

# ART TO DIE FOR

*by Kimberlee Mendoza*



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Art

to Die For

A mystery play for dinner theatre

by Kimberlee Mendoza

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

### **Frances Madigan**

Callous curator, victim (female, late 20s – early 30s)

### **Grace Blevins**

Mousy assistant (female, 18-22)

### **Casey Madigan**

Likeable, rebellious college guy (male, 18-22)

### **Markus Dyer III**

Snooty artist (male, 50-60)

### **Kitty Dymond**

Rich airhead (female, early 20s)

### **Detective AJ Teal**

Actor pretending to be a detective (male, 30s)

### **Billy Peters**

Curious young sleuth (male, 10-14)

### **Shauna Peters**

Billy's little sister (female, 8-10)

### **Mr. Bailey**

Narcoleptic (male, 70s) (Consider doubling as Extra)

### **Mrs. Bailey**

Hard-of-hearing (female, 70s) (Consider doubling as Extra)

### **Extra 1 and 2**

Play security, guests, waiter, etc. (1 male and 1 female)

### **Extra 3**

May play a worker hanging paintings, Kitty's assistant, and the killer. Consider using other extras throughout the play in background.

## PRODUCTION NOTES

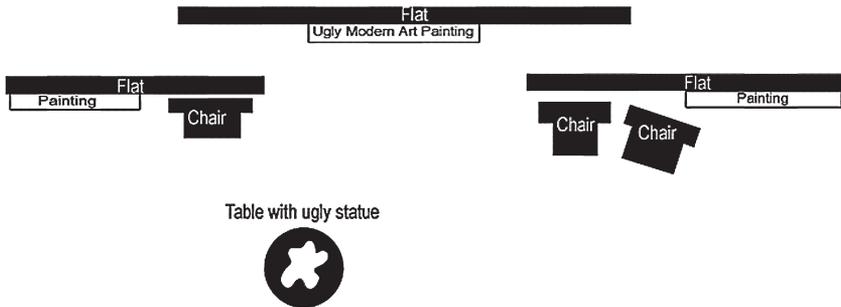
### Time and Location

Present-day. Art gallery in Canada.

### Set

There are three flats. They are set so that there are two hallway entrances. On each flat there is a painting. These should be modern pieces, and the uglier, the better. There should be a chair in front of the flat on Stage Right, and two chairs in front of the flat on Stage Left. In the right middle of the stage there is a table or podium with an ugly statue on it. Note: This statue will be knocked over a few times, so make sure that it isn't breakable.

*Note: There should be a crime scene in Act I, Scene 1, and after Scene 7. This will include police tape, a chalk drawing, a fake gun, a knife, a rope, and a broken statue.*



### Props

#### *Act I*

Scene 1 — Police tape, a chalk drawing, a gun, knife, rope, broken statue, small notebook, and spyglass (or paper towel roll decorated to look like one)

Scene 2 — Paintings, statue, cell phone, and hanky

Scene 3 — None

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Scene 4 — Hors d'oeuvres, drinks, tray, small dog in purse  
(may be stuffed), bluetooth, and hanky

Scene 5 — Small notebook

Scene 6 — Cup of water, dog biscuit, Q-tip

Scene 7 — Cell phone, knife, rope, gun, and black gloves

Scene 8 — Crime tape, small notebook, cash, and red  
gloves

## *Act II*

Handcuffs

*Note: Consider having the “guests” at the art show carry  
programs or invitations.*

## **Costumes**

*Frances Madigan*

Power suit, high heels, and formal dress

*Grace Blevins*

Cardigan, button-up shirt, skirt, glasses, flats, and formal  
dress

*Casey Madigan*

Jeans, T-shirt, blazer, black tie (may have something silly  
on it), Converse, fedora

*Markus Dyer III*

Cardigan, scarf, dress pants, nice shoes, and tux

*Kitty Dymond*

Light-colored formal dress, very sparkly; coat

*Detective AJ Teal*

Trench coat, button-down shirt, loose tie, dress shoes

*Billy Peters*

Button-down shirt, possible trench coat, jeans

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*Shauna Peters*  
Little girl clothes

*Mr. Bailey*  
Old 70s pastel-colored leisure suit

*Mrs. Bailey*  
Old lady dress and hat

*Extra 1*  
Security guard, suit, waiter, overalls, Middle Eastern outfit, wealthy aristocrat clothing with gloves, all-black clothing with a ski mask

*Extra 2*  
Dressy clothes, apron for waitress, overalls, fancy dress, Middle Eastern outfit

*Extra 3*  
Overalls, formal dress, all-black clothing with a ski mask

*Note: Costume directions are indicated in the script for the Extras, due to their many quick clothing change requirements.*

### **Sound Effects**

Dog barking, screaming, crash, moaning, running.

### **The Evening**

Encourage the guests to survey the set. There will be various clues on the stage and pictures of the suspects in a program. Have them decide who they think might have done it and with what weapon.

Have the characters or waitstaff serve beverages as the guests arrive. If you have live entertainment, serve the main course during the preshow. The dessert may be served at intermission.

Tip: Consider having different sculptures on each table and various paintings on easels around the room. If it is a fundraising event, consider auctioning off some artwork.

### **Menu Suggestion**

Choose an easy-to-fix, four-course meal like the following:

Course 1: Sparkling cider (served from bottles),  
hors d'oeuvres (served on trays)

Course 2: Salad, bread

Course 3: Chicken, rice

Course 4: Cheesecake

### **Schedule of Events**

Dinner Guests arrive (Cast mingles with audience)

Bread, beverages, and salad are on table

Possible entertainment while main entrée is served

*Act I*

Intermission/Dessert and coffee served

(Cast mingles with audience)

*Act II*

Dinner Guests depart

### **Play Run Time**

Script: Approximately 50 minutes

Play, preshow, and full meal: Approximately two hours

7  
ACT I

Scene 1

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*(All dinner guests have been warmly welcomed and encouraged to scrutinize the set for clues. The food was blessed; the appetizers, salad, and bread consumed; and the guests have now received their entrées. The scene opens with BILLY and SHAUNA standing behind the police tape. The statue is broken and laying on the ground. There are possible signs of a struggle and weapons strewn about. The lights are low.)*

SHAUNA: *(Scared)* I don't think we should be here.

BILLY: *(Exasperated)* Don't be such a baby.

SHAUNA: I'm not a baby. I'm just wondering, what happens if Mom finds out?

BILLY: She won't, or I'll give you a knuckle sandwich. *(Ducks under tape and looks around.)* This is so cool. A real live crime scene. I wonder if we'll find blood.

SHAUNA: Blood? Billy, I'm scared.

BILLY: Come on, Shauna. I promise nothing bad is going to happen to you. It's a crime scene, which means the crime is over; bad guys gone. Chill and come on.

SHAUNA: Why do we have to be here? Can't we go to Baskin-Robbins instead? Mom gave you money. I really want a banana split.

BILLY: Are you kidding? No, this is the chance for me to be a real detective. The cops didn't find out who did it, so ... *(Puffs out chest.)* Detective Billy Peters in on the job.

SHAUNA: What can you do? You're just a kid.

BILLY: And you're not?

SHAUNA: I'm not under any delusions that I'm not. I would be more than happy with going home and playing. Of course, ice cream is on the way. Besides, Mom said you had to watch me, but I don't think she had this in mind. Wait until I tell.

BILLY: Come on, Shauna. Just ten minutes. When will I get a big chance like this again? I need to look at the evidence. *(He gets out spyglass.)* The body was here, you can tell.

- 1 **SHAUNA:** (*Shaking head, she backs up.*) **Body? No, I can't tell**  
2 **anything, I ...** (*MARKUS enters stoically and SHAUNA backs*  
3 *up into him and screams.*) **A ghost!**
- 4 **MARKUS:** I beg your pardon?
- 5 **SHAUNA:** And he talks!
- 6 **MARKUS:** You children aren't supposed to be in here. This is  
7 a crime scene, and the gallery is closed.
- 8 **BILLY:** Victim, witness, or suspect?
- 9 **MARKUS:** Excuse me?
- 10 **BILLY:** Which is it, mister? Are you the victim of this crime?  
11 A witness who saw what happened? Or are you a  
12 suspect who just might have done it? Come on, give it  
13 up.
- 14 **MARKUS:** What? Don't be impertinent.
- 15 **BILLY:** Answer the question, mister, or you'll be doing some  
16 talking downtown.
- 17 **MARKUS:** Downtown? What are you talking about? Better  
18 yet, who are you?
- 19 **BILLY:** Detective Billy Peters at your service.
- 20 **MARKUS:** Aren't you a little young to be a detective?
- 21 **BILLY:** Don't let my size fool you. The victim fell here. You're  
22 walking, so I think it's safe to say you're not the victim.
- 23 **MARKUS:** Well, Detective Billy Peters, that is where you're  
24 wrong. I'm the artist who lost my entire future in one  
25 night. My exhibit is ruined! I guess that would make me  
26 the victim, wouldn't you say?
- 27 **BILLY:** I don't know. I don't think that makes you a victim.  
28 Besides, you look a little shady. Wouldn't you say,  
29 Shauna?
- 30 **SHAUNA:** Keep me out of it.
- 31 **MARKUS:** I think it's high time you two show yourselves out  
32 of here before I call security.
- 33 **BILLY:** I'll be asking the questions.
- 34 **MARKUS:** I didn't ask a question.
- 35 **BILLY:** That *is* suspicious. Well, still, I'll be asking the  
36 questions ... now. Did losing your art make you angry?  
37 Were you angry enough to do it?
- 38 **MARKUS:** Do what?

- 1 BILLY: Exactly. (*Stares into him.*) Do what?
- 2 MARKUS: (*Folds arms, realizing*) You don't even know what  
3 happened, do you?
- 4 BILLY: Um, well, I know a crime was committed, right here  
5 in this very spot, yesterday evening.
- 6 MARKUS: And beyond that ... nothing?
- 7 BILLY: Well, if my first suspect would stop being so difficult,  
8 I'd have more answers, and I could be on my way to  
9 solving this crime.
- 10 MARKUS: I am not a suspect. And I need you to leave  
11 immediately.
- 12 BILLY: Listen, mister. I have every right to solve this case as  
13 anybody. I'm not leaving until I get answers. And from  
14 the looks of it, you want me gone, which only brings me  
15 to the obvious conclusion that you have something to  
16 hide.
- 17 MARKUS: Don't be absurd. I just don't like you, and I want  
18 you out of here. (*Yells to doorway.*) Security!
- 19 BILLY: So you're going to play that card, huh? We'll just see,  
20 mister. We'll just see.
- 21 MARKUS: Yes, we shall. (*MARKUS exits.*)
- 22 SHAUNA: Billy, you're going to get us in trouble. Can we  
23 please go now? I don't want to get locked up.
- 24 BILLY: Old grumpy Gus is bluffing. He's got guilt written all  
25 over his face. There is no way he's not going to the  
26 authorities. I bet my spyglass on it.
- 27 SHAUNA: I didn't see it.
- 28 BILLY: (*Holds up spyglass.*) It's right here.
- 29 SHAUNA: No, guilt written on his face.
- 30 BILLY: Amateur.
- 31 SHAUNA: Let's go, please.
- 32 BILLY: No, I'm staying here until the crime is solved. What  
33 kind of detective would I be otherwise? (*AJ enters. He*  
34 *talks to BILLY, hiding his amusement.*)
- 35 AJ: I hear a super sleuth is on the job.
- 36 BILLY: My reputation precedes me. Witness, victim, or  
37 suspect?
- 38 AJ: None of the above. Detective AJ Teal at your service.

1           *(Puts hand out to shake, but BILLY ignores it.)* Lead  
2   investigator. *(Shakes his own hand. Then becomes dramatic.)*  
3   Wanted to be an actor. But with this face ... they said  
4   radio. So here I am, kid. Left L.A. and returned to  
5   Canada.

6   **BILLY:** Let me see your badge.

7   **AJ:** Wow, you're very thorough.

8   **BILLY:** Have to be. Don't want to make any mistakes. It's my  
9   first official case.

10  **AJ:** I see. Yes, a good detective would always do that. *(Shows*  
11   *his badge.)* Not that I would probably know. I'm kind of  
12   in trouble for bungling the last case. But I can play a  
13   mean Barnaby Jones. Want to see?

14  **BILLY:** I don't like Barney.

15  **SHAUNA:** I miss him. I used to watch him all the time. You  
16   want to sing the song? *(Singing)* "I love you, you love  
17   me ... "

18  **AJ:** Not Barney, *Barnaby.* *(BILLY and SHAUNA give him a*  
19   *blank stare.)* Never mind. Look, kids, you do realize  
20   you're trespassing, don't you?

21  **BILLY:** I'm sorry about that, sir, but it's necessary. I really  
22   want to help with the case. I'm sure you've done some  
23   trespassing in your time on the force in order to solve a  
24   crime or two. Right?

25  **AJ:** Yes, I suppose I have a few times here and there. *(Gets*  
26   *look in his eye and steps away as if considering it. BILLY and*  
27   *SHAUNA freeze.)* This may not be a bad idea. Everyone  
28   downtown thinks I'm incompetent. Didn't like that I  
29   had no real suspects. Maybe this kid is just what I need.  
30   *(Turns back, and BILLY and SHAUNA are in action again.)*  
31   So, you think you can help Montreal's finest police  
32   department somehow?

33  **BILLY:** Absolutely. Just give me the chance, sir. I promise I  
34   won't let you down.

35  **AJ:** OK, I can tell a good nose for this business when I see  
36   one.

37  **SHAUNA:** My mom says he has the same nose as my nose, but  
38   mine is cuter.

1 **AJ:** Yes, I would say so. Is this your sister?

2 **BILLY:** Yeah, unfortunately I'm babysitting, too. But don't  
3 worry; I won't let her distract us from what really  
4 matters. *(Pause)* So, tell what you know, and I'll tell you  
5 what I've figured out so far.

6 **AJ:** OK, I suppose it can't hurt to have another opinion. Let's  
7 see how you do, kid. *(Pause)* It started early last night.  
8 The art gallery was getting ready to host their annual  
9 fundraising gala. Several artists pulled out at the last  
10 minute, and then Markus Dyer the Third agreed to  
11 donate his art collection for the event. No one could  
12 have foretold the chain of events that would begin.  
13 *(Lights fade. Crime scene is removed.)*

14  
15 *Scene 2*

16  
17 *(Scene changes to before the crime. The paintings and statue  
18 are not displayed. FRAN enters talking on cell phone.)*

19 **FRAN:** I don't understand. You agreed to be part of this gala.  
20 How are we supposed ... *(Pause)* I understand, but ...  
21 *(Pause)* You listen here. You're not the only artist in  
22 Canada. I have — *(She snaps phone shut with a grunt.)*  
23 Grace, get in here at once! *(GRACE comes stumbling  
24 through the door, nervous and disheveled.)*

25 **GRACE:** Yes, ma'am?

26 **FRAN:** Another artist has withdrawn. If you don't find me  
27 another artist by tomorrow evening, you're fired!

28 **GRACE:** Fired? *(FRAN glares at her.)* Yes, ma'am.

29 **FRAN:** And do something about your appearance. We're in  
30 an art gallery, for heaven's sake. You're the ugliest  
31 thing here. *(FRAN exits.)*

32 **GRACE:** Yes, ma'am. *(She opens her cell phone and dials.)*  
33 Markus Dyer, please. *(CASEY enters.)*

34 **CASEY:** Have you seen ... ? *(GRACE holds up her hand for him  
35 to wait a second. CASEY clearly makes her nervous.)*

36 **GRACE:** Hello, Markus. It's, um ... I'm Grace Blevins. We ...  
37 you and I ... well, we spoke at the Harington Art  
38 Auction last summer. *(Pause. Frowns.)* Yes, yes, I was the

1 plain one. *(Pause)* Um, I hate to ask, but we're ... you see,  
2 well, um, we're having a fundraiser tomorrow night,  
3 and ... if it's not too much — you see, we're in need of  
4 one more artist to fill our Red Room. I wondered if  
5 you'd be ... *(Pause)* You would? *(Pause)* Of course, I'm  
6 sure ... I'll try ... we can accommodate ... *(Pause)* Yes,  
7 right away. *(Pause)* See you soon. *(She hangs up and*  
8 *cheers.)* Yes!

9 CASEY: Good news?

10 GRACE: Um, yes, you could say that. I just saved my job.

11 CASEY: Don't you work for my sister?

12 GRACE: You're, uh, Casey Madigan, right?

13 CASEY: Yes.

14 GRACE: Yes, I, um, work for your sister.

15 CASEY: Once again I ask, "This is good news?"

16 GRACE: *(Giggles.)* Yes. I love the work. Need the job. And love  
17 it.

18 CASEY: I see. Well, it's very nice to meet you, Grace.

19 GRACE: You, um, too, Casey.

20 CASEY: Now, if you could point me in the direction of the  
21 dragon lady, I will get out of your hair and let you keep  
22 your job.

23 GRACE: *(Giggles.)* Um, sure. Yes, I mean, she's in the office.  
24 *(Points.)* That way.

25 CASEY: *(Winks.)* Thanks. *(CASEY exits. GRACE is giddy and can*  
26 *hardly walk straight. MARKUS enters.)*

27 MARKUS: Miss Blevins?

28 GRACE: Wow! Um, Markus. That was fast.

29 MARKUS: I was close. And it's Markus Dyer the Third.

30 GRACE: Of course, sir. Yes, um, OK. I haven't had a chance  
31 to touch base with my boss.

32 MARKUS: *(Habitually refers to himself in the third person.)*  
33 Whatever for? I'm Markus Dyer the Third. She will be  
34 thrilled! Now, may I start to move my artwork in here?

35 GRACE: Um, I ...

36 MARKUS: Of course Markus can. *(Whistles.)* Come on in, boys.  
37 *(All EXTRAS come in dressed in overalls and start to hang*  
38 *paintings.)*

- 1 GRACE: (*Shocked and worried*) Oh, my ... um ... wow ... I, um ...
- 2 MARKUS: I know. You're speechless. (*Sighs.*) How could you
- 3 not be? It's not every day you get to be in the presence
- 4 of such brilliance.
- 5 GRACE: If you'll excuse me, I, um, need to find Frances
- 6 Madigan. She's the curator for this event, and she'll
- 7 want to talk to you.
- 8 MARKUS: Of course. Markus shouldn't have to address the
- 9 help. (*GRACE hurriedly exits. MARKUS snaps fingers and*
- 10 *EXTRA 1 puts statue on table. MARKUS crosses to statue, pulls*
- 11 *a hanky out of his pocket, and dusts it with pride. FRAN enters.*)
- 12 FRAN: Markus?
- 13 MARKUS: Ah, Frances, my dear. It's been years.
- 14 FRAN: Grace tells me you've agreed to show ... (*Sees statues*
- 15 *and gasps.*) What is this?
- 16 MARKUS: It's my latest collection. I call it "Markus Was
- 17 Inspired in the Shower by This Thing Called Life, Love,
- 18 and Happiness, and Now He Must Share It with One
- 19 and All."
- 20 FRAN: No, I call it "You Must Be Joking."
- 21 MARKUS: I never joke about art. You know that, my dear.
- 22 (*Pause*) Your assistant said you needed art for tonight's
- 23 show. Markus is doing you an enormous favor.
- 24 FRAN: I'm not so sure. (*Pause*) I think we'd be better served if
- 25 ... (*GRACE enters on the phone and holds hand up to FRAN*
- 26 *with a panicked expression.*)
- 27 GRACE: Yes, sir. I understand. Yes, she's right here. (*Hands*
- 28 *phone to FRAN.*)
- 29 FRAN: Hello? (*Pause*) Oh, yes, I'm afraid we did have a few
- 30 artists pull out. (*Pause*) No, I'm sure ... (*Pause*) Every
- 31 room must be filled? (*Looks at GRACE, then at MARKUS.*)
- 32 No problem. Because every room is filled. We had a new
- 33 addition this morning. (*Pause*) Markus Dyer.
- 34 MARKUS: The third.
- 35 FRAN: Yes, sir. I understand. (*Pause*) See you tomorrow
- 36 evening. (*She hangs up.*)
- 37 MARKUS: So, shall Markus bring in the rest of his
- 38 collection?

1 **FRAN:** What you have here will do.

2 **MARKUS:** *(Claps over his head.)* Bill and Bob, let's bring in the  
3 last two paintings. They can go on the other side of that  
4 wall. *(MARKUS and EXTRAS exit. EXTRAS change into*  
5 *formal clothing.)*

6 **GRACE:** I'm sorry, ma'am. Markus used to be good.

7 **FRAN:** I have a hazy memory of that now. This is a disaster.

8 **GRACE:** Um, I'm sure one artist won't ruin the entire event.

9 **FRAN:** Mr. Dymond and the committee may disagree. If this  
10 doesn't come off without a hitch, I may never work in  
11 this industry again. Which means, my dear sweet girl,  
12 neither will you. *(Lights out. Make sure all entrée plates are*  
13 *cleared by now and refill beverages.)*

14

15

### Scene 3

16

17 *(MARKUS and FRAN start their conversation Off-Stage, then*  
18 *enter.)*

19 **MARKUS:** I'm just saying I think Markus's art deserves  
20 better lighting. More pomp.

21 **FRAN:** Under the circumstance, no.

22 **MARKUS:** No. What does that mean?

23 **FRAN:** Should I spell it out in another language for you? No.  
24 Non. Nien. Nyet. *(Spells "no" in sign language.)* It all means  
25 the same thing. Not going to happen.

26 **MARKUS:** I despise you.

27 **FRAN:** And I, you ... as well as your art.

28 **MARKUS:** That's absurd. It's magnificent!

29 **FRAN:** The critics say otherwise. The exhibition is tonight,  
30 and we haven't sold many tickets. The gallery needs the  
31 commission.

32 **MARKUS:** Why are you so worried? I never should have  
33 agreed to show here. Montreal has so little culture.  
34 *(Goes to statue and hugs it.)* Look at this masterpiece! My  
35 art is ... genius!

36 **FRAN:** It's vomit. *(Yells to hall.)* Grace, get in here!

37 **MARKUS:** I should sue you.

38 **FRAN:** That's the card you're going to play? What happened

- 1 to your earlier work? The one that inspired Grace to  
2 call and invite you to come here in the first place?
- 3 MARKUS: I hit my head ...
- 4 FRAN: That I would believe.
- 5 MARKUS: (*Big breath*) As I was saying, I hit my head on the  
6 showerhead, and wham! Inspiration. An epiphany  
7 of ...
- 8 FRAN: All things wretched?
- 9 MARKUS: Of true beauty beyond the canvas.
- 10 FRAN: Keep telling yourself that, Markus. Just do it in  
11 another gallery next time.
- 12 MARKUS: You forget who was in a desperate need to fill a  
13 room. Keep it up, and Markus will pull all of his art out  
14 here faster than you can say “Markus is a genius.”
- 15 FRAN: You silly little man. You agreed to put your art in  
16 here because like me, every art gallery this side of  
17 Mexico has turned you down. You’re washed up, yet you  
18 somehow tricked my assistant into letting you display  
19 your disasters. You will continue to embrace my insults  
20 and love them, because otherwise, I promise — this will  
21 be your last show *ever*. (*Pause*) And please stop referring  
22 to yourself in the third person. It’s creeping me out.  
23 (*Yells to hallway.*) Grace! (*GRACE comes stumbling through*  
24 *the door, then trips and falls into the statue. MARKUS rescues*  
25 *it.*)
- 26 MARKUS: My baby!
- 27 GRACE: I’m so sorry, Mr. Dyer. Mrs. Tanner, I’m ... um, it’s ...  
28 Sorry. I can be a little clumsy. I’m so sorry.
- 29 MARKUS: Why do you have this klutz working in a gallery of  
30 priceless art? What a mistake!
- 31 FRAN: Not my first. (*To GRACE*) One that I can rectify if  
32 you’re not more careful, Grace.
- 33 GRACE: Sorry, Ms. Tanner.
- 34 FRAN: How are ticket sales?
- 35 GRACE: Oh, not good. We are, well, moderately speaking ...  
36 well ... you see ...
- 37 FRAN: Get to it, dear! The number. The number!
- 38 GRACE: (*Pushes answer out.*) One hundred fifty less than last

1           year's event. (*CASEY enters, a little underdressed. He has a*  
2           *black tie on, but he wears tennis shoes and maybe just a T-shirt*  
3           *and jacket. GRACE is a little flustered.*)

4   **FRAN:** What a disgrace. I blame the both of you!

5   **MARKUS:** Well, Markus ... (*Clears throat.*) I mean, *I blame you*  
6           **both. Poor advertising, that's what. With better**  
7           **marketing, people would be lined up to see Markus's**  
8           **genius collection.**

9   **CASEY:** Happened in the Garden of Eden, and it's still  
10           happening today.

11 **FRAN:** Oh, Casey, I didn't see you there.

12 **MARKUS:** What happened?

13 **CASEY:** The blame game. No, she gave *me* the apple. (*In*  
14           *woman's voice*) No, the snake did it. Seriously, does it  
15           matter who is to blame?

16 **MARKUS and FRAN:** (*Together*) Yes.

17 **CASEY:** Wow!

18 **FRAN:** I'm glad you made it, dear. (*Looks him over.*) **But what**  
19           **are you wearing?**

20 **CASEY:** You said black tie. Is this not black? (*Holds out tie.*)

21 **FRAN:** Um, not exactly what I had in mind. And where is  
22           your sports coat? Your dress shoes, for heaven's sake?  
23           You look like a hobo!

24 **CASEY:** I'm not going to waste a Friday night here and dress  
25           like a penguin too. If I have to be here, I plan to be  
26           comfortable.

27 **FRAN:** Please don't embarrass me.

28 **CASEY:** I make no promises. (*He kisses her cheek with a wink.*)

29 **FRAN:** Don't add to my disaster. This evening is up in flames  
30           as it is.

31 **GRACE:** What can I do, Ms. Tanner?

32 **FRAN:** Keep an eye on him. And make sure tonight is perfect.  
33           That is, if you want to keep this job.

34 **GRACE:** Please, Ms. Tanner — don't let tonight determine my  
35           fate. I need this job to get my internship this summer!

36 **FRAN:** If it was so important to you, then you should have  
37           done more before now.

38 **CASEY:** Lay off her, sis. She didn't destroy your evening. You

- 1 and the artist formerly known as Frankenstein did.
- 2 **MARKUS:** Is that supposed to be funny?
- 3 **CASEY:** Let me see. *(Pause)* Yes. Most definitely funny. Maybe
- 4 not a ROFL moment, but pushing toward LOL. Right,
- 5 Gracie?
- 6 **GRACE:** Um, well ... I, uh ...
- 7 **FRAN:** Stop stammering, girl. Go get ready. The doors open
- 8 soon. *(FRAN exits.)*
- 9 **GRACE:** *(To doorway)* Yes, ma'am. *(To CASEY)* Good to see you
- 10 again, Casey. *(She starts to exit.)*
- 11 **CASEY:** Save a dance for me, Grace? *(GRACE gets flustered and*
- 12 *almost knocks statue over again.)*
- 13 **GRACE:** I ... um ... don't think there will be dancing tonight
- 14 ... *(Giggles and exits.)*
- 15 **MARKUS:** My baby! Will he have no peace?
- 16 **CASEY:** Something so ugly could never know peace. *(CASEY*
- 17 *pats MARKUS's back and starts to exit.)*
- 18 **MARKUS:** Buffoon! You wouldn't know art if it bit you in the
- 19 backside.
- 20 **CASEY:** Hmmmm. That would be some art worth seeing. I
- 21 think I'd wear a sports coat for that.
- 22 **MARKUS:** Well!
- 23 **CASEY:** That's an awfully deep subject. Are you sure you can
- 24 handle it?
- 25 **MARKUS:** What's a deep subject?
- 26 **CASEY:** A well.
- 27 **MARKUS:** What?
- 28 **CASEY:** Apparently not. You said, "well." Wait, it was more
- 29 like *(Imitates MARKUS)* "well." Still a deep subject.
- 30 Maybe you should avoid them all together.
- 31 **MARKUS:** Imbecile! Touch nothing.
- 32 **CASEY:** Touch nothing? *(He puts finger out.)* Like this? *(Reaches*
- 33 *toward statue.)*
- 34 **MARKUS:** Don't you dare!
- 35 **CASEY:** *(Touches it.)* Touch.
- 36 **MARKUS:** Do it again, and I'll bill you for the piece.
- 37 **CASEY:** *(Touches it.)* Charge it to my sister. *(CASEY tosses it.*
- 38 *MARKUS catches it, horrified. Lights out.)*

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*(People, including KITTY and EXTRA 3 as her assistant, are mingling with hors d'oeuvres, looking around. Note: KITTY has a small dog in her purse, but the dog doesn't have to be real. EXTRAS 1 and 2 enter as a rich man and his spoiled daughter.)*

**EXTRA 2:** Daddy, this is boring. I want to go to the ranch.

**EXTRA 1:** Quiet, dear. I'm on the board. I need to make an appearance. If you'd like, I'll buy you a painting.

**EXTRA 2:** No, Daddy. I want a pony.

**EXTRA 1:** We talked about this, dear. You already have a horse.

**EXTRA 2:** But I want a pony!

**EXTRA 1:** How about a Rembrandt instead?

**EXTRA 2:** Is that a special kind of horse?

**EXTRA 1:** It's a painting.

**EXTRA 2:** Then no, no, no. *(She runs out, pouting. She adds an apron over her dress to prepare for her waitress scene.)*

**EXTRA 1:** Oy. *(Looks at CASEY.)* You have any daughters, young man?

**CASEY:** No, sir.

**EXTRA 1:** You're a blessed man. I have four. My life is not mine anymore. *(He shakes head and exits. He leaves his formal attire on. FRAN enters, upset.)*

**FRAN:** What is all that noise? *(Sees KITTY.)* Ah, Miss Dymond. So glad you could make it.

**KITTY:** To what?

**FRAN:** To the gala, of course.

**KITTY:** Oh, is that why I'm here? I couldn't remember. My phone beeped and told me to come. I don't know how it does that. It just knows. Always beeping and telling me where to go. It's sheer genius.

**FRAN:** Right. Well, you must have put it in your calendar at some point, I'm sure.

**KITTY:** No, I don't do that. *(Pause)* But I do see my assistant with my phone. I always want to scold her. *(Glares at her assistant, who is EXTRA 3.)* Is that it, Myra? Did you do

1           that? (*EXTRA 3 shrugs.*) Maybe you should go wait in the  
 2           limo. And here, take this. (*Hands her a coat. EXTRA 3 exits.*  
 3           *She may leave her formal clothing on.*) She's not much to  
 4           look at, and she's a little young, but she is on top of  
 5           things, like making me eat. I forget sometimes. She gets  
 6           that grumpy voice. (*Deeper voice, but animated*) You've got  
 7           to eat, Kitty. (*Goes back to normal voice.*) So, I do. I mean,  
 8           wouldn't you?

9       FRAN: Yes, well, I'm glad you came, Ms. Dymond. (*Starts to*  
 10           *move away.*)

11       KITTY: Well, I'm glad we came, too. Bixie loves the liver pâté.

12       FRAN: Bixie? Is Bixie your new boyfriend?

13       KITTY: Boyfriend? Heavens, no. It's my dog, silly. (*Opens her*  
 14           *purse so FRAN can look in. Barking sound effect. FRAN jumps*  
 15           *back.*)

16       FRAN: You can't have a dog in here.

17       KITTY: Sure, I can. Look. He loves it. (*To purse, begins to talk in*  
 18           *baby talk to her dog.*) Don't you, Bixie-wixie? You cute  
 19           wittle thing. Mamma wuvs you. Who wuvs you? Mama.  
 20           Yes, she does. (*Baby talks some more.*)

21       FRAN: I meant, it's against the rules. No animals unless it's a  
 22           Seeing Eye dog.

23       KITTY: Oh, that's OK. My dog can see.

24       FRAN: No, he shouldn't be here.

25       KITTY: Why? You let *him* in. (*Points to CASEY, who is eating*  
 26           *with really bad manners.*) Bixie is more behaved than that  
 27           thing.

28       FRAN: I see your point, however, riffraff and animals are  
 29           two different things entirely.

30       KITTY: Bixie isn't hurting anybody — are you, baby? (*Looks*  
 31           *in purse as more barking sound effects play.*) You're just so  
 32           cute. (*Baby talks to dog some more.*)

33       FRAN: You see, if the dog were to get out of your purse and  
 34           damage anything, well, we could be talking a ten-  
 35           thousand to one-hundred-thousand-dollar issue.  
 36           Understand?

37       KITTY: Surely you don't mean this collection!

38       FRAN: OK, maybe starting at one hundred. But actually,

1           some of the art in the other rooms can go as high as one  
2           million dollars.

3   KITTY: Well, if you want me here, then you'll have to deal  
4           with my dog. *(Pause)* And if you want my daddy's  
5           continual backing, then you'll remember how to talk to  
6           me.

7   FRAN: Fine. But if he gets out and breaks anything ...

8   KITTY: Daddy wouldn't break anything.

9   FRAN: I meant the dog.

10   KITTY: Oh, he won't. He's a good puppy-wuppy. Aren't you,  
11           boy?

12   FRAN: Well, if he does, I'm calling security, and you'll get the  
13           bill.

14   KITTY: *(Huffs off, talking to dog as she exits.)* Don't let her get to  
15           you. She's just a big ol' meanie-weenie. Yes, she is.

16   FRAN: *(To CASEY)* Did you really have to act like such a  
17           street urchin?

18   CASEY: Of course. Embarrassing you is what keeps me going  
19           each and every time I have to come to one of these  
20           snoozer events.

21   FRAN: Just stay out of sight, will you? *(FRAN exits. EXTRA 1,*  
22           *who has been milling about, crosses to statue. EXTRA 2 is*  
23           *walking around dressed as a waitress, serving food on a tray.)*

24   EXTRA 1: Hmmmm ... I see. *(Pause)* Interesting. *(Pause)*  
25           Amazing. *(Pause)* Yes. *(Pause)* Indeed. Genius.

26   CASEY: You like it, huh? That's a first.

27   EXTRA 1: What? No. I'm talking into my bluetooth. That  
28           thing is hideous. *(Talks on phone as he moves.)* No, not you,  
29           dear. Yes, that's what I was saying. *(GRACE enters,*  
30           *dabbing at her eyes.)*

31   CASEY: You OK?

32   GRACE: I, um, well ...

33   CASEY: Deep breath. Try again.

34   GRACE: Your sister ... Fran ... she ...

35   CASEY: Ah, the sheer mention of her name is enough. *(He*  
36           *walks to EXTRA 1 and pulls the hanky out of his pocket.)*  
37           Thanks. *(Hands it to GRACE. EXTRA 1 exits and changes*  
38           *into his security guard costume.)*

1 GRACE: Thank you.

2 CASEY: Can I get you some liver pâté or escargot, perhaps?  
3 (*Waves over EXTRA 2/waitress and takes something off the tray.*)

4 GRACE: Oh, no thanks ... I'm more of a cheeseburger kind of  
5 girl.

6 CASEY: See? I knew I liked you. (*EXTRA 2 exits. She removes*  
7 *apron and any other waitress attire. She may change into*  
8 *another formal dress if desired.*)

9 GRACE: I'm sorry to disturb your time here by crying.

10 CASEY: Disturb my time? No, my dear, you are the highlight  
11 of this dreary evening. If it weren't for you, I would  
12 have hit my head with this thing. (*Points to statue.*)

13 GRACE: That would hurt.

14 CASEY: Death by ugly. (*GRACE laughs.*) Ah, a smile! (*Pause*) I  
15 didn't tell you, but you look really nice tonight.

16 GRACE: Um ... well ... thanks ... (*Flustered, she almost knocks*  
17 *statue over again.*)

18 CASEY: Maybe you should sit. (*He helps her to a chair.*) So,  
19 Dorothy, how long do you plan to work for the Wicked  
20 Witch of the ... my sister?

21 GRACE: For another year. Just enough time to not only pay  
22 for college, but to get an internship to Italy. This job  
23 helps move my name to the top of the list. I'm hoping  
24 she'll give me a good recommendation, too.

25 CASEY: You really like this sort of thing, huh? Paintings and  
26 ugly faces?

27 GRACE: (*Shouts.*) I love it! (*Realizes her enthusiasm was a bit loud*  
28 *and looks around, dropping her voice.*) Well, maybe not the  
29 ugly part, but to see the expression of one's inner  
30 thoughts and passion come alive in physical form. It's  
31 all I've ever wanted, to just be surrounded by the  
32 complexity of it all. To stare into the souls of the artist.  
33 To discover their stories!

34 CASEY: So, what does this piece say about Mr. Dyer?

35 GRACE: Uh ... well ... serious psychological issues that they  
36 don't even have a name for yet.

37 CASEY: A sad childhood, perhaps?

38 GRACE: Yes. Indeed. (*Pause*) So, uh, what's, um, with you and

1           your sister?

2   **CASEY:** You can't tell? We're different in pretty much every  
3           way. The way we dress, talk, even our values. While  
4           she's all about what she can obtain, I'm about people. I  
5           put all value on the soul. To me, the ultimate artist is  
6           God and his creation of mankind. The Bible calls us his  
7           masterpiece. Created for his purpose. Created in his  
8           image. The image of the almighty God. That's better  
9           than any self-portrait by Van Gogh or Picasso. *(Pause)*  
10          To her, these are her gods. She cares about them more  
11          than anything. That includes me. I'd rather invest in  
12          eternal things. Things that won't rust or break. People.  
13          That's the true beauty — and really, the only thing that  
14          we can take with us when we die.

15   **GRACE:** *(Joking)* Tell me how you really feel.

16   **CASEY:** *(Laughs.)* Oh, yeah. I guess you could say I just don't  
17          like her much. Our relationship? Well, it's complicated.  
18          Basically, she took me in when our mother died.

19   **GRACE:** And your father?

20   **CASEY:** I'm afraid I never knew him. *(Pause)* And though I'm  
21          grateful, well, Fran is, well, she's ...

22   **GRACE:** A spider.

23   **CASEY:** A spider? *(Confused)* I guess you could call her that.  
24          Black widow ...

25   **GRACE:** No, by your — *(Points)* there. By — by your head.

26   **CASEY:** I don't see it. Go ahead, smash it.

27   **GRACE:** I, uh, I can't hurt it. Wait! Where'd it go? *(She looks*  
28          *around, panicked. KITTY enters, crawling on her knees.)*

29   **CASEY:** Is she looking for the spider, too? He must be worth  
30          a fortune. *(They laugh. KITTY passes GRACE and CASEY,*  
31          *but doesn't seem to notice them. They wait with amusement.*  
32          *Then CASEY crawls next to her.)*

33   **CASEY:** What are you looking for, Kitty?

34   **KITTY:** *(Jumps.)* Bixie.

35   **CASEY:** What's a Bixie?

36   **GRACE:** Oh, no! *(Crawls by her.)* Where is she?

37   **KITTY:** *He.* *(Pouts.)* And I don't know.

38   **CASEY:** What's a Bixie?

1     **KITTY:** I was in the green room and I turned to talk to  
2     Doctor Saharani. He's a plastic surgeon from Norway or  
3     New York or was it New Delhi? I don't know. Anyways,  
4     the man has magical hands that can make art out of any  
5     face. *(To GRACE)* You should really talk to him, dear. He  
6     could help *even* you. *(Pause)* I mean, I had a bump on my  
7     nose, and now you can never tell. See? *(Turns sideways.)*  
8     Anyways, I was talking to him one minute, and then  
9     poof! He, well, I don't know ... He was gone.

10    **CASEY:** *(Clearly messing with her)* The doctor, or the bump on  
11    your face?

12    **KITTY:** What? No! My dog, Bixie. You're kind of dense, aren't  
13    you?

14    **GRACE:** Where's the dog, Kitty?

15    **KITTY:** He's more than just "the dog." He's family. And — and  
16    — I don't know ... *(Starts crying ridiculously.)*

17    **GRACE:** Fran is going to — *(FRAN enters.)*

18    **FRAN:** Is going to what?

19    **GRACE:** Oh, um, Kitty? Bixie ... the dog ... is ...

20    **KITTY:** *(Dramatically)* Gone.

21    **FRAN:** What? I made it clear, investor or not, that dog was  
22    not to leave your side or security would escort you out.

23    **KITTY:** *(Stops crying.)* You can't be serious. Don't you know who  
24    I am? My father is one of the biggest art investors in the  
25    area. If you let me go, you can kiss your life good-bye.

26    **FRAN:** Find your dog, Ms. Dymond. I'll deal with your father  
27    later. *(EXTRA 1 enters as a security guard to escort her out.)*

28    **KITTY:** You'll pay for this, lady. I don't hold American Idol  
29    threats.

30    **FRAN:** Honey, you don't have enough between your ears to  
31    hurt me. *(To security/EXTRA 1)* Get her out of my sight,  
32    and find that dog so I can squish him. *(EXTRA 1 drags*  
33    **KITTY** *out, kicking and screaming. EXTRA 1 changes into*  
34    *wealthy aristocrat clothing and gloves.)*

35    **CASEY:** Was that really necessary?

36    **FRAN:** Definitely.

37    **CASEY:** And you wonder why no one likes you ...

38    **FRAN:** I don't wonder that at all. I don't need friends. Only

1 money.

2 CASEY: Someday one of these acquaintances of yours is  
3 going to retaliate, and I hope I have a ringside seat for  
4 that historical boxing match.

5 FRAN: Do you forget who you're talking to? You have little  
6 room to talk, dear brother. I'm not even twenty-five,  
7 and I'm a successful businesswoman. You, on the other  
8 hand, have made nothing of yourself. You barely passed  
9 high school, and you don't even have a job now.

10 CASEY: I've only been out of high school for a few months.

11 FRAN: That's no excuse. By the time I was your age, I was  
12 halfway to where I am now. You have no aspirations, no  
13 goals, nothing beyond bumming off me.

14 CASEY: Hey, when you got a good gig ... (*Winks at GRACE.*)

15 FRAN: Oh, so you think this is funny. Some sort of game?  
16 Well, fine. It ends now. I want you out of my house. I  
17 don't care where you go; just don't be there when I get  
18 home. (*Turns to go.*)

19 CASEY: What? You know I was only joking.

20 FRAN: I'm doing you a favor.

21 CASEY: What favor? Fran, I have goals. I just need to —

22 FRAN: You'll thank me later. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have  
23 a gala to run and don't have time for —

24 CASEY: Me? (*FRAN exits.*) Wow! I guess I took that joke a bit  
25 far ... Sometimes I just want to ... (*Strangles the air.*) I just  
26 need a good plan to get away with it. (*FRAN steps back*  
27 *in.*)

28 FRAN: Oh, and Grace. I warned you about that dog. After  
29 tonight, you're fired! (*FRAN exits.*)

30 GRACE: What? (*Jumps up.*) You can't! I —

31 CASEY: I'm sorry, Grace.

32 GRACE: Whatever you have planned for your sister ... I hope  
33 you succeed. (*Lights out.*)

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*(This scene takes place in the audience or at a different staging area. BILLY, SHAUNA, and AJ are sitting and talking.)*

**BILLY:** That's amazing, detective. And how do you know all that?

**AJ:** From all the witness testimonies and the security tape. I just pieced it all together. I know, amazing. You can clap if you'd like. I miss a good round of applause.  
*(SHAUNA claps.)*

**BILLY:** Focus, detective. We're on the verge, right? You know who did it, don't you? Was it Casey? Grace? Or Markus? How about Kitty? Or that man who threatened her?  
*(Pause)* Wait! You didn't tell me exactly *what* happened. The crime, I mean.

**AJ:** Patience. I'm getting to that. *(Pause)* How does my hair look?

**SHAUNA:** I have to go to the bathroom.

**BILLY:** Real professional detective work, Shauna. Seriously!

**SHAUNA:** I'm not a sleuth, Billy. I'm just a girl.

**AJ:** Down the hall and to the left.

**SHAUNA:** Actually, I think I'm just gonna go home.

**BILLY:** What? You can't leave. Mom is not going to like you walking home alone, and I'm supposed to be watching you.

**SHAUNA:** It's after four, which means she's home. And it's just two houses down, Billy. I think I can make it.

**BILLY:** Fine! But if Mom asks, you tell her I'm on an important case.

**SHAUNA:** Like she'd believe that.

**BILLY:** Just do it.

**SHAUNA:** Whatever. *(She exits.)*

**BILLY:** So, what happened?

**AJ:** Is she going to be OK?

**BILLY:** She'll be fine. We live in the apartment complex just two doors down. That's how I knew there'd been a crime. *(Pause)* So, where were we?

**AJ:** Talking about my hair. It's important to look good. You

1 never know when the paparazzi might be snapping a  
2 picture. I had this one friend who —  
3 **BILLY:** I was talking about the case — as you should be.  
4 **AJ:** Right. Well, the suspects were just lining up. (*Lights out.*)  
5

6 *Scene 6*  
7

8 (*Scene opens with all GUESTS, including the EXTRAS, On-*  
9 *Stage.*)

10 **FRAN:** Thank you all for coming to our annual Night of the  
11 Arts gala. I'd like to show my deep gratitude to all of our  
12 artists for donating their work to tonight's exhibit.  
13 (*Everyone gives a weak clap. EXTRA 2 studies painting.*)

14 **EXTRA 2:** Breathtaking.

15 **CASEY:** If by breath *taking* you mean suffocation, I'm with  
16 you. (*EXTRA 2 rolls eyes and moves away. FRAN is*  
17 *embarrassed.*)

18 **FRAN:** Um ... what a jokester. (*Pause*) Now everyone, please  
19 enjoy your evening. (*EXTRA 1 steps up, dressed as a*  
20 *wealthy aristocrat. He should have gloves. He approaches*  
21 *GRACE. EXTRA 2 exits and changes into Middle Eastern*  
22 *outfit.*)

23 **EXTRA 1:** Can you direct me to Fran Madigan?

24 **GRACE:** (*Points with drink in hand.*) That's her.

25 **EXTRA 1:** (*To FRAN*) You're the curator, Ms. Madigan. Am I  
26 right?

27 **FRAN:** That's right. And you are?

28 **EXTRA 1:** Someone who has admired this gallery for quite  
29 some time. Let's just say that my grandfather would roll  
30 over in his grave if he saw ... this. (*He looks at statue.*) Be  
31 very careful, my dear. This place is part of our history.  
32 There are people who care an awful lot about this place  
33 and aren't happy with its current status.

34 **FRAN:** Is that some kind of threat?

35 **EXTRA 1:** No, Ms. Madigan. Sage advice.

36 **FRAN:** This isn't my fault. Several of the artists dropped out.

37 **EXTRA 1:** And why do you suppose that is?

38 **FRAN:** The time of year. Other offers. I don't know. None of

- 1           them gave me any idea. They just canceled.
- 2   **EXTRA 1:** It is a dangerous game you're playing, Ms.  
3           Madigan. I just hope that when all is said and done,  
4           you're able to hold your head up high with integrity.  
5           Good evening. (*EXTRA 1 exits and changes into Middle*  
6           *Eastern clothing.*)
- 7   **CASEY:** Fran, you look more pallid and hollow than usual.
- 8   **FRAN:** You're still here? (*Looks around.*) Grace, I need some  
9           water. (*She exits.*)
- 10   **GRACE:** She has a point. Why are you still here?
- 11   **CASEY:** I could say the same thing about you. (*Beat*) Besides,  
12           this evening is sure to end in disaster. I love good  
13           entertainment. Wouldn't want to miss it. So, why are  
14           *you* still here? Is it because of my charming personality?  
15           Couldn't bear to leave me?
- 16   **GRACE:** (*Sarcastically*) Oh yes, that's most definitely it. That,  
17           and I believe in finishing out my obligations. And I'm  
18           kind of hoping ...
- 19   **CASEY:** Hoping she'll take you back?
- 20   **GRACE:** Yeah ...
- 21   **CASEY:** Let me talk to her. I'm not her favorite person right  
22           now, but I can try.
- 23   **GRACE:** Thanks, Casey — though I doubt you can help much.
- 24   **CASEY:** So, what do you suppose this painting means?
- 25   **GRACE:** Well, he's exhausting his reds, so maybe passion,  
26           anger ...
- 27   **CASEY:** Psychotic episode in a vat of paint? (*GRACE giggles.*  
28           *KITTY crawls through. MARKUS enters.*)
- 29   **KITTY:** Bixie, you bad little puppy. Where are you? Mommy  
30           has a treat for you. Look, it's yummy! (*She puts dog biscuit*  
31           *in mouth and tries to talk.*) You're going to love it.
- 32   **MARKUS:** Ms. Dymond, whatever are you doing? I don't have  
33           any art on the floor in this room. Try the dark hall.  
34           They've got some sort of obscure metal thingy on the  
35           floor. (*To GRACE*) We're all out of champagne.
- 36   **CASEY:** I can see why that would be a problem in this  
37           situation. It helps with the sales, I'm sure.
- 38   **MARKUS:** You have a disposition like your sister's. Markus

- 1           doesn't like either of you.
- 2   CASEY: Up until you compared me to Fran, "Casey" kind of  
3           liked you. But now, I take it back.
- 4   MARKUS: You're nothing but a bum perpetrating a fraud in  
5           high society. They really should have a higher standard  
6           for who or what they let in here.
- 7   CASEY: Are you describing this painting? I mean, really ...  
8           Grace and I were just trying to figure out what it could  
9           possibly mean.
- 10   MARKUS: A buffoon like you would never understand. I  
11           paint what I see.
- 12   CASEY: Ah, but the disappointment will come when you see  
13           what you paint.
- 14   MARKUS: Well! (*MARKUS huffs out and CASEY laughs.*)
- 15   CASEY: Maybe if he painted his ego, we'd start to see  
16           something tangible.
- 17   GRACE: I don't suppose you and Markus will be best friends  
18           anytime soon.
- 19   CASEY: Oh, that hurts my feelings. Casey has grown quite  
20           fond of Markus. (*They laugh.*) You know, he's not the only  
21           one.
- 22   GRACE: That doesn't like you?
- 23   CASEY: No. That I'm fond of.
- 24   GRACE: (*Embarrassed*) Oh, uh, you, well ... me?
- 25   CASEY: Does that embarrass you?
- 26   GRACE: Honestly, it doesn't take much.
- 27   CASEY: I believe I'm exhausting your reds ... (*In an English*  
28           *accent*) Your cheeks are simply crimson, my dear.
- 29   GRACE: (*Giggles.*) Sorry.
- 30   CASEY: I like red. On you, not on that painting.
- 31   GRACE: Right.
- 32   CASEY: You want to blow this party and go get coffee  
33           somewhere?
- 34   GRACE: Blow this party? I don't know. Coffee? Yes. Maybe  
35           after?
- 36   CASEY: It's a date.
- 37   GRACE: A date. (*She smiles. MR. and MRS. BAILEY enter.*)
- 38   MRS. BAILEY: Would you look at this? Beautiful. Beautiful!

- 1 MR. BAILEY: Uh-huh ... (*MR. BAILEY dozes off. MRS. BAILEY*  
2 *elbows him.*)
- 3 MRS. BAILEY: So, what do you say?
- 4 MR. BAILEY: Yes, yes. Stunning — if you like vomit.
- 5 MRS. BAILEY: Eh? It looks like a comet? What was that one  
6 called? What was that one called?
- 7 MR. BAILEY: Hail ... (*MR. BAILEY dozes off again. MRS.*  
8 *BAILEY elbows him and he yells line.*) Hailey's comet!
- 9 MRS. BAILEY: It's all so wonderful, wouldn't you say, Mr.  
10 Bailey?
- 11 MR. BAILEY: It gives me indigestion.
- 12 MRS. BAILEY: I didn't ask you a question. Seriously, Mr.  
13 Bailey. You need to be taking your pills.
- 14 MR. BAILEY: Adjust your hearing aid, Erma.
- 15 MRS. BAILEY: Eh?
- 16 MR. BAILEY: Hearing aid. Turn it up louder.
- 17 MRS. BAILEY: Yes, I suppose I could go for some clam  
18 chowder.
- 19 MR. BAILEY: Woman, you can be such ... (*Starts to sleep. She*  
20 *elbows him awake*) a nightmare!
- 21 MRS. BAILEY: There's a chair over there. You don't need to  
22 yell. Seriously! (*FRAN enters.*)
- 23 FRAN: Sir, I'm going to have to ask you to keep it down.
- 24 MRS. BAILEY: You'd like us to leave town?
- 25 FRAN: Keep it down. Down!
- 26 MR. BAILEY: Down. (*Slumps down and sleeps against MRS.*  
27 *BAILEY's leg.*)
- 28 FRAN: Is he sleeping?
- 29 MRS. BAILEY: He has narcolepsy. Just kick him. He'll wake  
30 up eventually. (*FRAN moves away quickly to GRACE.*)
- 31 FRAN: Grace, keep an eye on those two. I don't trust them. I  
32 need to check on the Green Hall. Someone said they saw  
33 a dog in there.
- 34 GRACE: Yes, ma'am. (*FRAN exits.*)
- 35 MRS. BAILEY: Did she say there is a dog in here? I really  
36 must be hearing things.
- 37 MR. BAILEY: I think you're right.
- 38 MRS. BAILEY: Yes, this is quite a sight. Just look at this

1 painting!

2 MR. BAILEY: I kind of like (*Yawn*) the statue. (*MRS. BAILEY*  
3 *walks away to painting on wall. MR. BAILEY cuddles up to*  
4 *statue and sleeps, mistaking it for MRS. BAILEY.*)

5 GRACE: Oh, brother. (*Crosses to MR. BAILEY.*) Excuse me, sir,  
6 um ... mister ... (*GRACE looks over shoulder.*) Sir, please.  
7 Don't touch the art. It's, um ... sir ... (*Taps him.*) Oh, um  
8 ... (*FRAN enters.*)

9 FRAN: You really are incompetent. Surely you didn't think I  
10 meant to just "watch" them.

11 GRACE: I didn't know what to do. (*FRAN grabs drink out of*  
12 *GRACE's hand and throws it on MR. BAILEY, who sputters*  
13 *and jumps up.*)

14 MR. BAILEY: Did I fall asleep in the shower again?

15 FRAN: I'm going to have to ask you two to leave.

16 MRS. BAILEY: Believe. Yes, we're of the Christian faith. We  
17 believe in Jesus. What do you believe, dearie?

18 FRAN: What? No —

19 MRS. BAILEY: Because what you believe will determine  
20 your future after you leave this good earth of ours. God  
21 rest your soul.

22 FRAN: I'm not dead.

23 MRS. BAILEY: Not yet. But eventually. Soon, if you don't  
24 play your cards right.

25 FRAN: I didn't say believe, I said "leave." (*MR. BAILEY slumps*  
26 *down and falls asleep again.*)

27 MRS. BAILEY: That's what I said. *Leave* this earth. Do you  
28 need your hearing checked? You really should do  
29 something about that. Our hearing is precious. Got to  
30 keep those ears clean. (*Takes out a Q-tip and sticks it in her*  
31 *ear.*) I clean mine every day.

32 CASEY: Ha! That's awesome.

33 GRACE: Shhhh!

34 FRAN: No, ma'am. I said I need you and your husband to  
35 leave. Go! From the art gallery.

36 MRS. BAILEY: You don't have to yell. Geez! Come on, Mr.  
37 Bailey, the lady wants us to go.

38 MR. BAILEY: It isn't that comfortable anyway.

1 MRS. BAILEY: I didn't mean for you to get up because we're  
 2 leaving. I wanted backup. No one is going to make us  
 3 leave. I'm a black belt in karate. (*Gets into karate stance.*)  
 4 Ai-yah!

5 MR. BAILEY: Should I get the Taser from the car?

6 MRS. BAILEY: No, I got this.

7 FRAN: (*Voice cracking*) Security.

8 CASEY: Let them stay, sis. They aren't hurting anyone.  
 9 (*Crosses to MRS. BAILEY.*) Hi, I'm Casey.

10 MRS. BAILEY: I suppose we're being a bit spacey. Forgive us.  
 11 We'll behave. I promise.

12 MR. BAILEY: (*Motions to chair.*) That's an awful comfortable  
 13 chair.

14 CASEY: It's all yours.

15 MR. BAILEY: Much obliged. (*MR. BAILEY walks to chair, makes*  
 16 *it look like he's going to sit in it, but instead puts head on seat.*)

17 FRAN: Oh, my. OK, everyone. If you'll just follow me to the  
 18 White Room, we'll take in the final exhibit for the  
 19 evening. (*Whispers to GRACE.*) Make sure everyone clears  
 20 this room, including Grumpy and Sleepy. Do you think  
 21 you can handle that?

22 GRACE: Yes, ma'am.

23 FRAN: We'll see. (*To room*) This way, everyone. (*FRAN exits.*  
 24 *Everyone follows her out except GRACE and CASEY.*)

25 GRACE: How many enemies do you think that woman has?

26 CASEY: More than you can possibly imagine. (*Lights out.*  
 27 *EXTRA 3 changes into all-black clothing and a ski mask.*)

28

## 29 *Scene 7*

30

31 (*EXTRAS 1 and 2 enter as a sheik and his daughter. EXTRA 1*  
 32 *talks in hallway before he is actually On-Stage.*)

33 EXTRA 1: Yes, I will take two. (*Enters room.*) What do we have  
 34 here? Oh my, no. Well, maybe. My son-in-law is ugly. It  
 35 might lift his spirits. (*Walks to statue.*) And this, this  
 36 reminds me of my first wife. Very ugly too.

37 EXTRA 2: Papa, don't you think we should be getting back?  
 38 Mama will be worried.

- 1     **EXTRA 1:** Ah, right you are, my dear. Shall we take the  
2             statue?
- 3     **EXTRA 2:** I do not like it.
- 4     **EXTRA 1:** Nor I. No, no. I will not bring this home. (*Pretends*  
5             *to spit. MARKUS witnesses the spitting.*)
- 6     **MARKUS:** How could you disgrace this masterpiece?
- 7     **EXTRA 1:** I'm afraid it disgraces itself.
- 8     **MARKUS:** You must leave.
- 9     **EXTRA 2:** Papa?
- 10    **EXTRA 1:** You are lucky my daughter is present. Back home  
11             we bury you in a pit of scorpions and cover the opening  
12             with burning oil.
- 13    **MARKUS:** Here, we call security.
- 14    **EXTRA 1:** We will go, but not because you ask us to. It's  
15             because the sight of your artwork has already ruined  
16             my appetite for the week. Let's go, my sweet girl.  
17             (*EXTRAS 1 and 2 exit. EXTRA 1 changes into security guard*  
18             *uniform again. MARKUS begins to talk to the statue.*)
- 19    **MARKUS:** Will no one ever understand you the way that I  
20             do? Of course, you are my self-portrait and little-  
21             understood me. (*FRAN enters.*)
- 22    **FRAN:** Talking to yourself, Markus? That explains a lot.
- 23    **MARKUS:** Just collecting my thoughts.
- 24    **FRAN:** Well, collect them elsewhere. I need to lock up.
- 25    **MARKUS:** When can I expect a check for my art?
- 26    **FRAN:** Never.
- 27    **MARKUS:** Don't be absurd.
- 28    **FRAN:** The only thing absurd is your artwork, Markus. None  
29             of it sold. No surprise there. Now, if you'll excuse me ...
- 30    **MARKUS:** Someday you'll appreciate my genius.
- 31    **FRAN:** I doubt it. (*She turns away from him. MARKUS exits.*  
32             *FRAN's cell phone rings as she lowers the lights. As FRAN*  
33             *talks, EXTRA 3 dressed in black, completely disguised as*  
34             *killer, enters behind her.) Hello? Oh, good to hear from you.*  
35             Yes, this was the most horrid evening I've ever  
36             experienced. I can't believe the incompetence  
37             surrounding me ... the kind of people that I'm forced to  
38             deal with every day. You can't even imagine what I've





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