

# ***Six Feet Apart***

*By*  
*Chantel Langlinais Carlson*

# SIX FEET APART

Copyright © 2021 Chantel Langlais Carlson

**CAUTION:** Professionals and Amateurs are hereby warned that performance of **SIX FEET APART** is subject to payment of a royalty. It is fully protected under the copyright laws of The United States of America, and of all countries covered by the International Copyright Union (including the Dominion of Canada and the rest of the British Commonwealth) and of all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention, the Berne Convention, and of all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations. All rights, including without limitation professional/amateur stage rights, motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all other forms of mechanical, electronic and digital reproduction, transmission and distribution, such as CD, DVD, the Internet, private and file-sharing networks, information storage and retrieval systems, photocopying, and the rights of translation into foreign languages are strictly reserved. Particular emphasis is placed upon the matter of readings, permission of which must be obtained from the Author in writing.

The English language stock and amateur stage performance rights in the United States, its territories, possessions and Canada for **SIX FEET APART** are controlled exclusively by Next Stage Press. No professional or nonprofessional performance of the Play may be given without obtaining in advance written permission and paying the requisite fee. Inquiries concerning production rights should be addressed to [licensing@nextstagepress.net](mailto:licensing@nextstagepress.net)

## SPECIAL NOTE

Anyone receiving permission to produce **SIX FEET APART** is required to give credit to the Author as sole and exclusive Author of the Play on the title page of all programs distributed in connection with performances of the Play and in all instances in which the title of the Play appears for purposes of advertising, publicizing or otherwise exploiting the Play and/or a production thereof. The name of the Author must appear on a separate line, in which no other name appears, immediately beneath the title and in size of type equal to 50% of the size of the largest, most prominent letter used for the title of the Play. No person, firm, or entity may receive credit larger or more prominent than that accorded the Author.

## SIX FEET APART

CAST: 4W, 1M

JENNIFER	48, owner of estate sales business, single, mother of two
ASHLEY	24, college graduate
JILL	54, college instructor, married, mother of one
LAURA	45, graphic designer, Harold's wife, mother of five
HAROLD	45, ER doctor, Laura's husband, father of five

## SIX FEET APART

SIX FEET APART

# SIX FEET APART

## ACT 1

### SCENE 1: The Beginning

*The stage is set with six chairs, six feet apart, except for HAROLD AND LAURA who will sit together. There is a large screen showing news clips about the rapid spread and growing death toll from the Coronavirus in 2020 in various parts of the world, then shifting to Seattle and New York. There are clips from the US government telling us this will all go away. That we should not be concerned. Clips of people saying that we don't need to wear masks and then that we do. Clips of protestors wearing masks in the streets after the murder of George Floyd. Clips of mothers and sons and daughters and fathers dying from this virus. But the visual stories should shift to ones of hope. Of gratitude. Of people leaning out their New York windows the same time every night to applaud essential workers. To children selling lemonade so they can buy lunches for nurses. To nurses holding up their hands in the shape of hearts through a window to the grieving family outside on the sidewalk below. To sidewalks with the words "Stay kind, Stay safe, Stay home" and "We are in this together" written on them. And in the middle of it all, five people will walk on the stage and take their designated chairs. They will all be wearing masks and take them off only after they have taken their seats. The final chair will remain empty in honor of those who lost their lives to the Coronavirus.*

**JENNIFER.** I was hearing some strange things about there's this sickness, there's this illness. I had heard the word "Corona," I'd heard "COVID," a lot of just kind of questioning stuff. And nobody here in Oklahoma was doing anything. And I have a friend who's a school teacher in Seattle, and they said, "I think they're going to close the schools." And that, that seemed extraordinary. And I've, you know, I've read my Stephen King and my other post-apocalyptic fiction for the last 30 years. The first week of March, I actually stocked up on N95s and the full hazmat suit for everyone in my family and full-face respirators. I mean, I was ready. It never

## SIX FEET APART

fortunately came to that, but really before anybody here started doing anything, at least that I knew, I had just kind of stocked a few things. And remember, I'm a single mom. Self-employed. And my daughter's off at college, but my son and I live here, my mom lives about three blocks away. We see her almost every day. And I remember talking to my mom about, "What do you think about this? Do you think we need to make any changes or, you know, have you heard anything about it?" And she was clueless and, you know, she follows the news and all that, but she didn't really know anything. And then the second week of March there started kind of being, I guess, more national news.

**ASHELY.** I distinctly remember I was in Chicago...And I was in the room, the hotel room with my grandmother, and she had the news on and they were talking about Coronavirus. And I distinctly, I will never forget it. I stood in the middle of the hotel room, and I was like, why do they keep talking about this? Like it's not even over here, so why do we care so much? And then when we went to the airport a couple of days later is when I was sitting in the airport, this is also something very vivid in my mind. I was sitting in the airport waiting for our flight, and we got the first email from TCU that said, "We're extending spring break by an extra week." And everybody, and all these group chats that I was in was like, what is going on?

**JILL.** It was during spring break. That was actually the last meal I've had out in a restaurant was with one of my former students. We met for lunch, and had a lovely lunch, but we were talking about at that point talking about...cause she had mentioned that the last time that H1N1 Virus had hit campus, she got really sick, and she was talking about how different the reaction to COVID was from when that happened...And we were talking about that. And then sort of wondering what was going to happen. And as I was leaving there, there was a chat in one of the TCU Facebook groups that someone had leaked, "Hey, it sounds like we might be closing."

## SIX FEET APART

**ASHLEY.** They were telling us, “Hey, they're probably going to extend spring break an extra week.” And it was that moment that I started to get a little scared. Cause I was like, I don't know what this means, but it's...also being a college kid and a student in general you think, an extra week of break, that's amazing.

**LAURA.** We actually had just gotten back from a spring break trip to Houston where one of my cousins was kind of panicking about, you know, the virus and what was happening. And we were like, “Calm down, it's going to be fine.” And then I remember sitting in her living room and her saying, “Yeah, but what if this happens?” And we're like, “Yeah, but it's not.” And, “But what if this happens?” I'm like, “Hey, okay. But it's not.” And then we come home and it's like, no one's going to school. You know, lockdowns. I was like, oh, okay. Well, I guess this is happening. So, I was totally in the dark, I guess you could say, because I just wasn't really paying too much attention, I guess. And I was just excited about spring break and...It wasn't really here yet. Right? It was, it was mostly abroad. And then it was in California...

**HAROLD.** And Seattle.

**JENNIFER.** I was actually in the middle of a legal suit still in the Seattle area, even though I lived in Oklahoma at that time. And I remember my attorney sending a mass email, it was obviously out to all his clients that said that they were closing the county courthouse. And out of everything I heard, that was the most shocking and disturbing...that's the thing that, that was really concerning to me. You know, we think about everybody's right to a speedy trial, and you're just closing the courthouse? I mean, you can't file things. You can't get things resolved. You can't have your day in court. Even right now, I'm getting goosebumps just thinking about it. That to me was, this is something different. This is something significant.

**LAURA.** I was like that, you know, surely they're going to get a hold of this before it even makes it to us. You know? I mean, hello, we're the United States, I figured come on, someone, where's the lab that's gonna get this in check?

**JENNIFER.** I think my thinking was, oh, this is really bad. They're going to close everything. Everybody's going to stay home for, you know, two, three, maybe six weeks. And then it'll be over because everybody will have stayed home. And so, I pretty much bought all the things I thought if we literally were locked down in our

## SIX FEET APART

house for six weeks, what would we need? You know, food, toiletries, health items, all that kind of stuff. And I remember people...and I wasn't like running through the store or anything, but I remember filling a cart and then, you know, packing it up and paying for it and then going back and getting a second cart and they were full. I mean, I see people with carts that full just on an average Saturday sometimes. But I remember looking around, like, no one else is seeing the urgency in this, what is wrong with people?

**HAROLD.** I said, "We need to get some groceries," I can see it as it's coming, you know, people are going to go crazy. And we're from New Orleans, right? So, we lived through hurricane seasons plenty. So, you know, that people go crazy grabbing things off the shelves. And I went with Isabella and, and it was like a normal day. And I'm like, man, this is weird because this is going to get bad. And I mean, we got, you know, we're Spanish, right? So, we grabbed I don't even know how many pounds of rice and beans, and corn, pasta, sauce...and it's funny thinking back, because the one thing I didn't think to grab was toilet paper. That that was going to be the big commodity. That the whole world was going to go crazy. But we had a lot of food and water. I remember, I'm like, I can't believe that people are not here. I mean, we went to Walmart and Walmart was like, I mean, it was like two in the afternoon and it was like a regular day.

**LAURA.** Then while you were at the grocery, we were just Lysol-wiping everything. And then wasn't, at that point, we were still not...when you came back from the grocery, we didn't bring it into the house. Like, didn't we even like leave it in the car outside...

**HAROLD.** I put it all in the closet under the stairs because I cleaned it out...Isabella likes to use that little closet as her reading nook, and I went in and kicked her out. And man, it was like a pantry.

**JENNIFER.** And when I picked my son up after his parent teacher conference that day, I took home all the things that he usually keeps there, you know, he takes the backpack back and forth each day, but he had, I think, like an extra jacket and a pair of boots and, you know, just the random papers and things that flip back and forth between school and home, you know, his lunch bag, things like that. And I remember the teacher saying, "It's spring break, you don't have to take everything." And I said, "Well, I'm not sure how long we're going to be gone." And they truly, I mean, both the director who was sort of out in the hallway as I



## SIX FEET APART

walked through with my huge load of things and the teacher both just seemed like, what are you, what are you doing? What's going on?

**JILL.** And then I texted Mark, my husband, and, I was like, “While I'm here, should I get my stuff from my office?” And he's like, “Go get everything you need, who knows what's going to happen.” And then I bumped into a colleague who was on campus doing the same thing. And that's, I think actually, while we were standing there talking out on campus, we got the email saying that, you know, the school was going to shut down, and we were going to get an extra week for vacation. And I think simultaneously to that, then, we got news that Juliana's school was closing, Mark was going to be home from work. So, it all happened really quickly.

**ASHLEY.** The first little like trigger moment was the extra week of break, and that's when I was like, this is way more serious than I thought it was going to be. And then once we got that final email, that was like, we're not coming back. I was like, oh, I really don't know what this is. So yeah, it was those two emails for sure from school that was like an extra week and then we're not coming back that I was like, oh, this is actually serious. This is really, really a big deal, way bigger than I thought.

**HAROLD.** I remember, and I want to say it was either a Saturday or a Sunday, early afternoon. I went in at two and we got a phone call. That's what we were doing, cause people were calling all the time asking questions, and it was a person that called and she had a fever. So, you know, that was the first concern, right? So, someone with a fever, this could be a COVID patient. And there had already been a couple of cases in the city. So, we knew that COVID was here. And the department itself actually was very, very slow because people got scared. So, everybody was told to stay at home. I mean, our volumes dropped 60 to 75%. I mean, we're getting very little ambulance traffic. We were always like, well, what happened to all their heart attacks? All the strokes? It's one thing if you're not out there running around spraining your ankle, but I mean, heart attacks and strokes were still happening. Even *those* people stopped coming in. And I think that's the moment when, when we got scared, I mean, I was scared. We were all scared because we knew that it was deadly. We didn't know how contagious it was going to be. And we didn't even know if the stuff we were doing was going to work to protect us.

## SIX FEET APART

**JENNIFER.** I think I misunderstood the severity of it. I think I truly felt let's close down everything, and I do mean even essential services. Cause I, I have friends who are in healthcare and things like that. I think I truly believed if everybody will just stay home for three weeks, it would be over, and looking back now that was not a realistic idea, because people need fire and police and hospitals and all that. But it also kind of, you know, makes me think for a moment. What if we had made that sacrifice? What if we had been willing to everybody just, you know, lock up and...there's, there's all kinds of social and financial and economic reasons why that wouldn't happen. But what if our country, the first week in March said, you know, we're getting every family a payment of a substantial amount, enough to stock up for six weeks on food and toiletries and things, and please stay home. What would have happened if we would've had the leadership to do that, even if we had taken it seriously? But I think back now of all the lives that would have been saved by taking it seriously early in the process.

**HAROLD.** Imagine what would have happened here in the states if we hadn't done what we did, if they hadn't been shut down, if people hadn't stopped doing everything, if people hadn't stayed home. It would have been a disaster. As bad as it was, it would've been 10 times worse.

**JILL.** I don't know if we really had any idea how...certainly to know it's going to last this long at that point, it was such an immediate and quick thing. I don't think that anyone had time to think about it. And I think that's what was difficult at the beginning is we just didn't have time. And I mean, now we know the government was lagging and knew a lot more than they said beforehand. You know, they knew a lot more back in January and just never told anyone. So we didn't know. I definitely had no idea. We thought we were just going to grab our books for a couple of weeks and then we'd be back. And then it just from there precipitated so quickly, because I think once the state started doing things and the universities had to comply with what the state measures were. And it just, it just went crazy fast, you know?

**ASHLEY.** I thought, I don't know what's going on, I'm just going to go home. I drove that Monday back to Oklahoma City to spend that extra week of break at home. And then in that process, we got the email that you weren't coming back to us to that semester. And that's when things, by that point, when I left to go home on

## SIX FEET APART

that Monday morning, I was legitimately scared. I was like, I have no idea. Like it was just monumental. The difference between how I felt in Chicago standing in my grandmother's hotel room to that Monday, going home for what I didn't know at the time would be the rest of that semester of college. So, it was a really, really kind of a whirlwind of an experience and a very distinct transition in thought and feeling for sure.

**JENNIFER.** I remember we had my mom over for dinner, and after my son went to bed, I talked to her at length. “Mom, this is really serious.” Especially at that point, we did know that the older people were more affected. My mom gets her information from a very different news outlet than I do. And one that was not fully informing people, or I guess not warning people in the manner that I was hearing from other news outlets. And my mom was just like, “Oh, it’s just a new variant of the flu.” And I remember going to, you know me, the researcher, economist data nerd. I remember pulling up with my mom sitting next to me, pulling up the CDC website, and showing her, and this was early on before we had all the data, but just showing her the death rates for the older generation. You know, and I think at that point, I wanna say the number was like five times higher for her age group than mine. 21 times higher for her age group than my son’s. And that, for some reason, that kind of made it click for her, maybe just seeing the numbers from something other than me. And we really made a commitment, you know, whatever anybody else is doing, this is what we're going to do. We're going to stay home.

### **SCENE 2: LIFE IN QUARANTINE**

**JENNIFER.** I talked to some friends and my counselor about this...just how lonely I was. I mean, truly lonely. And I'm an outgoing person. I'm definitely an extrovert, but you know, I have a job in which probably half the time I work a hundred percent by myself, you know, I'll go a whole day and not need to talk to anybody for work. And so, I'm fine entertaining myself, going to a movie by myself, going to the restaurant by myself. I don't care about that so much, but I have my routines and my friends that I see regularly, or game night that I go to, or, you know, seeing people at church or other social events. And it was, it was heartbreakingly lonely. It just, I don't know, it was something that made me realize that I don't want to spend the rest of my life without a partner. Not necessarily get

## SIX FEET APART

married again or something, but I want to have someone to share the everyday minutia with who I can ask about their day at the end of the day and someone to listen to and someone to listen to me.

**ASHLEY.** For me it was more important to be alone and kind of really process what was happening, because a lot of it was moving so quickly and changing so quickly that it was like, I can't keep up, and I can't be trying to do these things over here, because I'm at home and my family thinks, "Oh, you're home. Let's do all these things." And I'm like, "No, I still have to do school." And now all this stuff is falling apart and I really have no...I'm running around on fire. So I just needed to check out for a while.

**HAROLD.** I started to think, you know, what are we going to do at home? Because I remember when Laura and I started talking about the possibility that I may need to move out, it was because the reasoning was, you know, they're all here at home. Nobody's going to school. The kids don't get to see their friends.

**JILL.** That's been really hard and stressful on my daughter. She is a very...she really likes and thrives on that interaction. And for her, this has been the biggest shock to her system in terms of, from when she was four months old, she's been in daycare. She has always, always, always spent her days with other kids. And when we started lockdown, she was going from leaving her fourth-grade class and leaving her aftercare class. Cause she would go to school from seven to three and then from three to six she was in daycare, aftercare. So, it's been the biggest change for her. And it's been tough on her...and, but the hardest part is, you know, she's had to do all this on her own, and she...I'm going to start tearing up. She's in tears most days now, because it's been so hard on her.

**HAROLD.** Lucia and Isabella grew up not seeing me for days. And you know, they know about Katrina, too. They hear stories and they've seen pictures and they know, so, you know, I mean they're strong kids, too, but I think that the perspective that they have...because they've heard stories from the ER all their lives. So they know, and they've seen what it is to have a dad that works in the emergency room. They're used to hearing some stuff. I mean, I don't tell them the crazy, crazy stuff, but you know, they've heard stories about, you know, I had to tell somebody they have cancer today, or somebody's dying, or this happened or that happened. That's why when it was time for them to go back to school, we felt confident that they could go back to face to face. They needed to, because kids

## SIX FEET APART

overall were going crazy. The kids need that contact.

**JILL.** That's why we're going to send my daughter back.

**JENNIFER.** There was never a moment I was worried about the academics at all. And not because my child's ahead, if anything, he really struggles, and he's been retained previously. But he's not preparing for an SAT or ACT or for some sort of life-changing thing. I mean, at that point he was six- years-old, and in my opinion, much of what they need to be learning at that point is more experiential. You know, we can be reading books at home. We could be out digging in the dirt and finding out about animals, things like that. So I personally was never worried about, well, when are we getting back to school, or is he going to fall behind or anything like that. And I think if I had had an older student, probably especially high school where, you know, we're trying to get ready for an AP test or things like that, I would have had more concern, but for elementary age, I had zero. But we, I think it was the very end of April, I finally said, "Okay, this is going to be our life for a while."

**HAROLD.** So that's when we started changing how we did things here at home. The kids knew that when I got home, nobody was going to touch me.

**LAURA.** Yeah, we didn't react. Harold came home and nobody would move. You'd hear the garage, you know he was doing stuff in the garage, cause he was taking all his stuff off. And then you just see him like run across from our garage into the bathroom to go shower, you know, into our bedroom to go shower. We're like, "Oh Dad's home," but...no hugs, no nothing. We were just like, okay, nobody acknowledged that Harold was coming home.

**HAROLD.** Right. And you know, I would carry an extra pair of shoes. I took everything out of my car, *everything*. So the only thing I would bring home was my shoes. I would change scrubs at work just so that I would have clean clothes, and I would change shoes in the car. I would put anything that I may have brought in from the emergency room I put in the back seat, and I wouldn't put anything else back there. I would take off my shoes so I had a new pair of shoes. Those shoes stayed in the garage, but I stopped wearing rings and watches. But then even at that point, you're like, well, so okay, so if I touch anything...I'm not contaminating, but if I'm infected, if I'm sick and I'm here breathing, I'm still exposing everybody. So that's when Laura and I started thinking, hey, maybe, maybe I need to go because it really wasn't safe. I mean, what's the point of them doing quarantine if I'm walking

## SIX FEET APART

around carrying COVID everywhere?

**ASHLEY.** I would mostly just literally sit outdoors and be like, there are pathogens flying in the air right now. What is going on? It was crazy.

**JILL.** It's, it's been so stressful for all of us. I miss having our friends over to our house. We have lots of friends with little kids who would come over and swim in the pool and eat after. Some of those friends have significant health issues, so we have not seen them at all.

**HAROLD.** We haven't seen José, my brother. My brother's been in the Air Force for almost 25 years, and he's been all over the world, and there's been years where we don't get to see him or his family. But now he's lived in San Antonio for like two, two and a half, three years, and I haven't seen him since my sister got married almost a year and a half, two years ago. And he's right there and they're vaccinated. And he called me. And he goes, "When you guys are ready, we would love to come see you." And I almost like brushed it off because *I* don't feel safe. And it's weird.

**JENNIFER.** And then also, you know, with my kids just to go have fun in the summer and there was nowhere to go swim. I mean, in March it's too cold where I live to just swim outdoors. And the indoor pools closed immediately. And so, I have swam, I mean, before my son was born, I was in the pool probably seven or eight hours a week. And since then, you know, maybe an hour or two a week, but I physically was aching to swim. And there's not a way to repeat that. So that's something that I truly missed and still do.

**LAURA.** We saw my sister Carmen yesterday, and we met at a pool just to go swim where my brother Henry lives, because no one's ever there. So we drove, we have a pool, five minutes away, but we drove 30 minutes to go to this pool because it's, it'll be like our own private pool. But even like with her twins, you know, which is sad because when Carmen had her kids, I was never here. So with the twins, like, I'm here, I'm going to be with them all the time. And then like a year in, and I can't, you know, like I missed a year of their life even though I was here, but when we saw them at the pool, I'm like, "Okay, well bye." And that sucks, you know?

**ASHLEY.** I realized even as an introverted person how much I still do need to be around other people at least a little bit. I thought I was like, yes, I'm a loner. I'm low key anti-social, but then it was like, no, no. I need to step out of my house

## SIX FEET APART

every day. If I can at least once and appreciate the other people again, just more aware of just other people in general around me...like physical human beings have just become so much more valuable in life. For sure.

### **SCENE THREE: THE IMPACT ON JOBS**

**HAROLD.** There wasn't anything for me to go home to, you know, when I moved out into this hotel. So I just worked a lot. The hospital was kind of like, I mean, the hospital was really...other than coming here to see the kids, you know, it's kind of like my, my refuge because I've been there almost eight years, I think. And our core, you know, our doctors, our nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and most of our nurses, we have all been together a very long time. So we're very close and, and I think that's the one thing that we all share because we're all in it together. It was weird going to work and not...and I'm not a hugger. Like I don't hug my nurses, but even shaking hands, we stopped all of that, you know, we stopped. And that was weird, but it was nice to go to work because, because at least you had, we had something that other people didn't have. We got to go out and drive around and breathe some fresh air. And we got to see other people. So going to work was actually, as scary as it was sometimes, especially when COVID got really tough and it was very exhausting once COVID hit, it was very, very exhausting. At least we had that. I would come to the hotel, I would walk in, I would put my food on the counter. I would take off my shoes, take off all my scrubs and everything. And I walked right into the shower. So same thing because I didn't want to contaminate my place. And then I would eat and then I would usually call Laura or FaceTime with Laura and the kids. And then I would watch TV. I brought my keyboard over there, so I would play keyboard, but it's just that, that was the sad part. That's when I started writing in a journal. That was very depressing, very depressing. I was lonely, you know, I mean, it was...that, that was the bad part. It was bad.

**LAURA.** We've gone through so much. I mean, yeah, we've been married a while, but we've just gone through a lot of stuff. So I knew Harold before he even went to med school. So it's kinda like, you know, we have a friend who was married to an ER doctor, and they just couldn't handle it. I'm like, "Well, what's the problem? You know that this was what you signed up for. What's going on?"

**HAROLD.** I've always said that I can do what I do because she's here.

## SIX FEET APART

**LAURA.** Yeah. I mean, I just have to do it. We have friends that are like, “Well he’s not home,” and I’m like, “Well, yeah he’s not going to be home for three days, he’s working. What did you think was ER?” People were like, “How was it,” and I was being truthful. “Look, it sucks that Harold’s not here to help me make dinner. Because when Harold’s here, he’s making dinner, he’s bringing people to work, he’s doing things.” Besides that, I’m used to him not being around, because if he has long days of shifts back to back, that’s what it is, you know?

**JENNIFER.** Still though it was, especially at first, it was really hard. There wasn’t any of the...we didn’t have the stimulus money being released. We didn’t have any of that. And it was, I’ve always been someone who pays all my bills every month. I mean, never truly never had a credit card balance...And so it was very disturbing to watch those savings steadily going and not knowing when there’d be a time to put those back in. My mom was very graceful and actually shared her stimulus of \$1,200. I think it was \$1,200 at that point, and she just wrote it right over to me. And she said, “You know what? My generation is fortunate. We are on a fixed income, and we complain about being on fixed income, but our social security checks, our pension checks are...” you know, her retirement funds, things like that. “We’re going to get our check no matter what,” she said, “the people who are still working and can’t work are the ones who don’t have something to fall back on.” And so, she was very generous to share that with us. Otherwise, financially, it was something that, you know, we just really cut back, didn’t spend anything on entertainment or going out or things like that. So that made that a little bit easier, but it was financially the uncertainty I think was worse than even the reality of it, of how long is this going to go on? There were seven months there where I didn’t work at all.

***THE PLAY IS NOT OVER!! TO FIND OUT HOW IT ENDS—ORDER A COPY  
AT [WWW.NEXTSTAGEPRESS.COM](http://WWW.NEXTSTAGEPRESS.COM)***