

**Transformation Bistro**  
A Play in Three Acts  
By Kirk Kestler

**Cast:** Waiter: Elder Cary A. Load  
Cook: Rev. P. Pal Pleasing  
Diners: Mil-dread Commitment, Ben There, Ima Thorn, Allen A. Hurry

**Act One:** A table in a fine restaurant. The table is set with cloth tablecloth, fine dishes and crystal. A waiter in dinner jacket and draped towel is seen to the side of the table, hovering attentively. Diners begin to arrive and sit at the table. Soon three of the four are seated and take up their menus.

Mil-dread: (seated) Oh, isn't this nice. Such a lovely table setting. I should come here again some time.

Ben: (seated, taking up a menu) Oh, it looks all the same to me. Nothing new, ever.

Ima: (seated, scrutinizes the table setting, picks up a fork.) Look at this fork. It's stained. Those are definitely water spots!

Allen: (rushes in, nearly bumps the table as he sits down, all in a huff) Whoa. When did they decide to open this early? (turning to the others) I wish you'd decided to meet at a more convenient time. (picking up a menu) Let's get our orders in fast. I can't stay long.

Ima: Mark my words, you'll be lucky to have anything to eat and get out of here before noon.

Elder Load: (With a formal, elegant gate, walks to the table, addresses the diners.) So glad you could come. How are you all on this lovely Sunday morning?

Ben: (bored tone of voice) Oh, fine.

Mil-dread: (cheerfully) Yes, things are just fine."

Allen: (agitated) Let's cut out the small talk; I've got to get going. Can we get something to eat at this place?

Ima: (severely) You *will* get our orders *correct* this time, won't you?

- Elder Load: (Inaudible sigh) Certainly, certainly, (pulls out his small notebook and pen) What can I get you?
- Ben: What's the special today?
- Elder Load: Today's Special is the Sunday School singing "Jesus Loves the Little Children"
- Ben: Oh, that again? OK, (sighs) if that's all you have to offer.
- Ima: I'll have the Cute Preschool Children Asking Precocious Questions Children's Message, please, but I'd like the children to be quiet this time. No running down the isle or laughing. It so spoils my palate.
- Allen: Can I have the Hymns Shortened by Excising the Third Verse? Oh, and no communion, thank you. I've got to get going.
- Mil-dread: Oh, hmmm. Just can't decide. All this looks so . . . interesting. Well, OK. Uh . . . uh . . . I'll have the Sermon with Nice Thoughts to Give You A Warm Fuzzy Feeling. Oh, and leave off the Prayer with the Awe-full Silence, please. (Shaking her head) I just can't handle that today.
- Elder Load: (With resignation) All right. Very good. I'll take these orders in right now. (rushes off, *with decorum*)
- Act Two:** The Kitchen. Waiter Elder Cary A. Load stands before Cook Rev. P. Pal Pleasing.
- Elder Load: (almost panting) Pal, I just got these orders in. (Tearing off sheet from pad) We need the Short Service on A Shingle, pronto. You know Allen A. Hurry. He's dining today. (Hands ticket to Rev. Pleasing)
- Rev. Pleasing: (Reading order ticket and glancing over to the dining room) Oh, and yes, I see we've got Ben There here today. He's not going to be happy with the Special, it's the same as two years ago.
- Elder Load: Yes, but at least Mil-dread Commitment came today. It's so good to see her again.
- Rev. Pleasing: Oh, and again she wants the Warm Fuzzy with no Silent Prayer. Well, I guess I better do it. We can't have her disappearing for months again, now can we?

Elder Load: No, of course not. You know, once, I think, she made a contribution. Oh, and while we're on that. You know Ima Thorn. You've got to get those young children to be quiet when they come down for the Children's Sermon. She's ordered the Cute Children's Message again, but she raises such a fuss when they laugh or run down to the front.

Rev. Pleasing: Yes, I know. I'll see what I can do. (Begins to rush around in circles, arms in and out, as though trying to arrange things over and over.) (cries out) Cary, can you lend a hand? (Elder Load joins in. The two finally collapse in a heap.)

**Act Three:** The Kitchen, much later. Rev. P. Pal Pleasing, Elder Cary A. Load, Mil-dread Commitment, Ben There, and Ima Thorn, are all present. Each has cooking utensils, pots or pans, in hand. It appears they are preparing a meal together. As the scene opens, Allen A. Hurry comes rushing in.

Allen: I've got the carrots! There was a big rush at the store, but I managed to get through the express line. (He takes them to Ima Thorn, who is holding a knife and cutting board)

Ima: Oh, they look beautiful. These will do just fine.

Ben: (Stirring a large stock pot) You know, I think I'm getting the hang of this now. Each time I come down and help make this, it seems to go better and better.

Mil-dread: Yes, isn't it good to get together here each week, to work on this together. I wouldn't miss it!

Elder Load: How's it going, crew? Are we about ready? Who wants to help me set the tables?

Mil-dread: I'll help!

Allen: Me too!

Rev. Pleasing: Shall I open the doors? People from the community will be coming in soon.

All: Yes, we're ready!

Production Notes

Producing in a fellowship hall near an actual kitchen will work best, the counter between the kitchen and the hall (if there is one) can be used for Act Three. Otherwise, improvise.

Items needed: a table or card table that seats four  
Four chairs  
Cloth Tablecloth  
Place settings, preferably china with silverware and crystal or cut glass stemware  
Menus  
Notebook and pen for waiter  
Kitchen utensils used in food preparation, cutting board, stock pots, etc.

Costumes: Diners dressed as if to attend church, if possible. Formal attire for waiter with cloth draped on forearm, chef's hat and apron for cook.