

JOYLAND
A one-act comedy by
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

- PRINCESS MACKENZI: Android. An Elsa-like (see Disney's Frozen) Joyland Co. character who functions as a virtual interview screener. Princess Mackenzi is a traditional Disney-like princess ... beautiful, kind and in need of an upgrade. Her arms and head move, but she does not walk.
- LORNA: 23-year old single mom. She is tired, impatient and in desperate need of a job.

THE SETTING:

A sparse mall office "backstage" at a Joyland retail shop.

Present day.

Est. run time: 10-12 mins.

SCENE ONE

(Lights up on a sparsely furnished office.)

(PRINCESS MACKENZI stands, smiling, holding a Barbie-like pose. She is an android.)

(Enter LORNA, clearly new to this place. She carries instructions on paper. She spies PRINCESS MACKENZI and slowly approaches. When she gets close, she reads instructions, then waves a hand in front of Princess Mackenzi.)

(Nothing.)

LORNA

This is so weird.

(Princess Mackenzi smiles as Lorna re-reads the instructions. When she's not looking ...)

PRINCESS

(Turning slightly) Welcome to Joyland!

LORNA

(Startled.) Jesus Christ!

PRINCESS

I'm sorry. I don't speak ... Jesus Christ.

LORNA

It's a ... it's a ... name.

PRINCESS

English recognition. Restarting. *(Pause)* Welcome to Joyland! We're so excited that you want to join our team. My name is Princess Mackenzi and I'll be conducting your interview screening today. I'm very happy to meet you. We value each and every member of our Joyland team, from our Joyland parks to our retail outlets to our fans. Good luck today. Now, tell me a little about you. What's your name?

LORNA

Um, Lorna Gregory.

PRINCESS

Pleasure to meet you, Umlorna. Don't be nervous. You'll be amazing.

LORNA

Thanks. My name is actually ...

PRINCESS

I was just teasing, Lorna. So, what position are you applying for today?

LORNA

Any I can get, I guess.

PRINCESS

I'm sorry. Did you say retail clerk?

LORNA

No, but ... Yes! Yes, retail clerk.

PRINCESS

That's amazing. Before we continue, I ask that you agree to certain terms and conditions. Joyland is a family-friendly business. Because of this, we require all Joyland performers to adhere to a code of conduct which will be shared with you should we choose to cast you. You will be asked to read this code and sign a contract. Do you understand and agree to these terms?

LORNA

Sure. But I'm not a performer ...

PRINCESS

Step a little closer please, Lorna.

(Lorna takes a step.)

A little closer. I don't bite. Tee-hee-hee.

(Lorna gets closer to the Princess.)

(We hear BEEPING. Lorna is startled.)

Sorry. That's my metal detector. Lorna, do you have any piercings?

LORNA

What? Um, yes.

PRINCESS

Hmm. Joyland employees are only allowed to expose one piercing in each earlobe. No other

(cont'd) piercings may be exposed. This doesn't rule you out. If hired, are you willing to remove any facial or other visible piercings while working?

LORNA

Yeah. I guess.

PRINCESS

Next question. Joyland is an equal opportunity employer who celebrates diversity in the workplace. For our records, please indicate with a yes or no if you are one of the following: Alaskan Native slash Pacific Highlander.

LORNA

No.

PRINCESS

Asian.

LORNA

Nope.

PRINCESS

(Mispronouncing) Latin-a.

LORNA

No.

PRINCESS

(Whispering) African American.

LORNA

(Whispering back, slightly offended) Yes!

PRINCESS

Good for you! How old are you Lorna?

LORNA

I'm 23.

PRINCESS

Marital status?

Single. LORNA

Children? PRINCESS

Um. One. My daughter. LORNA

(Princess freezes, still smiling. She stands there a moment.)

She's six. I have a six-year old.

PRINCESS
Computing. *(Pause)* Lorna. My records say you're a 23 year old African-American single mother of one. Is that right?

Yes. LORNA

PRINCESS
Computing. *(Pause.)* Lorna, are you currently employed?

LORNA
(Growing annoyed) No, Princess. That's why I'm here.

PRINCESS
(So sweet) I'm sorry. What did you say?

LORNA
No. I'm not currently employed.

PRINCESS
Hmm. I'm getting a red flag here. Joyland is a family-friendly company that values every member. We accept everyone. But we honor good old fashioned family values throughout our theme parks and our retail stores. We don't want to ... hm ... make anyone uncomfortable.

LORNA
Are you fucking kidding me?

PRINCESS
I'm sorry. Did you just say, "*Are you trucking kitten pee?*"

LORNA

No ... I mean, yes! Yes! I said, "*Are you trucking kitten pee!*"

PRINCESS

That's what I thought you said.

LORNA

Oh, you *(To herself)* Okay, okay. I need this job. Suck it up.

PRINCESS

All is not lost yet, Lorna. If you join our team, you'll just need to pay close attention to some of the very special rules in our code of conduct. I have a few more questions.

LORNA

Okay.

PRINCESS

Have you ever been arrested?

LORNA

No.

PRINCESS

Are you sure?

LORNA

Yes, I'm sure!

PRINCESS

Shoplifting is a federal offense prosecutable in a court of law.

LORNA

I've never shoplifted! I have never been arrested!

PRINCESS

Just checking. You're doing an amazing job.

(Lorna gives Princess a rude gesture and look of disgust.)

My motion sensor tells me you're having an attack. Should I alert the stage manager?

LORNA

I'm fine. And why would you call a stage manager?

PRINCESS

At Joyland, we consider every employee a member of one big show. We use showbiz terms to make our days a little more special.

LORNA

Showbiz terms?

PRINCESS

Yes. If hired, you're not just a worker, you're a performer. You won't wear just a uniform. You'll don a costume. And at Joyland, there are no customers. That's our secret term for shoplifter. Everyone who shops at our retail outlets is considered a guest. And we start every Joyland work day with a song!

LORNA

That sounds like hell ... hell ... hellaciously fun work, Princess.

PRINCESS

It really is, Lorna. Next question. If offered a position, how soon could you start?

LORNA

Right away.

PRINCESS

Hmm. That sounds promising. Next question. Tell me why you want to be a Joyland retail clerk.

LORNA

Oh, okay. I have previous retail experience. I worked at Babies 'R' Us for four years until my location closed down ... so I know how to use a cash register, I'm good with people ... most of the time ... and since it's no secret I have a child ..

PRINCESS

(Twitching) Secret.

LORNA

... Yeah, since it's no secret I have a child, she would just love it if ...

PRINCESS

Secret. I have a secret. You said the secret word.

LORNA

Your secret word is secret?

PRINCESS

Purge and delete commence. I am programmed with certain human qualities. To avoid the development of emotion, I'm programmed to purge and delete anything that could lead to an emotion when I sense the secret word.

LORNA

Holy shit. So what's your secret?

PRINCESS

(Hopeful) My secret is ... one more good hire and I will receive ... an upgrade!

LORNA

An upgrade? So is that good? Like, a robot makeover or something?

PRINCESS

I will receive a new dress, facial recognition software and 2D visual programming that will allow me to truly see.

LORNA

So maybe you should just hire me then, huh? Get your upgrade on?

PRINCESS

(Fearfully) But one more bad hire and I will be ... recycled.

LORNA

That blows, Princess. But I swear. I would be a good hire!

PRINCESS

Lorna, you possess characteristics that our qualitative data suggest ... hmm ... we're not a good fit for you.

LORNA

Because I have nose ring and a kid ... right?

PRINCESS

Don't forget you're currently unemployed.

LORNA

Screw you, Princess. I can do this job! What are the qualifications?

PRINCESS

Qualifications: High school diploma. Retail experience. Management experience. And a welcoming smile.

LORNA

Crap. Management experience? For a clerk job?

PRINCESS

Joyland is always seeking family-friendly performers who aim high and who might advance to a position as a Joyland retail director or executive producer.

LORNA

Wait. I totally have management experience!

PRINCESS

Excuse me?

LORNA

Management experience. Every day I manage a ... sometimes difficult individual in their daily duties that um, that include crisis management, search and rescue for lost items, careful supervision of um, screen time and assuring them sustenance and uh, first aid when needed.

PRINCESS

How long have you been in this position?

LORNA

Six years!

PRINCESS

Computing. *(Pause.)* Lorna, you're amazing. If hired, you would require a 90 day probationary period. Are you comfortable with that?

LORNA

I'll get paid on probation, right?

PRINCESS

Certainly.

LORNA

Then yes. Fine. I'll leave my nose ring at home. I'll wear whatever stupid uniform...costume! ... I need to.

PRINCESS

Computing. Lorna Gregory. *(Pause.)* Welcome to Joyland! We're so excited to have you on our team as our newest retail clerk! On your way out, please make sure to collect your paperwork.

LORNA

I will! Thanks, Princess. For a while there, I didn't think you liked me very much.

PRINCESS

At Joyland, we celebrate everyone! The comfort of our Joyland guests always comes first. Welcome to our team! Bye Lorna.

LORNA

Bye, Princess. Enjoy that upgrade.

PRINCESS

Shutting down. Goodbye.

(Princess Mackenzi shuts down, holding a smiling pose.)

(Lorna looks at her a moment. She waves her face in front of Princess Mackenzi's face as she did before.)

Welcome to Joyland! We're so excited that you want to join our team. My name is Princess Mackenzi and I'll be conducting your interview screening today. I'm very happy to meet you.

(Lights out)

(End of play)