

LISTS
By
Clay Robeson

28 Plays Later

Day 8

February 8, 2021

ACT I

SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP - BEDROOM - DAY.

DAVID lies on a waterbed. KATHERINE is standing over him with a dour look on her face.

KATHERINE: My name isn't Kate, so get off the bed and give me that green thing you're holding, the leak isn't going to fix itself.

DAVID: If I move, it will just cause more water to come out. I'm currently in the perfect state of equilibrium.

KATHERINE: You're currently on a waterbed with a hole in it looking like you peed yourself because you're too stubborn to get up and fix it.

DAVID: I'm not too stubborn, Kate. I just know that you'll do a better job of it.

KATHERINE: If you call me Kate one more time, I'm going to...

DAVID: To what?

KATHERINE throws her hands in the air and growls in frustration, turning away from DAVID and the bed.

DAVID: I'm sorry...
(a beat)
Kate.

KATHERINE whirls, hatred in her eyes. As she launches herself across the room she lets out a battle cry and leaps on top of DAVID. The waterbed sloshes, and a stream of water shoots up from the middle of the bed, raining down on both of them.

DAVID: No! Look at what you've done!!

KATHERINE: So much for your damned equilibrium, DAVE.

DAVID: David.

KATHERINE: Dave.

DAVID: David.

KATHERINE: DAVE! DAVE! DAVE!

Now it's DAVID's turn to snarl in frustration as he launches himself off the bed, triggering another spout of water. He is damp from head to toe now. KATHERINE extracts herself from the bed after he's gone, and the water spout subsides.

DAVID: You are infuriating!

KATHERINE: I am? HA! That's hysterical. Now give me the green thing.

DAVID holds up a thin green box made of plastic.

DAVID: This thing? This PATCH KIT? No. I don't think I will.

KATHERINE: Fine. Then don't fix the bed. Sleep in the wet for all I care.

DAVID: I never said I wasn't going to fix it. I said I wasn't going to give it to you. You aren't getting the points.

KATHERINE: Are you kidding me? You're still considering working for this farce of a company after they pit us against each other like this? Cool, you can have the job, because I don't want it anymore.

DAVID looks concerned.

DAVID: You don't?

KATHERINE: Absolutely not. This is not only stupid, it probably violates a ton of HR, OSHA, and other hiring practice laws.

DAVID: What do you mean?

KATHERINE: Not sure if you noticed, DAVID, but they locked us in a hotel room and gave us a list of puzzles to solve as part of the interview process.

DAVID: And...

KATHERINE: And what? It's crazy! It's stupid! It's CRUEL!!

DAVID: I was just having fun.

KATHERINE: How is lying on a leaking waterbed fun?

DAVID: It made you angry.

KATHERINE: You're damn right it made me angry. Do you get off on that?

DAVID: No. It's on my list of tasks. "Keep Kate angry." Along with "Don't let Kate quit."

KATHERINE: Wait, what? We didn't get the same list?

DAVID: Apparently not.

KATHERINE: So you don't have "Use the green box to fix the leak" on your list?

DAVID: No... my list says "The green box is yours, protect it at all cost."

KATHERINE: What is even going on here?

DAVID: The last one says "Pretend like you're having fun no matter what."

KATHERINE eyes him.

KATHERINE: And are you?

DAVID: Having fun?

KATHERINE: Pretending.

DAVID: Oh... (a beat) Yeah. This isn't fun at all. You seem kinda nice. Making you angry was amusing for approximately 3 seconds, then I just felt shitty.

KATHERINE: Well, to be fair, you were doing a really good job of making me angry.

DAVID: I really want this job.

KATHERINE: And that's not something the list is telling you to say?

DAVID: No. It's the truth.

KATHERINE sits down at the foot of the bed and sighs, shaking her head.

KATHERINE: What are they even trying to prove here?

DAVID: By telling you to work with me and telling me not to work with you? They're looking at how we handle conflict resolution.

KATHERINE: This is an abysmally stupid way to do that.

DAVID: Yeah.

DAVID sits down at the foot of the bed as well, the two of them are as far apart as possible.

KATHERINE: So why do you want this job so bad?

DAVID: Ever since I was a kid I dreamed of being an Imagineer. I just... want it. But if this is any indication of how well I'll do in the job, I won't last very long if I do get it.

KATHERINE: I don't know, you were doing a pretty good job of keeping me pissed off.

DAVID: Sure, but I hated it. I'm a people person. Almost to a fault. I like keeping people happy. It's... it's what I do.

KATHERINE: That's funny. I hate working in groups, but this... list was pretty much all about that.

DAVID: So they pitted us against each other AND made us do things we hate.

KATHERINE: Looks that way.

They sit in silence for a few moments.

DAVID: You know what we should do?

KATHERINE: What?

DAVID: Raid the minibar.

KATHERINE laughs and stands. She moves towards the minibar and opens it. As she pulls out a variety of candy bars and other snacks, she lobs every other one to DAVID, then grabs two sodas and returns to her previous seat.

KATHERINE: These are probably \$8 each.

DAVID: At least. This is one of the fancier hotels at the park.

KATHERINE: Well, seriously, if you want the job, you can have it. I'm withdrawing my candidacy.

DAVID: Yeah, but if you do that, I fail, so I won't get the job either.

KATHERINE: It really says to keep me angry AND keep me from quitting?

DAVID: Yup.

KATHERINE: Let me see your list.

DAVID reaches into his pocket and pulls out a folded piece of paper. He hands it over.
KATHERINE reads.

KATHERINE: Heh. "She hates being called Kate."

DAVID: Yup.

KATHERINE: "Get her to raid the mini bar." Really?

DAVID smirks.

DAVID: Can't blame a man for trying.

KATHERINE laughs, pulls her list out of her pocket and hands it over to DAVID. He unfolds it and reads.

KATHERINE: Read number seven.

DAVID: "Get him to give you his list." Nice.

KATHERINE: So now what?

DAVID: I think you're right about us both needing to just leave. I'll go back to the dealership. I'm sure they'll hire me back.

KATHERINE: Dealership?

DAVID: Cars. I hate it. I'm a shitty salesman, but..

He shrugs.

KATHERINE turns DAVID's list over. Her eyebrows raise.

KATHERINE: Did you read the bonus points section?

DAVID: No?

KATHERINE: Okay, well I'm about to lob you a hundred bonus points. Hang on.

DAVID: Wait, what?

KATHERINE: "You're such a muppet, no uniform is meant to have blobs on it, now sing me a love song."

They both erupt into laughter as the lights begin to slowly fade. The door unlatches and opens, a bright white light on the other side. They rise, and exit.

THE END.

Brief 8 - Due by 9 Feb at 10:00am UK time

Today I'll give you the opening line - you just have to do the rest!
And here it is:

"My name isn't Kate, so get off the bed and give me that green thing you're holding, the leak isn't going to fix itself."

Make the play as long or as short as you like!
Use as many or as few actors as you like!
In other words, do what you like!

Bonus points if you end the play with the following line:

"You're such a muppet, no uniform is meant to have blobs on it, now sing me a love song."