

MIXED ORDERS

by Ken Bradbury



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Characters: Fawn and Kay.

The setting is a cozy little café tucked somewhere in the side streets of the city. There are two tables. Fawn, the owner of the café, busies herself at one of the two tables ... one left and one right. Two chairs are at each table.

KAY: (*hurrying in, checking her watch, looking back to the street nervously, then*) Excuse me.

FAWN: May I help you?

KAY: I have a problem.

FAWN: The police department is right down the street. You want to make a call?

KAY: No ... not the police ... not that kind of problem.

FAWN: If you need money, you're out of luck, sister. This is a restaurant and I don't give handouts.

KAY: No ... no ... Look, I need you to help me.

FAWN: You want a table?

KAY: Yes.

FAWN: Okay, if you'll just come this ...

KAY: Two.

FAWN: What?

KAY: Two. I need two tables.

FAWN: Oh. You're expecting company. Look, I can move two tables together and ...

KAY: No!

FAWN: What?

KAY: No. Definitely not at the same table. I need two tables ... two tables that can't see each other.

FAWN: (*looking around*) I only have two empty tables left. (*indicating the right and left tables*) This one and that one.

KAY: (*panicked*) No! No, they can't be together. Look, could you move that plant between them? Sort of block the view?

FAWN: That's not a plant. That's a tree! It's a miniature palm in a very heavy container. I can't move that!

KAY: Sure, you can! (*she grabs Fawn and steers her toward the imaginary palm tree in a planter. They tug to move the tree between the two tables as Kay talks breathlessly.*) You see, I made a mistake ... a terrible mistake. This guy asked me to dinner and he was a real hunk ... I mean I've always wanted to have a date with him and I said, "Sure, I'll make the reservations, and ..." Are you trying?

FAWN: I'm pulling as hard as I can!

KAY: Okay, so I said meet me here at the Shivering Palms Café and he said okay, but then he called and said he couldn't come tonight. Then this other guy calls and ... is this thing stuck to the ground?

FAWN: Push!

KAY: Okay! Okay! (*keeps tugging*) I said, "No, I'm not busy, meet me at the Shivering Palms Café and he said okay. Meanwhile the first guy calls and says, "Hey! Guess what! I can make it after all, so ..."

FAWN: You got two dates in the same place?

KAY: I froze, okay? I've got two dates for the same restaurant.

FAWN: Oh good grief!

KAY: No, I can make this work. I promise I can make this work. You've just got to help me and make sure the two guys don't ... (*suddenly seeing Biff appearing at the left*) Biff! You're here!

FAWN: Hello, (*not sure what to say to him*) ... Biff.

KAY: No, no ... I don't work here. I just come in sometimes to ... you know ... move palm trees.

FAWN: Oh, good grief.

KAY: (*indicating the table at the left*) Why look! Here's our table! Come on, honey, just have a seat. You know I've dreamed of this night forever. (*Kay and Biff sit*) Have I ordered? No, I've been moving trees ... uh ... doing my hair.

FAWN: (*looking right*) You got company.

KAY: (*aside to Fawn as she rises*) Keep your voice down! (*to Biff*) Biff, honey ... could you excuse me just a moment? Oh, you know ... one of those girl things.

FAWN: (*to Rick*) I don't know who you're waiting for, but she'll be right with you.

KAY: (*Xing to the right side of the palm tree ... in a bit lower tone*) Rick! Wow! You look great! I'm so glad you're here.

FAWN: Sure she is.

KAY: (*pointedly to Fawn*) We're ready to order. (*Fawn goes to get menus*) (*back to Rick*) You know, that cologne you're wearing smells fantastic. Is it expensive?

FAWN: (*returning with the menus*) Here you go. Ready to order?

KAY: Do you always rush your customers like this?

FAWN: You just said you're ...

KAY: I can't believe this place! Rick, I'm terribly upset at the moment. Please excuse me. I'll just be a moment. (*X's to left side*) Biff! Sorry I took so long. Have you ordered? Really? Well, let's see if I can get the waitresses attention. Waitress! Are you going to take our order?

FAWN: Which one?

KAY: (*to Biff*) The help is strange here but I hear the food is to die for.

FAWN: I'll get you menus. (*she moves to get them*)

KAY: You know, Biff, that cologne you're wearing is just adorable. I mean it. Did anyone ever tell you that you had the most beautiful eyes?

FAWN: (*returning with menus*) You ready to order?

KAY: Do you always rush people like this? I think we want something to start us out.

FAWN: I thought you'd already started.

KAY: (*to Biff*) Do you understand a thing she's saying, Biff? I don't understand a thing she's saying. You know, I need to take just a minute to clear my head. Do you mind, Biff honey? I'll just be a minute. (*she X's to R side*)

FAWN: (*to Biff*) Want to go ahead and order? We have instant potatoes.



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