

WAITING

by John Cosper

GENRE: Comedy/Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: A waitress counting her tips at the end of the night on New Year's takes a look at her life and wonders where it is headed.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: If possible, set the stage as large as possible, with several tables, and use a spotlight on Sandy, to accentuate her loneliness and isolation.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1

TOPIC: New Year, Purpose

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Proverbs 3:5-6

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: New Year's

SUGGESTED USE: Seeker Services, New Year's Events

CHARACTERS: SANDY—a waitress and aspiring actress

PROPS: Table and chairs, possibly with dishes not cleared away at the end of the night. An apron, and book for taking orders, as well as money.

COSTUMES: A waitress uniform

SOUND: One wireless microphone

LIGHTING: General stage, possibly a spotlight

SETTING: A restaurant

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WAITING *by John Cospers*

SANDY sits at a table in a restaurant. She is in her waitress uniform and her apron is off. She is counting her tips for the night.

SANDY: Looks like everyone spent their money before they got to the restaurants tonight. Should have known that New Year's Day would be a bad one. But at least it'll keep my electric on for another month.

I can't believe I'm still living like this! Two years I've been out here, and what do I have to show for it? A disconnected cell phone and a cabinet full of ramen. I've done everything I've ever been asked. I lost twenty pounds, took every class on speech and screen acting I could afford. But there's only so much I can do.

Some days I wonder if I should just quit. Had I stayed home, I'd probably have found a nice boy to make a family with. Instead I'm getting deeper and deeper into a bottomless pit. The longer I stay here chasing a dream, the more I hope that tomorrow will be MY day... And yet the longer I stay, the more foolish I feel staying.

Maybe Mom was right tonight when she said I should be sitting at a table being waited on with my New Year's kiss rather than waiting on tables. But how can I even think about a relationship? I don't even have the thirty minutes a week it takes to keep up with my favorite program any more.

All my life, people have told me I was different. Most girls in my family are married by age twenty, but everyone expected more of me. Grandma especially. She said I could do anything I wanted, and I believed her. I doubt she ever would have dreamed her little star would get stuck waiting tables while what I truly wanted to do remained far out of reach.

What am I doing here? Is this really where I'm supposed to be? Am I really meant to do something great... or is my highest achievement becoming a great waitress? What purpose can there be in a life like mine?

..... *Lights down*

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