

# Objective

a short play by  
Peter M. Floyd

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

Rachel, aged 25-40  
Len, aged 25-40  
Suzanne, aged 25-40  
Robert, aged 25-40, deceased

SCENE: Suzanne and Robert's apartment, and the hall immediately outside. Present day.

*The scene is the living room of a one-bedroom apartment, and the hallway immediately outside. When the play opens, lights come up only on the hallway.*

*When lights are at full, RACHEL and LEN enter, and stop outside the apartment door. LEN carries a bottle of wine. Both are dressed in clothes appropriate for a dinner party.*

*LEN is about to ring the doorbell when RACHEL speaks.*

RACHEL

Food.

LEN

Food?

RACHEL

Maybe we should have brought some food. You know, like a dessert or something. That would have been the polite thing to do.

LEN

We've got wine. Wine should be enough.

RACHEL

No, I think we should... You bring the wine, and I'll go off and get some, I don't know, cake or something.

LEN

What are you talking about?

RACHEL

It'll just take a minute.

LEN

What's wrong?

RACHEL

Nothing. If you're going to someone's place for dinner, you should bring some food. It's a rule.

LEN

We go to dinner at people's places all the time without bringing more than a bottle of something.

RACHEL

I know, and it makes me feel awful. What must people think of us? "Look, it's Len and Rachel. And guess what? They're bringing a bottle again." Well, tonight let's do the right thing. Let's get cake.

LEN

Rachel, we don't need to get cake.

RACHEL

Well, we-

LEN

What's this about?

RACHEL

What's what about?

LEN

You don't want to see Suzanne and Robert, do you?

RACHEL

What? Of course I do.

LEN

They've been asking us over for dinner for months, and you kept having reasons for not going. And now that we're finally here, you want to go off again.

RACHEL

To get cake.

LEN

Rachel.

RACHEL

Okay, it's not just the cake.

LEN  
You don't like Suzanne and Robert?

RACHEL  
I like Robert.

LEN  
You don't like Suzanne?

RACHEL  
No, no, I like her, too. It's just that-

LEN  
It's just what?

RACHEL  
Look, I know she's your sister and all, but it's just that she's kind of... weird.

LEN  
Weird.

RACHEL  
No, not weird, just kind of off-putting.

LEN  
Suzanne has never been one to worry about what others think. I guess some people would call that eccentric or "off-putting". Me, I'm proud of her. She's always uniquely herself.

RACHEL  
Well, good for her.

LEN  
Exactly. Now let's go in and have a good time. Okay?

RACHEL  
Okay.

*LEN rings the doorbell, as RACHEL shuffles her feet uncomfortably. A moment later, SUZANNE opens the door.*

FOR FULL SCRIPT, CONTACT PMFLOYD01@GMAIL.COM