

All Chime In

A One-Act Comedy

By James A. Gustafson

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Things have been going so well in Rob and Jen's relationship. After a few months of dating, Rob is ready to propose. His plan seemed simple enough. He'd take Jen to dinner, propose marriage, she'd say yes, and they'd live happily ever after. What he didn't count on was everyone in the restaurant chiming in! Between the old ladies at the table next to him and the divorced man on the other side both offering varying opinions on married life, Jen can hardly answer. Throw in a sassy waitress, more eavesdropping diners, Rob's ex-girlfriend, a lawyer, a wedding planner, a couple of robbers, and the police, and their special night is turned into a free-for-all event.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(10 m, 10 w, 1 flexible)

ROB: Mid-twenties. About to ask Jen to marry him.

JEN: Mid-twenties. Dating Rob.

HOSTESS/HOST: Any age and gender.

HILMA: Elderly lady.

EDNA: Elderly lady.

JASON: 30-something divorced guy.

MARGE: No-nonsense waitress.

BRIE: Mid-twenties. Rob's ex-girlfriend.

LISA: Early 30s. Lawyer.

JEROME: Any age. A very flamboyant guy.

FRED: 50s. Cook & owner.

MAC: Robber.

JAKE: Robber.

TARA: Mid-twenties. Brie's friend.

WENDELL: Any age diner.

OFFICER BILL: Male cop.

OFFICER JODY: Young female cop.

PETE: Any age diner.

SUE: Any age diner.

BRIAN: Paramedic.

MOLLY: Paramedic.

All Chime In

- 4 -

SETTING

Interior of a restaurant. Nothing fancy, just a place for casual dining. Card tables with table clothes and chairs. If enough lights are available each table should have a Leko aimed down on it so the table can be highlighted when needed. The rest of the stage is in low lighting so the hi-lites will direct the audience's attention. The hostess/host has a podium.

ALL CHIME IN

(AT RISE: Interior of a restaurant. Nothing fancy, just a place for casual dining. ROB and JEN enter. They wait for the HOSTESS to seat them. LIGHTS up on Hostess area.)

ROB: What did you think of the movie?

JEN: It was O.K.

ROB: Just O.K.?

JEN: Yeah, did you like it?

ROB: Not really... Those romantic movies are all the same. Right from the start I knew she was going to end up with the aimless dude.

JEN: Me too. I don't like those movies. The girl always goes for the free spirit jerk. What is she thinking?

ROB: I know what you mean. The wrong guy always gets the girl.

JEN: In the movies but not in real life. Come on, those types aren't going anywhere. When they're fifty he'll be selling corn dogs out of a trailer on the beach. I mean, don't the women think what life's gonna be like in ten years when he still hasn't got a job and she's supporting him?

ROB: Ah, but love conquers all. It's better to be with your worthless soulmate than that lawyer or doctor who's making the big bucks or contributing to the world.

JEN: Forget the money. That guy was a loser and she was even dumber thinking she's gonna change him.

HOSTESS: Your table's ready.

(LIGHTS up on Jen and Rob's table, and down on the hostess area. HOSTESS escorts THEM to their table. On one side of them is a couple of little old ladies... HILMA and EDNA. On the other side is 30-something JASON. The hostess seats them.)

HOSTESS: Here you go... Enjoy.

JEN: Thanks.

ROB: Thank you.

JEN: This place looks nice. Have you been here before?

ROB: No, I pass it on my way to work every day but I've never gone in. I've been told it's an interesting place.

JEN: There's nothing fancy about it but that's all right.

(MARGE, their waitress, approaches their table.)

MARGE: Hi, I'm Marge. I'll be your server tonight.

ROB: Hi Marge.

JEN: Hi.

MARGE: What will it be or do you need some time?

ROB: We haven't been here before so we need a minute to look at the menu.

MARGE: You've never been here? This will be a treat. Can I get you something to drink?

ROB: I'll have coffee... Jen?

JEN: Do you have Diet Coke?

MARGE: Yup. Cream and sugar for the coffee?

ROB: Please.

MARGE: I'll be right back.

(MARGE exits. ROB reaches across the table and takes JEN'S hands.)

ROB: Jen, you know what today is?

JEN: Ahh... April 16th ... The day after Tax Day.

ROB: Yeah, but think back... Four months.

JEN: Um, April, March, February, January, December... So?

ROB: January 16th.

JEN: O.K.

ROB: That was the night we met. Remember?

(LIGHTS rise on the table with little old ladies. EDNA is animatedly speaking. HILMA looks at Rob and Jen and leans closer to overhear their conversation.)

End of Freeview

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