

# THEATRE BLACKBALL

By Jerry Rabushka

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### **CAST: KELLI and CYNTHIA**

KELLI: Oh Look! How fortunate! I'm the first one in line for the play. Hi, are you the one that sells tickets?

CYNTHIA: **(gives her a quick, rather condescending glance...slight pause)** Yes. That's me.

KELLI: I can't believe it! I'm so excited. I haven't been to the theatre in months, and I simply adore a good play. Listen, my heart is actually beating faster. Isn't that silly?

CYNTHIA: **(filing her nails, obviously bored)** Down the street.

KELLI: Huh?

CYNTHIA: Down the street...the hospital...they have a nice cardiac ward.

KELLI: What? **(pause)** Oh. **(thinks)** Oh! That's funny. **(laughs)** That's really good. No, my heart isn't beating that hard. I'm just excited about spending a magical evening at the theatre. This was last minute, so I couldn't find anyone to go with me.

CYNTHIA: **(still filing nails... unsympathetically)** Pity.

KELLI: But that didn't keep me away. I'm here. Looks like I'm even first.

CYNTHIA: Uh huh.

KELLI: How much are tickets?

CYNTHIA: Sixty.

KELLI: Dollars!?!

CYNTHIA: **(looks up, annoyed)** Yes, dollars.

KELLI: Ouch! Sixty dollars? That's a lot of money.

CYNTHIA: To you, perhaps.

KELLI: To anyone that works all week for a meager paycheck.

CYNTHIA: **(smiles)** Goodbye then. Come again.

KELLI: Wait! What's the name of the show?

CYNTHIA: "A Thousand Magic Sorrows." Runs ninety minutes.

KELLI: I still don't think it's worth that much.

CYNTHIA: Of course you don't. We put on a charity show around Christmas...only costs a buck. Until then, goodbye.

KELLI: Hold your horses. A person would think you're trying to get rid of me.

CYNTHIA: **(sarcastically)** Really? Would they?

KELLI: Listen, I'm watching my budget. This just seems a bit over-priced.

CYNTHIA: It's for the Arts Council.

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KELLI: I know it's for a good cause. I just wish the theatre understood the budgets of working people.

CYNTHIA: It's not for the theatre to understand us. It's for us to understand the theatre!

KELLI: Well, next month they're bringing "She Stoops to Conquer." I saw it last year. It's cheaper... And longer. Certainly a better bang for your buck.

CYNTHIA: Sorry about that. Guess we'll see you in a month.

KELLI: Well...sixty bucks is a bit steep for my budget. Um...Okay. I've just got to see this show. "A Thousand Magic Sorrows." What a name! I guess I can afford the sixty. You only live once. **(steps forward, confidently)** One ticket, please. **(pause...ignores her)** I said, I'd like one ticket, please. **(still ignores her...pause)** HELLO!

CYNTHIA: **(annoyed)** What?!

KELLI: I'd like a ticket.

CYNTHIA: I'm sure you would.

KELLI: What's your problem?

CYNTHIA: No problem! I heard you the first time...

KELLI: Then I'll take my ticket, please.

CYNTHIA: No.

KELLI: No?

CYNTHIA: No.

KELLI: I have the sixty bucks right here.

CYNTHIA: Don't want it.

KELLI: What's wrong? No tickets left?

CYNTHIA: Yes... Plenty. It's still early. But we expect to sell out.

KELLI: Not like this, you won't. I'd like one ticket.

CYNTHIA: Nope.

KELLI: **(pause)** What am I missing here?

CYNTHIA: The ability to understand the word "no", perhaps?

KELLI: You have to let me buy a ticket.

CYNTHIA: Says who?

KELLI: This is ridiculous. Why wouldn't you?

CYNTHIA: Look at the sign. It says "We reserve the right to refuse service to anyone."

KELLI: This has to be a joke, right? I have on shoes. I'm dressed nicely, and I'm not a felon or anything.

CYNTHIA: I'm sure you're not. In this society, a ticket seller wields a lot of power. With that power comes responsibility. So you see, I'm simply looking out for the general interest. It's nothing personal.

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