

"MEOW"

CAST

Dinah - 60's

Carol - Pet store employee - 20's

John - 20's

Dan - Pet store manager - 30's

(A pet store.)

DINAH (Sweetly)

It's finally time. I can't wait to add another kitten to my home!

CAROL

Miss Dinah, how many cats do you have now?

DINAH

It doesn't matter, does it, dear?

CAROL

Well, it sort of does. As you know, the Knolls of East County Lake Spring Village Beach Meadows Park Township only lets you own 3 cats.

(John enters.)

CAROL

Hello! Welcome to Pet World! Give me one moment to check on something please.

(Carol exits.)

DINAH (Sweetly)

Hello, sweetheart, what brings you here?

JOHN

I'm thinking about getting a little kitten. That cute one over there. (Pointing across the store.)

DINAH

You like kittens, do you, dearie?

JOHN (Happily sharing)

I love them! I've always had one growing up. Now I'm on my own and feeling like a grown-up, so I thought . . .

DINAH (Looking around to make sure they're alone. Loud and meanly.)

Shut the hell up! If you're going to help me with this heist, I don't need no rambling nincompoop!

JOHN (Caught off guard)

What? A heist? What are you talking about??

DINAH (Grabs John by the collar.)

I'm talking about stealing a cat. And today's your lucky day - You just became a grown-up accomplice.

JOHN

An accomplice? NO!

DINAH

Well at least you're not rambling any more. Listen, I need another cat, and they won't sell me one. But we're not leaving here until I get one. Capisce?

(Dinah opens her purse and shows John a gun.)

JOHN (Scared and shaking.)

I . . . I . . . That's a . . .

DINAH

Again with the rambling? Don't make me show you how I use this at home.

(John takes a deep breath and tries to calm down.)

DINAH (Con't.)

Okay, punk, here's the plan. This right here (pointing to a kitten) is the one I want. So while I create a diversion by playing with another cat and talking with the help, you slip Fluffy McGinger Mittens here under your shirt and sneak outside. I'll meet you around the corner and you'll give me Queen Peppermint Patty there. Capisce?

JOHN (confused)

I thought it was Fluffy McGinger Mittens.

DINAH (Yelling)
I'M NOT SURE YET! A FOREVER NAME CAN'T BE DECIDED ON AT
AN EMOTIONAL TIME LIKE THIS!

DINAH (Con't. Calming down, but
still meanly.)
Now don't make me ask you "capisce?" again! Capisce?
ARGH!

(Dan and Carol enter.)

DAN
Great to see you again, Miss Dinah. Carol here tells me
we might need to figure some things out?

DINAH (Sweetly.)
And how are you, Mr. Dan? So wonderful to see you again,
too. No, I understand, Miss Carol here is just doing her
job

DAN
Yes, the police have been on our back a lot lately about
overselling cats. I knew you'd understand.

DINAH
Well, we wouldn't want to cross our fine law enforcement
agents, now would we? But just so today's not a total
loss for me, could I please play a little bit with that
cute-as-a-button kitty over there? (Pointing to the one
that John wanted earlier.)

(Dinah leads Dan and Carol across
the store with her to get the
other cat. She takes it out of its
cage and starts playing with it.)

(Dinah, Dan, and Carol all make
smalltalk and play with the cat.
Dan and Carol are totally
engrossed in the moment. Dinah
looks over her shoulder and sees
John starting to slowly back out
the door as he keeps his eyes on
them, trying to escape without the
cat.)

(Dinah angles her body so John can
see - but not Dan or Carol - that

she is comically miming neck-snapping gestures on the cat with one hand and waving her gun with the other.)

CAROL (About the cat)
He sure has a mind of his own, doesn't he?

(All 3 laugh and continue playing with it.)

(John grabs the cat Dinah wants, stuffs it in his shirt, and casually - but whimperingly - leaves the store. He waits outside.)

DINAH
Well, this has really been a slice of Heaven. You two always treat me so sweetly. But I'm afraid I must be on my way now. Long John Silver's Early Bird Special starts in an hour, and I need to get in my Sunday best for that.

(Dinah leaves.)

DAN (Waving to Dinah.)
Bye bye, Miss Dinah. You come back again real soon.

DAN (Con't. To Carol.)
She is such a sweetheart.

CAROL
She really is.

DINAH (Meanly, with John outside.)
Gimme that!

(Dinah violently tears open John's shirt, buttons flying everywhere. Then she gently cradles her new kitten.)

(John backs up. His hands shaking, he lights a cigarette.)

(Dinah pulls out her gun and points it at him. She pulls the

trigger and water extinguishes the
cigarette.)

DINAH (Sweetly.)

Never smoke around a kitten. You sure have a lot to learn
about being a pet-owner, dearie.