

Kearney Drive-In

A Play in One Act

By

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Characters:

MAN Pragmatist.

WIFE Quick Thinker. Not a pushover.

KILLER Silent, but - you guessed it - deadly.

Technical Requirements:

Set requirements consist of, at a minimum, 4 chairs set in two rows onstage, configured like the front and back seat of a car. Lighting and sound should suggest what one would expect if watching someone watching a drive-in movie.

SETTING: A drive-in movie theater in Kearney, Nebraska.

AT RISE: A MAN and WIFE are sitting in a car at the Kearney Drive-In. We can see the lights of the movie flashing in their faces, and can hear only a distant non-descript version of the audio. The intensity of the flashing lights and the muted audio should match the intensity of the play.

WIFE

Is that - do you believe they want us to think that's real blood? How stupid do you think they are?

(MAN is silent, watching the movie)

I mean, look at that. Ketchup and a little maple syrup. Add some mustard and brown sugar and you got baked beans!

(MAN is still silent, intently watching)

Oh, gawd. That hatchet in the head thing is so overdone. Even if it comes out of a Boy Scout starter kit. Come on, can't we get any decent movies here anymore?

MAN

Now the hatchet in the head, I have to disagree. I actually saw a thing like that happen once, long time ago. Not a horror thing, you know. Though, now that I think about it, I think it was an axe. Two guys were working on cuttin' down a tree. One guy was a newbie and he was choppin' this tree down. The other guy was his supervisor teachin' him how. The supervisor wanted to take a look down to see how the cut was comin' and the newbie guy swung just about that time and he took the top off of the guy's skull. Just grazed the top, but enough to take a little of the skull bone off and for some of the gray stuff to poke out. Not much blood, strangely enough. The guy lived but he had to have a steel plate put in his head. That's back when they did brain surgeries like that with carpenter's tools, you know, used regular nails and a hammer -

(The two watch while something gruesome yet circular happens. They follow the circular movement with their eyes)

WIFE

Well, you don't see that every movie.

MAN

See? The hatchet bit doesn't always mean they don't have imagination. This hula-hoop scene is worth the price of admission.

WIFE

Hula hoop! Jesus. The director probably went into his kid's playroom and looked around, saying, hmmm, what can my killer use in the next scene. Slinky? Nah. Plastic stick with the progressively larger multi-colored plastic doughnuts? Nah. Hula hoop! Perfect.

MAN

Hey, that's how it works. Though the plastic doughnut thing could have worked, too.

WIFE

(finally looking at MAN for a moment)

How?

MAN

Seed of Chucky? Think about it.

WIFE

(thinks about it)

Well, it wasn't a *great* scene.

MAN

This one?

WIFE

No. Chucky.

MAN

With Chucky it's all about physics. Torque. There's no way he'd have the torque strength in those little arms to strangle a cat, not to mention a full-grown woman.

WIFE

Like those little action figures that come to life. That wrestler one was so stupid it was pathetic.

MAN

But we're not here for realism, hon. We're here for entertainment.

(On the word "realism", the KILLER pops up quickly in the back seat. KILLER looks from one to the other, silently, while they watch the screen silently. Of course, the MAN and WIFE do not notice the KILLER)

Well, they got their use out of that hula hoop. You can say that much for 'em.

WIFE

A little overdone, if you ask me. Yeah, spinning the victim around until she got dizzy was one thing. I'll even buy twisting it around her neck to strangle her. Yeah. Okay. But using it as a slingshot to propel her head through the barn window, where it conveniently rolls to a stop in the lap of her lover, now that's a bit much.

(MAN nods, silently)

Oh Yeah. Now the lover has to go out to find the rest of the body. Just for principle. Of course, nobody wants to join him.

(The KILLER pulls out a small rope, wrapping it between the KILLER's hands. The KILLER is preparing to strangle one of them.)

So of course he's going out alone. Can't these people ever understand that if they just stay together -

(The KILLER looks from one to the other, not knowing who to strangle first.)

MAN

Yeah. If they stay together, the guy can't kill them all at the same time. The others would have to, I don't know, jump on him or something. Maybe he'd get one of them, but I doubt it if he'd get them all one by one in a group.

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