

The One That Got Away

By Michael Leathers

CAST: 3 males

Kyle: College junior, 21, ready to let loose after a grueling school week.

Bob: College junior, 21, planning an important fishing trip with his dad.

Coffee Dude: Waiter, mid-20s, getting ready for the coffee shop's evening rush.

RUN TIME: 10 minutes

PROPS

- Colorful fishing lure
- Packets of sugars and sweeteners
- Small containers for the packets
- Coffee cup
- Big cookie
- Backpack
- Small menu
- Order book
- Plastic-foam cup
- A few dollars
- Cell phone

STORY

Kyle's ready to blow off some steam after a long week of college classes. He tracks down his friend, Bob, in a near-empty coffee shop where a waiter is preparing for the evening rush. Bob's determined to go on a fishing trip with his dad, but Kyle is certain he can persuade him to change his plans.

THEMES

Grandparents' Day. Father's Day. Grief. Father-son relationships. Family.

The One That Got Away

(We're in a trendy independent coffee shop. Two tables with chairs. Counter with stools. It's late afternoon. BOB, 21, is at one table, admiring a homemade fishing lure. He's lost in thought, sipping coffee and nibbling on a giant cookie. COFFEE DUDE, mid-20s, sits at the other table, meticulously filling little containers with sugar and sweetener packets, getting ready for tonight's crowd. KYLE, 21, enters, hurried and lugging a backpack)

KYLE

(To BOB)

What in the name of boredom are you doing here?

BOB

Glad to see you too.

KYLE

(Throws his backpack on one of the chairs. Remains standing. He's just arrived and ready to go)

I swung by to catch you after class, and you were already gone.

BOB

Foster let us out early. I sent a text.

KYLE

That you were coming here? ... Whatever this is.

COFFEE DUDE

(Rising to greet his new customer)

Welcome to the Brew-Haha.

KYLE

I read the sign. What's the Brew-Haha?

COFFEE DUDE

Roselawn's only independent coffee shop and comedy nightclub. With shows at seven and nine, and a third at eleven on weekends.

KYLE

Whatever, Coffee Dude. How 'bout a menu?

COFFEE DUDE

On the tables.

(Returns to his seat, filling the sugar and sweetener containers)

KYLE

(Picking up a menu)

What's good to go? Then we can escape Coffee Purgatory.

BOB

My gram'pa loved this place. He always brought me here when I was a kid. It was a diner back then with the best fried mushrooms. He said you couldn't find home-cooked food like this in restaurants anymore.

KYLE

Dude, I don't get home-cooked food at home. That's what delivery's for.

(Sees the lure)

What's that?

BOB

It's a lure.

KYLE

A lure?

BOB

For fishing.

KYLE

It looks like a gay cockroach. ... What're you gonna do with it?

BOB

Fish.

KYLE

Since when do you fish?

(COFFEE DUDE gets up and approaches their table, order book in hand)

There's a lot you –

BOB

-- Ready to order?

COFFEE DUDE

Yeah, um, I'll have a Coke.

KYLE

No Cokes.

COFFEE DUDE

Fine. Make it a Pepsi.

KYLE

No Pepsi.

COFFEE DUDE

You don't got soda? No soda?

KYLE

Sure, but what flavor? We got strawberry, kiwi, mango, peach, blackberry, coconut, orange, lemon, chocolate, chocolate mint, tangerine, vanilla, caramel, pomegranate, cinnamon apple, cherry, lime, grapefruit, hazelnut --

COFFEE DUDE

-- Whoa, whoa, whoa. What else you got to drink?

KYLE

Hmm. It is a coffeehouse.

COFFEE DUDE

Fine. I'll have a coffee.

KYLE

COFFEE DUDE

Great. Caffe latte, cafe au lait, caffe mocha, mocha latte, espresso, iced espresso, cappuccino –

KYLE

-- Gimme a plain coffee, OK?

COFFEE DUDE

We don't have plain coffee. This isn't –

BOB

-- Give him a mocha.

KYLE

Fine. Make mine mocha, Coffee Dude.

COFFEE DUDE

Snicker, chortle or belly-buster?

KYLE

What?

COFFEE DUDE

What size you want? A snicker, chortle or belly-buster?

END OF SAMPLE

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