

Litter
The Story of the Framingham Dodecatuplets

by
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CHARACTERS

THE FRAMINGHAM DODECATUPLETS

12 Actors.

Roughly the same age. They don't look anything like each other.

In order of birth

- 1 – the oldest one
- 2 – the sensitive one
- 3 – the musical one
- 4 – the cynical one
- 5 – the jockey one
- 6 – the hidden one
- 7 – the unlucky one
- 8 – the angry one
- 9 – the funny one
- 10 – the holistic one
- 11 – the smart one
- 12 – the miracle

Feel free to adjust any physical description specific lines to your cast.

SETTING

The Framingham Dodecatuplet apartment, various stages, and the outer world.

TIME

The present.

TEXT NOTE

A "/" in the text indicates that the following line should begin. This is used quite a bit in the large scenes. There are often multiple tracks of dialogue going on simultaneously. The effect should be a busy a multilayered feel, bordering on chaos, but the audience should still be able to parse out information and action. Hopefully. Think of how scenes play in a Robert Altman movie.

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(Title Cards for Each Scene in
brackets.)

[Litter]

[The Story of the Framingham Dodecatuplets]

(A bed.

Lights up on the FRAMINGHAM
DODECATUPLETS, sleeping on a single
mattress. Their breathing is
synchronized. Their use of the mattress
to get everyone to fit is impressive

There is something womblike about the
feeling of the stage and their
formation.

A communal deep breath or two

A small spasm, an involuntary jerk.

In an instant they all turn sides, a
tight symphony.

An alarm clock

Some sort of transition to-)

[The Second to Last Show]

(lights up BRIGHT. The Framingham Dodecatuplets are in matching track suits, albeit a little dilapidated. Big Smiles. Unity.)

ALL

Hi! We're the Framingham Dodecatuplets and we are here to make your day a happy one!

(A perfectly performed song and dance.)

ALL

We're like the eggs you buy at the store
The Donuts in a box
The Hours on a clock
We're cheaper when you get us all at once.
We're dirty before we take a bath.
We're an insult game played by Urban Men.

(a shout)

Yo Mama!

Dime a dozen
Dozen roses
We're a little more than ten.

{CHORUS}

To you were just a number, a strange a-no-ma-ly
But to us all put together, we're just a fam-il-y!
Fam-il-y! Fam-il-y

(they each point at each other sibling
in a brilliant bit of choreography)

You and you and you and you and you and you and you
and you and you and you and Me!

(instrumental, spoken over music)

11

Well well well, hello there Concord Senior Center!

9

Look at all those happy faces. Hello you.

8

It is a great pleasure for the Framingham Dodecatuplets to be performing for you today.

6

It's a great pleasure to be a Framingham Dodecatuplet!

9

Ha! It sure is, Six.

2

The only set of Dodecatuplets to survive into their 20s!

1

Count your blessings!

7

And we can all sing!

3

La la la la laaaa!

8

(A staged joke)

That's a little loud, three!

3

I have a gift!

5

But seriously, we are terribly blessed to be able to perform for you today, Concord Senior Center.

4

And we feel terribly blessed that all our eggs remained viable in that Petri dish so long ago.

10

And so awfully blessed to have all twelve of us survive in our mother's womb when they were only hoping for six or seven!

12

Boy did they gasp when I came out in one piece!

9

(pretending to be a shocked scientist)

A twelfth a twelfth!

1

And we are so grateful for all the doctors and all the caretakers and trainers and teachers and managers and agents and the Minute Maid brand of fruit juices who have sponsored us since we were all the size of Russet potatoes in the incubator.

2

We would like to dedicate this show to June Framingham, our dear mother who made the ultimate sacrifice in bringing our twelve souls into the world. Our lives are hers.

ALL

June.

5

Let's introduce ourselves, guys!

1

Hi, I'm One, and I love fire engines!

2

Hey I'm Two and I love fashion!

3

Hello I'm Three and I love makeup!

4

Hello I'm "Four," and I love Broadway!

5

Yeah that's right I'm Five and I love sports!

6

Hi I'm Six and I love-

7

Hi I'm Seven, and I love feathers!

8

Hello, wonderful people, I'm Eight and I love little sandwiches!

9

Whoa there Nine, I am and I love bananas!

10

Namaste, I'm Ten and I love trees!

11

I'm Eleven and I appreciate math!

12

Hi I'm twelve but you can call me Sunlight Firecracker
Wonderbread Flytrap Confettimaker. I wasn't even supposed
to happen. They almost dumped me in the trash but a
sparkle in my eye changed their minds. And so I am a
magician! An alchemist. I cast my spell.

I CAST MY SPELL-

(12 raises arms and casts spell as 1
shouts-)

1

We are so grateful we have each other!

7

We live together.

3

We cook together.

9

Sing together.

2

Work together.

8

Play together.

11

Grow together.

5

Sleep together.

4

And we dance together! 5, 6, 7, 8!

(Music starts again

THEY all do a group TIME STEP TAP
NUMBER in perfect Unison.)

10

Shapes!

(With great precision and choreography
and speed, they create forms and shapes
perhaps while doing the time step? A
triangle, then a square, a six sided,
then a circle

A group laugh)

6

Super Being!

(OO What about they somehow form a
giant person Or they look like an
amoeba? Or a hydra?. An uber
organism? While still doing the time
step.

In the shape of a large organism, heads
out to us)

ALL

We're like a calendar you put on your door.
We're divisible by three two six and four
We're all the friends that Jesus had.

Days of Christmas
First trimester
The inches in a foot

To you were just a number, a strange a-no-ma-ly
But to us all put together, we're just a fam-il-y!
Fam-il-y! Fam-il-y

(they each point at each other sibling
in a brilliant bit of choreography)

You and you and you and you and you and you and you
and you and you and you and Me!

(They begin a staged play-fight that
gets steadily more aggressive, a play
'fight for attention)

And me!

And me!
And me!
And me!
AND ME!!

(THEY "lose" their balance and fall on the ground.

A big laugh as they start to wrestle tickle and play with each other on the floor in a joyous, happy tussle.

We hear a little bit of applause from a small audience

Perhaps a small light change as the tussle gets increasingly less playful and feeling just a little bit hostile, possibly getting out of control but not quite. 5 and 8 seem particularly jostly with each other.

Suddenly 8 PUNCHES 5.

5 punches 8 back, misses punches 6
The friendly pile turns into a brawl, a sea of people fighting and trying to keep people from not fighting, chaos.

Lights shift.)

[Early History]

11

One in six point nine billion. That is the probability of a human womb able to carry twelve viable fetuses to term. And we are the one. For emotional and or stupid people, this would make them feel like they are special. The creation of the Universe is special. We are an anomalous blip on the graph of existence.

4

June Framingham. That was our "mother's name." A "simple, ordinary single and loveless woman from know-nothing flyover country", or that's how she was described in the "press release" of our "birth." Apparently June "really wanted a baby" and couldn't squirt one out on her own. So she went to this "clinic" and they gave her twelve. "What a deal."

2

June died during our birth. She insisted. The doctors were about to save her and she said "No, don't." I find that very moving, to give everything to one's work like that. It's why I'm an artist. I carry that pain. More than the others.

6

They've never shown us pictures of June. To protect her privacy they say. But sometimes I wonder if they're not-

1

We could easily have been split up, sent to orphanages and foster homes and shoe factories. But then, a miracle. Mommy Melissa and Daddy Warren, the clinic owners, stepped forward and said "It was our procedure that brought these twelve into the world and so they will be our children. We at Fertile Horizons, with the help of the Minute Maid brand of juices, will be their mommies and daddies."

10

We were raised at the "The Farm." That's what our Mommies and Daddies called it. Grassy turf on the floor. Sky blue ceilings, the smell of hay. I remember really believing we were at a farm and not in an office park in Phoenix. I fell in love with nature because of that.

3

Daddy Roman was awesome. He worked the night shift for a few years while he was a Mandarin Studies major at Scottsdale College. He always left cool magazines for us to read when he left. Scientific American. Popular Mechanics. Ebony. "Things are hard sometimes when you're older," he used to say. I smoked with him.

5

I won't lie. I was pretty popular with the mommies. They used to call me "little Casanova." I'd draw bouquets of flowers with crayons and give them to all the Farm workers of the lady persuasion. Got a lot of treats because of that. Extra food. Extra milk. That's why I'm so tall. God I miss our mommies.

7

On one side of our rooms at *The Farm* were these huge mirrors from floor to ceiling. I used to look at myself and dance in front of them all the time.

One time, we were all taking a nap on our bed and I heard a clicking noise from the mirror. I crossed the rope we weren't supposed to cross and put my face against the glass. Dark silhouettes of twenty or thirty heads moving towards my own. Then a giant palm of a hand pressed against the glass where my head was and I wet my pants.

6

I don't think we were fully aware of what was going on. I think there's a lot that's been withheld-

9

(fart noise)

Woah excuse me it's been a stressful day!

(fiddle)

I was three years old and there was this one day, taco Tuesday, and I guess I overindulged in the Pintos Frijoles and let out this monster tacofart and wow, all the mommies and daddies just laughed and laughed and I never want to stop making people laugh.

8

And so, in a nutshell, we were the mascots for a fertility corporation that killed our mom. We are the retarded, hopeless tragic remnants of an evil experiment. We still all live together in a tiny little house and we all sleep in the same bed. How motherfuckingfucked up is that?

12

Eight gave me a blood transfusion.
So did Eleven and Three.

The others, they've given me stuff too. Hair, liver bits,
and they've all taken shifts applying the creams I need so
my skin doesn't break.
They just did it.

They gave me parts of them so I could live.

I must protect them however I can.

6

I think there is information being-

5

And that's how the Framingham Dodecatuplets came to be!

[Family Meeting – Just After the Second to Last Show]

(At home. A small living room.
Everyone is talking over each other.
Commotion.)

2

Ow/ ow ow ow ow.

9

Well that was the best show/ ever am I right?

4

"So proud," "so privileged" to be part of this "class/ act
family."

5

(to 8)

Can't believe/ you.

8

You pushed/ me.

5

You pushed/ me.

9

Am/ I right?

4

/So pathetic.

3

I don't think you're/ right.

1

OK quiet down/ everyone.

4

So "mature" how we "deal" with / "conflict."

2

That was totally unnecessary /for that to happen.

6

Didn't you even notice/ I was underneath you guys?

2
I didn't ask to be/ injured.

9
I think the Concord Seniors might have /appreciated the
violence?

2
I was a/ bystander.

10
Just/ breathe.

12
Where can/ I sit?

11
This is/ physics.

3
I wasn't hurt at all.

2
Yay/ for you.

11
When you place 12 moving objects in a confined space/
there's bound to be collision.

6
I couldn't/ breathe under that pile.

4
That was not a / "collision."

2
I almost / panicked.

11
There's an equation that could've/ predicted that.

7
I thought you were going to/ die.

4
Where did you learn/ about that?

6

I wasn't going to/ die.

(9 sniffs)

11

I'm taking an online math and physics/ course.

10

Hey guys let's/ just take a breath.

7

Your tunnel was lit.

4

"Online." / That's a trustworthy "resource."

7

Maybe you/ didn't realize that but it was.

11

It's an educational / website.

9

(sniffing)

/Uh oh. Oh boy.

4

"Educational."

7

Everyone takes things/ for granted here.

4

Have you read about everything they say about us/ online?

7

And they/ shouldn't.

11

Idle gossip doesn't / interest me.

12

Is this/ seat taken?

9

Methinks somebody hath farted.

4
I bet this "incident" will be posted/ on TMZ.

8
You pushed/ me.

5
You pushed/ me.

11
I don't understand / the fascination with us.

10
Too much talking not enough/ listening.

12
I can sit/ over here.

9
Let's/ not take a breath, whoa.

4
"Our Fans."/ Perverts and housewives.

9
Did two people fart/ at the same time?

12
Or I could lie down/ in front of everyone.

4
We should have our own site.

3
I farted.

9
/Gross!

11
I don't think we should fan the flames.

3
Why is it/ gross?

10
Breathe/ in.

4
I need something new./ I'm so bored.

3
It's just air/ from lunch.

11
It's all meaningless/ but whatever.

2
Could someone massage/ my right shoulder?

10
And/ out.

9
Whatever three/ it's disgusting.

12
Is this/ seat taken?

7
What's wrong/ with your shoulder?

3
I think it smells/ like seeds.

2
It was kicked/ by feet.

9
Seeds / of death.

1
OK / guys.

7
You could be hemorrhaging./ Internally.

5
You're lucky I/ held back.

2
Would you massage it/ for me?

8
You're lucky I / held back.

12
I'm going to sit/ on the floor.

7
Massages won't/ help with hemorrhaging.

5
Jealous.

9
Have we ever all farted at the same/ time?

8
Jealous/ of what?

10
Stretching/ the neck.

9
A family fart. /Defying the laws of physics.

5
Jealous of all the action/ I get?

3
I'm/ hungry.

8
You don't get any/ action.

6
It's too loud /in here.

7
I read about someone who got a massage/ and died.

5
Oh I get/ action.

9
I smell another one.

8
Webcamming is not/ action.

2
7, if you don't want to give me a massage you can just say
so.

9
A new/ culprit. Nuttier. Who is it?

6
All I can hear/ is noise.

5
Don't be old/ fashioned.

8
And neither is using a sibling for friction/ in the middle
of the night.

3
Are we going to/ eat tonight?

6
/Chaos.

2
I'm not /hungry.

9
Like a stockyard in here.

5
I've never/ used a sibling for friction.

8
You were trying to fuck/ my armpit last night.

4
This is getting/ so monotonous.

5
Ahmpit./ You talk funny.

6
Always/ chaos.

9
Why are fart /jokes so funny?

10
Suck in the/ calming ether.

2

They're not/ funny.

11

Monotony is a matter/ of perception

8

Does anyone have any smokeable/ drugs?

4

You don't think this/ is monotonous?

5

I hate how you /abuse yourself.

11

I don't find torture/ monotonous.

8

I hate how you exist.

(1 Hits a Gong)

1

THIS FRAMINGHAM FAMILY MEETING WILL COME TO ORDER.

(silence)

1

OK. Will someone please tell me how it started?

(They all talk at once)

2: We were in the "happy tumble" and somebody trampled my shoulder-

3: I don't really know because there was a crumb in my hair.

4: "Someone" got a little too "into" their "performance"-

5: Eight pushed me much harder than is necessary so I had to push him back.

6: Six bodies were on me and I couldn't move, my legs

7: The stage was so small and we were close to the edge-

8: He's fucking idiot is how it started.

9: Well some people think it was God, or a spirit-

10: I think we're all feeling stress, ya know. Added stress.

11: We don't really know what was before the big bang but-

12: We all love each so much that sometimes it makes us
angry.

(1 hits gong)

1

Forget it. It doesn't matter. The damage is done.

9

Did the Senior Center complain?

1

Someone had a heart attack.

4

Someone was napping/ as well.

7

Someone died?

11

They can't prove it's related to the show.

1

Well they're refusing to pay.

5

There's a reason that part is called the "happy tumble."

4

We "know" why it's called the "happy/ tumble."

1

It is meant to evoke the joy of youth.

9

I thought it was someone who falls down stairs during an
orgasm.

(fiddle)

5

It's supposed to be playful!

8

I was being playful.

5

You punched/ me.

8

Fuck you and your fucking muscles.

(almost punches back.)

1

STOP IT.

9

(laugh)

/Man.

10

Chill guys.

12

This all my fault.

6

It's not your fault,/ twelve.

12

I always prepare a potion of protection over us right before we go perform and I didn't have time cause we all slept in.

2

We're back to potions/ again.

12

Two oak roots.
Water from alpine snow.
Half a stick of European butter.
The blood of a freshly born cat.

11

/Interesting.

7

Who's/ cat?

6

A/ kitten?

12

A dash of ground spider and the spittle of a sow.

7
You killed a/ cat?

12
I couldn't find/ the blood.

9
No, curiosity/ did.

12
I had cat blood in the fridge.

3
OH.

4
What?

3
Nothing.

4
You didn't.

3
I thought it was cranberry juice.

9
And now we know why three's farts smell so felonious./
(fiddle)

12
I should have labeled/ it.

3
Cranberries are a superfood/ so I though I'd-

9
Put that cat on YouTube!

12
I'm sorry. I'm/ so sorry.

4
It's/ OK, Twelve.

9
Not a/ big deal, twelve.

10
Let go of the guilty impulse,/ 12.

3
Tasted like cranberry juice.

5
Vampire!

12
Sorry sorry/ sorry.

11
You're not doing real magic, twelve so don't worry about
it. Potions aren't real.

(they look at him)
I mean we're lucky that the potion from the day before
protected us from far greater threats.

7
What threats?

11
I'm just trying to maintain a fantasy.

7
Are we getting those letters again?

(1 hits the gong)

1
Seriously we can not afford any more mistakes.

2
You mean moments of emotional truth.

10
I felt the rawness.

1
It's vital to our survival that we maintain the Framingham
Dodecatuplet image /as best we can.

8
Fucking image.

4
"Happy" "Family"/ "Together"

1
I don't think you/ understand how serious this is.

5
She's right you guys.

8
Stop kissing her ass.

5
Get out of/ my face guvnah.

8
Make fun of my accent/ one more time.

3
I drank/ blood.

1
WE'RE BROKE!

(beat)

2
Emotionally?

1
No-

2
Because emotionally I feel broke.

1
Our fee for the Concord Senior Center show was all we had
to get us through the rest of this month and they won't
pay.

4
So what?

1
We don't have enough money to pay for a week's groceries.

2
/Oh my god.