

Now Hear This

Dory Kaiser





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By

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CAST:

SENATOR. He is flamboyant, wears loud clothes, smokes a cigar.

SENATOR'S AIDE. Can be a man or woman. If played by a woman, wear glasses, ugly shoes and a dress.

TWO WAITRESSES. Any age. Matching uniforms.

LADY Attractive. 60'ish.

CAPTAIN. Wears ship captain's uniform. Devoted to his job.

SETTING: Cocktail lounge of a cruise ship. Two tables.

AT RISE: Senator and aide are sitting at table, stage left. The Senator has just spotted an attractive lady seated at table R. Waitresses are center stage.

SENATOR: Whew! They should keep it cooler on these cruise ships. It's too HOT in here.

AIDE: You said it, Senator. Whew!

SENATOR: See that lady over there?

AIDE: Yes, I see her.

SENATOR: Do me a favor. Tell her I wish to make her acquaintance. Ask her if she would join me for a nightcap with the Captain this evening before bed. Let me know what she says.

AIDE: O.K. (*Calls waitress #1 over.*) See that lady over there? I want you to tell her that my boss, the Senator, is HOT for her and wishes her to have a drink with him and the Captain before bed.

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WAITRESS #1: *(To waitress #2)* See that lady? The Senator over there says to tell her he's DYING to meet her and would she have a drink with him before she goes to BED with the Captain?

WAITRESS #2: Excuse me, ma'am. The gentleman over there, the Senator, he says to tell you he's BEDDER than the Captain and if you won't have a drink with him, he'll KILL himself!

LADY: Oh my! Tell the Senator I said...don't do anything RASH--I don't have any TIES to the Captain---but give me a minute to think this through.

WAITRESS #2: *(Crosses back to waitress #1)* The lady says...wait... nothing RASH...she's gotta unTIE the Captain...it'll be a couple minutes before she's through. You can count on it.

WAITRESS # 1: *(To Aide)* The lady says...just wait a minute...you can count on her. She has to TIE up the captain....something about a rash...

AIDE: *(To Senator, who has been flirting with lady the entire time)* The lady says she's counting the minutes until she can be with you. But first she has to TIDY up the Captain's rash.

SENATOR: The Captain has a rash? Well, there's no need to go OVERBOARD about drinking with him. Tell the lady I'll ask the Captain to lie down and REST.

AIDE: *(To waitress #1)* Tell the lady the Senator says he won't go OVERBOARD. She should lie down with the Captain and he'll take care of the rest.

WAITRESS #1: *(To waitress #2. At this point, everybody is getting increasingly involved)* Another message for the lady. Tell her the Senator says to forget the drinks because the Captain just FELL OVERBOARD.

WAITRESS #2: The Senator says he's FALLEN for the Captain so you can forget about the drinks.

LADY: Forget about the drinks? Hmph! *(She angrily exits SR)*

WAITRESS #2: *(to waitress #1)* She said the Senator stinks.

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WAITRESS # 1: *(To aide)* The lady just made a very rash statement.

AIDE: The lady has a rash and can't make it.

SENATOR: She and the Captain BOTH have a rash? Let s get out of here. This ship is contagious! *(Senator and aide exit SL. While waitresses clear tables, woman in sexy outfit crosses L to R carrying sign that reads "THE NEXT MORNING." Captain enters and sits at table SR, beckons waitress over and orders from menu. Senator and aide enter and sit at table SL.)*

SENATOR: I didn't get any sleep last night because I was worried about the Captain. Now he's sitting over here like nothing has happened. Why, he still may be contagious! Find out if he's recovered from his rash.

AIDE: Right away, sir. *(To waitress #1)* Excuse me. The Senator wants to know if the Captain has gotten over his RASH.

WAITRESS # 1: *(To waitress #2)* Tell the captain the senator says he wants to be EXCUSED because he hasn't got enough cash.

WAITRESS #2 *(To captain)* Oh Captain, that Senator over there wants to be ABUSED because he doesn't have enough cash.

CAPTAIN: I see. Well, tell him this is not a GIGANTIC problem. On my ship--the customer is always RIGHT. Tell him not to worry about a little cash. We'll COVER for him.

WAITRESS #2: *(To waitress #1)* The Captain says that customers are always TIGHT, but don't worry about the little CRASH. This is not the TITANIC...Something about a COVER up...

WAITRESS # I *(To aide)* Tell the Senator there's been a cover up and he's not to worry about the crash. We can still cruise the Atlantic.

AIDE: *(To senator)* The news is not good. The captain says there's been a GIGANTIC CRASH in the Atlantic but don't worry--he's trying to cover it up.

SENATOR: What's with this ship? First a rash, then a crash, now a cover up? Tell the Captain I'm going to report this whole thing to the proper authorities.

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AIDE: *(To waitress #1)* The Senator says it's outrageous!

WAITRESS #1: *(To waitress #2)* Outrageous!

WAITRESS #2: *(To Captain. Points to senator.)* He's contagious!

CAPTAIN: What? Contagious? Now hear this! There's an epidemic on this ship! Everybody should be in bed!

(Lady enters R)

WAITRESS: *(To lady)* The Captain wants you to go to bed.

LADY: Oh that's wonderful! First the Senator, now the Captain! *(She plops down at Captain's table)* Hot dang--I've found the love boat!

CURTAIN