

DINNER FOR SIX... OR SEVEN  
By  
Clay Robeson

28 Plays Later 2019

Day 4

February 4, 2019

ACT I

SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP - A DELI

KEVIN IS BEHIND THE DELI CASE, LEANING AGAINST THE BACK COUNTER. HE IS READING SOMETHING ON HIS PHONE. AFTER A FEW MOMENTS THE DOOR OPENS AND LARRY WALKS IN TO THE SOUND OF A PRACTICAL BELL ABOVE THE DOOR.

LARRY APPROACHES THE COUNTER AND WAITS FOR A FEW MOMENTS. WHEN KEVIN DOESN'T RESPOND, HE MAKES A LITTLE COUGHING SOUND.

WITHOUT LOOKING UP, KEVIN INCLINES HIS HEAD TOWARDS A LARGE SIGN THAT SAYS "PLEASE TAKE A NUMBER." THE NUMBER SIGN IS CURRENTLY SET AT 33.

AFTER A QUIZZICAL LOOK AROUND, LARRY SHAKES HIS HEAD AND GRABS A NUMBER.

KEVIN LOOKS UP AT THE NUMBER SIGN.

KEVIN: Thirty-three?

LARRY ROLLS HIS EYES.

KEVIN: Thirty-three?

LARRY SIGHS.

KEVIN PUSHES A BUTTON BEHIND THE COUNTER AND THE NUMBER CHANGES TO 34.

KEVIN: Thirty-four?

LARRY HOLDS THE NUMBER ALOFT.

LARRY: That's me.

KEVIN: Hi, welcome to Market Meats, what can I get for you today?

LARRY: I have a few people coming over for dinner tomorrow night, and wanted to get some nice steaks.

KEVIN NODS.

KEVIN: Cool cool. How many people?

LARRY: Four or five, plus me and my wife.

KEVIN SQUINTS.

KEVIN: So...

LARRY: (confused) Six or seven total.

KEVIN NODS.

KEVIN: Cool cool. Are they big eaters, or no?

LARRY: Well, I'm not really sure. My wife and I can both put away a good amount of steak. I imagine Danny can too. Eric, probably not. Doreen, probably not. Sheila, for sure. And I don't know if Chris is coming yet, but Chris DOES have an appetite.

KEVIN: So...

LARRY: Yes?

KEVIN: Yes what?

LARRY: Yes, let's assume they are big eaters.

KEVIN: Cool cool. Do you want to pan-sear, bar-be-que, roast or some other preparation method?

LARRY: I hadn't really thought about it. It's probably too cold to bar-be-que, though. Let's say pan-sear, then finish in the oven. White peppercorn crust. Garlic butter...

KEVIN: Ah! Cool cool! What type of sides?

LARRY: Oh. Um. Probably a potato, and a small salad?

KEVIN: What kind of potato?

LARRY IS CONFUSED FOR A MOMENT.

LARRY: Mashed? No, probably au gratin.

KEVIN: No no. I mean what **kind** of potato? Idaho? Yukon Gold? Russet? King Edward? Opperdoezer? Vitelotte? Duke of York? Kennebeck? Gunda? Or like Solanum Tuberosum?

LARRY: Solanum Tuberosum? Is that some kind of Harry Potter spell?

KEVIN: Also known as 'Cornes de Gâtes,' Solanum Tuberosum is a striking elongated, pink-shaded small potato which is highly valued in culinary circles. It is a waxy potato with a nut-like flavour. But due to its shape we recommend it only be cooked and served without peeling.

LARRY IS TAKEN ABACK FOR A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE RESPONDING.

LARRY: Definitely not that one.

KEVIN: Cool cool. Will the salad be on the same plate, or served in bowls?

LARRY: I... usually leave bowls on the table so people can choose for themselves.

KEVIN: Inconsistent. When salad is served **with** the main course rather than before or after, it is best placed on a separate salad plate so that the salad dressing doesn't mix with any gravy or sauces. I much prefer to eat salad from a shallow bowl. Personally, though, I never understood salad plates. With some salads, the last pieces of lettuce end up lying flat and stuck to the plate. Cherry tomatoes sometimes roll around and you have to stab them with your salad fork, if you're eating salad before dinner, or with your dinner fork

if it is with the entree, at the risk of projectile tomatoes when the fork fails to actually pierce the skin. Or if successfully stabbed, juice might squirt all over me or my neighbor. At least in a bowl, the juice is contained.

LARRY STARES, AGAPE, FOR A WHILE,  
PROCESSING.

LARRY: Bowl, then.

KEVIN: Cool cool. Wine, cocktails, or non-alcoholic drinks?

LARRY: Cocktails. The sulfates in red wine give my wife a headache.

KEVIN: Oh, no no no. Sulfites can cause allergy and asthma symptoms, but they don't cause headaches. Although many experts believe additional study is warranted, a lot of research suggests that the headache culprits might actually be histamine and tyramine, other chemical substances that are naturally present in wine. See, histamine dilates blood vessels and tyramine constricts then dilates blood vessels – ouch!

LARRY: Oh.

KEVIN: Is your dining room table rectangular or round? Or will you be eating in the living room or somewhere non-traditional?

LARRY: In... the dining room. And it's round. Oval, actually.

KEVIN: Cool cool. Oval dining tables are very similar to a rectangular one in almost all respects. Visually, however, they seem to occupy less space than a rectangle because of the rounded corners, but this also means that you have less surface area. So you may want to consider a sideboard if your dining room has the space to accommodate it.

LARRY: Okay...

KEVIN: What color is your front door?

LARRY: I... um... it's blue.

KEVIN: Cool cool. So it faces north?

LARRY: No... it faces south.

KEVIN: Ohhh, you should paint it red, then.

LARRY: What?

KEVIN: When homes are built to specific Feng Shui guidelines they ideally face south, which it seems you have done properly. The south facing door welcomes strong, yang energy. A red door is also striking and promotes your fame and reputation.

LARRY: But...

KEVIN: What's your astrological sign?

LARRY: I... um... I'm an Aries.

KEVIN: Yeah, you should probably avoid the peppercorn crust then. Aries is a fire sign, which means you need to avoid spicy foods. You probably get heartburn pretty easily, huh? You need to eat cooling foods that support your liver and kidneys. Try beans, brown rice, lentils, olives, lettuce, cucumber, spinach, veal, flounder, figs, apricots, pumpkins, and bananas. Definitely bananas. You also need lots of calcium so be sure to include something like kale or maybe dairy in your diet.

LARRY IS SPEECHLESS.

KEVIN: Wait... are all your guests Aries?

LARRY: I don't know!

KEVIN: That's unfortunate.

LARRY: Look, I just want to buy some steak so I can cook it and people can eat it. Is that so difficult??

KEVIN LOOKS SLIGHTLY HURT.

KEVIN: Well... no. But we only have pork and chicken today. There was an accident on route 212 and our delivery from Ronson Farms ended up at the bottom of Kerry Gulch.

LARRY JUST STARES.

KEVIN: Sorry?

LARRY TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND SLOWLY BACKS OUT OF THE SHOP AS THE LIGHTS FADE.

BLACKOUT