

The Second Time Around

Written by
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Draft 2

Character List

KATHERINE – Female, late 20s

KENNETH – Male, early 30s, British, short

CECE – Female, mid 70s, Southern

RHYS – Male, 20s

LUNA – Female, 20s

GENE – Male, 50s

Two players may play all of the following parts:

Player one – CUSTOMER 1 (Female, 40s), GENE'S WIFE (Female, 30s), CUSTOMER 3 (Female, 60s), CUSTOMER 4 (Female, 30s), CUSTOMER 6 (Female, 50s, wealthy), CUSTOMER 8 (Female, 19), MR. KOOPA (Male, 50s)

Player two – CUSTOMER 2 (Female, elderly), RHYS' CUSTOMER (Male, 20s), CUSTOMER 5 (Female, 40s, full-figured), CUSTOMER 7 (Male, 70s), CUSTOMER 9 (Female, 30s), OLDER GENT (Male, 80s)

*The parts may also be split up to include a larger cast

SETTING

Bonnie's Closet – A consignment shop in South Carolina

TIME

2019

**Note: the INTERMEZZOS occur between scenes and while set changes take place in the background

ACT 1 SCENE 1

Two long counters form a V upstage. The counter on the left is the check-out counter and the one on the right is the drop off counter. Mannequin torsos on poles display a variety of outfits on either side of the stage. Handbags adorn the back wall, framing a sign that reads "ALL SALES FINAL".

KAT stands on a stool to take down the Christmas lights framing the purse wall. She hands them down to LUNA.

(KAT sighs heavily.)

LUNA

You okay?

KAT

Yeah, I just always feel a little sad taking down Christmas decoration.

LUNA

Hmm.

KAT

Christmas is bright and joyful and then we rip down all the color and light the minute the day is over. Then we just have the cold, gray winter.

LUNA

Mm-hmm.

KAT

I guess not the minute the day is over. We wait until the new year. Even later this year.

(Pause. She sighs heavily again).

LUNA

Bourbon?

KAT

It's 9:30 in the morning.

LUNA

Screwdriver?

(RHYS enters and shoves his bag behind the counter.)

Hey. RHYS

Hey. LUNA

Happy new year! KAT

Is it? RHYS

A new year? KAT

Happy. RHYS

It could be. KAT

Yes, a funeral is always a great start to a giddy year. RHYS

Well, we're just not going to focus on that. Luna, will you grab me the tub from the basement? KAT

The basement is haunted. I want to go. RHYS

(RHYS exits. LUNA rolls up the string of lights.)

Down with the Christmas lights, up with the workout gear. Now that's depressing. KAT

(CUSTOMER 1 enters, wealthy suburban woman, carrying a pair of slacks like it was a dirty diaper.)

Good morning! How are you today? KAT

I want to return these. CUSTOMER 1

Oh, okay. Is there something wrong with it? KAT

CUSTOMER 1

This is not a size 8. I always wear a size 8 and this was too small. Definitely not a size 8.

KAT

Well, that's women's fashion for you. No standards of sizing. I can wear a medium in one brand and-

CUSTOMER 1

I know fashion. This isn't about fashion. This is about false advertising. I want a refund.

KAT

Unfortunately, all sales are final. With consignment, we pay our consignors once the-

CUSTOMER 1

How was I supposed to know that?

KAT

Well, it's on our receipts-

LUNA

And our wall.

(LUNA points to a sign on the purse wall that says "ALL SALES FINAL".)

CUSTOMER 1

I can return something I bought at Kohl's five years ago without a receipt and they'll give you your money back.

KAT

I understand. With a small business-

CUSTOMER 1

I can't believe I'm being treated like this.

KAT

I suppose I could offer you store credit. We usually don't, but I could make an exception this time.

CUSTOMER 1

(feigning
disappointment)

Fine. I'll look around and see if I can even find something I want.

(CUSTOMER 1 exits as CECE enters on her scooter.)

CECE

She might try checking the delusions aisle under denial.

KAT

Cece! I didn't know you were coming in today.

(KAT runs and gives CECE a hug.)

CECE

I like to make an appearance at my favorite shop every now and again. Not much action today, huh?

KAT

Post-Christmas thick-of-winter ghost town. You know how it goes.

CECE

I know it.

KAT

How are you doing?

CECE

Oh sweet pea, I'm doing as well as I can be. The service feels like a minute ago and a year ago at the same time. I still expect her to peek her head out of the office any minute now.

KAT

I know what you mean.

(RHYS returns with the tub.)

RHYS

Auntie Cece!

CECE

How's my favorite little anarchist doing? Burn anything down today?

RHYS

I can't find my lighter.

CECE

What have I always told you?

RHYS

Keep your friends close and your weapons closer.

(RHYS and CECE hold hands.)

CECE

Oh sugar, it's good to see you.

(LUNA takes the tub and exits.
CECE notices.)

CECE

Something's off with her.

KAT

Luna? I don't think so.

CECE

Well I do. My bells tell me so. The bells don't lie.

KAT

She's fine, never mind your bells.

CECE

Where's my nephew? I thought he was starting today.

RHYS

Now that your actual nephew is coming here, do I have to stop calling you Auntie?

CECE

Lord, no.

RHYS

Do I have to start calling him boss? I don't want a new boss, Auntie.

CECE

Well, I'm open to suggestions.

RHYS

We could burn the place down and collect the insurance money.

CECE

Didn't someone forget their lighter?

RHYS

(sullen)

Yes.

(RHYS shuffles behind the counter,
pulls out a box of clothes and
sorts the items.)

KAT

He called this morning and said he'd be in by noon. He's probably jet-lagged.

CECE

Don't make too many excuses for him. He's got a lot to learn. I love him to pieces, but he doesn't know the difference between St. John's and St. John's Bay.

RHYS

Between Vera Wang and Vera Bradley?

CECE

Marc Jacobs and Marc by Marc Jacobs.

RHYS

Burberry and Balenciaga.

CECE

No need to be crass. But yes, he's got a ways to go.

(GENE rushes in, doesn't notice
CECE at first.)

GENE

Morning, KAT. God, it's cold out there. That wind!

KAT

Good morning. I thought you were off today?

GENE

I am, headed out to visit Brian but I wanted to pop in a
meet the new boss man. Where is the little nerd?

CECE

Surely he's playing dungeons and dragons in the bat cave.

(GENE whips around, sees CECE.
Whoops.)

GENE

Hey! I didn't see you there. I didn't mean...I call
everyone nerds. It's like a term of endearment. Happy new
year, Cece.

CECE

Happy new year, cow pie.

(A beat.)

CECE

What? It's a term of endearment.

KAT

Kenneth will be in by noon.

GENE

Hmm, I can't hang around that long. I guess I'll meet him
in a couple days.

(To Cece)

I'll be sure to wear my top hat and tails.

CECE

You do that, Mr. Peanut.

GENE

Mr. Peanut didn't have a tux.

CECE

Or balls.

(A beat, then laughter. These are old friends having a go at each other. GENE kisses CECE on top of the head and exits.)

KAT

Bye!

CECE

I better roll, too, sugar. Tell Kenneth I'll be in again for the big sale.

KAT

Oh, not before then? That's weeks away.

CECE

Yeah, I hate to admit it but I'm becoming a bit of a snow bird. Florida's calling my name.

KAT

Okay. I'm really glad you stopped by.

(KAT gets a little choked up. CECE holds out her arms to offer a hug. KAT takes her up on her offer.)

CECE

Don't you worry, Sweet Pea. Things will work out. God never gives us more than we can handle. He takes us right to the edge, but never past.

KAT

You're right.

RHYS

Bye, Auntie.

CECE

Quick: what's the fastest way to a man's heart?

RHYS

Through the chest wall with a bone saw.

CECE
That's my boy. Bye, ya'll.

KAT
Bye, Cece.

(CECE exits. RHYS takes all the clothes he's pulled out of the box and puts it back in the box.)

RHYS
I don't want any of this. Half of it's not even clothes. I'll stick it in the back.

KAT
Okay. Oh, wait! I haven't seen one of these in years.

(KAT snatches a magic eight ball out of the box as RHYS exits.)

KAT
Will this be a happy year?

(She looks at the ball, then slams it down.)

KAT
Rude.

(KAT leaves. The stage is empty for a moment. We hear a CLOCK TICKING and a tumbleweed blows across the stage.)

Then, LUNA and RHYS enter from opposite sides of the stage.

LUNA and RHYS stand in front of the counter wearing giant, pimp-style faux fur coats. They are the only two souls in sight. An old-school jam like "Unforgettable" plays on the radio.)

RHYS
Lady BurningMan?

LUNA
Yes, Lord PrettyDeath?

RHYS
Do you think we shall be visited by any more customers on this fine winter day?