

# FAST FOOD SHAKESPEARE

By **Burton Bumgarner**

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**CAST**

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*(27 total; 6 F, 3 M, 18 flexible, doubling possible)*

CINDY	Works at Bobby's Burger Boutique
SUSIE	Cindy's boss
2 HARD HATS	Construction workers
2 SKATERS	Skate boarders
EDDIE	Owens exotic pet store
ARLENE	Owner of pest control business
ARNIE	Works for Arlene
DIRECTOR	A theater director
4 ACTORS	Perform Shakespeare speeches
JUNIOR	A spoiled brat, nursery school age
MOTHER	Junior's mother, a chef
MARY CLARE	Went to high school with Susie
4 PASSERS BY	People walking down the street
SMUDLEY	Health inspector
FOOT	Smudley's assistant
4 FRIENDS	Friends of Mary Clare

## PRODUCTION NOTES

The play is set in Bobby's Burger Boutique, a cheap fast food joint with sanitation issues. DSR is a counter behind which servers will stand. Three café tables are USR and center. A trash can is near the counter. Up stage is a wall with the menu and signs that say *Freshest Burgers in Town - Almost, Try Our Fish Surprise Sandwich Before We Throw It Out!, If You Love Cheap You've Come to the Right Place*, etc. On a wall or easel behind the counter is a menu. Customers enter left and cross right to order food. Several piles of *food* in wrapping paper are on a table behind the counter as are stacks of soft drink cups from different fast food restaurants. DSL is a desk with a sign that reads *Don't Bug Us Pest Control*. A phone is on the desk.

Many of the roles can be male or female, including the 4 Actors who perform Shakespeare. The roles of the 4 Friends may be doubled by the same actors as the 4 Passers By. The role of Junior may be played by any age actor.

Actual food, burgers and sandwiches, do not need to be used. Drink cups from various fast food restaurants are used.

## FAST FOOD SHAKESPEARE

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### SCENE 1

*(CINDY is behind the counter listening to music on her iPod and dancing around. SHE wears work clothes and a paper hat. A fly swatter is on the counter. SUSIE enters right in a panic and paces behind the counter. CINDY doesn't see her.)*

SUSIE: *(Anxious.)* This could be it, Cindy! This could be the end of a dream! The end of an era! The end of life as we know it! It's been great! Well, not great. It's been okay. Well, actually it's been pretty tense and kind of disgusting. But I don't see how it can continue! By this afternoon it's going to be over! *(Notices CINDY isn't listening.)* Cindy? Can you hear me?

*(SHE gets CINDY's attention and waves at her. CINDY waves back. SUSIE pulls the headphones from CINDY's ears.)*

CINDY: Ouch! That hurt!

SUSIE: Did you hear anything I just said?

CINDY: Of course! I heard what you said! Some of it, anyway. A little of it. Well ... no, I didn't hear anything you said. What did you say, Susie?

SUSIE: Do you know what day this is?

CINDY: Of course. It's Wednesday.

SUSIE: Actually, it's Friday. But that's not what I'm talking about. I just looked at the calendar. It's the day the health inspector is supposed to come.

CINDY: So? We did okay last time he came.

SUSIE: The last time he had just come from Pete's Perfect Pizza.

CINDY: That's good pizza.

SUSIE: The health inspector thought so too, until he tried the oysters on the half shell pizza. I told Pete those oysters didn't look right. Anyway, the inspector walked in here, took one look at the menu and headed for the emergency room. He never finished the inspection.

CINDY: Well, we have nothing to hide, do we? *(SHE picks up the fly swatter and swats something on the counter.)* I missed.

SUSIE: What was that?

CINDY: One of our little six legged friends. Maybe we shouldn't have canceled that contract with the pest control people.

SUSIE: This is the business my parents started twenty-five years ago. They scraped together every penny they had. They worked long hours. We didn't have time to celebrate holidays or birthdays or take vacations. It was all about Bobby's Burger Boutique. It was about how they could take a burger that wasn't very good to start with and make it cheaper. In time they passed the business on to me. And there's only one goal I have for this establishment.

CINDY: To honor your parents by keeping it going?

SUSIE: No. To sell it to some poor unsuspecting slob and never look at another burger, french fry or fish sandwich for the rest of my life!

*(EDDIE enters left and crosses to the counter. HE has a small pet carrier.)*

CINDY: That's an honorable goal. *(To EDDIE.)* Hey Eddie. How's the exotic pet business?

EDDIE: *(Excited.)* Very good. I just got in two Peruvian gutter rats.

SUSIE: That sounds disgusting.

EDDIE: Oh, they're beautiful creatures.

*(HE holds up the pet carrier. CINDY looks inside.)*

Elvis and Priscilla.

CINDY: They look like rats.

SUSIE: I don't want rats in the restaurant. Even pet rats.

EDDIE: They're very gentle and docile, except when they feel threatened. Then they fight like badgers. Anyway, I need five Bobby burgers.

CINDY: I didn't think you liked Bobby burgers.

EDDIE: They're for Elvis and Priscilla. Peruvian gutter rats live on a diet of garbage and the Bobby burgers are the closest thing I can find.

*(CINDY hands him the burgers. HE pays.)*

CINDY: Would Elvis and Priscilla care for fries and a drink?

EDDIE: No thank you. They have a bottle of nice rancid water in their cages, and I don't think the fries would be good for them.

SUSIE: So you're saying your rats can eat garbage but not my fries?

EDDIE: Well ... yes. Thanks.

*(EDDIE exits left. HARD HATS 1 and 2 enter left and cross to the counter. THEY wear work clothes and hard hats and carry lunch boxes.)*

SUSIE: We have more customers. *(Exits right.)*

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CINDY: They must be crazy. *(To HARD HATS.)* Welcome to Bobby's Burger Boutique. You guys haven't been here before, have you?

HARD HAT 1: Nope. We're demolishing a building down the street.

HARD HAT 2: We thought your place looked kind of friendly and inviting.

CINDY: Have you guys seen an eye doctor lately?

HARD HATS: Nope.

CINDY: Oh well. May I take your order?

*(HARD HATS read the menu behind CINDY.)*

HARD HAT 1: What's on the Super Bobby Burger?

CINDY: A three pound patty, five kinds of cheese, bacon, lettuce, tomato, broccoli, cantaloupe, orange slices, chocolate sauce, deviled eggs and refried beans.

HARD HAT 1: Hmm. What comes on the Regular Bobby Burger?

CINDY: A patty and some sauce ... and whatever else the cook feels like adding.

HARD HAT 2: Are the burgers fresh?

CINDY: They're fresh when we make them. Well, not really fresh. But they're not as old as they get after they sit around for a couple of days.

HARD HAT 1: I'll have a Regular Bobby Burger and a coke.

HARD HAT 2: Same here.

*(CINDY takes two wrapped burgers and two drink cups and hands them to HARD HATS, who stare at the drink cups.)*

HARD HAT 1: McDonalds? *(Or other fast food restaurant.)*

HARD HAT 2: Burger King? *(Or other fast food restaurant.)*

CINDY: We're into recycling. That'll be two bucks.

HARD HAT 1: *(Pays.)* Well you can't beat the price.

*(CINDY takes the money, then quickly picks up the fly swatter and swats the counter.)*

CINDY: Hah! Gotcha!

*(HARD HATS cross to a table, sit and unwrap their burgers and sniff and stare at them.)*

HARD HAT 1: *(To CINDY.)* Miss? What's in this sauce?

CINDY: Coconut and caramel.

HARD HAT 2: Are you going to eat that?

HARD HAT 1: I don't think so.

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*(THEY look in their drink cups.)*

Are you going to drink that?

HARD HAT 2: I don't think so.

HARD HAT 1: Good thing we brought our lunch.

*(THEY push the burgers aside, open their lunch boxes and eat sandwiches. SKATERS 1 and 2 enter and cross to the counter.)*

SKATER 1: Hey there, Cindy.

CINDY: Hey. It's our only regular customers. How's the skateboarding going?

SKATER 2: Not so good. They're bulldozing our favorite spot down the street.

CINDY: That's a shame. What can I get for you?

SKATER 1: A couple of Fish Surprise Sandwiches and a coke.

CINDY: Coming right up. *(SHE hands them two wrapped sandwiches and two cups.)*

SKATER 2: Wow! The service here is so fast!

CINDY: You know the rules about the Fish Surprise Sandwiches.

SKATER 1: Yeah. If something's moving don't eat it.

*(SKATER 2 pays CINDY.)*

SKATER 2: That's only happened once ... well twice ... well about a dozen times. But they still taste good.

*(THEY cross to a table, sit and unwrap their sandwiches.)*

Mine's kind of yellow. What color's your fish?

SKATER 1: Kind of orange.

*(THEY eat their sandwiches. SUSIE enters right and crosses to CINDY.)*

SUSIE: I just got off the phone with Tony from Tony's Tacos and Tennis Club. The health inspector just left his place. Tony's one point away from having his restaurant closed.

CINDY: His place is really clean. What happened?

SUSIE: The health inspector found a gym sock in the salsa verde.

CINDY: That's Tony's secret ingredient. It's why the salsa verde is so good.

SUSIE: He's going to close us down, Cindy!

CINDY: Not without a fight. I'll call the pest control company. You look in the refrigerator and throw out anything you don't recognize.

*(SUSIE exits right. HARD HATS toss trash in trash can.)*

Thanks. Come back.

HARD HATS: Yeah, right.

*(THEY exit left. SKATERS take their trash to the trash can and toss it in.)*

SKATER 1: Thanks for the Fish Surprise Sandwiches, Cindy.

SKATER 2: I don't know what's in that sauce but it's delicious.

CINDY: You don't want to know. Have a great day.

*(THEY exit left.)*

## SCENE 2

***(CINDY takes a phone directory from under the counter and looks up a number. CINDY dials on her cell phone. A ringing phone is heard. ARLENE enters left, sits at the desk and answers the phone.)***

ARLENE: Don't Bug Us.

CINDY: *(Startled.)* That's kind of rude!

*(SHE hangs up, looks in the phone directory again. ARNIE enters left and crosses to ARLENE.)*

ARNIE: Who was on the phone?

ARLENE: I don't know. They hung up. That's been happening a lot lately. The phone rings, I say Don't Bug Us and they hang up.

ARNIE: That's really weird.

*(CINDY dials again. Phone rings. ARLENE answers.)*

ARLENE: Don't Bug Us.

CINDY: I'm not bugging you on purpose! I'm trying to reach Patty's Pest Control. Did they change the number or something?

ARLENE: We bought the business from Patty. We're Don't Bug Us. New name, same quality service.

CINDY: Oh. This is Cindy at Bobby's Burger Boutique. We have a little pest problem that needs immediate attention.

ARLENE: I can send someone over tomorrow.

CINDY: Could you send someone over now? I'm talking about a lot of ants and a health inspection about to take place.

ARLENE: I'll send someone right over.

CINDY: Hurry!

*(THEY hang up their phones. CINDY exits right.)*

ARLENE: We got some business. Bobby's Burger Boutique. Why don't you take care of it?

ARNIE: Why can't you?

ARLENE: I'm getting ready for the company picnic. Remember? We're taking the employees out to the lake.

ARNIE: I don't want to go to Bobby's Burger Boutique! I ate there once and there was something funny about the burger.

ARLENE: What was wrong with it?

ARNIE: Peanut butter and marshmallows just don't belong on burgers.

ARLENE: Look Arnie, the lady has bugs and a health inspector on the way. I told her we'd take care of it today. Just load up one of the spray canisters and head over there. It won't take long.

ARNIE: Oh, okay. But you'd better save some potato salad and fried chicken.

ARLENE: We won't eat all of the food.

ARNIE: I love picnics. I hope we don't have a problem with ants.

*(ARNIE and ARLENE exit left.)*

### SCENE 3

***(DIRECTOR and FOUR ACTORS enter and cross DSC.)***

DIRECTOR: Hey, you actors. I got some good news and I got some not so good news. Which do you want first?

ACTOR 1: I hope this doesn't involve our current Shakespeare project.

DIRECTOR: That's part of the bad news.

ACTOR 2: Okay. What's the bad news?

DIRECTOR: The theater is broke. No money. They've canceled the production.

ACTORS: *(Shocked and disappointed.)* WHAT?

ACTOR 3: What about all the work we did on the Shakespeare project?

ACTOR 4: What about our salaries? We're owed for three weeks of rehearsals! I owe money to everybody I know!

ACTORS: ME TOO!

DIRECTOR: That's more of the bad news. When I say broke I mean broke. You're not going to be paid a penny. I'm sorry. That's show business.

ACTOR 1: Did you say there was good news?

DIRECTOR: Oh yeah. I picked up a directing job in Bermuda.

*(ACTORS are excited.)*

I'll be working at a Shakespeare festival.

ACTOR 1: You're going to take us to Bermuda!

ACTOR 2: And we'll do our Shakespeare project there!

ACTOR 3: I've always wanted to go to Bermuda!

*(THEY ALL kneel before the DIRECTOR.)*

ACTOR 4: Thank you, sir *(Or ma=am.)!* Thank you so very much!

DIRECTOR: Wait a minute. I said I am going to Bermuda. I didn't say you were going.

*(ACTORS stand.)*

ACTOR 1: Well, are we going to Bermuda?

*(ACTORS look hopeful.)*

DIRECTOR: You can go if you want to.

ACTOR 2: If we go will we have employment?

DIRECTOR: Not with me. The actors I'm directing are already there.

*(ACTORS frown.)*

ACTOR 3: How is that good news?

DIRECTOR: It's good news for me. I've always wanted to go to Bermuda.

ACTOR 4: Is there any good news for us?

DIRECTOR: Not that I know of. I've got to go pack. It's been nice working with you. Break a leg! *(Exits.)*

ACTORS: *(Disappointed.)* OH MAN!

ACTOR 1: What a creep! He wasn't a very good director.

ACTOR 2: Three weeks of work down the drain!

ACTOR 3: I hope he gets lost in the Bermuda triangle!

ACTOR 4: It was Shakespeare! We were going to get to all the great roles in one performance! What do we do now?

ACTOR 1: Go stand in line for more auditions?

*(ACTORS moan.)*

ACTOR 2: Go back to working at Pete's Perfect Pizza?

*(ACTORS moan.)*

ACTOR 3: Pete's not hiring at the moment. He's on probation from the health department.

ACTOR 4: I told him those oysters didn't look right.

ACTOR 1: *(To ACTOR 2.)* Can we hang out at your place?

ACTOR 2: I live in my parents' basement.

ACTOR 3: That's better than my place. I live in my parents' attic.

ACTOR 4: That's better than MY place. I live in my parents' camper.

ACTOR 2: Okay. I think I have a coupon for a free Pete's pizza.

*(THEY exit.)*

#### SCENE 4

***(MOTHER and JUNIOR enter left and cross right to counter. MOTHER talks on cell phone. JUNIOR is behaving like a brat.)***

MOTHER: *(On phone.)* I don't know what I'm going to do! The kid is driving me crazy! He's sent two babysitters into therapy and one to the hospital!

JUNIOR: I don't wanna eat here! I wanna eat at Burger Crown!

MOTHER: *(To JUNIOR.)* I'm not driving all the way to Burger Crown just so you can have a crummy hamburger made with mystery meat! *(On phone.)* Now he wants to go to Burger Crown. There's a burger joint right down the street. Burger Crown is on the other side of town.

JUNIOR: This isn't Burger Crown!

MOTHER: *(To JUNIOR.)* These places are all the same!

JUNIOR: No they're not!

MOTHER: Yes they are! *(On phone.)* I tell you Margaret, I'm about to lose my mind! It doesn't matter what we do. He still acts like a spoiled brat.

JUNIOR: You're mean!

MOTHER: *(To JUNIOR.)* You're right. I'm mean. And I'm about to get a whole lot meaner. Now, you can go over to the counter and order a happy meal or a silly meal or whatever it is you like while I talk with Aunt Margaret, or we're going home and you can eat fried liver.

JUNIOR: I hate fried liver!

MOTHER: *(Smiles.)* I know.

*(JUNIOR crosses to the counter. MOTHER on phone.)*

We've tried positive reinforcement, we've tried negative reinforcement, I've read every child psychology book at the library.

*(Conversation continues unheard by the audience. JUNIOR pounds on the counter.)*

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JUNIOR: Hey! Come out here! Now!

*(CINDY enters right.)*

I want a silly meal!

CINDY: Go to Burger Crown. You go outside, take a left at the intersection and walk for ten miles. It's on the right. You can't miss it.

JUNIOR: Do you have silly meals?

CINDY: No. We have gloomy meals.

JUNIOR: Do your meals come with toys?

CINDY: No. They come with food ... more or less.

JUNIOR: I wanna a toy!

CINDY: You're in luck. Toys-R-Us *(Or other well known store.)* is about two miles that way. *(Points DS.)* Go outside, hang a right and start walking. Be careful crossing the highway.

JUNIOR: This place is gross!

*(CINDY picks up the swatter and slaps the counter. SHE holds the swatter for JUNIOR to see.)*

CINDY: You're right about that.

JUNIOR: You're mean! *(JUNIOR sticks out his tongue and crosses to MOTHER.)*

CINDY: I was trying to be helpful.

MOTHER: *(On phone.)* And then there was the time he tried to walk the cat on a leash. The poor kitty hasn't been the same since.

JUNIOR: That lady won't help me!

*(MOTHER crosses to the counter, talking as SHE goes.)*

MOTHER: *(On phone.)* And his father is always at work. He didn't work this late before Junior was born. *(To CINDY.)* A burger, a drink and a muzzle. *(Slaps money on the counter.)* Keep the change. You're going to earn it. *(Crosses to a table and sits, talking as SHE goes.)* We were planning a trip to Disney World until I found out he meant I was taking Junior and he was staying home.

*(CINDY places a burger and a cup on the counter.)*

CINDY: A burger and a drink. We're out of muzzles.

JUNIOR: I don't want it!

CINDY: Okay.

*(SHE removes the burger and drink. JUNIOR runs to the counter.)*

JUNIOR: (*Whines.*) I want my burger and my drink!

(*CINDY hands it to him. JUNIOR grabs it and rushes to the table with MOTHER. CINDY exits right. ARNIE enters with a spray canister and crosses to the counter. SUSIE enters right with a stack of burgers which SHE places on the table. SHE looks at ARNIE.*)

SUSIE: Welcome to Bobby's Burger Boutique. May I take your order?

ARNIE: Don't Bug Us.

SUSIE: (*Offended.*) Excuse me?

ARNIE: Don't Bug Us.

SUSIE: How can I be bugging you? You just walked in!

ARNIE: I'm from Don't Bug Us (*Points to logo on his shirt.*) Pest Control. Formerly Patty's Pest Control.

SUSIE: Oh. We've got ants and a health inspector due any minute now.

ARNIE: I can help. Let's start in the kitchen.

(*THEY exit left.*)

MOTHER: Did I tell you what he did last week? He came home from nursery school with a detention slip. Who gets detention in nursery school?

JUNIOR: This burger is gross!

MOTHER: (*To JUNIOR.*) I'm not listening to you!

JUNIOR: Yes, you are!

MOTHER: Come on. We're going home. (*Stands and takes JUNIOR's arm.*)

JUNIOR: I don't wanna go home! I haven't finished my burger!

MOTHER: If you want it grab it!

(*JUNIOR grabs the burger and drink. MOTHER drags him left. On phone.*)

Did I tell you what he did to the rose bushes?

(*THEY exit. MARY CLARE enters left and crosses right to the counter. SUSIE enters right and is not pleased to see her.*)

SUSIE: Oh no.

MARY CLARE: (*Fake joy.*) Susie! How are you! (*Leans across the counter and hugs SUSIE.*)

SUSIE: (*Sarcastic.*) Mary Clare. What a surprise.

MARY CLARE: I was wondering what ever became of you and then I remembered back in high school you used to work at this little

burger place your parents owned. I thought maybe you'd be a lawyer or doctor or something. But I see you're still here.

SUSIE: I'm still here.

MARY CLARE: I remember how disappointed you were when you didn't make the cheerleading squad. And when you weren't on the homecoming court. And when you didn't get the lead in the school play. And when that cute football player broke up with you so he could go with me.

SUSIE: I'd forgotten all about that ... until just now.

MARY CLARE: And after all these years you still work in this cute little hamburger place.

SUSIE: Thanks for reminding me.

MARY CLARE: You look so cute standing behind the counter like that. I bet working in fast food is so rewarding. You get to meet the most interesting people.

*(ARNIE enters with his spray canister spraying around the counter.)*

ARNIE: Good thing you called us. You've got a real infestation going here.

MARY CLARE: *(Shivers.)* Uck!

ARNIE: You may want to sweep up their dead little bodies before the health inspector arrives.

SUSIE: *(Sniffs the air.)* That spray smells different.

ARNIE: It must be new. Smells kind of nice, doesn't it? We'll send you a bill. *(Exits left.)*

MARY CLARE: You remember Brittany and Bill and Wendy and William and all the others from high school?

SUSIE: I'd forgotten about them ... until just now.

MARY CLARE: Well, we stay in touch. I bet they'd love to come over here and buy a burger. Wouldn't that be fun? You could wait on us.

SUSIE: It'd be like old times.

MARY CLARE: Well, I'm going to run along. I'll keep in touch.

*(MARY CLARE exits left. CINDY enters left.)*

SUSIE: You don't have to. Really.

CINDY: Was that somebody you know?

SUSIE: I'm afraid so. Her name's Mary Clare and she made my high school years miserable.

CINDY: What's she doing here?

SUSIE: She's planning on picking up where she left off.

CINDY: Did she buy a burger?

SUSIE: No.

CINDY: Too bad. We could use the money ... and you could use the revenge.

*(THEY exit left.)*

## SCENE 5

***(FOUR ACTORS enter and cross center. THEY bring an easel with a sign that reads Instant Shakespeare and a bucket with a sign that reads Donations. THEY stand in a line.)***

ACTOR 1: *(To audience.)* When we became actors we never dreamed we'd be performing Shakespeare and asking people for money.

ACTOR 2: *(To audience.)* We tried Shakespeare in the Subway, but the trains made too much noise.

ACTOR 3: *(To audience.)* We tried Shakespeare in Wal Mart, but we kept getting interrupted by the "new lower price" announcements over the public address system.

ACTOR 4: *(To audience.)* We tried Shakespeare at Half Time, but football fans really aren't in the mood for Shakespeare when they're expecting a marching band.

ACTOR 1: So now we're trying Shakespeare on the Sidewalk.

*(PASSERBY 1 enters right and crosses center. To ACTORS.)*

Here comes somebody.

*(ACTORS take dramatic poses. To PASSERBY 1.)*

From *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*. *(Spreading arms.)* If thou hast any sound or use of voice, speak to me! If there be any good thing to be done that may to thee do ease and grace to me, speak to me! If thou art privy to thy country's fate, which happily foreknowing may avoid, O speak!

PASSERBY 1: *(Dropping money in the bucket.)* Not bad. With some practice you could try out for a real production. Community theater or something like that.

ACTOR 1: *(Offended.)* I am a professional actor!

PASSERBY 1: Sure. That's why you're doing *Hamlet* on the sidewalk outside of Eddie's Exotic Pet Store. *(Crosses left. Laughs.)*  
Professional actor! That's a good one! *(Exits left.)*

*(PASSERBY 2 enters left and crosses center.)*

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ACTOR 2: From the comedy *Twelfth Night, or What You Will*. If music be the food of love, play on! Give me excess of it that, surfeiting, the appetite may sicken and so die!

PASSERBY 2: (*Dropping money in the bucket.*) I saw that play. I never understood how anyone in the story could mistake Viola and Sebastian.

ACTOR 2: They are twins.

PASSERBY 2: But Viola's a girl and Sebastian's a boy.

ACTOR 2: It's part of the story.

PASSERBY 2: But it's incredibly unlikely. The whole premise about twins getting mixed up and switching places with each other is improbable enough, even if they're identical twins. But when one is a boy and the other is a girl? I mean, come on!

ACTOR 2: (*Becoming annoyed.*) I didn't write it! Shakespeare wrote it!

PASSERBY 2: So that makes it okay? I don't think so. You know what else annoys me? In the movies when one actor plays identical twins. It doesn't matter what they do with makeup and stuff, it's still the same actor. I can't stand movies like that.

ACTOR 2: It doesn't matter! It's fiction!

PASSERBY 2: Oh, I think it matters. Fiction has to have an air of believability. There's nothing believable about one actor trying to make us think he's two different people. Shakespeare of all people should know that.

(*ACTOR 2 picks up the bucket and hands it to PASSERBY 2.*)

ACTOR 2: (*Angry.*) Do you want your money back? Here! Take it!

OTHER ACTORS: (*Grabbing for the bucket.*) WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

PASSERBY 2: (*Frightened.*) Uh ... no. You keep it. (*Crosses right, then pauses.*) You have to admit, it's a pretty weak premise. (*Quickly exits right.*)

ACTOR 2: NO IT'S NOT!

ACTOR 1: (*To ACTOR 2.*) What's wrong with you?

ACTOR 2: I can't help it. *Twelfth Night* is one of my favorite plays.

(*PASSERBY 3 enters right and crosses center.*)

ACTOR 3: From *Julius Caesar*. Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears! I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him; The evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones!

PASSERBY 3: (*Dropping money in the bucket.*) That's not bad. There's something I've always wondered about. Is the guy who

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says that in the play named Marc Anthony with an h, or Antony without the h?

ACTOR 3: It's Antony without the h.

PASSERBY 3: Why?

ACTOR 3: Because that's how it was spelled.

PASSERBY 3: Maybe his mother was Ann and his father was Tony and they wanted to name the kid after both of them. So they came up with Antony. Ann-Tony. Which I guess is better than Tonyann.

They probably should have named him Shane. Or Webster. Then there's Brutus. Who names their kid Brutus?

ACTOR 3: For another dollar we can continue this conversation.

*(PASSERBY 3 crosses left the pauses.)*

PASSERBY 3: Maybe it was a typo. Maybe it really should be Anthony.

*(ACTOR 3 starts to run after PASSERBY 3. PASSERBY quickly exits left.)*

ACTOR 3: Where do these people come from?

*(PASSERBY 4 enters left and crosses center.)*

ACTOR 4: From *Cymbeline*. The natural bravery of your isle, which stands as Neptune's park, ribbed and paled in with rocks unscalable ...

PASSERBY 4: Excuse me, your sign says Instant Shakespeare.

ACTOR 4: Yes. We do instant Shakespeare.

PASSERBY 4: So what is this Cymbals thing?

ACTOR 4: *Cymbeline*. It's one of the romance plays. Technically not a tragedy and not a comedy.

PASSERBY 4: But I've never heard of it.

ACTOR 4: It's the story of King Cymbeline and his second wife who wants Cymbeline's daughter by his first wife to marry her son from her first marriage and everyone gets into a big war and there's a happy ending.

PASSERBY 4: You made that up.

ACTOR 4: No, I didn't! Shakespeare wrote it around 1611.

PASSERBY 4: Then why haven't I ever heard of it?

ACTOR 4: *(Frustrated.)* I don't know!

PASSERBY 4: Can you do something from a play I've heard of?

ACTOR 4: I can try. What would you like me to do?

PASSERBY 4: Okay. I want to see Officer Stabler from *Law and Order*. (Or other well-known character from other well-known TV show.)

ACTOR 4: That's not a play! It's a television show!

PASSERBY 4: But it's something I've heard of.

ACTOR 4: Are you planning on leaving any money in the bucket?

PASSERBY 4: I don't have any money.

ACTOR 4: Then go away.

(Shoos PASSERBY 4 offstage right.)

Shoo! Go away! Run!

(ACTOR 1 looks in the bucket.)

How are we doing in the money department?

ACTOR 1: At the rate we're going by the end of the day we'll have enough for a burger and a drink.

ACTOR 2: At least we'll have something to eat.

ACTOR 1: We're going to have to split the burger and the drink four ways.

(THEY exit taking the sign and the bucket.)

## SCENE 6

**(MR. SMUDLEY, the health inspector, and MISS FOOT, his assistant enter and cross center. HE carries a briefcase. SHE carries a notepad and pen.)**

SMUDLEY: I've never encountered a sanitation issue like Tony's Tacos and Tennis Club.

FOOT: I'd heard Tony had a secret ingredient for the salsa verde, but I never dreamed it was gym socks.

SMUDLEY: How many more restaurants do we visit today, Miss Foot?

FOOT: (Looking at her notes.) Three, sir. Freddy's Fried Waffles, Albert's All-You-Can-Eat All American Buffet, and Bobby's Burger Boutique.

SMUDLEY: How did they score on the last inspection?

FOOT: Freddy's Fried Waffles had fungus on the Formica, Albert's All-You-Can-Eat All American Buffet had algae in the apple sauce.

SMUDLEY: Disgusting! What about Bobby's Burger Boutique?

FOOT: I don't seem to have an entry for Bobby's. Is it possible Bobby's wasn't inspected last time?

SMUDLEY: Of course it was inspected! I'm very thorough! (*Takes notes from FOOT and looks through them.*) It's got to be here! Let's see. I visited Sidney's Super Submarines, Delbert's Deli, Frank's Franks, Pete's Perfect Pizza ... I remember that place! I tried the oysters on the half shell pizza, which tasted a bit off. Then I walked into Bobby's Burger Boutique and the next thing I remember is the emergency room!

FOOT: I don't understand how people can eat oysters, especially if they aren't cooked.

SMUDLEY: I don't either since I ate them at Pete's Perfect Pizza. Miss Foot, there is no record of an inspection of Bobby's Burger Boutique! Not only is this a dereliction of the health inspector's rules, it could pose a major public health crisis!

FOOT: It's just a fast food burger joint, Mr. Smudley. I'm sure it's alright.

*(HARD HATS 1 and 2 enter left and cross right.)*

HARD HAT 1: Could you believe that Bobby's Burger Boutique? The food looked disgusting.

HARD HAT 2: Forget the food. Did you see the armies of ants crawling across the floor?

*(THEY exit right. SKATERS 1 and 2 enter right and cross left, holding their stomachs.)*

SKATER 1: Oh man! I don't feel so good.

SKATER 2: Me either.

SKATER 1: I wish I hadn't eaten that Fish Surprise Sandwich at Bobby's Burger Boutique.

SKATER 2: Me either.

SKATER 1: I wonder why they call it a fish surprise?

SKATER 2: Because you never know what color the fish is going to be.

*(THEY exit left. MOTHER and JUNIOR enter left and cross right. MOTHER holds JUNIOR's hand and is talking on the phone. JUNIOR has his drink and burger.)*

MOTHER: *(On phone.)* Then there was the time he started a food fight in nursery school. Did I tell you he's not allowed to set foot in the zoo? He frightens the animals.

JUNIOR: This burger smells funny.

MOTHER: *(To JUNIOR.)* Eat your burger or I'm throwing it away.

JUNIOR: Don't you dare!

SMUDLEY: Excuse me. Where did you get that burger?

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MOTHER: *(To SMUDLEY.)* Bobby's Burger Boutique, if it's any of your business.

SMUDLEY: Do NOT eat that burger!

*(JUNIOR crams the burger into his mouth and glares at SMUDLEY with belligerence. MOTHER drags JUNIOR right.)*

FOOT: This is Mr. Smudley. The health inspector.

MOTHER: This is Junior. Your worst nightmare. *(On phone.)* Did I tell you he bit the dentist?

*(THEY exit.)*

SMUDLEY: Did you hear that, Miss Foot? Bobby's Burger Boutique is a public health menace! How far away are we from that place?

FOOT: It's on this side of town.

SMUDLEY: Let's hurry.

FOOT: Could we stop somewhere for lunch? I'm really hungry.

SMUDLEY: Okay. How about Pete's Perfect Pizza? Pete has a sushi pizza I'm dying to try.

FOOT: You want to go back there?

SMUDLEY: Come on, Miss Foot. It's my treat. Pete gave me a coupon for a free pizza.

*(THEY exit.)*

**SCENE 7**

***(A phone rings. ARNIE enters left, crosses to the desk, sits and answers the phone.)***

ARNIE: Don't Bug Us ... Hello? *(Hangs up the phone.)* Why do people do that?

*(ARLENE enters left.)*

ARLENE: Hey, Arnie. Something weird happened.

ARNIE: I know. People keep calling up here and hanging up.

ARLENE: I'm talking about the company picnic.

ARNIE: Did you get enough potato salad and fried chicken?

ARLENE: It's not the food. It's the drink. I got ten gallons of lemonade.

ARNIE: That's great. Everyone loves lemonade.

ARLENE: Some of it is missing.

ARNIE: Maybe somebody got thirsty.

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ARLENE: Thirsty enough to drink five gallons?

ARNIE: Well, if it's good lemonade.

ARLENE: I left it by the outside door on the loading deck. I don't think anyone's been back there all day.

ARNIE: I was back there right before I went to Bobby's Burger Boutique. Man, the kitchen was crawling with ants.

ARLENE: And you didn't take any lemonade?

ARNIE: I didn't know there was lemonade back there. I just loaded up my canisters and left. I didn't want to be late for the picnic. I meant to ask, did you get some new kind of chemicals? The spray has a very pleasant smell.

ARLENE: What are you talking about? We have the same old chemicals which have the same old smell. *(A look of horror crosses her face.)* Arnie, did you load your canisters from the container with the blue label?

ARNIE: Of course. I'm not stupid.

ARLENE: Was this container back in the locked storage area?

ARNIE: No. There was a brand new container beside the outside door to the loading dock.

ARLENE: Arnie, that isn't insecticide.

ARNIE: Of course it is. The container has a blue label.

ARLENE: Did you read the blue label?

ARNIE: Of course ... well ... maybe ... I mean, it's the same label. Isn't it?

ARLENE: That was Blue Ribbon Lemonade. For the picnic.

*(A look of horror crosses ARNIE's face.)*

ARNIE: That means ...

ARLENE: You sprayed lemonade, which is full of sugar, all over a fast food restaurant, which is full of ants! *(Angry.)* How could you do that? One of the first things you learn in pest control school is to read the labels!

ARNIE: Well, I wasn't expecting lemonade! And I didn't want to miss the picnic!

*(Phone rings. ARLENE grabs it.)*

ARLENE: *(On phone.)* NOT NOW! *(SHE slams the phone down.)* We'd better get over there fast! Wasn't there a health inspection today?

ARNIE: What about the picnic?

ARLENE: Forget the picnic! *(SHE drags him offstage left.)*

**SCENE 8**

***(SUSIE and CINDY enter right. CINDY is listening to her iPod and dancing around. SUSIE takes the fly swatter and swats the counter.)***

SUSIE: The ants are going crazy! Aren't they supposed to die? *(SHE pulls the headphones off CINDY.)* Hey Cindy!

CINDY: Ouch! That hurt!

SUSIE: Did you hear anything I just said?

CINDY: Of course! I heard what you said! Some of it, anyway. A little of it. Well ... no, I didn't hear anything you said. What did you say, Susie?

SUSIE: I said the ants are going crazy. Aren't they supposed to die?

CINDY: Maybe the bug spray gets them all excited before it does them in.

SUSIE: The kitchen is crawling with them! It's like they're holding an ant convention back there!

CINDY: Are they in food?

SUSIE: No. They're in the bug spray.

*(The FOUR ACTORS enter left and cross to the counter.)*

CINDY: Welcome to Bobby's Burger Boutique. May I take your order?

*(SUSIE pulls CINDY aside.)*

SUSIE: What about the ants?

CINDY: Go see how many you can squish. I'll take care of the customers.

*(SUSIE exits right. CINDY returns to the ACTORS.)*

ACTOR 1: We would like to order a burger and a drink.

CINDY: Do you mean four burgers and four drinks?

ACTOR 2: No. We want one burger, one drink, four straws and a plastic knife with which to slice the burger.

CINDY: What kind of burger would you like?

ACTOR 3: The cheapest burger you offer.

CINDY: You want one burger and one drink?

ACTOR 4: That is correct.

CINDY: Why do you only want one burger?

ACTOR 1: We are actors. Unemployed actors.

ACTOR 2: We were going to do a Shakespeare project, but the theater ran out of money.

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ACTOR 3: So we've been doing Shakespeare on the Sidewalk and asking passers by for donations.

ACTOR 4: And after hours of hard labor we finally have enough money for a burger and a drink.

CINDY: How much money do you have?

*(ACTOR 1 places some bills and coins on the counter. CINDY picks it up and counts it.)*

You're in luck. We have a special today for out of work actors. For this amount you can each have a Charm Burger and a drink.

ACTORS: Thank you!

*(CINDY hands them each a burger and a cup.)*

ACTOR 1: We will always remember your kindness.

CINDY: Wait until you try your Charm Burgers. You may want to forget about my kindness.

*(ACTORS cross to a table, sit, unwrap their burgers and pretend to eat. CINDY swats the counter with the fly swatter.)*

Gotcha!

ACTOR 2: There's something unusual about this burger. Something crunchy. *(Looks at burger.)* It looks like a four leaf clover.

*(OTHERS look at their burgers.)*

ACTOR 3: I've got a four leaf clover and some little blue moons.

ACTOR 4: Mine has pink hearts.

ACTOR 1: Miss. What is on these Charm Burgers?

CINDY: Lucky Charms. Are they alright?

ACTORS: *(Random.)* Oh yes! Delicious! Wonderful! Never had anything like it!

*(HARD HATS 1 and 2 and EDDIE enter and cross to the counter. EDDIE has the pet carrier.)*

HARD HAT 1: I said we're sorry!

HARD HAT 2: It was an accident! It could happen to anybody!

EDDIE: You knocked a hole in the side of my building!

HARD HAT 1: We didn't know your building was so close to the building we're trying to knock down!

HARD HAT 2: Yeah! Next time move your building out of the way!

EDDIE: *(To CINDY.)* Oh, Cindy! This is terrible!

CINDY: I'm sure the hole in your building can be fixed.

EDDIE: It's not the building! It's Elvis and Priscilla!

HARD HATS: *(Looking around.)* WHERE?

EDDIE: Elvis and Priscilla are my prize Peruvian gutter rats.

HARD HATS: *(Disappointed.)* Oh.

EDDIE: When the wrecking ball came through the wall their cage was knocked to the floor and the door opened. They were so afraid they just started running.

CINDY: Did you catch them?

EDDIE: No! They ran through the hole in the wall! I followed them outside and they disappeared in the alleyway between our buildings. I think they may have come in here.

CINDY: Oh great. First ants, now rats.

*(ARLENE and ARNIE enter and cross to the counter. ARLENE carries a spray canister.)*

ARNIE: It's really not my fault!

ARLENE: Yes it is your fault! You didn't read the label!

ARNIE: I told you I was in a hurry to get to the picnic!

ARLENE: Too much of a hurry! Now we're both going to be late for the picnic, if we get there at all!

ARNIE: Why did you leave your container near the loading dock?

ARLENE: I was going to put it in my car and take it to the lake! It wasn't anywhere near the storage room!

ARNIE: It's still not my fault!

ARLENE: Yes it is!

CINDY: You realize we have no idea what you're talking about, don't you?

HARD HAT 1: You're acting all hysterical.

HARD HAT 2: *(Indicating EDDIE.)* Like this guy.

ARLENE: *(To HARD HATS.)* Don't bug us!

CINDY: I know. The pest control people.

ARLENE: No. I'm telling them. Don't bug us! My associate has a little confession he'd like to make. Then we'll try to make things right.

*(MOTHER and JUNIOR enter left and cross to the counter. MOTHER is dragging JUNIOR by the arm.)*

MOTHER: What was in that burger we purchased?

JUNIOR: I want a burger!

MOTHER: *(To JUNIOR.)* Not now! Mommy is talking!

JUNIOR: I want a burger now!

MOTHER: You're not going to get a burger!

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CINDY: Was something wrong with the burger? Well, that's a silly question. How about this. What was wrong with the burger this time?

*(SKATERS 1 and 2 enter left and cross toward the counter.)*

SKATER 1: If anybody's interested, there's a great new spot to skate!

SKATER 2: Yeah! It's next to that weird animal store! We skated right through a hole in the wall.

SKATER 1: Could we get a couple of the Fish Surprise Sandwiches?

SKATER 2: The ones that taste like blueberries?

*(CINDY tosses them two sandwiches. THEY cross to a table, sit and look at the sandwiches.)*

HARD HAT 1: Hey. As long as you're giving out free sandwiches how about one for us?

HARD HAT 2: The last sandwiches we got here were awful.

HARD HAT 1: But if they're free, we'll try again.

*(CINDY hands them each a sandwich.)*

HARD HAT 2: How about a drink?

*(SHE hands them two drink cups. THEY cross to a table, sit and unwrap the sandwiches. ACTOR 1 stands and crosses to CINDY.)*

ACTOR 1: Madame, we would like to repay your act of kindness with some Instant Shakespeare.

CINDY: I kind of have my hands full here, if you don't mind.

ACTOR 1: We don't mind at all.

*(ACTORS cross left and stand in a line.)*

CINDY: Let's try and get to the bottom of this. *(To ARNIE and ARLENE.)* What are you two talking about?

ARLENE: When Arnie sprayed for ants he didn't use bug spray.

CINDY: What did he use?

ARLENE: *(Shoves ARNIE.)* Tell her what you used.

ARNIE: I used ... uh ... something that attracts ants, but doesn't necessarily kill them.

ARLENE: He used lemonade.

ARNIE: It wasn't my fault!

CINDY: *(Shocked.)* LEMONADE?

ACTOR 1: From *Richard III*. Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer by this sun of York; and all the clouds that lowered

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upon our house in the deep bosom of the ocean buried, now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths.

*(CAST watches in surprise. OTHER ACTORS applaud. Then the CAST applauds. ACTOR 1 bows.)*

JUNIOR: What are they doing?

ALL: Shakespeare.

CINDY: *(To ARNIE.)* You sprayed lemonade all over my kitchen?

ARLENE: We're here to fix that. I brought the right chemicals this time.

*(SUSIE enters left.)*

SUSIE: *(Horried.)* Cindy, there are two *(Spells.)* R-A-T-S in the kitchen!

ARNIE: We can take care of them and the ...

SUSIE: DON'T SAY IT!

ARNIE: Uh ... the other problem.

EDDIE: NO! That's Elvis and Priscilla!

HARD HATS / SKATERS: *(Looking around.)* Where?

ACTOR 2: From *As You Like It*.

*(ALL watch ACTORS with growing appreciation.)*

All the world's a stage, and all the men and women are merely players. They have their exits and their entrances, and one man in his time plays many parts.

*(ALL applaud. ACTOR 2 bows. JUNIOR crosses to the ACTORS, sits on the floor and watches in wonder.)*

EDDIE: I'm going to get Elvis and Priscilla!

ARNIE: I can take care of them ... if you know what I mean. *(HE aims the spray canister like a gun.)*

EDDIE: DON'T YOU DARE!

*(EDDIE, SUSIE and ARNIE exit right.)*

MOTHER: You still haven't answered my question. What was in the burger Junior got?

CINDY: It was an Apple Burger.

SKATER 1: You mean it had a computer in it?

CINDY: No. It had catsup, mustard and cole slaw topped off with a slice of apple pie and whipped topping.

SKATER 2: That sounds good. Next time I'll get one of those instead of the Fish Surprise.

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CINDY: I'm sorry if Junior didn't like it.

MOTHER: But he DID like it. He loved it. I've never seen him eat anything like that before. He snarffed it down before I could find out what was on it.

ACTOR 3: From *Much Ado About Nothing*.

(*CAST gives ACTORS undivided attention. EDDIE, SUSIE and ARNIE enter and watch.*)

If they speak but truth of her, these hands shall tear her. If they wrong her honor, the proudest of them shall well hear of it. Time hath not yet so dried this blood of mine, nor age so eat up my invention!

(*ALL applaud. ACTOR 3 bows.*)

JUNIOR: Do another one!

(*MOTHER crosses to JUNIOR.*)

MOTHER: (*To JUNIOR.*) What are you doing?

JUNIOR: Watching these people.

MOTHER: But they're doing Shakespeare!

ACTORS: (*Offended.*) HEY!

MOTHER: They're doing it very well, but it's Shakespeare. You won't even sit still for the Cartoon Network.

JUNIOR: I like it.

CINDY: (*To SUSIE and EDDIE.*) Did you take care of Elvis, Priscilla and the ... uh ... others?

SUSIE / EDDIE: Not exactly.

CINDY / ARLENE: What do you mean?

EDDIE: Peruvian gutter ... uh ... R-A-T-S have a particular affinity for sugar. And if there's anything they love more than sugar it's ants coated in sugar.

CINDY: You mean they're eating the ants?

ARNIE: And cleaning up the lemonade.

SUSIE: They've just about cleaned up the kitchen.

CINDY: But they're R-A-T-S!

EDDIE: They're Peruvian gutter R-A-T-S. Very clean creatures, in spite of living in gutters and eating garbage.

ACTOR 4: From *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

(*CAST watches.*)

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Captain of our fairy band, Helena is here at hand, and the youth mistook by me pleading for a lover's fee. Shall we their fond pageant see? Lord, what fools these mortals be!

*(CAST applauds.)*

JUNIOR: Do some more. Please.

MOTHER: I can't believe it! He said please! We tried every child psychologist in town, and what he needed was Shakespeare.

ACTORS: Glad we could help.

*(MOTHER crosses to SUSIE and CINDY.)*

MOTHER: I think Junior is finally under control.

CINDY: It's about time.

MOTHER: I'm not sure how to say this, but your food is awful.

SUSIE / CINDY: What? / I know.

MOTHER: Junior loved your burger. The only food Junior will eat is disgusting. Like scrambled eggs and chocolate syrup, or burgers with whipped topping.

SUSIE: Sounds good to me.

MOTHER: To most people it's repulsive. I'd like to help you out. You got Junior on Shakespeare therapy, I'd like to help you run a good restaurant. *(Indicates ACTORS.)* With the talent you have over there you're going to be getting a lot of customers.

CINDY: How are you going to help?

MOTHER: I'm a chef. I used to have my own TV show on the Cooking Channel, until Junior took down every daycare in town.

SUSIE: Well, business hasn't been very good lately.

CINDY: Or ever.

MOTHER: Where did you get your idea for food combinations?

SUSIE: From my parents. They were very cheap and frugal. If we had left over squash casserole and pumpkin pie they mixed them up and that was dinner. When they started Bobby's Burger Boutique they brought their recipes with them.

MOTHER: Would you like to turn this place around?

SUSIE: Sure.

MOTHER: Let's take a look in your kitchen.

SUSIE: There's something you should know about the kitchen. There are two Peruvian gutter R-A-T-S back there.

MOTHER: After living with Junior it'll take a lot more than R-A-T-S to bother me.

*(MOTHER and SUSIE exit right. SMUDLEY and FOOT enter left.)*

SMUDLEY: Well, Miss Foot. That pizza wasn't as good as I expected.

FOOT: (*Holding her stomach.*) No sir. It wasn't very good.

SMUDLEY: Pete's Perfect Pizza may not be very good, but at least it's sanitary.

(*THEY cross to CINDY.*)

Are you the owner of this establishment?

CINDY: No. She's back in the kitchen with Elvis and Priscilla.

SMUDLEY: I am Mr. Smudley, the health inspector.

(*CINDY quickly throws the fly swatter offstage.*)

This is my assistant Miss Foot. We're here for the inspection.

CINDY: (*Nervous.*) Oh. It's nice to meet you.

SMUDLEY: We'll start in the kitchen.

CINDY: (*Nervous.*) Oh. The kitchen. Well. That's interesting. Start with the kitchen.

ACTOR 1: We shall now perform various scenes from *Romeo and Juliet*.

ACTOR 2: (*Stands on a chair.*) O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo? Deny thy father and refuse thy name! Or if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love, and I'll no longer be a Capulet.

SMUDLEY: What are they doing?

(*ALL shush SMUDLEY.*)

Sorry.

ACTOR 3: (*Stands in front of ACTOR 2.*) I take thee at thy word! Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized; henceforth I never will be Romeo.

FOOT: (*To SMUDLEY.*) I think it's *Romeo and Juliet*, sir.

(*ALL shush FOOT.*)

Sorry.

ACTOR 2: My ears hath not yet drunk a hundred words of thy tongue's uttering, yet I know the sound: Art thou not Romeo and a Montague?

SMUDLEY: (*To FOOT.*) I love this story.

(*ALL shush SMUDLEY.*)

Sorry.

(*THEY cross to a table and sit.*)

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ACTOR 3: Neither, fair maid, if either thee dislike.

ACTOR 2: How camest thou hither, tell me, and wherefore? The orchard walls are high and hard to climb.

*(SUSIE enters right.)*

CINDY: *(To SUSIE.)* The health inspector is here.

SUSIE: Oh no! *(To EDDIE.)* Elvis and Priscilla are ready to go home.

EDDIE: But the actors haven't finished the scene.

SUSIE: Eddie, get those R-A-T-S out of my kitchen!

*(ALL shush SUSIE.)*

Sorry.

*(EDDIE and SUSIE exit right.)*

ACTOR 3: With love's light wings did I o'er-perch these walls, for stony limits cannot hold love out!

*(MARY CLARE enters with FRIENDS.)*

MARY CLARE: What did I tell you? Same Susie, same little burger joint. Just like high school.

*(ALL shush MARY CLARE.)*

Don't shush me!

*(ACTORS 2 and 3 lay on the floor as if dead.)*

ACTOR 1: I will be brief, for my short date of breath is not so long as is a tedious tale. Romeo, there dead, was husband to that Juliet, and she, there dead, that Romeo's faithful wife. A sleeping potion, which so took effect as I intended, for it wrought on her the form of death. The true Romeo dead, she wakes, and as it seems did violence on herself.

MARY CLARE: What is this?

FRIEND 1: It's *Romeo and Juliet*.

FRIEND 2: I love this story!

FRIENDS 3 and 4: Me too!

*(OTHERS shush them.)*

Sorry.

*(THEY move closer to the ACTORS.)*

ACTOR 4: A glooming peace this morning with it brings; the sun, for sorrow, will not show his head. Go hence to have more talk of these sad things. Some shall be pardoned, and some punished; for never was a story of more woe than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

*(ALL stand and applaud loudly. Some yell Bravo! EDDIE enters with pet carrier. The carrier door is open.)*

EDDIE: What did I miss?

SMUDLEY: *(Sniffing and wiping his eyes.)* You missed the end of *Romeo and Juliet*.

EDDIE: Oh man!

*(SMUDLEY and FOOT cross to EDDIE.)*

SMUDLEY: What is in that carrier?

*(CINDY takes the carrier from EDDIE and tries to hide it behind her back.)*

CINDY: What carrier?

SMUDLEY: Animals are not allowed in eating establishments!

FOOT: Unless they're on the menu.

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