

Karl The Magnificent!

A Fast & Furious Farce By

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2w + 2m + 1 ventriloquist's dummy)

MAGGIE - Ageless - A sweet fidget spinner who's suffering from ontological anxiety and listens to Prozac.

RAYMOND - Ageless - The office bully who wears Hai-Karate cologne and thinks he's smarter you.

PUNK WAITRESS - 20ish - A druggy who'd rather be in Acapulco. She can't find Acapulco on a map.

KARL - Ageless - A socially inept, upbeat, out of shape, genius/geek with zero self awareness.

&

KARL THE MAGNIFICENT - A ventriloquist's dummy

SETTING

A small Ramada Inn conference room decorated for a ExxonMobil party. A *banner festooned with balloons and streamers hangs over head, it reads "Happy Birthday, Karl"*. There's a lectern with microphone, tables, chairs, a self-serve bar and disc jockey setup. There's also an accordion, a wall-mounted fire extinguisher and a defibrillator.

TIME

Act One: Tonight

Act Two: 19 Seconds Later

(Please note: This play can be staged as a full-length one-act by inserting the missing 19 seconds found between acts.)

"I look upon the world as a farce which
sometimes becomes tragic."

- *Voltaire*

Karl The Magnificent

(Act One)

(In a pool of light we find MAGGIE, an anxious office worker. From the darkness a daunting voice.)

BOSS (VOICE ONLY)

Question number 22. Are you allowed to use derogatory terms such as 'nerd' or 'geek' to describe your fellow workers?

MAGGIE

(Sweetly)

Ahhhhhhhhhh... If it's done as a joke, there's no harm, right?

(A loud negatory buzzer.)

(Lights out on MAGGIE. In another pool of light we find RAYMOND, a self centered office bully.)

BOSS (VOICE ONLY)

Question 23. Is it acceptable to message lewd cartoons from your workstation?

RAYMOND

(Overconfident)

You mean like between dudes, yeah sure, why not.

(A loud negatory buzzer.)

(Lights out on RAYMOND, up on MAGGIE.)

BOSS (VOICE ONLY)

Question 24. Are you allowed to make fun of your team members behind their backs?

MAGGIE

(Sweetly)

Isn't it much more polite to do it behind their backs than in front of the backs?

(Negatory buzzer.)

(Lights out on MAGGIE, up on RAYMOND.)

BOSS (VOICE ONLY)

Question number 25. Are you allowed make unwanted comments about your co-workers' appearance?

RAYMOND

Hey, if they're wearing a fanny pack, I'm gonna say something.

(Bzzzzzzzzzzzz. Lights up on both.)

BOSS (VOICE ONLY)

Maggie and Raymond - You have flunked Exxon-Mobil's hostile workplace exam! You will be terminated immediately!

RAYMOND

Hold on.

MAGGIE

Oh dear.

BOSS (VOICE ONLY)

Or you can repent!

MAGGIE

How?

BOSS (VOICE ONLY)

You must attend Karl's birthday party!

RAYMOND

Karl? You mean the office geek who wears the fanny pack?

MAGGIE

The nerd who smells comic books in the elevator?

BOSS (VOICE ONLY)

You will attend his party and you will be nice or you can kiss your jobs goodbye!

(Pop, lights up. MAGGIE and RAYMOND find themselves in a second-rate hotel conference room decorated for a party. Overhead hangs a banner that reads "Happy Birthday, Karl".)

RAYMOND

Oh God no. Please tell me we're not the only ones here.

MAGGIE

It's just us.

RAYMOND

None of this would've happened if someone hadn't written "dumbass" in black permanent marker on Karl's mailbox in the break room.

MAGGIE

Think Karl suspects us?

RAYMOND

He must.

(RAYMOND picks up a program.)

RAYMOND

Oh, God. He made a program. *(Reading the program)* "6:00 to 6:45 cocktails and *carousing*."

MAGGIE

(Off a program)

"6:45 to 7:15 disco dancing." That's a typo, tell me that's a typo.

RAYMOND

(Reading the program)

"7:15 to 9:00 dinner, testimonials and *special announcement*."

MAGGIE

Special announcement?

RAYMOND

When someone says they have a 'special announcement' that can only mean one thing - He's going to announce he's gay or something like that.

MAGGIE

At his own birthday party?

RAYMOND AND MAGGIE

Ewwwww.

(Yes, they're terrible people.)

RAYMOND

(Reading)

"9:00 to midnight, we will attempt to answer the question, how does one find meaning when one has so little time left on this earth." What the hell does that mean?

MAGGIE

Somethin' is going down tonight. Karl's going to take revenge on us.

RAYMOND

What could he do?

MAGGIE

Have you seen the movie 'Carrie?'

RAYMOND

Oh come on, nit picky Karl's just the company nerd, nerds don't do things like that. At most they leave anonymous passive aggressive sticky notes in the break room.

(Enter a PUNK SERVER with fluorescent green hair.)

RAYMOND

Hey, you the waitress?

(Jaded, wasted, the PUNK SERVER looks down at her stupid Ramada Inn server outfit and looks back with dead eyes.)

RAYMOND

Need a drink. *(Snapping his fingers at the waitress)* Gin, tonic, now.

(PUNK SERVER points at the sign that reads, "self serve bar.")

RAYMOND (CONT'D)

(Annoyed)

Don't expect a tip.

(The PUNK SERVER points at a sign that reads, "Gratuity Included." The PUNK SERVER fiddles with the DJ set up.)

RAYMOND

(Pissed off, to Maggie)

While I'm playing bartender...?

MAGGIE

(Uneasy)

No, yes, no, wine, no, beer, no, wine.

RAYMONDDUM

Don't panic, bar's only a few feet away, you can change your mind a few more times before I get there.

(MAGGIE looks behind the podium.)

RAYMOND (CONT'D)

What are you doin'?

MAGGIE

Looking for a booby trap, or a bucket of pig's blood. I tell ya he's planning some awful Stephen King type revenge.

KARL

(Singing, from off stage)

Ha-ha-ha! Ho-ho-ho and a couple of do-de-dos, that's how we laugh the day-okay, in the merry old land of ozzie-oo!

RAYMOND

Oh god, it's him!

(Enter KARL, A socially inept, enthusiastic, awkward, Chekhovian pocket-protector-fanny-pack geek with who smells comic books. He wears a bicycle helmet and carries a platter of Burger King Whoppers.)

KARL

Tada! Welcome to my party! You can yell surprise now!

MAGGIE AND RAYMOND

(Unenthusiastically)

Surprise.

KARL

Raymond! I am honored you came. With you here, I'm now officially cool. And Maggie! Wow. You're the best!

MAGGIE

What ya got there Karl?

KARL

Dinner. Whoppers from the Burger King across the street. Let me deposit these in the kitchen and we'll start the evening's festivities! Thank you so much for coming! Tonight's gonna be epic!

(Karl exits through the swinging kitchen door.)

MAGGIE

(Panicked)

He's definitely setting us up.

RAYMOND

You're right.

MAGGIE
We need an exit strategy.

RAYMOND
What if you faked//

MAGGIE
An aneurysm?

RAYMOND
Was thinking a migraine.

RAYMOND
Better, easier to stage.

(KARL enters.)

KARL
(Looking at his watch)
Look at the time. Cocktails and carousing is over! It's time
toooooooo!

*(KARL starts clicking his fingers
to some beat only he hears.)*

MAGGIE
What are you...?

KARL
Is it not obvious?

RAYMOND
No.

KARL
Disco.

MAGGIE
Karl, I'm not really in the mood for dancing.

KARL
Oh, don't be a party pooper-scooper.

*(The PUNK SERVER fires up The
Village People's "YMCA." There's
even a disco light.)*

KARL
Boogie Woogie!

MAGGIE
(Reluctant)

Ah...

KARL

Raymond, you too.

RAYMOND

Love to, Karl, but, ah, I've got a... a groin injury.

MAGGIE
(Shooting daggers)

A what?

RAYMOND

Very painful.

MAGGIE

So do I.

RAYMOND

Oh really?

MAGGIE

Women can get groin injuries.

KARL

Don't worry, I met John Travolta once, I know what I'm doing!

(Grooving KARL leads MAGGIE on to
the dance floor.)

MAGGIE
(Through her teeth)

Raymond, save me.

KARL

Let's do it?! (Loud and proud) Disco Wackamo Robot!

(The music explodes and KARL does
the disco wackamo robot - whatever
the hell that is - with reckless
abandonment. He's really into
Travolta-like pelvis thrusts.)

PUNK SERVER
(Yelling, high on something)

You rock, Karl! Don't let'em tell ya you ain't pretty!

(MAGGIE can't take it anymore.)

KARL

Oh Maggie, it'd mean the whole wide world of sports to me if you did.

MAGGIE

(Deeply regretting this)

Okay.

(KARL runs up to the podium.)

KARL

(Into the microphone)

Testing-testing-testing. One. Two. Three. Testing-testing. One. Two. Three. *(As Darth Vader)* Luke, I am your father. Testing-testing. *(As Obi Wan)* A Jedi feels the force//

RAYMOND

(Blurting)

It's working, Karl! Trust me! It's working!

KARL

It's my pleasure to introduce the nicest person in the office. Maggie!

(KARL leads MAGGIE to the mic.)

MAGGIE

(Painfully uncomfortable)

Ah... I'd like to introduce... Karl. We both work on the seventeenth floor. And ah, I see him everyday. Except when he takes time off cause his Eczema is flaring.

KARL

Don't worry, doctors tell me it's *(Singing)* non-contagious.

MAGGIE

So, ah, happy birthday, Karl.

KARL

Awesommmmmme!

(MAGGIE steps aside, KARL takes the podium. He pulls out a long, prepared speech.)

KARL

I have just a few motifs on which to pontificate. *(Reading)* "As you know, I have several hobbies that are dear to me. One is magic and the other is the accordion."

(KARL points at his accordion.)

RAYMOND
(Aside to Maggie)

Time for the aneurysm.

MAGGIE

Migraine.

KARL

"But, as Han Solo said 'Traveling through hyperspace ain't like dusting crops.' And so I must admit, if *me* is honest with *me*...Me is not ready to play the accordion in front of such a large crowd."

MAGGIE
(To Raymond)

There is a god.

KARL

So it's a big nega-tron with the accordi-on. *(Laughs through his nose at his stupid joke)* "But let it be known, in the valleys and the mountaintops, I draw my Superman strength from the accordion."

PUNK SERVER

Wait, which Superman?

KARL

Outstanding question. I am of course referring to the nineteen-forties to mid-eighties Superman not that cheap imitation Superman with reduced powers that dominated the comic book between May of 1985 and April of 2006.

PUNK SERVER

Thank you for the edification.

KARL
(Back to reading)

"But I have another hobby at which I'm so-so much better."

RAYMOND

Karl, just make your dumb announcement!

KARL

Raymond. Maggie. Because you're so super nice to me.

RAYMOND

We're not nice to you, Karl.

KARL

I have something special just for you. *(Villainous)* Are you ready for some fun?

RAYMOND
(Dismissive)

Just get to the point.

(KARL takes out a large heavy box
big enough for a submachine gun.)

MAGGIE
(Petrified)

Holy crap. (Whispering) It's a gun, he's going to kill us.

KARL
(Quoting Al Pacino in "Scarface")

"Say hello to my little friend."

(MAGGIE and RAYMOND cower.)

(From the box, KARL pulls out a
Charlie McCarthy type
ventriloquist's dummy, an evil mini-
me version of KARL with a demonic
smile.)

KARL
(Delighted)

Introducing my newest hobby! Ventriloquism!

(KARL puts the ventriloquist's
dummy on his hand.)

RAYMOND
(Dumbfounded)

Holy mother of god.

MAGGIE
(Stupefied)

This isn't happening.

KARL

I introduce to you, Little Karl. Or as he likes to be called
Karl, the Magnificent!

PUNK SERVER
(High on something, loving it)

Wow. That's totally phantasmagoric!

(No applause, but KARL hears lots.)

KARL

Thank you, thank you, for that lovely round of applause. (To
the ventriloquist's dummy) How are you, Mr. Magnificent?

(Please Note: DUMMY KARL has a North Jersey evil accent which is voiced by KARL.)

(RAYMOND and MAGGIE are just dumbfounded.)

DUMMY KARL

I'm stupendous!

KARL

Can you believe the size of this crowd?

DUMMY KARL

It's fantabulous!

KARL

Did you know it's my birthday?

DUMMY KARL

And you're holding the party here?

KARL

What's wrong with the Ramada?

DUMMY KARL

The decor, terrible. It's like Thomas Kinkade shagged a drunk moose!

(The PUNK SERVER laughs hysterically but then stops.)

PUNK SERVER

(Thinking, which is difficult)

Wait, I don't get it.

KARL

(Performing to an imaginary crowd)

Mr. Magnificent has been a little depressed of late.

DUMMY KARL

Get me booze! Wine! Jager! Anything with recoil.

KARL

How about water?

(KARL grabs a glass of water.)

DUMMY KARL

You first.

KARL
 You want me to drink?

DUMMY KARL
 And while you drink, I'll sing!

KARL
(To Maggie and Raymond)
 Behold! The most difficult thing a ventriloquist can do.

(KARL drinks while he does the voice of Puppet Karl.)

DUMMY KARL
(Singing)
 "Some enchanted evening/"

(KARL gags and spits up.)

(The PUNK SERVER runs over and hits KARL on the back.)

KARL
(Gagging)
 I'm okay! It just went down the wrong way!

(RAYMOND can't take any more.)

RAYMOND
(Pissed off, blurting)
 Oh for God's sake! Just make your announcement! What? You're gay! Am I right? I'm okay with it. Maggie you okay with it?

MAGGIE
 Totally okay.

RAYMOND
 And everyone on the seventeenth floor is okay with it!

KARL
(Clearing his throat)
 What are you saying?

MAGGIE
 Karl, we know you brought us here to announce you're gay.

DUMMY KARL
 You're right I am.

RAYMOND

(Singing at the speed of light)

Happy-birthday-to-you-happy-birthday-to-you-happy-birthday-
that's-it-the-party's-over-happy-birthday-to-you!

DUMMY KARL

I'm gay, but Karl isn't.

MAGGIE

What?

KARL

I'm *not* gay, but Karl The Magnificent is.

DUMMY KARL

I like a hand up my ass! Hahahaaha.

*(The PUNK SERVER thinks this is
super funny.)*

MAGGIE

Hold on! Karl, what are you saying?

KARL

I'm straight, but Karl The Magnificent is//

DUMMY KARL

GAY!

KARL

It's our comic routine. I'm a straight man//

DUMMY KARL

With a gay puppet!

PUNK SERVER

Surreal-orgasmic.

KARL

Once I retire from ExxonMobil I'm thinking Mr. Magnificent
and I could hit the road with our act. Play birthday parties,
bar mitzvahs.

(RAYMOND starts whimpering.)

RAYMOND

But you're not gay.

KARL

No.

RAYMOND

Ya sure?

KARL

(Totally confident)

Oh come on, Sport, the way the women in the office leer at me with bedroom-eyes, how could I be gay? Do you know what the ladies call me behind my back?

PUNK SERVER

(Hand up)

Oh! Let me guess. A panty-dropper!

KARL

Correctamundo.

RAYMOND

Oh look, a bar! Let's get drunk!

(RAYMOND helps himself to the bar.)

MAGGIE

(Desperately trying to be nice)

But Karl, you said you had a special announcement.

KARL

Oh, you want to jump all the way to that?

MAGGIE

Yes, please, I feel an aneurysm coming on.

RAYMOND

She means a migraine.

MAGGIE

No this is definitely an aneurysm.

(KARL steps up to the podium.)

KARL

Okay. Here goes. Big announcement. *(Into the microphone)*
Testing-testing-testing. One. Two. Three. *(As Dorothy in Wizard of Oz)* "Toto, I've got a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore//

RAYMOND

(Pissed off)

Stop! Just stop it! From now on let's assume the microphone is working! Can you do that? Can you make that general assumption?!

Drum roll please!
KARL

Oh, right, that's my cue.
PUNK SERVER

(The PUNK SERVER hits a sound effects button on the disco sound board. The sound of a rooster crowing.)

Sorry. Wrong sound effect.
PUNK SERVER

(She hits a different button. The sound of a lion roaring.)

Wait, got it.
PUNK SERVER

(She hits a button, a drum roll and cymbal crash.)

Thank you for that lover-ly round of applause.
KARL

No one is applauding, Karl, absolutely no one!
RAYMOND

Sometimes, I get the feeling that people on the seventeenth floor think that I'm/
KARL
(In his own world)

Out of touch!
DUMMY KARL

No, what I was going to say is the quiet type who is hyper-aware of my surroundings. Some of you/
KARL

Laugh at Karl!
DUMMY KARL

Oh, Little Karl you're such a jokester. No one laughs at me.
KARL

I'm laughing at you. Hahahahah.
DUMMY KARL

KARL

Watch out, I'll put you back in the box. Do you want to go back in the box?

DUMMY KARL
(*Submissive*)

No.

KARL

You sure?

DUMMY KARL

I'll be nice.

KARL
(*In Puppet Karl's voice*)

He hates being put in...

(*KARL stops, he's got his voices mixed up. Starts again.*)

KARL

He hates being put in the box.

DUMMY KARL

Cause I'm gay! Get it! A 'box' is another way of saying vagina! Hahahaha.

KARL
(*Threatening*)

That's it. You're going in the box!

(*KARL struggles with DUMMY KARL as he tries to force him in the box.*)

DUMMY KARL

Help! I'm melting, I'm melting!

(*RAYMOND has a little hissy fit.*)

RAYMOND
(*Totally losing it*)

STOP IT! JUST STOP WITH THE STUPID PUPPET!

(*That stops everything. Beat.*)

KARL

It's not a puppet it's a dummy.

MAGGIE
(Pleading)

Please, just make your announcement!

KARL
(Into the microphone)

Testing/

RAYMOND
 Don't do it Karl! For the rest of the evening do not test the mic or there will be horrible consequences!

KARL
(Into the mic)
 Okay, here goes. Because I am hypervigilant.

RAYMOND
 Say what?

KARL
 Hypervigilant.

MAGGIE
 What does that mean?

KARL
 Simply put, it means that I'm completely and totally hyper-aware of my surroundings. Nothing goes on behind my back without me knowing. And so, I have something here very special. *(To the puppet)* Give me a hand?

DUMMY KARL
 Sure!

(Using both hands, KARL reaches behind the magician's table and takes out an even bigger box.)

(Thinking it's an even bigger gun, MAGGIE loses it.)

KARL
 Here goes! Just for you! *(From the 'Shining')* "Here's Johnny!"

MAGGIE
(Panicking)
 STOP!

(That stops everything. MAGGIE loses it.)

MAGGIE

...It was me! I did it! Just stop torturing us!

KARL

Did what?

MAGGIE

I'm the one who wrote "dumbass" in black permanent marker on your mailbox!

RAYMOND

Did not see that coming.

PUNK SERVER

I did.

MAGGIE

(Desperate, without commas)

Everyone in the office was doing it and I just wanted to belong and I don't like my job or the people I work with and so please don't kill me!

KARL

What, kill you? No.

MAGGIE

Then why are you taking out a submachine gun?

KARL

A what?

MAGGIE

Or a rocket launcher!

KARL

No, it's...

(From the box, KARL takes out a beautiful bouquet of flowers.)

KARL (CONT'D)

I thought they'd comfort you in our time of need. But obviously my delay is causing/

DUMMY KARL

Consternation!

MAGGIE

(Desperate)

Karl, please just say it. I beg you.

KARL

Okay... I'm sorry to inform you but... Ready?

RAYMOND

(Yelling)

We're ready Karl! So damn ready!

KARL

(Without commas)

Within a matter of days the world will come to an end.

(Beat.)

MAGGIE

Say what?

DUMMY KARL

He said, the world is/

RAYMOND

We heard him. What the hell does that mean?

KARL

It means the earth/

DUMMY KARL

The planet on which we live and breathe/

KARL

Will soon no longer exist.

DUMMY KARL

As we know it.

MAGGIE

(Stunned)

And when is this happening?

KARL

Later this week.

MAGGIE

And how do you know?

KARL

As you know I have several hobbies that give me my super powers. One is the accordion/

RAYMOND

Just say it! How do you know the world is coming to an end?!

KARL

Cause my other hobby is cross-country hiking.

MAGGIE

Hiking? You, hike?

KARL

Correctamundo.

MAGGIE

(Disbelieving)

Like over mountains, using your legs and burning calories?

KARL

It's how I keep my fantastic physique.

RAYMOND

(Fuming, aside to Maggie)

I'm going to kill him, I'm not joking.

MAGGIE

Karl, just tell us why the world is ending?

KARL

For the last several years, during my holidays, I've hiked Yellowstone.

MAGGIE

That's like in...?

KARL

Wyoming. My favorite place is a remote lake called Alice. Several years ago I ran into a woman at this same lake who also happened to be named Alice.

DUMMY KARL

She was Miss Wyoming in the USA pageant/

KARL

And state rodeo champ. Her talent?

DUMMY KARL

Barrel racing.

KARL

Although the pageant officials wouldn't let her do that during the talent portion of the evening, so she played the accordion. As you might expect, Miss Wyoming and I immediately fell in lust, which was a problem because she had recently become a nun.

(RAYMOND laughs insanely to himself.)

MAGGIE

Did you say "nun?"

KARL

Yes, she's cloistered at the Benedictine Convent Of Perpetual Adoration.

RAYMOND

(Desperate to himself)

I'm going to kill him.

KARL

Within an hour of our serendipitous meeting she was so taken by my accordion-ing-ing that she insisted that I make love to her on this big rock beside the lake. Our love making was so mind-boggling, so awesome, so/

DUMMY KARL

Loud!

KARL

That she insisted that I meet her there every year. And so, annually, Sister Alice and I hook-up, on the exact same rock, at the exact same hour, and make rumpy-pumpy!

DUMMY KARL

Did I mention, loudly?

KARL

Sometimes we don't say a word, she just rips off her habit and hiking boots and goes cowgirl as she tries to satisfy her almost endless desire for my man seed.

(In total frustration, RAYMOND picks up a lemon knife and stabs it into the bar. He misses.)

RAYMOND

Ahhhhhhh!

MAGGIE

Oh my god are you okay?

RAYMOND

(In pain)

It's nothing. I stabbed my pinky.

MAGGIE

Oh my god, you okay?!

RAYMOND

(In great pain)

It's nothing! It's just a pinky. Humans don't technically need them!

(The PUNK SERVER takes the knife from RAYMOND. RAYMOND wraps a bar towel around his pinky.)

MAGGIE

Karl, please! Your point!

KARL

(Oblivious)

Each year, after we do it, she goes back to her isolated chaste life, and I continue hiking. It was the second year that I noticed something fascinating. The large rock on which we were making rumpy-pumpy wasn't beside the lake anymore.

MAGGIE

(Confused)

Someone moved the rock?

KARL

No, something moved the lake. The following year the rock was even further from the lake. So without anyone's knowledge I broke into the main ExxonMobil lab and absconded with various seismic ground equipment.

DUMMY KARL

I helped!

KARL

Then during my holiday I placed the sensors around the lake. *(Quite pleased with himself)* Footnote: Our love making was a 8.9 on the richter scale and caused a minor tsunami.

(RAYMOND begins to cry.)

RAYMOND

(To the waitress)

Let me have the knife!

PUNK SERVER

No!

RAYMOND

I want to kill myself!

(They struggle, the PUNK SERVER wins. KARL is totally unaware.)

KARL

The long and short and the long of it is, if my calculations are correct *(Beat)* amundo.

DUMMY KARL

And they are.

KARL

Because of fracking, the tectonic plates under Yellowstone have shifted so that the massive molten hot-spot located just inches beneath the surface/

DUMMY KARL

Which has been dormant for six hundred thousand years/

KARL

Is about to go/

DUMMY KARL

Ka-boom!

MAGGIE

(Perplexed)

...So there's going to be a volcano in Yellowstone?

KARL

Not your normal everyday volcano, but a super volcano. One so massive it'll fill the sky with so many particulates// I like that word "par-tic-ulates." You say it.

DUMMY KARL

(Over enunciating)

Par-tic-ulates. Yeah, good word.

KARL

Par-tic-ulates/

RAYMOND

(Pissed off)

Stop saying that and tell us what the particulates will do!

KARL

(Quickly)

Block the sun for a hundred years and end life as we know it.

MAGGIE

...Karl, this is rather disturbing news. Why did you tell us?

KARL
Cause we're friends.

MAGGIE
We are?

DUMMY KARL
You're friends with a nerd!

(KARL laughs.)

RAYMOND
Wait, you admit it, you're a nerd.

KARL
What? No.

RAYMOND
But your hand just called you a nerd!

KARL
But I laughed. See that's how comedy works. If someone says something about you that isn't true, you laugh. As I am not a nerd I find my hand amusing.

DUMMY KARL
(To Karl)
Dumb-ass!

KARL
(Laughing)
Now *that's* funny.

MAGGIE
(Tense)
Hold on! Can we go back to the volcano thing for a sec?

KARL
Correction - Super volcano.

MAGGIE
You're sure it's going to happen this week?

KARL
Could be as soon as tomorrow, but no later than Friday. *(To the puppet)* I know what you're thinking. This means we'll miss comic-con next month.

DUMMY KARL
Drat!

MAGGIE

Is there anything we can do to stop it?

KARL

I've done hundreds of calculations and the answer is... No.

MAGGIE

But can't the government//

KARL

The government'll try, but their efforts will be futile. I imagine they'll most likely close Yellowstone soon//

PUNK SERVER

HOLY CRAP! HOLY CRAZY-ASS CRAP!

(THE SERVER drops her beer.)

PUNK SERVER

(Panicked)

On the way in to work I was listening to NPR, which is really freaky cause I never listen to stupid things, and there was this story about Yellowstone being closed indefinitely. Holy Crap!

RAYMOND

Wait-wait-wait, you don't believe this deranged lunatic?

PUNK SERVER

I gotta tell my sister.

KARL

You can't. We don't want to cause a panic with the rabbis.

MAGGIE

Rabbis?

PUNK SERVER

There's a rabbi convention in the next room. My sister's waiting on them.

RAYMOND

A rabbi convention at a Ramada?

KARL

You can't tell your sister, she's a blabbermouth.

PUNK SERVER

What can we do?

KARL

There's only one thing to do, and that is...

(KARL raises his hand as if he were telepathically communicating with the PUNK SERVER, maybe he is. There is a faint humming.)

PUNK SERVER

(Telepathically receiving)

...Warm up the Whoppers?

KARL

Correctamundo! Let's celebrate what's left of life's rich pageant with a quarter pound of flame-grilled beef topped with juicy tomatoes, fresh lettuce, creamy mayonnaise, and a soft sesame seed bun!

PUNK SERVER

(Pietistic)

I shall prepare the holy sacrament.

(The PUNK SERVER exits to the kitchen.)

KARL

(To Raymond)

Now Sport, I must take exception. If you'll recall you had to take a four hour hostile workplace training seminar today. I realize this is technically not the workplace, but still deranged lunatic//

RAYMOND

You are the dictionary definition of a deranged lunatic! And the grand high Pooh-Bah of nerds!

DUMMY KARL

(To Raymond)

Dumb-ass!

RAYMOND

I am not a dumb-ass!

DUMMY KARL

Yes you are!

RAYMOND

(To Puppet Karl)

I'm a rational human being! I might be the only rational being in this room!

KARL

If you're so rational then why are you arguing with my hand?

(KARL high-fives DUMMY KARL.)

MAGGIE

Karl, how do we save ourselves?

KARL

Well, it's not going to be easy. According to my computations we must go underground.

MAGGIE

Like into caves?

KARL

No, caves won't work, eventually we'd run out of food and air. But I have the answer. I've built under my house a deep sleep cocoon pod.

MAGGIE

A what?

KARL

Deep sleep cocoon pod. Where I and my friends will go into hibernation, breathing only once every hour. With the help of feeding and excretion tubes we will stay in suspended animation for three hundred years.

MAGGIE

Why three hundred?

KARL

It'll take that long for the sky to clear of particulates.

DUMMY KARL

Par-tic-ulates!

MAGGIE

(Shaking it off)

Okay, Karl, ah, I admit it, yes, we make fun of you behind your back. So if you're going get us fired, just do it but please stop torturing us.

KARL

(Genuine, Jesus-ly)

It's okay, we're all sinners. I forgive you my child.

MAGGIE

You do?

KARL

I won't press charges.

MAGGIE

You won't? Why not?

KARL

Two reasons: Firstly, it'll take at least a month to process the complaint, by then the world will be a dark hell-hole where we won't be able to see our hands in front of our faces, so I doubt if anyone in H.R. will follow through with the paper work. Secondly, and more importantly, I need you.

MAGGIE

You do?

KARL

(Fatherly)

I need you to join me in the deep sleep cocoon pod. And then in three hundred years when we're resurrected, we'll make rumpy-pumpy, and then you and I and our children, and Raymond here if he stops being/

DUMMY KARL

A total jerk!

KARL

And my fourteen Facebook friends from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas who have also built deep sleep cocoon pods shall join up in Cincinnati!

RAYMOND

Why Cincinnati?

KARL

Why not Cincinnati?

MAGGIE

Rumpy-pumpy?

KARL

Yes. But it won't be normal rumpy-pumpy, it'll be *important* rumpy-pumpy because we'll be remaking humankind. You see, Raymond, tonight was a test. I knew only a few of the people I invited would show. And I knew those who did were my true friends. And only those who believe in me will I take unto my deep sleep cocoon pod. You, are my chosen people.

(The PUNK SERVER enters.)

PUNK SERVER
(*Pious*)

The holy sacraments are toasty.

DUMMY KARL

But they're Vegan.

KARL

Not a problem. I've been known to pull off a few miracles in the kitchen. (*To the Waitress*) Would you be so kind as to be my magician's assistant?

PUNK SERVER

Anything you ask. (*To Puppet Karl*) You're adorable.

DUMMY KARL

Thanks for noticing.

PUNK SERVER
(*Spiritual*)

Karl, and Karl the Magnificent, when zero hour comes, would you consider taking me with you into the deep sleep cocoon pod?

KARL

How do you know about the cocoon pod?

PUNK SERVER

I was listening behind the kitchen door.

KARL
(*To Puppet Karl*)

Should I?

DUMMY KARL

Yeah, she's cool.

KARL

Bless you child, you are now one of the chosen.

PUNK SERVER
(*Devout*)

I am humbled.

KARL

Now, Mr. Magnificent, you wait here.

DUMMY KARL

But I want to come with.

KARL

I'll need both hands to perform my magic.

(KARL puts DUMMY KARL into the box on the magician's table.)

DUMMY KARL
(Protesting)

I'm melting. I'm melting!

(DUMMY KARL dies.)

KARL
(To Maggie and Raymond)

Right back.

PUNK SERVER
(To Karl)

Wait! Idea! What if we made rumpy-pumpy tonight, before we enter the deep sleep cocoon pod, that way when I awake in three hundred years, I'll already be nine months pregnant.

KARL
Thought-provoking. Let's talk.

(PUNK SERVER exits to the kitchen, KARL stops at the door.)

KARL
(Vulcan hand sign)
"Live long and prosper."

(KARL exits to the kitchen.)

RAYMOND
Come on, Mag, let's get the hell out of here.

MAGGIE
But what if he's right?

RAYMOND
Are you nuts?

MAGGIE
I heard the same report tonight. The government did in fact shut down Yellowstone.

RAYMOND
Maggie, you were right from the beginning, it's just an elaborate stupid revenge plan. And the waitress is in on it.

MAGGIE

But when I told him it was me who wrote "dumbass" in black permanent marker on his mailbox he forgave me. Normal people don't do that.

RAYMOND

Normal people don't play the accordion and have a gay puppet!

MAGGIE

But if you think about it, his story makes sense - He must've known about the super volcano for a long time, I mean, it must've taken months if not years for him to construct the deep sleep cocoon pod.

RAYMOND

Damnit, There Is No Deep Sleep Cocoon Pod!!!

(Delirious, the PUNK SERVER enters, and falls on her knees.)

PUNK SERVER
(Exhilarated)

I don't believe it! Right before my very eyes!

MAGGIE

What?

PUNK SERVER

A miracle!

RAYMOND

A what?

PUNK SERVER

The Whoppers!

MAGGIE

What about'em?

PUNK SERVER

He changed them into...

(KARL enters with the platter only now it's filled with pasta.)

PUNK SERVER

Linguine!

KARL

Ta-da!

RAYMOND

What?

KARL

You said you didn't eat beef so I performed a little magic and made Tofu linguine!

PUNK SERVER

(Dumbfounded, without commas)

I was just standing there looking at this large ugly sack of charcoaled cow topped with old tomatoes soggy lettuce yellow mayonnaise and stale sesame seeds and he waved his hand and it suddenly became creamy and beautiful and my mind's totally blown are you the messiah?!

KARL

No, my child, that's Anakin Skywalker.

PUNK SERVER

From the depths of my nothingness, I prostrate myself before Thee.

(Face down on the floor, the PUNK SERVER prostrates herself.)

KARL

Perhaps now's the time for me to give the rest of my little speech. And then you can sing me happy birthday!

PUNK SERVER

(Face to the floor)

Speech! Speech!

(KARL walks up to the podium.)

KARL

(Into microphone)

Testing-testing-testing. One. Two. Three. Testing-testing//

RAYMOND

(Pissed off)

That's it!

(RAYMOND grabs the bar knife and advances on KARL.)

KARL

(Into microphone)

One. Two. Three. Testing-Testing-testing. *(As E.T.)* "E.T. phone home."

(RAYMOND comes up behind KARL and stabs him in the back.)

KARL

Aggh!

(KARL staggers from the podium and falls, dead. The PUNK SERVER screams.)

PUNK SERVER

Oh My God, What Have You Done!?

MAGGIE

You Killed The Messiah, The one Person Who Could Save Us!

RAYMOND

(Desperate, realizing what he's done)

I Had To!

MAGGIE

Why?

RAYMOND

Because He Was A Nerd!

(Hysterical, the PUNK SERVER screams over dead KARL. BLACKOUT, rock and roll.)

END OF ACT ONE (MAYBE)

(GO INTERMISSION-LESS! If you'd like to go intermission-less, please insert here the missing 19 seconds.)

(The PUNK SERVER screams her head off.)

MAGGIE

Shut up!

PUNK SERVER
(Hysterical)

He's Dead! You Killed Him!

MAGGIE

Shut Up, I Tell You Shut Up!

PUNK SERVER
(Unhinged)

You're Both Going To Jail Forever!

MAGGIE

Shut up!

(MAGGIE grabs the knife from RAYMOND and stabs the PUNK SERVER.)

(THE PUNK SERVER staggers and falls, dead.)

Karl The Magnificent

(Act Two)

*(19 seconds later - Lights up on a scene of sheer panic.)**(KARL is still dead.)**(But now, beside KARL...)***(The PUNK SERVER, also dead.)***(Standing over her is MAGGIE with the knife.)*

RAYMOND

(Screaming, terrified)

Oh My God?! Why Did You Kill The Waitress?

MAGGIE

(Desperate)

Had To!

RAYMOND

But Why?!

MAGGIE

She Was hysterical!

RAYMOND

But Why!?

MAGGIE

*(Without commas)*I Thought The Rabbis Down The Hall Would Hear Her Screaming
And She Wouldn't Shut Up And I Don't Know I Just Started
Stabbing!

RAYMOND

Holy Crap!

MAGGIE

Holy Crap!

RAYMOND

(Hysterical)

Hold it together! Hold it together! What are we doing?!

MAGGIE
(Hysterical)
 Holding it together!

RAYMOND
 You sure they're dead?!

(MAGGIE kicks the bodies with her toe.)

MAGGIE
 Oh god! Oh god! They're dead! Totally dead!

RAYMOND
(Panicked)
 Don't panic!

MAGGIE
(Panicked)
 I'm not panicking!

RAYMOND
(Panicked)
 I'm not panicking either!

MAGGIE
 But how will we find the deep sleep cocoon pod?!

RAYMOND
 Damn It! There Is No Deep Sleep Cocoon Pod!

(RAYMOND takes out his phone.)

MAGGIE
 We're going to jail, like for a thousand years/ What are you doing?

RAYMOND
 Calling 911!

MAGGIE
 You can't!

RAYMOND
 If we confess right away they'll go easy on us!

MAGGIE
 Hang up!

RAYMOND
 But/

MAGGIE
(Yelling)

Hang Up! Hang Up!

(He hangs up.)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
We just murdered two people, that's like the worst thing you can do after a hostile workplace seminar!

RAYMOND
But everyone in the office'll testify on our behalf! When the police find out what a nerd Karl was they'll rule it justifiable homicide!

MAGGIE
But what about me, I killed an innocent waitress/

RAYMOND
You're right, you're screwed!

MAGGIE
Wait! Idea! (Calming, a little) We both took ExxonMobile's four hour oil spill crisis seminar!

RAYMOND
We did?

MAGGIE
Yes!

RAYMOND
That's right, we did!

MAGGIE
We just have to remember the bullet points! It was right beside the animated clip art of the man clapping his hands!

RAYMOND
Oh my god, my life depends on bullet points and animated clip art!

MAGGIE
Got it! Bullet point one, "stay calm."

RAYMOND
(Not calm)
Right! We are calm! Totally calm!

MAGGIE
Two, "destroy the evidence."

RAYMOND

You sure?

MAGGIE

We work for ExxonMobil of course the second bullet point is "destroy the evidence." We need to get rid of the bodies.

RAYMOND

How?

MAGGIE

You gotta drag them to the dumpster.

RAYMOND

What dumpster?

MAGGIE

There's got to be a dumpster on the loading dock off the kitchen!

RAYMOND

And what are you going to do?!

MAGGIE

Guard the door!

RAYMOND

Right!

(RAYMOND grabs the dead waitress.)

MAGGIE

Careful, don't hit her head!

RAYMOND

She's dead, what difference does it make!?

(RAYMOND quickly drags the dead PUNK SERVER through the kitchen swinging doors.)

(MAGGIE staggers to her purse and tries to take a Prozac.)

MAGGIE

(Panicked, to herself)

Oh god, oh god.

(But before she can down the pills with wine, a cell phone rings.)

MAGGIE checks her own, it's not her. She looks for the ringing. Finds a phone on the magician's table.)

MAGGIE
(Yelling off to the kitchen)

Raymond? Raymond, do you have a silver I-phone?

RAYMOND
(O.S.)

No, Galaxy.

MAGGIE
Then who/ *(Dawning on her)* Holy crap! It's Karl's! And it's ringing! Crap, ah, ah.

(In a cold sweat, MAGGIE answers KARL'S phone.)

MAGGIE
(On phone, dripping kindness)
Hello? ...Yes, this is Karl's phone. ...Me? ...Ah, a friend. ...Karl's not here. ...What? ...You want to leave a message? Sure. *(She grabs a napkin and pen)* ...Okay ready. ..."Bad news, they closed Yellowstone so you won't be able to meet there next week/" Wait. By any chance is this Sister Alice? ...It is. ...More? Okay, ..."P.S. You're in town attending a nun's convention, and you'd like to hook up tonight? ...So sorry, repeat that. "You're ready to "defrock-the-windsock." *(She's grossed out)* ...More? "And don't forget to bring the master of ceremonies." Are you by any chance referring to Mr. Magnificent? That's so... deranged. I'll give him the message. Bless you sister, I hope you get the help you need.

(She hangs up.)

(MAGGIE again tries to down the Prozac with wine.)

(Just then PUNK SERVER II enters from the hall only now she has fluorescent pink hair. She's the drug free, cleaned up, but still punk twin sister of the Waitress.)

PUNK SERVER II
Have you seen Jo?

(MAGGIE spit-takes the pills.)

You okay?

PUNK SERVER II

Me? I'm fine.

MAGGIE
(Stupefied, lying)

I'm looking for Jo.

PUNK SERVER II

What's a Jo?

MAGGIE

Josephine, my twin sister.

PUNK SERVER II

*(NOTE: PUNK SERVER II is the
WAITRESS's twin sister and is
played by the same actress.)*

Your twin?

MAGGIE

Yeah, I need her.

PUNK SERVER II

Why?

MAGGIE

Cause the rabbis are going berserk!

PUNK SERVER II

Because?

MAGGIE

Something about meat and cheese at the same time, who knew?
Seen her/?

MAGGIE

Who/?

PUNK SERVER II

My twin/

MAGGIE

No/

PUNK SERVER II

She must be in the kitchen.

(PUNK SERVER II starts for the kitchen.)

MAGGIE

Stop!

(PUNK SERVER II sees dead KARL on the floor.)

PUNK SERVER II

Oh dear, what happened to Karl?

MAGGIE

Ah... ah... he had an aneurysm/

PUNK SERVER II

A what/

MAGGIE

I mean a migraine/

PUNK SERVER II

What/

MAGGIE

I mean, he's drunk/

PUNK SERVER II

I'll get him some water/

(PUNK SERVER II starts for the kitchen.)

MAGGIE

Don't go in there!

PUNK SERVER II

Why not?

MAGGIE

Cause... *(Making crap up)* I just remembered, Jo said she had to go to the bathroom.

PUNK SERVER II

The one next door?

MAGGIE

No, the bathroom at the Burger King cross the street.

PUNK SERVER II

The Burger King? Why?

MAGGIE

(Desperate, making crap up)

Cause...cause... The Rabbis told her it was against rabbinical law for them to pee in a bathroom that's in the vicinity of a bathroom used by a goy.

PUNK SERVER II

A goy?

MAGGIE

You know, a girl goy. So she left the building and might not be back for a long-long time.

PUNK SERVER II

Darn. Okay if you see her/

MAGGIE

I'll send her right over!

PUNK SERVER II

And/

MAGGIE

Bye!

(MAGGIE shoves PUNK SERVER II out the door just as RAYMOND runs in from the kitchen.)

RAYMOND

You're right, there's a dumpster. Help me with Karl.

MAGGIE

Oh my god!

RAYMOND

What/

MAGGIE

She has a twin/

RAYMOND

Who/

MAGGIE

Jo/

RAYMOND

Who/

The waitress/

MAGGIE

A twin what/

RAYMOND

Sister. She was just here.

MAGGIE

Did she see dead Karl?

RAYMOND

I told her he was drunk.

MAGGIE

Help me.

RAYMOND
(Dragging the body)

I thought I was seeing a ghost.

MAGGIE

Pull!

RAYMOND

Holy crap, holy crap.

MAGGIE

Shut up and pull!

RAYMOND

(They drag KARL off to the kitchen.)

I'm pulling! Holy crap, holy crap.

MAGGIE
(O.S.)

Now lift!

RAYMOND
(O.S.)

Be careful of his head!

MAGGIE
(O.S.)

Would you shut up about their stupid heads and lift!

RAYMOND
(O.S.)

MAGGIE
(O.S.)

Holy crap he's heavy!

RAYMOND
(O.S.)

Ready? *(As they swing his dead body)* One. Two. Three.

(We hear a terrible bang as KARL's head crashes down into the dumpster.)

MAGGIE
(O.S.)

Oh my god that was his head!

RAYMOND
(O.S.)

Shut Up About Heads!

(MAGGIE and RAYMOND run back in.)

RAYMOND

Now what?

MAGGIE

I don't know.

RAYMOND

What's the next bullet point?!

MAGGIE

Oh right, stay calm, hide the evidence and... and.. Oh! Bullet point three! Start a publicity campaign about the wonderful things ExxonMobil does to protect the environment.

RAYMOND

I think we can skip that one.

MAGGIE

Four, mop up the oil!

RAYMOND

But there's no oil!

MAGGIE

Blood! Mop up the blood!

RAYMOND

Right!

(They grab napkins and wipe up any leftovers.)

(PUNK SERVER II enters with a bottle of Pedialyte.)

PUNK SERVER II
I brought Karl some Pedialyte.

MAGGIE
What?

PUNK SERVER II
Pedialyte, it's for babies, but it's great for hangovers.
What ya doing?

RAYMOND
(Panicked)
What does it look like! Mopping up oil!

PUNK SERVER II
Oil/

MAGGIE
He means blood/

PUNK SERVER II
Blood/

MAGGIE
He means my drink - A Bloody Mary/

PUNK SERVER II
What happened to Karl?

MAGGIE
Oh, ah, he had to go to the bathroom.

PUNK SERVER II
Not at the Burger King?

MAGGIE
Yes.

PUNK SERVER II
But he's drunk and it's dark and that's a very busy street.

MAGGIE
I know I tried to talk him out of it but he insisted. Someone should really stop him, I mean he and Jo could be hit by a...

(Suddenly it hits her! She laughs with delight as she has the answer.)

MAGGIE
(Enthusiastic)

A car! *(Purposefully to Raymond, delighted)* We wouldn't want Karl and the punk waitress to be hit by a car - If you know what I mean?

RAYMOND
(Busy)

I have no idea what you're talking about.

MAGGIE
(Deliberately)

Both the waitress and Karl could be run over by an automobile.

RAYMOND
(Dawning on him)

That's a great idea/ I mean, terrible! Someone should stop them.

PUNK SERVER II

I will, but you gotta cover for me with the rabbis.

MAGGIE

No, you take care of the rabbis, Raymond will stop Karl.

PUNK SERVER II

No, I'll do it, after all I am his fiancée.

(That stops everything.)

MAGGIE

Excuse me?

RAYMOND

Fiancée?

PUNK SERVER II
(In love)

Well, engaged to be engaged. I mean Karl and I just met for the first time earlier this evening, but I was so struck by his awesomeness, and then when I found out that he played the accordion, I knew we were destined for love. So I stole the manager's pass key and took him up to the bridal suite where we made rumpy-pumpy.

MAGGIE

Wait, let me get this straight, you just met him and you...

PUNK SERVER II

Yes, he fired his photon torpedo into my exhaust port.

(RAYMOND and MAGGIE are totally grossed out.)

MAGGIE

(Grabbing her ears)

Oh my god!

RAYMOND

(Grabbing his ears)

How can I un-hear that! Please, God, let me un-hear that!

PUNK SERVER II

I've done it before but never with a man with an assistant.

RAYMOND

Assistant?

PUNK SERVER II

Karl the magnificent.

MAGGIE

Please tell me you're on drugs. And can I have some?

PUNK SERVER II

I must save my dear Karl!

(PUNK SERVER II runs out.)

RAYMOND

(Panicky)

Come on! Let's get Karl and the waitress out of the dumpster and drag them into the street and make sure they get hit by a car! Lots of cars!

MAGGIE

(Bewildered)

How did Karl do it?

RAYMOND

Or better, a bus! That's it, we'll throw'em under a bus!

MAGGIE

(Amazed)

All these lovers.

RAYMOND

If their bodies are totally mangled forensics will never notice the knife marks!

(RAYMOND starts out.)

MAGGIE

Wait! I can't.

RAYMOND

We only have a few seconds to act.

MAGGIE

I can't help but think that we've killed someone special.

RAYMOND

You got to be kidding.

MAGGIE

Sometimes when we were working late, I'd look at Karl, slaving away at his little desk, with his Texas Instruments calculator, sucking on his super big gulp and I'd... I'd...

RAYMOND

What?

MAGGIE

Fantasize.

RAYMOND

Oh god, I don't want to know, but I'm compelled... (*Cringing*)
What did you fantasize about?

MAGGIE

What it would be like to kiss Karl's sweet, little, chapped lips... (*Breaking down in tears*) And now I never will.

RAYMOND

I hope you're seeing a team of psychiatrists. Not one, a team!

MAGGIE

They gave me the Prozac.

RAYMOND

Get this straight! Karl was a nobody! He'll be missed by no one! We'll throw his body under a bus and a week from now gather around his stupid little nerd-desk for a moment of silence during which everyone in the office will be snickering!

MAGGIE

But what if he was right, what if he could save the human race?

RAYMOND

There is no volcano! It was just an elaborate revenge plan to get back at us for bullying him//

MAGGIE

So you admit it, you bullied him//

RAYMOND

So did you little miss perfect//

MAGGIE

He forgave me. I just wish he could've forgiven me for killing him//

RAYMOND

You didn't kill him, I did//

MAGGIE

But the poor punk waitress//

RAYMOND

What about her?

MAGGIE

(Distraught)

She didn't live long enough to learn how stupid being punk is.

RAYMOND

That's life! None of us live long enough to know anything. We all die incomplete. Life is just a bunch of uninformed decisions and then/

MAGGIE

Super volcano/

RAYMOND

Or some other crap-fest/

MAGGIE

There must be more/

RAYMOND

There isn't! Now help me drag their bodies out of the dumpster and into the street.

MAGGIE

No, I can't! I can't live with my sins!

(MAGGIE digs into her purse.)

What are you...?

RAYMOND

Ending it!

MAGGIE

(MAGGIE tries to down the whole bottle of Prozac with a glass of wine.)

Stop!

RAYMOND

(RAYMOND grabs her, they struggle, the pills fly. They crash into the disc jockey setup where they accidentally hit a sound effects button.)

(From the speakers comes the sound effect of a chorus of angels singing.)

(A holy disco light falls on the magician's table.)

What's happening?

RAYMOND
(Amazed)

Something, not good.

MAGGIE
(Aghast)

(Slowly KARL THE MAGNIFICENT, the dummy, rises from the box. No one is controlling him. He floats in the air in before them in a ghostly light.)

Holy...

RAYMOND

Crap.

MAGGIE

Maggie...

DUMMY KARL
(Spooky)

Oh god, oh god.

MAGGIE
(*Petrified*)

Maggie?

DUMMY KARL

...Yes?

MAGGIE

And Raymond.

DUMMY KARL

What do you want?

RAYMOND
(*Terrified*)

What have you done? (*Eerie*) What have you done?

DUMMY KARL

She did it, she killed Karl! And the waitress!

RAYMOND

No, it was him!

MAGGIE

No, I meant the question in more of a philosophical way.

DUMMY KARL
(*Still ghostly*)

MAGGIE

Oh.

MAGGIE

Oh.

DUMMY KARL
(*Unearthly*)

You non-dummies are such odd creatures, you elect politicians that don't represent you, buy auto insurance from a gecko and kill the only one who could've saved humanity. No wonder you've adopted an apocalyptic angry deity narrative.

MAGGIE
(*Desperate*)

Is there really going to be a super volcano?

DUMMY KARL

Ka-boom!

MAGGIE

But, Karl had a deep sleep cocoon pod.

DUMMY KARL

True. But it's locked deep under his house behind a blast proof door and only he had the combination.

RAYMOND

But you were close to him.

DUMMY KARL

I am his son.

RAYMOND

So you have the combination.

DUMMY KARL

Entirely possible. But I'm not going to share.

RAYMOND

Why not?

DUMMY KARL
(*To Raymond*)

Cause you are a... dumbass.

RAYMOND
(*Small*)

What?

DUMMY KARL

Everyone in the office knows it. And they say it behind your back. Did you ever wonder why you've never had a steady relationship? Know why?

RAYMOND
(*Troubled*)

Because I sleep through hostile workplace seminars?

DUMMY KARL

No, because you have no self knowledge. That bad boy image you project is just an act.

RAYMOND

Then who am I?

DUMMY KARL
(*Ghostly*)

A dumbass.

MAGGIE

(Desperate)

But you like me. You'd give me the combination.

DUMMY KARL

Why would I share with you?

MAGGIE

Cause your father forgave me.

DUMMY KARL

But who are you?

MAGGIE

(Guessing)

A nice person?

DUMMY KARL

You put on airs of being nice, but writing "dumbass" in black permanent marker on my father's mailbox wasn't the first time. Admit it.

(Maggie begins crying.)

MAGGIE

I... I...

DUMMY KARL

The truth is you carry a large black permanent marker in your purse all the time. It's there right now.

MAGGIE

(Desperate, hard to admit)

...Yes. It's true.

DUMMY KARL

When people aren't looking you write lots of things you shouldn't. Earlier this evening you wrote on some poor bastard's car "Learn to park, Dumbass" because he parked too close to you.

MAGGIE

(Weeping)

...I did.

DUMMY KARL

You like that word "dumbass."

MAGGIE

...I do.

DUMMY KARL

Both your Twitter and Facebook accounts have been suspended
cause you use the word so much.

MAGGIE
(*Weeping*)

I'm a terrible person!

DUMMY KARL

No you're not.

MAGGIE
(*Hopeful*)

I'm not?

DUMMY KARL

No. You're a dumbass, like Raymond here.

MAGGIE

I can change.

RAYMOND

Me too.

DUMMY KARL

Do you really want to?

RAYMOND

Yes.

MAGGIE

Totally.

DUMMY KARL

Then do me a favor.

MAGGIE

Anything.

RAYMOND

You name it.

DUMMY KARL

Tonight, I want you to walk home, don't drive, walk.

MAGGIE

Okay.

RAYMOND

Why?

DUMMY KARL

And as you walk I want you to look at the people you meet on the street, look them square in the eye, and say to them... "Hello, Dumbass."

RAYMOND

Why would we do that?

DUMMY KARL

(Groucho marx-ish)

Cause when you get home you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that you've been right eighty-seven percent of the time. Hahahaha.

RAYMOND

(Pissed)

Damnit! Give us the combination to the deep sleep cocoon pod!

DUMMY KARL

Screw you!

MAGGIE

But Karl wanted us to have it.

RAYMOND

We are his chosen people!

DUMMY KARL

Karl is no more. I'm in charge now. And I'm making an executive decision. Look at how screwed up this world is. Why?

MAGGIE

Cause we live in a sick society where deranged stuff is just a click away?

DUMMY KARL

No, I meant that as a rhetorical question.

MAGGIE

Oh.

DUMMY KARL

If we're going to repopulate the world what do we need? *(Beat)* That one you can answer, it's a real question.

MAGGIE

Oh. Ah. Nice people?

DUMMY KARL

Correctamundo.

I can be nice.

MAGGIE

No, you love your black permanent marker too much.

DUMMY KARL

I can change.

RAYMOND

No, you're a lost cause.

DUMMY KARL

Then who?

MAGGIE

I've decided, the only one I'm giving the combination to, the only person who can save the human race with me is... Jo.

DUMMY KARL

Jo?

RAYMOND

The waitress?

MAGGIE

Yes, the punk waitress who is high on something. If she says you can come with us then you can, but if she says no, you're screwed. Bring her unto me.

DUMMY KARL

Oh crap.

RAYMOND

Ah, well, ah...

MAGGIE

Yes?

DUMMY KARL

She's not here.

MAGGIE

Go get her.

DUMMY KARL

She has a twin, will she do?

MAGGIE

No, it must be Jo, and only Jo.

DUMMY KARL

Well... Karl/

MAGGIE

Please, Mr. Magnificent/

DUMMY KARL

Mr. Magnificent. I don't know how to tell you this, but... Jo the waitress is... dead.

MAGGIE

What?

DUMMY KARL

Maggie killed her!

RAYMOND

DUMMY KARL
(*Going berserk!*)

WHAT!? WHAT!? WHAT?! WHAAAAAAT?!

(DUMMY KARL suddenly grabs his chest and has a massive heart attack.)

Agggggggh!

DUMMY KARL

(DUMMY KARL flops over dead.)

Oh my god!

RAYMOND
(*Terror-stricken*)

What happened?!

MAGGIE

(RAYMOND listens to PUPPET KARL's chest.)

I think he had a heart attack!

RAYMOND
(*Panicked*)

But he has the combination!

MAGGIE
(*Desperate*)

RAYMOND

Did you attend HR's CPR class?!

MAGGIE
(Panicked)

No, yes, no, yes!

RAYMOND
Bullet points! What were the bullet points?

MAGGIE
Ah! Ah! One! Put the victim on his back!

(RAYMOND throws DUMMY KARL on his back.)

RAYMOND
Then what?

MAGGIE
Mouth to mouth!

(RAYMOND opens PUPPET KARL's mouth and begins CPR. Then, he listens to his chest. No heartbeat.)

RAYMOND
Damn it!

(RAYMOND performs mouth to mouth again, and listens.)

RAYMOND
Damn it! Live!

(RAYMOND begins beating on PUPPET KARL's chest.)

RAYMOND
(Yelling)
You will live! Damnit! You will live!

(PUNK SERVER II enters.)

PUNK SERVER II
What the hell?

MAGGIE
He's had a heart attack!

RAYMOND
And he's got the combination!

To?

PUNK SERVER II

The deep sleep cocoon pod!

MAGGIE

The what?

PUNK SERVER II

We need a defibrillator!

MAGGIE

There's one right here.

PUNK SERVER II
(Thinking she's nuts)

(PUNK SERVER II points at the portable defibrillator mounted on the wall.)

(Desperate, MAGGIE grabs the defibrillator and throws it to RAYMOND.)

RAYMOND

Don't worry, buddy, you're going to make it! *(To Maggie)* Read the directions!

MAGGIE

Oh. Ah. *(Reading the instructions)* One, put the paddles on the victim's chest!

RAYMOND

Got it!

(During the following, thinking they're nuts PUNK SERVER II slowly backs out of the room.)

MAGGIE

Two. "Stand clear and push the red 'shock' button!"

RAYMOND

The red button, got it! Clear!

(RAYMOND delivers the shock. PUPPET KARL's chest heaves.)

MAGGIE

Does he have a heartbeat?!

No!

RAYMOND

Again!

MAGGIE

Clear!

RAYMOND

*(RAYMOND delivers another shock.
PUPPET KARL's chest heaves.)*

Nothing!

RAYMOND

Again!

MAGGIE

Clear!

RAYMOND

*(RAYMOND delivers another shock.
Smoke should come from PUPPET KARL
as his brain fries.)*

*(MAGGIE pulls a fire extinguisher
off the wall and unloads it on the
smoldering puppet.)*

(Beat.)

(They realize it's hopeless.)

Oh my god.

RAYMOND

Is he gone?

MAGGIE

Gone.

RAYMOND
(Listening to Karl's heart)

*(RAYMOND and MAGGIE are shell
shocked.)*

*(RAYMOND takes a napkin from a
table and puts it over dead PUPPET
KARL's face.)*

MAGGIE

Does this mean we won't get the combination to the deep sleep cocoon pod?

RAYMOND

We're screwed.

(For a moment they sit silent beside the smoldering puppet carcass.)

(Beat.)

(Then, RAYMOND begins to laugh.)

MAGGIE

What?

(More laughter, RAYMOND can't control himself.)

MAGGIE
(Crying)

What's so funny?

RAYMOND

I just used a defibrillator on a puppet.

(RAYMOND's laughter is infectious, soon MAGGIE is laughing too.)

RAYMOND
(Wiping his tears of laughter)

Karl? You can come out now.

MAGGIE

But you killed him.

RAYMOND
(Slightly nuts)

No, I didn't, nor did you kill the waitress. *(To the walls)* Okay, Karl, joke's over. You are brilliant. You got us. *(Sing song)* Come out come out where ever you are. What do you bet Karl's hiding under that table.

(RAYMOND pulls back the curtain under the magician's table.)

RAYMOND

Karl?

(Karl's not there.)

RAYMOND
(Confused)

He's not there.

MAGGIE
(Pious)

He has risen.

RAYMOND
No, he's played us. *(Talking to the air, bitter)* Where are the cameras, Karl? I know you're watching! I know you got us on tape. What're you going to do, play it at the next hostile workplace seminar? I admit it, you, Karl, are an evil genius. But just because you're a genius that doesn't mean you're not a nerd! Did you hear that Karl? You, Are, A, Nerd!

(A fire alarm goes off.)

(The sound of a growing riot in the hallway - People shouting and throwing dishes.)

MAGGIE
What the hell?

RAYMOND
Don't worry, it's all part of Karl's plan.

(PUNK SERVER II rushes in.)

PUNK SERVER II
(Flustered)
Oh My God!

MAGGIE
What's going on?

PUNK SERVER II
They just announced the world's coming to an end. The rabbis are rioting.

RAYMOND
Rioting rabbis at a Ramada? *(To where-ever he thinks Karl is listening from)* Good one Karl. Original!

PUNK SERVER II
I'm telling you it was just announced!

RAYMOND

And who announced it?

PUNK SERVER II

It came from the President.

RAYMOND

You expect me to believe that the President of the United States announced from where? The oval office? That the world is coming to an end.

PUNK SERVER II

No, he tweeted it.

(PUNK SERVER II takes out her I-phone and shows it to MAGGIE.)

MAGGIE

(Off the I-phone)

Holy crap. It's true!

RAYMOND

Wait! *(To where-ever)* Good one Karl, almost had me, but it just so happens that I'm an dumbass. And what's the one thing all dumbasses have in common? That's right. We subscribe to the President's tweets!

(Raymond opens the twitter app on his phone.)

RAYMOND

I will just open the twitter app and what do we find/

(RAYMOND cannot believe what he sees.)

RAYMOND (CONT'D)

HOLY CRAP!

MAGGIE

(Looking at his phone)

The President's tweet!

PUNK SERVER II

I gotta find my sister!

(PUNK SERVER II runs out.)

(Exhausted, MAGGIE and RAYMOND sink to the floor.)

MAGGIE
(*Depressed*)

That's it. It's over.

RAYMOND
(*Hopeless*)

No. We still have options.

MAGGIE

Like?

RAYMOND

I saw a hardware store down the block, we can join the looters.

MAGGIE

How do you know there will be looters?

RAYMOND

Cause that's what you do during the apocalypse, loot hardware stores.

MAGGIE

Okay, we join the looters and then what?

RAYMOND

We'll steal crowbars and break into Karl's house and try to find the door to the deep sleep cocoon pod. But after hours of trying we'll finally realize that he built it way too strong and that we, along with all of humanity, are...

MAGGIE

Doomed.

(A RABBI runs in - He's bearded, payot curls, dressed in black with a prayer shawl and large black hat.)

(PLEASE NOTE: The RABBI is played by the same actor who played KARL. I know I should've told you about the double casting on the cast of characters page but it would've spoiled the fun.)

(ALSO: None of this double casting should be mentioned in the program.)

RABBI
(*Out of breath*)

Sanctuary!

MAGGIE

Oh my god, it's a rabbi!

RAYMOND

A what?

MAGGIE

A rabbi. (*To the rabbi*) You okay?

RABBI
(*Yiddish accent*)

You think you know your friends, but then you find the world is ending and everyone goes Meshuggeneh.

MAGGIE

Is it going to be a war of all against all?

RABBI

War? No, they're voting.

MAGGIE

Voting?

RABBI

Yes, it was twenty-four to one.

MAGGIE

For?

RABBI

Meat with cheese.

MAGGIE

What?

RABBI

They decided, since the apocalypse is upon us, to go across the street to the Burger King and order Whoppers - With cheese! Before they die, they want to know what all the hubbub was about.

RAYMOND

Sir, I'm not Jewish, but right now I need a holy man.

MAGGIE

Me too.

RABBI

I'm not a holy, just well read.

RAYMOND

What should we do?

MAGGIE

If the world is ending, what's the answer?

(Beat. Finally, a brief respite in the madness.)

RABBI

(Fatherly, perhaps to the audience)

What do we do? When the story of our species becomes a farce? We've created a world where science no longer offers consolation, where religion has become a business, where the sky is no longer divinely created but merely a big blue bowl of nothingness. A world where we use words like Nerd and Dork. In this reality how can we not conclude that life's baffling and all human endeavor temporary. But... I think I've got a possible answer.

MAGGIE

Please, share.

RABBI

(Kindly)

Wouldn't it make a statement, if only moments before we ring down the curtain on this absurdity we did something about our brokenness by finally stopping all the hate and simply loved one another. Wouldn't that make our oh-so brief lives worth living.

MAGGIE

Well said.

(Beat. Back to the insanity.)

RABBI

At least that's what I believed up until a few minutes ago. Now, not so sure.

MAGGIE

What changed?

RABBI

Unable to talk my fellow rabbis out of the meat cheese thing, I walked out to the parking lot. And then I saw it.

RAYMOND

Saw what?

RABBI

Some schmuck had written on my car, in black permanent marker, "Learn to park, dumbass."

(RAYMOND shoots daggers at MAGGIE.)

RABBI

My car, was it off by that much? It was tight, but was it not manageable? So why would someone ruin a perfectly good paint job? I mean, don't we know that we're all crammed on this earth in tight parking places? And then, in the middle of all the rioting and looting, our waitress with the pink hair ran up and asked for a hug. As she wept in my arms, I wanted to tell her that life has a purpose, that everything will be okay... *(Beat)* But my eyes kept drifting back to my car! The words, "Learn to park" took up most of my door. While the hood was consumed by, "dumb-ass." And then I did a terrible thing, I told that young lady with the pink punk hair... I told her... Life has no purpose. We are just a flawed species, an evolutionary mistake... A dud. For after all these millennia we still don't know how to live, how to be happy, or how to love. *(Beat)* She pulled away and bitterly said, "thanks for nothin'" and ran into the street, towards the Burger King... But before she got there... She was hit by a bus.

MAGGIE

Oh my god!

RAYMOND

Holy crap!

MAGGIE

Is she all right?

RABBI

Wasn't moving that fast. She was more like bumped by a bus.

MAGGIE

Oh thank god.

RABBI

But it was still enough to kill her.

(MAGGIE and RAYMOND are devastated. They kneel beside the Rabbi.)

MAGGIE

(Distraught)

Rabbi, will you take my confession?

What's this? RABBI

I'd like to confess too. RAYMOND

(RAYMOND kneels too.)

That's not how it works with us, but since the world is ending I'm willing to give it a spin. RABBI

Dear Rabbi, please forgive me but I'm the one who wrote dumb// MAGGIE

(RABBI sees the dead puppet.)

Wait! Is that a ventriloquist's dummy? RABBI

What? RAYMOND

There. RABBI

Yes, that is// MAGGIE

Was// RAYMOND

Karl the magnificent. MAGGIE

Is this Karl Heimlich's birthday party? RABBI
(Delighted)

I guess, I never knew his last name. MAGGIE

He works for ExxonMobil? And plays the accordion? RABBI

You know him? RAYMOND

We were at comic-con last year. RABBI

MAGGIE

You're kidding?

RABBI

He was Superman, I was Menorah Man.

MAGGIE

(Amazed)

You actually know him.

RABBI

I got an invitation to his birthday party but was too busy. Where he be?

RAYMOND

Well, ah, you see... Karl's not here. He's kinda//

(The RABBI searches his pockets for the invitation.)

RABBI

Where's that invitation? Ah! Here it is. He told me there was something special inside, but I haven't had time to look.

(He opens the invitation.)

RABBI

(Reading)

"Dear Rabbi." That's me. "I'd be delighted if you'd attend my birthday party. If you cannot attend please find the enclosed envelope."

(RABBI finds the small envelope inside.)

RABBI

Oh, yes, here it is. It says, *(Reading the outside)* "Inside you will find the combination to my deep sleep cocoon pod. When the time comes you'll know what to do."

RAYMOND

Let me see that!

(RAYMOND grabs the envelope and opens it. Inside is a small card.)

RAYMOND

It's the combination!

(RAYMOND and MAGGIE celebrate.)

MAGGIE
We're saved!

RABBI
Deep sleep what?

MAGGIE
Karl built a deep sleep cocoon pod under his house, where we'll be spared from the volcano and in three hundred years we'll go forth and procreate! And then meet his friends in Cincinnati!

RABBI
Why Cincinnati?

MAGGIE
Why not Cincinnati?

RAYMOND
Rabbi, this letter means you're one of the chosen people.

RABBI
This I already know.

RAYMOND
Do you know what this calls for?

MAGGIE
(Thrilled)
Disco!

(RAYMOND hits a button on the disc jockey setup and the Village People's "Macho Man" plays.)

RAYMOND
(Detonating)
Disco Wackamo Robot!

(The music explodes and MAGGIE AND RAYMOND do Karl's disco wackamo robot dance - whatever the hell that is - with reckless abandon.)

RABBI
Stop! Wait! Stop!

(The RABBI stops the music.)

RABBI (CONT'D)

You're telling me that Karl constructed, with his very own hands, a cocoon pod under his house, where the four of us will sleep for three hundred years and then wake up and repopulate the earth?

MAGGIE

Yes!

RABBI
(*Proud*)

That's my Karl.

MAGGIE

Only one problem. (*To Raymond*) Tell him.

RAYMOND

Ah... Karl is... dead. So it'll just be the three of us.

RABBI

Dead?

MAGGIE

I'm so sorry.

RABBI
(*Sincerely*)

This breaks my heart. Bless his little soul.

RAYMOND & MAGGIE

Yes, bless his little soul.

(*The RABBI mutters a short silent Jewish prayer.*)

(*RAYMOND AND MAGGIE try to follow along but can't so they fake it.*)

RABBI

But! If we're going to repopulate the earth, Karl not being with us is probably, if we're honest, better for our sanity.

RAYMOND

My thoughts exactly.

MAGGIE

Me too.

RAYMOND

To the deep sleep cocoon pod!

RABBI

Wait, problem!

RAYMOND

No there isn't.

RABBI

This is a substantial responsibility. We need to think about it. I mean, how are we going to change things? How are we going to make a world that's not populated by schmucks? A world where goodness and kindness and love guide us. Are we up to it?

RAYMOND

(Proud)

I took ExxonMobil's four hour hostile workplace training seminar - I'm ready.

(MAGGIE walks over to her purse and takes out a huge permanent black marker and throws it away.)

MAGGIE

Me too.

RAYMOND

To the deep sleep cocoon pod!

RABBI

Wait! Problem.

RAYMOND

What now?!

RABBI

We have two men but only one woman.

RAYMOND

What's wrong with that? Sounds kinda kinky.

RABBI

That puts a lot of responsibility on her. Am I right?

MAGGIE

You're right, Rabbi, if I'm going to repopulate the world I could use a little help.

RAYMOND

So, what're you saying? We need another woman?

RABBI

Yes. Before we enter the deep sleep cocoon pod we need to find, in the middle of a world wide riot, a woman with high moral standards, who can endure three hundred years of solitude, and then have sex with strangers!

(The door opens and SISTER ALICE - in a full nun's habit with hiking boots and carrying an accordion - runs in.)

(NOTE: SISTER ALICE is played by the same actress who played the waitresses.)

MAGGIE

Let me guess, Sister Alice!

SISTER ALICE

(Horny)

Have any of you seen Karl?

(Black out. Then a voice in the dark.)

BOSS (VOICE ONLY)

Maggie and Raymond!

(They step into a pool of light.)

BOSS (VOICE ONLY)

Congratulations, you have passed ExxonMobil's hostile workplace test. There's only one more thing you must do before you will be allowed to enter the Deep Sleep Cocoon Pod. You must now pass the Diversity and Sensitivity test. Good luck.

(MAGGIE and RAYMOND scream!)

(BLACKOUT, loud rock and roll.)

THE END