

# DEATH OF THE DOORSTEP KISS

By Kamron Klitgaard

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# DEATH OF THE DOORSTEP KISS

*A One Act Comedy*

**By Kamron Klitgaard**

**SYNOPSIS:** The doorstep is the most awkward part of a first date. When a guy walks a girl to her door, many important questions stream through both of their minds: Does she think I'm attractive? Does he think I'm interesting? Should I ask her out again? And the most stressful question of all-time, will there be a goodnight kiss?! It's hard to foresee the answer when your date is a professional clown or a mortician or is obsessed with duck calls! *Death of the Doorstep Kiss* explores several end-of-the-date goodnight kiss situations which grow more disastrous with each date. Could there possibly be a happy ending?

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(2-6 female, 2-6 male; doubling possible)*

MAN (m) .....	Normal guy of dating age. <i>(115 lines)</i>
WOMAN (f).....	Normal girl of dating age. <i>(105 lines)</i>
DENNIS (m) .....	Video game fanatic. <i>(22 lines)</i>
MICHELLE (f) .....	Obnoxious laugher. <i>(23 lines)</i>
KARL (m).....	Narcissist. <i>(24 lines)</i>
JEANIE (f).....	Psychic. <i>(33 lines)</i>
HATCHER (m).....	Duck caller. <i>(19 lines)</i>
LYDIA (f).....	Seemingly normal. <i>(18 lines)</i>
WALLY (m).....	Super shy. <i>(13 lines)</i>
EMMA (f).....	Mortician. <i>(18 lines)</i>
CLOWN (m).....	A clown. <i>(18 lines)</i>
BABE (f).....	A babe. <i>(17 lines)</i>

**CAST NOTE:** This play is written for 12 actors but it can be done with as few as four actors (*or any number in between*) by doubling or tripling or more. Two actors could play Man and Woman and two other actors could play each other male and female part, changing costumes between each scene for a small cast of four.

**DURATION:** 35 minutes.

**SETTING:** A door step represented by a single door.

### SET

The only set piece is a door. The easiest way to do this is to set a free standing door in front of an upstage curtain. The actors can exit through the door and disappear behind the curtain. If a door isn't available then the actors could just use the part in the curtain as the door.

### PROPS

- 2 Purses
- Mirror
- Brush
- Can of Soda Pop
- Several Duck Calls and 1 Goose Call
- Clown Horn (*bike horn*)
- Twisty Balloons
- Whoopee Cushion
- Baby Bottle
- Baby Rattle
- Baby Pacifier (*Binky*)
- Diaper
- Burp Cloth

## COSTUMES

The only special costumes are below.

HATCHER – A hunter’s outfit.

CLOWN – A clown costume with makeup, wig and nose.

EMMA – A plastic apron for the mortician.

## SCENE BREAKDOWN

**SCENE 1:** Woman and Dennis

**SCENE 2:** Man and Michelle

**SCENE 3:** Woman and Karl

**SCENE 4:** Man and Jeanie

**SCENE 5:** Woman and Hatcher

**SCENE 6:** Man and Lydia

**SCENE 7:** Woman and Wally

**SCENE 8:** Man and Emma

**SCENE 9:** Woman and Clown

**SCENE 10:** Man and Babe

**SCENE 11:** Man, Woman and Lydia

## AUTHOR’S NOTE

A lot of people have a hard time blowing up balloon animal balloons. The secret to blowing them up is to stretch them a lot before you start blowing. The actor playing Clown should blow up a few balloons ahead of time and then let out the air so that it will be easier to blow up on stage. Have a couple of extra balloons in case the first one pops. There are plenty of online videos that demonstrate balloon animal techniques.

## SCENE 1

**AT RISE:** *WOMAN and DENNIS enter and approach the door.*

**DENNIS:** And then my mom says, "You need to get out of the house more! You just sit in my basement and play video games day and night!" See, she thinks that I'm this stereo typical nerd that lives in his parents' basement and plays video games all the time.

**WOMAN:** *(Stopping when they get to the door.)* And are you?

**DENNIS:** Well, I just happen to live in my parents' basement and it's just a coincident that I play video games day and night. But she still thinks, just because of that, that I'm afraid to go out and face the world on my own. And that's why my mom called your mom and arranged this date. At first I was really annoyed with her for doing it but you turned out okay.

**WOMAN:** Just okay?

**DENNIS:** Well, actually more than okay. You are the first girl that... hey, why did we stop walking?

**WOMAN:** This is it.

**DENNIS:** This is what?

**WOMAN:** This is my building.

*DENNIS looks at the door. His face changes to terror and he freezes.*

I'm sorry to spring it on you like this. *(Waving her hand in front of his face.)* Hello?

**DENNIS:** *(Coming out of his freeze and patting his clothing.)* Oh, no! Oh, no! This is your place. This is your doorstep! Oh, no!

**WOMAN:** Oh no, what?

**DENNIS:** *(Frantically patting his clothes looking for something.)* I can't find it! Where is it?

**WOMAN:** Did you lose something?

**DENNIS:** No! Where is it?!

**WOMAN:** What are you looking for?

**DENNIS:** (*Frantic.*) It's one of those thingy's that you put one end in your mouth and press down on the top thingy and it sprays medication while you breathe it in!

**WOMAN:** An inhaler?

**DENNIS:** Yes, yes, that's it; an inhaler!

**WOMAN:** Are you having an asthma attack?

**DENNIS:** (*Hyperventilating.*) No, I don't have asthma!

**WOMAN:** Then why do you have an inhaler?

**DENNIS:** I don't! I just thought that if I did, this would be the time to use it!

**WOMAN:** Dennis! Relax. Just calm down.

**DENNIS:** (*Calm.*) Okay, okay. I'm sorry. I'm calm.

**WOMAN:** Just to make sure I understand, you don't have asthma?

**DENNIS:** No, I don't.

**WOMAN:** But you were looking for an inhaler, which you don't own, to stop an asthma attack that you weren't having.

**DENNIS:** I guess I'm not totally rooted in reality.

**WOMAN:** Why?

**DENNIS:** We're at your doorstep.

**WOMAN:** So?

**DENNIS:** This is it. This is the big moment. The entire date is a precursor to this. Whenever you go out on a date there's all this tension that leads up to this very instant! All the questions will be answered at the doorstep!

**WOMAN:** What questions?

**DENNIS:** How did the date go? Did she have a good time? Does she find me interesting? Will she want to go out with me again? And all of those questions are answered by the outcome of one other simple question.

**WOMAN:** And what is that question?

**DENNIS:** Will there be a goodnight kiss?

**WOMAN:** Is that what all this is about?

**DENNIS:** Yes! Weren't you asking that the whole time? There's all this tension! Should I try to kiss her? Does she want me to kiss her? How do I know what she wants? What do I do after she slaps me? There's all this pressure! I'm not equipped to deal with this!

**WOMAN:** *(Putting her hand over her mouth to sound like an army radio.)* Company Leader to Dennis. *(Making a short static noise.)* This is Company Leader calling Dennis. There are a couple of bogies coming up on our flank. They're about three clicks to the northwest. I have the secret code for the extra ammo bonus but you must enter it within 30 ticks. *(Making a short static noise.)* Take this down. Alpha – Bravo – Tango. Dennis, are you getting this? Over. *(Making a short static noise.)*

**DENNIS:** *(Almost hypnotized.)* Yes. I've got it! Continue with the code! Over!

**WOMAN:** *(Making a short static noise.)* Here's the most important part of the code! Nancy – Oscar – Kilo – India – Sierra – Sierra. Did you get that? Over. *(Making a short static noise.)*

**DENNIS:** Nancy – Oscar – Kilo – India – Sierra – Sierra! Got it! Over and out! *(Turning to WOMAN.)* I'm sorry something extremely important just came up. *(Running for the exit.)* I only have 29 ticks left! Bye!

*WOMAN shakes her head and exits through the door.*

## SCENE 2

*MAN and MICHELLE enter.*

**MICHELLE:** It's so nice of you to walk me home.

**MAN:** It's all part of the service.

**MICHELLE:** *(Laughs hard and obnoxiously.)* You are so funny!

**MAN:** Actually, I didn't know I was that funny until tonight.

*MICHELLE laughs so much they stop walking.*

No, seriously.

**MICHELLE:** *(Laughs even harder.)* Are you kidding? When you asked the server to get you a new fork because yours was a little dirty, that was hilarious!

**MAN:** Well, it was dirty.

**MICHELLE:** (*Laughing.*) Oh, you're too much. You know, I think we have a lot in common.

**MAN:** Like what?

**MICHELLE:** Are you kidding? Do you like music?

**MAN:** Sure.

**MICHELLE:** Me too.

**MAN:** Yeah but what kind of—

**MICHELLE:** And you obviously like food because you took us to dinner.

**MAN:** Yeah, but everyone likes food. I didn't know what kind of food you'd like so I made a reservation at a place that serves lots of different kinds of stuff.

**MICHELLE:** (*Laughing obnoxiously.*) Stuff! That's a good one!

**MAN:** It is? Well, what I mean to say is that it would've been a gamble to take you to, say, a sushi bar.

**MICHELLE:** Sushi! Sushi is so funny!

**MAN:** Sushi's funny?

**MICHELLE:** Are you kidding? The poor little fishy's eyeballs staring up at you. "Please don't eat me." (*Laughs.*)

**MAN:** I'm pretty sure they're de-eyed before they serve them.

*MICHELLE laughs big and long as MAN is noticeably annoyed.*

**MICHELLE:** See? There's another thing we have in common: You like to be funny and I love to laugh. But seriously though, let's play a little game and I'll show you how much in common we have.

**MAN:** Well, I suppose—

**MICHELLE:** Here's what we do. First, I'll tell you something that no one knows about me and then you tell me something no one knows about you.

**MAN:** Uh, okay.

**MICHELLE:** (*Displaying her cheek.*) Look real close at my cheek. They're sort of light but I have four freckles that form the shape of the Big Dipper.

**MAN:** The Big Dipper has seven stars in it.

**MICHELLE:** Only if you count the handle. Okay, your turn.



**MAN:** Yeah but that's not something no one else knows. I mean, people know you have freckles. They can see them.

**MICHELLE:** Yeah, but not in the shape of the Big Dipper. Go ahead. Do you have any uniquely shaped freckles that no one else knows about? They don't even have to be on your face. They could be on your arm or leg or shoulder.

**MAN:** Well, if I do, I don't even know about them. But my grandma used to call freckles "freakles."

**MICHELLE:** Freakles?

**MAN:** She'd say, "Boy, you got freakles all over your face." I didn't even have that many when I was little. She was the best, though. She'd always make me feel special. I miss her. Ya know, I've never told anyone this but—

**MICHELLE:** Are you kidding?! Freakles! (*Laughs long and hard.*) I can't believe you called them freakles!

**MAN:** Actually it was my grandma—

**MICHELLE:** Freakles! (*Laughs.*) I told you we had a lot in common! (*Seeing the door.*) Oh look, we're here!

**MAN:** (*Relieved.*) This is your place?

**MICHELLE:** Yep, this is it, freakle face.

**MAN:** Alright, well, it was nice to meet—

**MICHELLE:** I guess we need to discuss our next date. I know this place downtown where we can get great Cambodian barbeque and then go disco dancing.

**MAN:** Disco? Do they still have that?

**MICHELLE:** (*Laughs her most obnoxious laugh.*) Are you kidding? How about tomorrow?

**MAN:** I have to work late tomorrow.

**MICHELLE:** The next day?

**MAN:** I need to check my schedule.

**MICHELLE:** (*Becoming seductive.*) Alright, you check your schedule and then give me a ring. And in the meantime, I'll just say nighty night.

*MICHELLE closes her eyes and puckers up for a kiss. MAN stares at her for a second and then busts up laughing big and obnoxiously. He turns and exits.*

*(Angrily.) Are you kidding?! (She exits through the door.)*

### SCENE 3

*WOMAN and KARL enter. KARL'S arm is around her shoulder.*

**KARL:** Yeah, coool.

**WOMAN:** What's cool?

**KARL:** I was just thinking about growing a beard.

**WOMAN:** *(Ducking under his arm.)* Well, thanks for a lovely evening.

**KARL:** Do you have a mirror?

**WOMAN:** A mirror? Uh yeah, I think I have a small one.

*She pulls a compact mirror out of her purse and hands it to KARL who opens it up and looks into it. Then he pulls a brush from his back pocket and runs it slowly through his hair.*

**KARL:** Yeah, coool.

**WOMAN:** What's cool now?

**KARL:** Look how cool my hair is.

**WOMAN:** Okay, well, it's been—

**KARL:** Did you know that Harry Houdini could tighten his abdominal muscles so tight that he could withstand the hardest blow from any world champion boxer?

**WOMAN:** I think that's a myth.

**KARL:** I can do it too. Check this out. *(Presenting his forearms.)* I have exceptional muscles in my forearms. Go ahead, touch 'em.

**WOMAN:** It's okay, I believe you.

**KARL:** *(Grabbing her hand and placing it on his forearm.)* I do three-hundred forearm flexes a day.

**WOMAN:** Yes, they feel very strong.

**KARL:** (*Flexing his shoulders.*) Now check out my shoulder muscles.  
Go on, feel 'em.

**WOMAN:** No really, your forearms were enough.

**KARL:** (*Grabbing her hand and placing it on his shoulders.*) I do 25 minutes of shoulder thrusts each evening. You wanna see?

**WOMAN:** No, no! I'm not keen on shoulder thru—

**KARL:** (*Thrusting and flexing his shoulders.*) Aaaaarrrr!

**WOMAN:** Oh goodness.

**KARL:** (*Continuing to flex.*) Aaaaarrrr! Aaaaarrrr! Aaaaarrrr! I can do these babies all night. I have exceptional back muscles too.

**WOMAN:** I believe you! Listen Karl, I have to get up early so—

**KARL:** It's not a myth. Houdini demonstrated the strength of his stomach muscles all the time. The problem was that someone punched him when he wasn't prepared. You gotta prepare. See? Like this. (*Taking a stance and tightening his stomach.*) Go ahead.

**WOMAN:** I couldn't.

**KARL:** Hit me.

**WOMAN:** Really, I'm not a violent person.

**KARL:** Punch me now!

*WOMAN lightly punches KARL in the stomach.*

**WOMAN:** There. Thank you for the demonstration. I need to—

**KARL:** What was that? It felt like someone launched a spit wad at my stomach. Come on! (*Tightens again.*) You can hit harder than that!

**WOMAN:** I don't wanna break a nail.

**KARL:** Do it!

*WOMAN punches him a little harder this time.*

A gnat! I think a gnat just flew into my stomach!

*WOMAN winds up and punches him harder.*

That was a dragonfly!

*WOMAN hits him even harder.*

Yeah! There you go! See? Hard as stone! I didn't hurt your hand did I?

**WOMAN:** No. It's fine. Now I really have to—

**KARL:** See, Houdini was drinking a glass of water when this guy just comes up to him and punches him. It's really hard to tighten your stomach muscles while you're drinking. That's what caused his ultimate demise.

**WOMAN:** Actually, I think I read somewhere that Houdini died—

**KARL:** I can do it though. Where Houdini failed, I have succeeded. I can resist any blow while drinking.

**WOMAN:** Too bad we don't have a glass of water handy.

**KARL:** *(Pulling a can of soda pop out of his pocket.)* Yeah, coool.

**WOMAN:** Did you have that in your pocket the entire evening?

**KARL:** I'm always prepared. *(Opening the can.)* As soon as I start drinking, give me your best shot.

**WOMAN:** You're not gonna let me concede, are you?

**KARL:** Now!

*KARL tightens and drinks. WOMAN punches him in the stomach and then feigns hurting her hand.*

**WOMAN:** Oh! My hand! Your abdominal muscles are just too tight for me. I've wounded my hand.

**KARL:** Coool.

**WOMAN:** I need to ice this. I'm afraid I need to call it a night. *(Heading for the door.)* Thanks for the demonstration though. Good night.

**KARL:** You forgot something.

*WOMAN turns around and KARL holds up her mirror. She walks back to him and reaches for the mirror. KARL pulls it back.*

Coool.

*KARL closes his eyes and puckers for a kiss. WOMAN looks disgusted and then punches him in the stomach. KARL doubles over losing his breath.*

Oooooooooo!

**WOMAN:** *(Grabbing her mirror.)* Goodnight, Houdini.

*WOMAN exits through the door. KARL crawls off trying to breath.*

#### SCENE 4

*JEANIE and MAN enter.*

**MAN:** I think this went pretty well, Jeanie.

**JEANIE:** Me too. We're almost there; have you guessed yet?

**MAN:** Oh yeah, the big secret. I don't know. Can you give me a hint?

**JEANIE:** Nope. That wouldn't be fair.

**MAN:** But it could be anything! You were mauled by a bear when you were a kid, you're an escaped convict, you were abducted by aliens...

**JEANIE:** *(Laughing.)* You're not taking this seriously, and now we're here.

*They stop in front of the door.*

Okay, I'll give you three guesses. But it's something serious, something real; not ridiculous like being mauled by a bear.

**MAN:** Hey, that could happen.

**JEANIE:** Well, it didn't happen to me. Okay, three guesses. *(Getting closer.)* Go.

**MAN:** Alright. Let's see, you are related to someone famous?

**JEANIE:** Nope. Good guess though.

**MAN:** So it's something like that?

**JEANIE:** No. It was just a good guess. Guess number two.

**MAN:** You... won the lottery and now you're a multi-millionaire.

**JEANIE:** Nope. Last guess. You're never gonna get it.

**MAN:** Then why don't you just tell me?

**JEANIE:** Okay, I'll give you a hint.

**MAN:** Finally. Now we're getting somewhere.

**JEANIE:** If we traded places, you'd know what it is.

*MAN moves JEANIE to where he was standing and stands in her spot.*

No, I mean, if this was your secret, you'd know what it is.

**MAN:** Of course I'd know what it is, it would be my secret.

**JEANIE:** Give up?

**MAN:** That's not a very good hint.

**JEANIE:** Yes it is.

**MAN:** (*Showing frustration.*) No it isn't. If it's my secret and I'm the only one who knows it, then I know it; just like you know it because it's your secret.

**JEANIE:** I never said I was the only one who knew it.

**MAN:** Fine, but you still know it because it's your secret!

**JEANIE:** That's why I know it but that's not why you would know it.

**MAN:** You're talking in circles!

**JEANIE:** You don't have to get upset! It's just a stupid little secret about me.

**MAN:** (*Calming.*) You're right. I'm sorry. I don't know why I got upset. It was stupid of me. I give up.

**JEANIE:** By the end of this you're gonna admit it was a good hint.

**MAN:** What's your secret?

**JEANIE:** (*Cuddling close again.*) You still have one more guess.

**MAN:** Right... um... you're a... secret agent for the government?

**JEANIE:** Nope. I said it wasn't ridiculous. You lose.

**MAN:** (*Putting his arms around her.*) Okay, I lose. What's your secret?

**JEANIE:** You didn't even use the hint I gave you. My secret is that...  
I am psychic.

**MAN:** (*Dropping his arms.*) What?

**JEANIE:** I'm psychic. I have mind powers.

**MAN:** Great. Didn't we have a nice time tonight?

**JEANIE:** Yeah! A great time; except that I already knew the end of the movie. Sometimes it's a curse.

**MAN:** You don't have to do this. I've had plenty of doorstep rejections; I think I can handle it. If you didn't want to go out with me again you could've just said so.

**JEANIE:** I do wanna go out with you again. You don't believe I'm psychic! Okay, I'll prove it. *(Putting her fingers to her temples.)* Uh... I'm getting a strong impression of the letter M. Is there someone in your family whose name starts with M?

**MAN:** I have two brothers: David and Eric.

**JEANIE:** What about your parents?

**MAN:** My dad's name is Arnold.

**JEANIE:** Anyone else?

**MAN:** Alice. That's my mom.

**JEANIE:** Mom! That's it! Mom starts with M!

**MAN:** This is really rude.

**JEANIE:** It's real! I'm psychic! Watch this! I know exactly what you're gonna say.

**MAN and JEANIE:** No you don't.

**JEANIE:** Yes I do.

**MAN and JEANIE:** You're not psychic!

**JEANIE:** Yes I am!

**MAN and JEANIE:** There's no such thing!

**JEANIE:** Watch this! See my door? I can make it move with my mind. Watch! *(She tries to move the door with her mind. It doesn't move.)* It moved! Did you see that? It moved! Ever so slightly, undetectable to the human eye, but it moved.

**MAN:** You know what? Your mental powers suck!

**JEANIE:** I knew you were gonna say that!

**MAN:** *(Leaving.)* I'm outta here!

**JEANIE:** *(Stomps toward the door.)* I knew you were too chicken to give me a good night kiss! And by the way, it was a good hint!

*JEANIE exits through the door. MAN stops just before he exits.*

**MAN:** *(To himself.)* What was it? “If this was your secret, you’d know what it is.” So, if I was psychic, I’d know... that is a pretty good hint.

*MAN exits.*

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