

Tips More Than Appreciated

By Elizabeth Jiede

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DEDICATION

Thank you to my family and friends for the countless hours they spent reviewing this with me. I truly couldn't have done this without them. And for inspiring me to write this play, a special thank you goes out to my dear friend Serena. I'm so grateful for your friendship – and for Chester :)

STORY OF THE PLAY

Quirky family-owned restaurant Jimmy's runs a little...oddly, especially to Zoe who has never worked in customer service. She walks in hoping to be hired, but her first day is nothing like what she expects (or what long-time employee Cameron describes). Between the guy at one table flirting with her, a group of crazy frat boys acting wild in public, an old man who won't stop telling "back in my day" stories, and the awkward fighting between a married couple in the corner, Zoe has no idea what to do. Should she stand her ground to wait for her well-deserved tip or escape while she can?!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Cast of 10. 6 m, 4 w.

ZOE: New waitress to Jimmy's. She's a freshman in college with no idea what to expect when entering a job in customer service. It can't be that bad, right?

CAMERON: Quirky waitress who has been working at Jimmy's for years. She's a proud cat mom!

MAN: A workaholic businessman. He is smart at his job but clueless when it comes to his family.

WOMAN: Posh but not afraid to speak her mind. She's not so happily married to Man.

SINGLE GUY: His name is Carl, and he's a ranch dressing enthusiast. DESPERATE for love and can't stop using cheesy pickup lines. Can't help but hit on Zoe.

OLD MAN: Sassy elderly man. Won't stop telling "back-in-my-day" stories. As the show progresses, he believes he is older and older than he actually is.

OLD WOMAN: Endearing elderly woman. Can't hear or see well. Or remember things well.

FRAT BOY 1: Charismatic leader of the pack. Has been an upcoming SoundCloud rapper for many years. Has a big ego.

FRAT BOY 2: Misogynist second-in-command. Not afraid to speak his mind. Has a bigger ego.

FRAT BOY 3: Kinda dumb sports fan. Goofy and soft at times though.

Note from playwright: While I wouldn't change the gender of any of the characters, I think it's totally fine to have girls play "pants roles" and take on some of the male characters. I'd even strongly recommend casting a female as Frat Boy 3 even though it is not required.

SETTING

The restaurant has four tables and a sign inside which reads "Jimmy's." A chime rings each time the entrance door opens. There is a hostess stand near the door and a few potted plants scattered within the room. There is an exit to the kitchen and one to a restroom.

PROPS / COSTUMES

Menus

A rag to wipe the tables

Small handbell on hostess stand or right outside the kitchen door

Aprons with note pads, pencil, calculator, and a whistle

Briefcase or laptop

Cell phones

Purses for women customers

Framed photo of three cats

Tissue

Various drinks / food

A waitress tray

Bad music clip on cell phone

Rose petals that fall from ceiling

FRAT BOY 3 has pockets with bills / coins, a granola bar, yo-yo, slinky, pen, another yo-yo and shoes with coins and dollar bills inside

MARRIED WOMAN wears a wedding ring

OLD MAN wears eyeglasses. In addition, and ideally preset and hidden from the audience, he has a stone tablet and a small sword or other medieval weapon

SINGLE GUY wears a zip-up hoodie with a cat t-shirt underneath

SFX

Chime

Alert on cell phone

Loud music

Car skid

Romantic saxophone music

Bad music clip

Tips More Than Appreciated

(AT RISE: CAMERON is wiping a table down and humming to herself. SFX: A bell rings as ZOE enters.)

CAMERON: Hey, there! Welcome to Jimmy's. We don't open for a few more minutes, but I'll be with you shortly!

ZOE: Oh, I'm not here to order anything. I saw the sign outside. Are you still hiring?

CAMERON: The sign?

ZOE: The one on the door that says "help wanted" but the wanted is crossed out and "needed" is written under it in black sharpie?

CAMERON: Oh right! That sign! It's been there for so long that I almost forgot about it.

ZOE: So, how can I apply?

CAMERON: Oh, no need. You're hired! I'm Cameron by the way.

ZOE: Zoe. Um, but don't you need like a resume or a criminal background check or something?

CAMERON: Well, have you ever been to jail?

ZOE: ...No?

CAMERON: I'll take your word for it! We've really been needing another full-time employee around here.

ZOE: Oh, I can only work part-time. I just started my freshman year in college.

CAMERON: Oh, how's that going?

ZOE: It's been great so far! But that's actually one reason why I need a job. As fun as student loans are, I'd rather get working sooner than later.

CAMERON: Well, welcome to the family! Uncle Jimmy's family that is.

ZOE: *(Referring to the "Jimmy's" sign.)* Oh, are you related to that Jimmy?

CAMERON: Yeah, we're family-owned. He's our manager, but he kind of just comes in when he feels like it. Now that I think about it, I actually haven't seen him in a few months.

(CAMERON shrugs and goes to grab an apron. Zoe looks slightly confused.)

CAMERON: *(Cont'd.)* You'll find everything you need in this apron: notepad... pencil...calculator... whistle...

ZOE: Whistle?

(CAMERON suddenly blows the whistle hanging around her own neck. ZOE covers her ears. SFX: A bell chimes. A WOMAN and a MAN with a briefcase or laptop wander in. Woman looks around as Man is talking on the phone.)

CAMERON: Customers! *(To ZOE.)* Wanna jump right in?

ZOE: Oh, uh—

CAMERON: C'mon! It'll be fun! All you have to do is write down their orders in that notebook and give them to the chef, or if things are really busy, I can help get them to the chef too. Then once the orders are ready, just bring them to the table. Sound simple enough? If you need me, I'll be on hostess duty.

(CAMERON walks over to the COUPLE.)

CAMERON: *(Cont'd.)* Welcome in! Table for two?

WOMAN: Yes, please.

CAMERON: Right this way. *(Seats THEM at table 4.)* Your server today will be Zoe, and she will be with you shortly.

(CAMERON gives ZOE a thumbs up and walks over to the hostess's desk. Zoe takes a deep breath and walks over to the table. MAN continues to talk on the phone during their conversation.)

ZOE: Hi, welcome to Jimmy's! What can I get you started with?

WOMAN: Hi, I would love some—

MAN: I'll have a Diet Coke.

(WOMAN shoots HIM a dirty look.)

End of Freeview

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