

# **THE PUPPETS KITCHEN**

by Deborah Savadge

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## **Characters**

**Lily**, a young woman who works as a television chef,  
married to:

**Quinn Connor**, an attractive young actor

**Mia Grayson**, a literary agent, no longer young

3 puppets, voiced and operated by the actors

## **NOTE TO ACTORS:**

Slash marks (/) indicate the point at which the next speaker begins.

## THE PUPPETS KITCHEN

*LIGHTS UP ON LILY, a pretty young woman, down right, and MIA, a woman d'un certain âge, down left. A buoyant young man enters, center, and speaks to MIA:*

QUINN

I can't wait for you to meet her.  
She's lovely. She's fun. She's she's delightful.  
I know I'm not too original with the the the...  
but she's Terrific. Really. She makes my life so so ...  
Well, if I'm being honest here, she makes my life  
complicated, but that's not a bad thing, is it?

*CROSS FADE. LIGHTS up on LILY.  
QUINN turns to her.*

I can't wait for you to meet her. She's, she's...She's  
supposed to be pretty high powered. And she likes my  
stuff! I mean, she really likes it. She came to the Club  
and she, she she kind of Dashed up to me and said, "Do you  
have representation?" I mean, I'm so - I didn't even know  
what she was talking about at first. I mean, who even knew  
agents would be there?

*CROSSFADE. LIGHTS UP ON MIA.*

Sure you can meet her. I mean, I WANT you to meet her. I  
just...I don't know if her schedule is going to make it  
possible to to to...  
She thinks you and I should talk about how...about how we  
can work together, but she doesn't think it... y'know...  
involves her...exactly.

*(HE turns to Lily)*

I don't quite get why you don't want to meet her. I mean,  
she's already been really generous to me. She's taken me to  
lunch - twice - and she wanted to be sure I have a Twitter  
account because she said - she said, no kidding, she said  
my "fan base" would insist on it. And she gave me an  
advance on the prize money I'm supposed to get from the  
Comedy Club.

So, why don't you want to to meet her? She would like to  
take us to dinner. She says we can pick the place. She said  
any day next week except Thursday.

LILY

How's Thursday?

CROSSFADE.

QUINN  
(To MIA)

I'm sorry. It's not going to work for this week, but you'll meet her at the staged reading of *Anything Can Happen*.

*QUINN exits. CROSSFADE to LILY and MIA in theatre seats. THEY face out, watching a play.*

QUINN VOICE/OVER  
Margery, would you tell me if you thought...?

FEMALE VOICE/OVER  
Of course I would!

QUINN  
(voice/over)  
After all, anything can happen.

*SOUND: laughter, followed by applause in a small theatre, then the rumble of conversation.*

MIA  
(moving to where LILY sits)  
Pardon me, but aren't you - um - Lily?

LILY  
I am.

MIA  
He's spoken so much about you, I feel as if I know you.

LILY  
...I'm sorry. Who are you?

MIA  
I'm Mia.

LILY  
Mia.

MIA

Mia Grayson.

LILY

(????)

MIA

His new agent. Grayson Artists. He signed with me last / Friday.

LILY

Oh, of course. Somehow I was expecting someone...

MIA

/Older?

LILY

Younger.

MIA

Really?

I wanted him to bring you over to the office for a little signing ceremony, but he said you tape on Fridays.

LILY

Yes. My show tapes / on Fridays.

MIA

We try to make these things Occasions. Actors rarely get good news, so setting up a partnership on his work - my assistant and I try to make it an Event.

LILY

You think of him as an actor?

MIA

As opposed to...?

LILY

I just mean, he's always done stand-up.

MIA

Probably why his timing / is so

LILY

But, I mean, he hasn't really earned any serious Money as an Actor.

MIA

Luckily money isn't the Be All and End All.

LILY

...What an odd thing for an agent to say.

MIA

I'm not your typical agent.

LILY

...What exactly does that mean?

MIA

Art doesn't always intersect with commerce.

LILY

It sure hasn't been intersecting much around our house.

MIA

You have - what - a cooking show of some kind, don't you?

LILY

"Cooking with Lily."

MIA

Nice.

Quinn says you introduce your French recipes in French and your Italian recipes in / Italian

LILY

I speak a little Italian and a petite peu de Français. And I play a bit of music from the culture and talk about food news, which sometimes means talking about the economy.

MIA

It sounds amazing. I want to try to watch / it.

LILY

I'll ask Quinn to send you the particulars.

MIA

Thanks.  
I love that your show is portable.

LILY

(???)

MIA

When Quinn makes the move to the coast in a year or two.

LILY

I beg your pardon?

MIA

We're working on a sit-com for him. Didn't he tell you?

LILY

If he did, I wasn't listening.

MIA

Lily, I wanted to meet you because I think it's important that we be on the same page.

LILY

And what page is that?

CROSSFADE.

QUINN

(to LILY)

I don't get why you didn't like her. She's been /  
incredibly

LILY

She's obviously a nut case.

QUINN

Because she likes my work?

LILY

Because she's talking Sit-coms and relocating to the  
(making air quotes) "Coast."

QUINN

She's enthusiastic. She's optimistic. What's the matter with that?

LILY

No offense, but does she know that in the last three months you've made about a dollar ninety-eight?

QUINN

That's why it's so tremendous that she sees me making a breakthrough.

LILY

But she said it's "not about the money."

QUINN

I don't see what's wrong with that. / She

LILY

Isn't it clear: she's not playing with a full deck?

QUINN

You're shocked that she thinks she / can

LILY

I just mean, Who talks like that?

QUINN

You mean because she's positive / about - ?

LILY

Does she even know you're a tour guide?

QUINN

I'm not "a tour guide." Sometimes...I give tours as a / survival job.

LILY

You're a really funny guy. You're pretty funny when you do your tours. You're funny at the Comedy Club and you've gotten moved up to the occasional Saturday night, but she talks about you as if you were - I don't know - Al Pacino.

QUINN

I don't think she thinks I'm Al Pacino.

LILY

Well, good.

*CROSSFADE. QUINN at Mia's office. HE holds a hat.*

QUINN  
(to MIA)

I just wanted to drop in to thank you for the audition. I thought it went really well.

MIA  
Great!

QUINN  
It was a new experience for me to go in there after someone had kind of prepared the way.

MIA  
That's my job.

QUINN  
The casting director said she'd been looking forward to meeting me.

MIA  
Of course. I told her about you.

QUINN  
You must have raved about me.

MIA  
I did. Of course I did. Why do you seem surprised?

QUINN  
It's a - like I said - it's a new experience.

MIA  
Well, get used to it.

*CROSSFADE.*

QUINN  
(to LILY)  
I dunno. I feel like I died and went to heaven.

LILY  
Well, don't get too used to it.

QUINN  
What do you mean?



LILY

I just mean: it can't last.

QUINN

Um, could you try to be a little happy for me?

LILY

I'm happy. I'm ecstatic. But why is it always up to me to provide the reality check? You can't keep expecting bloody miracles.

QUINN

Miracles?

LILY

I mean you've got a very nice survival job and you've got your Club gigs a coupla times a month. We're both getting to do some things we love. We have our friends and each other. Why are you always expecting something or someone to come along and change your life?

CROSSFADE.

*MIA and QUINN eat lunch  
in her office,  
comfortable with one  
another.*

MIA

...So, even though they loved you at that second callback, you didn't get the show. But it's really a good thing because it would have conflicted with the play at the Frederick, and the Frederick play is Perfect for you. They thought they were looking for a television "star," but I told them about you and they agreed you're perfect for the Ivy League guy. It's got this wonderful scene. Have you read it? I emailed you the script.

QUINN

Yeah, I read it. It's a great part. I love that he's got that funny bit at the beginning and then shows kind of a cruel streak in the second act.

MIA

Did you see her earlier play?

QUINN

No, but I read it.

MIA

See, that's something I really like about working with you. You really keep up with all the developments in the business.

QUINN

I'm getting better at it.  
What I like about working with you is you've always got this optimistic line: "It's a good thing you didn't get THAT one, because This Other one is So Much Better."

MIA

I just tell the truth.

QUINN

I get The Truth at home. You say, what actors have to say to Themselves: "You didn't get that one you THOUGHT you wanted more than Anything, because if you had you would have been Out of Town when the Really Great Part came your way."

MIA

You have to let them go if you don't want to go crazy.

QUINN

I like that you really get that.

MIA

Well, of course, I get it. I used to be an actor, Love.

QUINN

Did you?

MIA

I wasn't Born an agent. But I'm a much better agent than I was an actor.

QUINN

I'm so glad you made the transition.

MIA

Me too. Dear God, being an actor is so hard.

QUINN

See, I think a lot of people think we're kind of playing at it.

MIA

Actors have to be playful.

QUINN

But I mean just playing. Getting away with murder.

MIA

Oh no, I think it's very very hard. I hate the way directors and casting directors speak about actors: "He's too short for the role." "She's too plain for the part." "He's way too old and lumpy to be believable as the Love Interest."

QUINN

What do they say about me?

MIA

..Oh, I've had nothing but wonderful feedback about you.

*CROSSFADE.*

*LILY, frightened, holds a credit card invoice.*

LILY

What is this?

QUINN

What is what?

LILY

Seven hundred and eighty-three dollars at Rudy's Music?

QUINN

Um...I probably should have talked with you about this.

LILY

Please tell me this is something that can be returned.

QUINN

Um, no.

LILY

What? What?

QUINN

Um?

LILY

Did you win the lottery? This is half a month's rent. It's it's it's a vacation. It's more than I spend on clothes in a year. What the hell is this?

QUINN

Mia thought

LILY

Ha!

QUINN

You don't have to be scornful of everything she recommends.

LILY

Let's not make this into another one of our Mia arguments.

QUINN

I don't want to argue either, / but

LILY

Just tell me what you charged on our one and only Master Card account for nearly a thousand dollars that we cannot afford, that Mia "recommended."

QUINN

I know this is not going to... please you, /but Mia

LILY

Pleasing me hasn't exactly been at the top of your list lately, / has it?

QUINN

I'm trying, Lily, but you're not easily pleased these / days.

LILY

Just tell me what you BOUGHT that I hope can be melted down or exchanged for credit at Fairway or Something.

QUINN

Mia noticed, that, on my resume, I put that I had some ability to play the guitar, and she said it would be really useful and helpful if I could become more proficient and I said that I hadn't had a guitar for like, / years,

LILY

A guit-ar???

QUINN

...and she said, that at Rudy's I could get a really good deal on a Gibson if I mentioned her name to the manager and so I went there and they had this really good deal where they give you extra strings and even arrange for discounts on lessons if you want them, and they give you 10% off on a capo and 15% off on sheet music for a year and so I I I bought a guitar, and we can pay it off in / installments.

LILY

You're going to be a musician now?

QUINN

No..NO. I just...she just. She was submitting me for a Feste and she said it would be helpful if I had / some

LILY

Oh, for Christ's sake, listen to yourself!

QUINN

What, what...?

LILY

For an audition...an Audition...not even to prepare for a role - but to be one of the four hundred or so Actors who are going to line up Around the Block, some of whom have memorized the goddam role and they'll probably show up in fucking cap and bells and they'll have a PHD in guitar or some damn thing and you're going to spend the grocery money / on on on

QUINN

I can see you're upset. You're you're right, I'm I'm I'm not practical about money - about anything to do with money - but if you don't try your best to get every single role you never know / if you're

LILY

What are you, five? Are you five years old?

QUINN

Do you feel as if you're married to a five-year-old?

LILY

Yes. Sometimes. Yes. Don't change the subject.

QUINN

I'll ask Mia / if I can

LILY

Oh Mia! Mia, Shmia. That's all I ever hear from you / anymore.

QUINN

Well, it's been nice to have someone in my corner...for a change.

LILY

*(stricken)*

I'm not in your corner?

QUINN

Not the way she is.

*CROSSFADE.*

QUINN

So the guitar wasn't the only thing, but it was kind of our donnybrook.

MIA

That sounds serious.

QUINN

It will blow over. At least I hope, / it will blow

MIA

I'm sorry you're having money worries. I'm sure that's just a temporary state of affairs.