

TABLE FOR TWO

A 10-minute play

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TABLE FOR TWO

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Single Woman
Maitre D'
Female One
Female Two
Stout Woman
Homeless Man
Male One
Male Two

Table for Two

Time: a Saturday night in any large city

Place: a restaurant called Noah's

A line of customers is waiting outside the restaurant. At the front of the line is a single middle-aged woman reading a book. Behind her are a series of couples, one more diverse and outrageous than the other. The actors regroup into same sex and opposite sex couples as the line advances. Not all couples need to be onstage as the scene opens.

To the right of the queue is a podium which the maitre d' alternates behind and in front of. Behind him is a sign displaying the name of the restaurant. Down front is a sign that says, "No panhandling."

MAITRE D'

A table for two.

(A Female Couple behind the Single Woman steps forward.)

FEMALE ONE

Ten minutes. Not bad.

(The Single Woman elbows one of the women who has pushed in front of her. They ignore her.)

FEMALE TWO

Our lucky day.

(They go inside.)

MAITRE D'

Table for two.

(A Male Couple steps forward. The Maitre D' waves them inside.)

SINGLE WOMAN

(Looks at her watch and approaches
the Maitre D'.)

I've been here 20 minutes. How much longer?

MAITRE D'

It's Saturday night, madam.

SINGLE WOMAN

I'm so hungry I could eat my shoe.

MAITRE D'

Table for two.

(Another couple steps forward; the
woman is stout.)

STOUT WOMAN

I understand the food here is wonderful.

HER MALE PARTNER

Big portions. Great.

(They go inside.)

SINGLE WOMAN

I have a coupon that says half off on the second entrée. I'll pay for the second dinner
myself if you let me have a table for two.

MAITRE D'

That's against the rules, madam. Now if you'll excuse me. Table for four.

(Two couples step out of the queue
and enter the restaurant.)

SINGLE WOMAN

I'll even take a table by the kitchen. Nobody wants to sit next to the kitchen. All I want to do is eat and read my book.

MAITRE D'

All of our tables are choice, madam. There is no such thing as a bad table at Noah's.

SINGLE WOMAN

(She starts to wiggle and cross her legs, edging closer to the inside of the restaurant.)

I've got to--

MAITRE D'

Table for two.

(Another couple steps forward and nearly bumps into the Single Woman who is wiggling and trying to sidestep into the restaurant.)

Madam.

(He points to the line. Slowly and self-consciously she uncrosses her legs and strolls back into the line.)

SINGLE WOMAN

False alarm.

(The next couple in line give her a dirty look.)

Don't roll your eyes at me. I've been here more than 30 minutes.

MAITRE D'

Table for four.

(Two more couples go inside.)

SINGLE WOMAN

All right. Uncle.

(She takes money from her wallet
and hands it to the waiter.)

MAITRE D'

Thank you, madam. But I still don't have a table for you.

(She pulls back the bill.)

SINGLE WOMAN

Let me speak to the manager.

MAITRE D'

I am the manager.

SINGLE WOMAN

I've been waiting for over 40 minutes while all of these Johnny come latelies have gone
in ahead of me. What do I have to do to get a table around here?

(The Maitre D' and everyone in the
queue responds as in a Greek
chorus.)

CHORUS

Get a date.

SINGLE WOMAN

Thugs. Cretans. Followers. All I want to do is read my book.

(Male One passes by with a tray of
appetizers. The Single Woman tries
to follow him into the restaurant.
The Maitre D' bars the door.)

MAITRE D'

Please, madam, you are making a spectacle of yourself.

(The Stout Woman and her male companion are exiting from the restaurant at the same time that a homeless man enters from stage right. The Stout Woman carries a "doggie" bag.

The homeless man crosses to the Stout Woman and says "Woof.")

STOUT WOMAN

I put my fork in it.

HOMELESS MAN

Woof. Woof.

(The Stout Woman hands him the bag, then she and her partner exit. The homeless man sits down on the edge of the stage and opens the "doggie" bag. He is about to take a bite of food when the Single Woman sits down next to him.)

SINGLE WOMAN

Give me that.

(They struggle.)

HOMELESS MAN

No panhandling. Don't you see the sign?

SINGLE WOMAN

I was here first.

(She takes a bite.)

HOMELESS MAN

Help! Police! (Pause) This is my corner.

(Another couple exits from the restaurant. They point to the single woman and the homeless man and start laughing. When the Single Woman turns to look at them, the homeless man takes back the food.)

MAITRE D'

A table for two.

SINGLE WOMAN

Buy one, get one free. My treat.

(She pulls the homeless man by the arm and drags him to the head of the line. The two of them walk arm and arm into the restaurant.)

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