

A Reader's Theater Script for  
*Liar & Spy*  
Written by Rebecca Stead  
Script Adaptation by Gail Shipley, TBA Committee Member

**Readers:**

|            |         |       |
|------------|---------|-------|
| Narrator 1 | Georges | Safer |
| Narrator 2 | Mr. X   |       |

**Narrator 1:** Seventh grader Georges is in his New York apartment. The phone rings and Georges answers. His fellow spy club member Safer is on the phone.

**Safer:** I know what I'm looking for this time, but I would feel a lot better if you had my back. I'll give you some more time to think about it.

**Narrator 2:** Georges gets dressed.

**Narrator 1:** He tells himself he won't answer the phone when Safer calls. But then he does.

**Safer:** Do you have my back, Georges? Can I count on you?

**Narrator 2:** Georges stands there holding the phone.

**Narrator 1:** What Georges is thinking is that Safer is the only actual friend he's got unless he counts Bob English Who Draws. Should he count Bob English Who Draws?

**Safer:** You still there?

**Georges:** I'm here.

**Narrator 2:** Georges walks over to the lobbycam.

**Narrator 1:** Standing in his own private hallway looking at his own private intercom can't

be against the law, can it?

**Georges:** Fine. But this is the last time. The lobby is clear. You're good to go.

**Safer:** I knew it, Georges! Knew I could count on you. Look--forget banging on the pipe. I'm on Pigeon's cell phone, so I'll bring it with me and we can keep talking. If you see Mr. X on the lobbycam, just give me a shout.

**Narrator 2:** Great. Burglary by telephone. Georges thinks he is probably about to take one giant step toward the definition of conspiracy. He hears a *swish-swish* sound through the phone and he knows Safer is on the move--it's the same sound he hears when his Dad sticks his cell phone in his pocket and it accidentally calls home. *Swish-swish Swish-swish* Then nothing for a little while.

**Safer:** Okay, I'm in.

**Georges:** So what are you looking for, exactly?

**Safer:** A book.

**Georges:** A book that locks?

**Safer:** Yes--I did some research online. I think it's a key to a diary--something old. He must lock it for a reason. Maybe he keeps a list of his victims or something.

**Georges:** Just make sure you don't end up on that list.

**Safer:** Why are you whispering, Georges?

**Georges:** Because this is crazy! It's the middle of the day. What if he comes home and walks in on you?

**Safer:** Now you're whispering and yelling at the same time. Who knew you were so talented? Anyway, that's what you're there for, Georges. To protect me.

**Narrator 1:** Georges feels vaguely sick.

**Safer:** Okay. There are a couple of bookshelves, and then I have to go through the desk drawers and stuff. I'm sticking the phone in my pocket, but I'll leave it on so you can hear

me.

**Narrator 2:** Georges' mouth is dry, but he doesn't want to risk the thirty seconds it would take to get water from the kitchen sink. *Think of Safer*, he tells himself. *He's crazy, but he's your friend. And he's up there with the handsaw, alone.*

**Safer:** Okay, the bookshelves have just regular books, I'm checking the desk drawers.

**Narrator 1:** *Swish-swish. Swish-swish.*

**Narrator 2:** The intercom turns itself off, and Georges pushes the button to reactivate it. When the picture comes back, there's someone in the lobby. A tall man in a black jacket, with a suitcase.

**Georges:** Safer

**Narrator 1:** Nothing. Not even a *swish-swish*. Georges realizes he is whispering into Safer's pocket.

**Georges:** Safer!

**Narrator 2:** Nothing.

**Narrator 1:** The tall man has let himself into the lobby.

**Narrator 2:** Georges starts pushing random buttons on his phone, thinking it might make Safer's phone beep and catch his attention.

**Narrator 1:** The tall man is waiting by the elevator.

**Narrator 2:** Georges runs to the kitchen and grabs a big spoon. He starts banging on the heating pipe, three quick, three slow, three quick. He drops the spoon and pushes more buttons.

**Georges:** Safer. Safer!

**Narrator 1:** Georges hears a dial tone. He must have disconnected the call by pushing so many buttons. Stupid. So stupid! He doesn't even know Pigeon's cell phone number, so he can't call him back.

**Narrator 2:** On the lobbycam, the tall man is getting into the elevator, dragging his suitcase behind him.

**Narrator 1:** Georges gives up on the phone and runs out his front door, into the hallway. He takes a deep breath and pushes the elevator button. He can't let Mr. X find Safer in his apartment. He has to stall him. And if he is there, the guy can't kill him, because there'll be a witness. Unless he kills both of them.

**Narrator 2:** The elevator is coming.

**Narrator 1:** *Maybe it isn't Mr. X, Georges thinks. Maybe this is someone completely different, here to stay with a friend. Maybe it's some French person visiting Mr. Gervais on the fifth floor.* He breathes.

**Narrator 2:** The elevator door opens. The tall man is standing there in his black jacket next to his suitcase.

**Narrator 1:** Georges notices his pants are black too. Lots of people wear black, he reminds himself. Probably French people, especially. The man smiles at him.

**Mr. X:** Going up?

**Narrator 2:** Have our two spy club members found a real mystery? Who is Mr. X? Will Georges and Safer escape his clutches? To solve the mystery of Mr. X read *Liar & Spy* by Rebecca Stead.

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