

The following is excerpted from

“FRESH CATCH OF THE DAY”

A Two Character Comedy

By Ken Levine

A presidential advisor is not welcome in a restaurant.

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FRESH CATCH OF THE DAY

A Cafe Play

by

Ken Levine

SYNOPSIS – A presidential advisor is not welcome in a restaurant.

CHARACTERS:

ALEX – Presidential advisor.
JOAN – Waitress in a restaurant.

SETTING:

A small café.

"FRESH CATCH OF THE DAY"

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DINER -- DAY

ALEX ENTERS carrying an antique (a lamp, vase, clock). He crosses to the table. He's the only customer. SAM approaches with an order pad.

ALEX
(relieved) Ahhhhhh! Air conditioning.

SAM
Yeah. It's hotter than a hooker's doorknob on nickel night.

ALEX
115 in the shade.

SAM
Not to mention the fire in the hills it caused.

ALEX
I know. My house is maybe a mile away. I had to just evacuate.

SAM
Yikes. Well, as of now this is an emergency evacuation center. Stay as long as you want.

ALEX
Really? That's very nice of you.

SAM
I saw that musical -- "Come From Away." During 9-11 all these planes were forced to land in some tiny Canadian town where everyone can sing. It was very moving and hum-able.

ALEX
We should all get our life lessons from Broadway. But thank you so much. You're a life saver.

SAM
Don't mention it. That's what theatergoers do. (re antique) So is this all you brought from your house?

ALEX
Everything else can be replaced. But this heirloom has been in our family for over a hundred years. It represents my heritage, my pride, my very identity. Do you have any idea how much that is worth?

SAM

Well, just guessing but four dollars at a yard sale.

ALEX

Priceless!

SAM

That's what I meant.

ALEX

Can I see a menu?

SAM

No menus today. Not for you. It's all on the house. This is an evacuation center.

ALEX

Wow. I'm so glad you saw "Come From Away" instead of "Miss Saigon."

SAM

Just doing my civic duty.

ALEX

What's your "fresh catch of the day?"

SAM

(really selling it) Barramundi.

ALEX

Oooh, Barramundi. That sounds wonderful.

SAM

Perfect. (beat) Excuse me, but you look somewhat familiar. Have I seen you on TV? Maybe CNN?

ALEX

Yes, I've been interviewed several times. I'm one of the president's chief advisors.

SAM

Yeah! That's where I saw you.

ALEX

Thank you.

SAM

You looked great.

ALEX

Really?

SAM

Very spiffy.