

C.U.P.I.D

Couple of Unsuspecting People with Intertwining Destinies

written by

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ACT I

SCENE 1: SAME OLD SAME OLD.

GABBI (20) is setting up the room. SHE places THREE WHITE CHAIRS CS and polishes the floor with a rag. Once, she has finished she stops and kneels to pray.

GABBI

Oh lord, thou art in heaven, It's Gabbi here. I am just praying to remind you of how grateful I am for everything you have done for me. You truly are a total asshole! Thank you for granting me my life's wish of cleaning up after every fancy pants, head up there own arse, CUPID angel that walks through this department. Thank you for giving me the nickname Peasant, and Lord thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you. For letting me work this job for the last 240 years without a single pay rise. You truly are divine.

SCENE 2: NEW JOB

GABBI is interrupted by the ENTRANCE of MAGDA (21) and SAM E. (25) SL. MAGDA is holding a magazine and SAM E. Is holding a coffee cup.

GABBI picks up her rag and EXITS the stage quickly SR.

MAGDA and SAM E. Sit on the seats. MAGDA is reads from a magazine and SAM E. Places his coffee on the floor.

ENTER ANGELO (21) He is holding a book and fidgeting both with nerves and excitement.

ANGELO notices MAGDA he checks his breath and fixes his eyebrows.

ANGELO

Hey Magda.

SAM E.

Peasant! Do not converse with a superior angel!

ANGELO

No, Sorry I know her.

SAM E.

Ah I see. You are a Comic Relief angel, well Comic relief is two doors down.

ANGELO

No, No, I'm meant to be here. I went to school with Magda.

SAM E.

(to Magda)

Is this true?

MAGDA looks up from her magazine.

MAGDA

Is what true-

(noticing Angelo)

PEASANT!

ANGELO

No Magda, It's me, Angelo.

Pause.

ANGELO (CONT'D)

From Evolution Is a Sin class.

Pause.

ANGELO (CONT'D)

I did you're essay on Demonology.

MAGDA

(putting down her magazine)

Oh yesss. Mario?

ANGELO

Angelo...

MAGDA

Of course Angelo! How are you?

ANGELO

I'm very - [well thanks]

MAGDA

Now how long has it been, the last time I saw you was, oh what was it now?

Pause.

ANGELO goes to speak.

MAGDA (CONT'D)

No don't tell me!? Don't ever. Tell me.

Pause.

MAGDA (CONT'D)

Graduation!

ANGELO

That's the one.

SAM E.

You graduated with this swine.

MAGDA

Well of course, it was only introductory Angels college,
Before we split ways and I went to the Cupid Conservatoire.
Where was it you went again Ricardo?

ANGELO

Angelo... And I went to guardian school.

SAM E.

Oh wait. You are not the Angelo?

Pause.

SAM E. (CONT'D)

That Angelo!

SAM E. (CONT'D)

The Angelo that had that poor sad sack of a human!

MAGDA

That was ever so tragic.

SAM E.

Tragic! It was hilarious! You are a legend in this
department. We always knew you guardian lot were poor excuses
for angels but that was unimaginably pathetic.

ANGELO

There was a bit more to it...

MAGDA

Of course there was. Well, there's nothing wrong with being
demoted to peasantry, you might be cleaning the C.U.P.I.D
department but at least you are still doing your bit.

ANGELO

Well Actually - [I'm not]

SAM E.

Yes like little ants we could not enjoy such a beautiful
colony without you.

*SAM E. Knocks over the coffee cup with his foot and
spills it purposely.*

SAM E. (CONT'D)
Well, on you go little ant, do your duty.

GABBI ENTERS head down and rushes over to clean the spill.

ANGELO
I never said I got demoted.

SAM E.
What?

ANGELO
I got promoted, I'm a CUPID angel now.

ANGELO pulls up his sleeve to show his ARROW TATTOO on his forearm.

SAM E.
What!

MAGDA
What!

GABBI
(looking up)
What!?

ANGELO recognises GABBI

ANGELO
Gabbi! Oh my gosh Gabbi! Hi, how are you?

GABBI
Hi Angelo, I'm alright.

ANGELO
I barely recognised you.
(Angelo takes GABBI's hand)
Please stand up, oh I've missed you!

ANGELO hugs GABBI

MAGDA
You know this peasant?

ANGELO
Peasant? This is Gabbi! The most beautiful Choir Angel heaven has ever known.

GABBI
I'm really not.

ANGELO

You must remember her Magda she went to Introductory College with us too.

(to Gabbi)

You had that solo in 1614, the entire assembly was in awe.

GABBI

That was a long time ago.

ANGELO

How have you been? What have you been up to?

MAGDA stands up intimidatingly

MAGDA

Yes Gabbi, what have you been up too?

SAM E.

(to Magda)

You aren't actually going to converse with this peasant, are you?

MAGDA

Now, now Sam, there is nothing wrong with being polite. We are all brothers and sisters after all.

MAGDA walks closer to GABBI

MAGDA (CONT'D)

What have you been up to?

GABBI

(quiet)

Nothing?

MAGDA

Nothing what?

GABBI

Nothing Mam.

MAGDA

That's what I thought.

ANGELO moves GABBI aside and stands beside her.

ANGELO

(to Magda)

You can't be serious? Magda, come on, you remember her, we are friends. She was the best singer in our college.

MAGDA

Well that was then, and this is now.

ANGELO

I think you should apologise.

GABBI

No, no. It really is okay.

MAGDA

Apologise? You won't last long here 'CUPID Angel'.

GABBI begins to move away.

GABBI

I really need to go.

MAGDA

Yes run along peasant.

SAM E.

Goodbye, peasant.

ANGELO walks with GABBI to the EXIT SL as MAGDA and SAM E. Sit back on their seats.

ANGELO gently grabs GABBI's wrist.

ANGELO

Hold on.

GABBI

I really don't have the time.

ANGELO

Gabs.

Pause.

GABBI

No ones called me that in years.

ANGELO

It's been 400 years but no one can forget how much you could talk.

GABBI

You really shouldn't be here Angelo, This place is for horrible people, I can't even bare to call them angels. You don't belong here.

ANGELO

Don't be silly. This is the CUPID department. There is nothing more innocent than love.

GABBI

This isn't love! This is systematic, industrial bull shit!

ANGELO

Gabbi! You can't curse.

GABBI

I don't give a fuck.

ANGELO

You haven't changed at all have you.

GABBI

I haven't, and you are still as naive. Why are you here?
After your guardian job surely you know it's all a scam!

ANGELO

That was an accident, nothing more. It was my fault.

GABBI

You can't believe that.

SFX: TANNOY PLAYS

TANNOY

Please all rise for your Grace, Sir CUPID Angel Clarence.

ANGELO

I need to go. I'll see you at lunch?

Before GABBI gets a chance to speak, she is interrupted.

SAM E.

Roberto, you don't want to be late first day on the job!

ANGELO

It's Angelo and I'm just coming.
(to Gabbi)

I'll see you later.

SCENE 3: YOUR MISSION IF YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT

LIGHTS begin to FADE and 3 spotlights FADE UP CS. MAGDA and SAM E. Stand in the spotlights and look up to the source of the light.

GABBI takes a breath and EXITS SL as ANGELO jogs over and takes his place in the vacant spotlight. ANGELO looks up into the source of the light.

CLARENCE (a disembodied voice) speaks to the ANGELS.

CLARENCE

Good evening everybody, Blessed be our father who brought us here, and has gifted us with our invaluable duty, Amen

ALL ANGELS

Amen.

CLARENCE

Now that's over with, Angelo good to see you.

ANGELO is caught off guard by being addressed first.

ANGELO

Oh, thank you your Grace.

CLARENCE

Please, Call me Clarence, you are a CUPID now. One of us.

ANGELO

Thank you Clarence.

SAM E. Gives ANGELO an evil look.

SAM E.

Clarence my friend, how have you been keeping.

CLARENCE

Sam E. Manuel Jackson... I've been keeping well, I've started a new training routine.

SAM E.

Make sure you are focussing on those back muscles, It looks like your wings are drooping a little bit.

CLARENCE

(self conscious)

Oh really?

SAM E.

Yeah, but don't worry, a few laps of the ceiling and add some angelic acids into your morning smoothie and you'll be perkier than a nun in Alaska.

CLARENCE

Thanks for the tip.

(to Magda)

Good evening Magda.

MAGDA

Clarence.

Pause.

CLARENCE

Now that I have you all here, I shall allocate your assignments. I'll start with you Sam E.

SAM E.

Fire away.

CLARENCE

Jenny Smith and Ryan McPhail, Both Married, Both seeking a new steamy affair. Are you up to the task?

ANGELO

An affair?

ANGELO is ignored.

SAM E.

Consider it done.

CLARENCE

Magda?

MAGDA

Yes Clarence?

ANGELO

An Affair?

ANGELO is ignored again.

CLARENCE

I've hand picked your assignment. Two dog walkers in the park, Elizabeth and Frank.

MAGDA

How adorable, thank you Clarence.

ANGELO

(loud)

An Affair!

SAM E.

Stay Quiet!

CLARENCE

It's okay Sam. Yes an affair is still love Angelo.

ANGELO

But-

CLARENCE

No buts, love is love. Now your assignment is a friend-zoner. Duncan and Jennifer.

(to all angels)

Good luck with all your assignments.

ANGELO

I just have a few questions...

CLARENCE

That is all, I'll see you all at your first update.

ANGELO

But Clarence - [I just wanted to ask]

CLARENCE

That is all.

LIGHTS FADE UP to a GENERAL WHITE WASH. The spotlights are gone.

SAM E. And MAGDA return to being casual, ANGELO hurriedly looks through the book he is holding.

SAM E.

A nice little affair for me. I miss the days of challenging assignments, don't you Magda.

MAGDA

No, I quite like my hand picked ones actually.

SAM E.

Hand picked? How in heaven did you manage that?

MAGDA

He just likes me I guess.

ANGELO looks up from his book and walks over to MAGDA and SAM E.

ANGELO

An affair!

SAM E.

Could you stop with your insatiable spouting of that word. Are you incapable of saying anything else.

ANGELO

How can you be having an affair that's horrible

MAGDA

Oh grow up, stop being a little spirit.

ANGELO

But affairs are horrible they cause so much pain. That's not what we are meant to do.

MAGDA

We make people fall in love, we don't make the world a better place, We don't work for mother nature, we work for Clarence.

SAM E. And MAGDA both head towards the EXIT SR. ANGELO stops them with more conversation.