms. Perkins and Dr. Hunter....we celebrated Creation Day every April 25th!

**RAIN**

We were like six then!

**LUKE**

I pray for you, Rain. I really do.

**MARIA**

Maybe...maybe you are a little too pierced. Maybe that’s it.

**RAIN**

What about your grade? You walk out of that class –

**MARIA**

I'm into college already.

**RAIN**

Acceptances are conditional.

**MARIA**

No they're not. Are they?

**LUKE**

Why don't you go home and watch Ellen Degenerate or whatever you do.

**RAIN**

Ripping some pages out of a book is not going to change the fact that it took billions of years to create the Earth as we know it. And anyone with any sense at all who can think for themselves knows it.

**LUKE**

Come on, Maria. It's time for class.

*LUKE hands Maria a knife.*

Happy Creation Day. And Happy Anniversary.

**RAIN**

How romantic.

**MARIA**

I don't want to cut any pages.

**LUKE**

We took a vow to uphold the Word. By any means necessary.

**MARIA**

You said we'd walk out. You never said anything about –

**LUKE**

I prayed hard on this.

**RAIN**

Since lunch started?

**LUKE**

You might not believe this, Rain, but I pray for you. Every week since seventh grade when you stopped coming and I figured out that you were...

**RAIN**

That I was what?

**LUKE**

And I have prayed ever since that you would come back. Believe it or not.

**RAIN**

I don't need your prayers. Nor do I want them.

**LUKE**

Come on, Maria. Those pages violate The Word.

*MARIA begins to leave with LUKE.*

Metal chunks.

**RAIN**

Maria's pierced, too, Luke.

**LUKE**

Huh?

**RAIN**

You know...down there?

**LUKE**

What the - ?

**MARIA**

I am not!

**LUKE**

What are you doing getting pierced? ANSWER ME!!

**RAIN**

Yeah, Maria, and especially down there?

**MARIA**

I am not! RAIN!!

**RAIN**

Just kidding. But you wondered. So I guess true love really does wait.

**LUKE**

If you ever...If You Ever...



If she ever whats, Luke?

**RAIN**

It's time. Let's do this!

**LUKE**

Try and cut my book. I'd like to see you try. Here. Lucy, Turkana Boy. Here they are. Take 'em out. COME ON, TAKE 'EM OUT!

**RAIN**

*RAIN tries to take the package of knives away from LUKE. In the struggle, her hand is cut.*

Ow.

**RAIN**

Oh my God!!

**MARIA**

Why did you do that?

**LUKE**

Oh my God! Rain, are you OK?

**MARIA**

I'm fine.

**RAIN**

Oh my God! Oh my God!

**MARIA**

I'm fine. I just need a towel or something. Anything.

**RAIN**

*RAIN puts her hand inside the book in a weird attempt to heal it.*

Go. I'm fine.

I'm sorry! I'm sorry!

**LUKE**

I said I'm fine. Just GO! Both of you!

**RAIN**

**MARIA**

*(after a pause, to LUKE)* Get out of here.

**LUKE**

Maria, come on!

**MARIA**

Get out of here!!!!

**LUKE**

Come on, Maria! You promised!

**MARIA**

No.

**LUKE**

Two years, Maria!

**MARIA**

*(to RAIN)* Let me see your hand.

**LUKE**

Maria!

**MARIA**

GO TO HELL!!

*LUKE storms away. MARIA takes the ribbon out of her hair.*

All I have is this ribbon. We can go to the nurse –

**RAIN**

No, this is fine.

**MARIA**

Are you sure?

**RAIN**

Yeah.

**MARIA**

Let me see.

It's fine. **RAIN**

Let me see it! **MARIA**

See. Not so bad. **RAIN**

*A bell rings.*

Time for class.

**MARIA**  
That's just the end-of-lunch bell. We still have a few minutes.

**RAIN**  
You want this apple?

**MARIA**  
No, you have it.

**RAIN**  
Look, you didn't eat.

**MARIA**  
I told you -

**RAIN**  
No, I understand, I just meant... never mind. I'm not going to tell you what to do.

*RAIN eats an apple.*

It's really good. It's organic. So you're not gonna walk out?

**MARIA**  
It just...it wouldn't be fair to Mr. Wagner.

**RAIN**  
No. So...I guess your big date with Luke...

**MARIA**  
Yeah.

**RAIN**  
Sorry.

It's not your fault.

**MARIA**

No, but...

**RAIN**

Whatever.

**MARIA**

**RAIN**

After they walk out...we should have our own celebration. We should celebrate the Big Bang. I don't know. Maybe we could call it Bang Day or something.

**MARIA**

Bang Day?

**RAIN**

Sure. Do you ever think about the Big Bang?

**MARIA**

I try not to.

**RAIN**

You should.

**MARIA**

I've kind of avoided it all these years.

**RAIN**

Yeah. It's...complicated.

**MARIA**

Yeah.

**RAIN**

And a little scary at first.

**MARIA**

Yeah.

**RAIN**

But it's also really exciting. And beautiful.

**MARIA**

You seem like you know a lot about the Big Bang.

I do. Trust me.

**RAIN**

*RAIN and MARIA both eat from the apple.*

**End of Play**