

Worlds Apart

By Michael Leathers

CAST: 1 male, 2 females

Carl: Church deacon, 60s, and a regular fixture at a small-town diner.

Constance Bickers: Businesswoman, late 30s to early 40s, and a pessimist.

Gladys Hart: Businesswoman, late 30s to early 40s, and an optimist.

RUN TIME: 7 minutes

PROPS

- Three stools
- Two purses

STORY

Some people are optimists. Others are pessimists. When visiting his favorite diner on a crowded morning, Carl gets stuck between one of each. He tries to help them see that while their outlooks may be far apart, each one has strengths that can complement the other.

THEMES

Optimism. Pessimism. Unity.

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES

Except for the women's purses on the center stool, the actors mime all the props, including Carl's coffee cup and the women's plates and silverware for breakfast.

Worlds Apart

(We're in a diner. Three stools, all in a line, are in front of an imaginary counter. GLADYS and CONSTANCE sit on the end stools, their purses resting on the middle stool. CARL enters, looking for a seat in the crowded diner)

CARL

Good mornin', ladies.

CONSTANCE

What's so good? It's about to rain.

GLADYS

But before long the sun will smile.

CARL

Mind if I have a seat?

CONSTANCE

Since you asked so nicely ... yes, I mind.

CARL

This here's the only open seat. Where d'you recommend I sit?

CONSTANCE

McDonald's?

GLADYS

(Moving her purse)

Now, now. Of course, we'll be delighted to move our belongings. It's a joy to be of service. What kind of a Christian wouldn't want to help?

CARL

Thanks.

(CARL waits for CONSTANCE to move her purse, but she ignores him. GLADYS finally picks up CONSTANCE's purse and thrusts it at her with a smile)

CARL (cont'd)

(Taking a seat)

Much obliged.

CONSTANCE

Whatever.

(CARL sips his coffee and the women eat their meals until CARL attempts to break the ice)

CARL

Don't reckon I've seen you two in here before.

CONSTANCE

Reckon you haven't.

CARL

Name's Carl.

(CARL holds out his hand to shake)

CONSTANCE

Good for you.

GLADYS

Don't pay her any mind. It's a pleasure and a delight to meet such a fine gentleman and friendly fellow. I'm Gladys Hart.

CARL

No kidding? And your friend?

GLADYS

Constance Bickers.

CARL

Wouldn't of guessed. Pleasure to meet you. You too, Connie.

CONSTANCE

It's Constance. For the record, I carry a portable taser.

CARL

Life of the party, aren't you?

CONSTANCE

It's next to my pepper spray.

GLADYS

(Bubbly)

Bless her sweet, sweet soul.

CARL

Her what?

GLADYS

Constance is not a people person, but she's the mission the Lord has given me.

CARL

That so?

GLADYS

Far be it for me to speak an ill word about any person. Let's just say Constance is proof that God can love anyone. And you're right. We're not from here. We're on our way to a seminar for work.

END OF SAMPLE

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