

ROLLIE POLLIE

By Madelyn Marks

CHARACTERS

KALLIE.....Mid 20s, hard-working, blunt, tired
MABLE.....Early 20s, also hard-working, naive, kind
CAM.....Early 20s, energetic, witty, a little impulsive
SAM.....Early 20s, just happy to be here, curious, kind

SETTING

A small toy shop downtown–mid-day

NOTE:

An intermission is not a necessity for this piece. The characters are stuck, the audience can be too. That being said, if there is to be an intermission, I strongly urge you to consider leaving the actors on stage to continue existing during the course of the intermission. Do not let the audience break the barrier to the stage if this is done. Kallie, Mable, Cam, and Sam are to be the only ones who ever exist in the shop.

ACT I

(Lights up on a toy shop. KALLIE is standing at the counter bored out of her mind. In walks MABLE holding a clipboard. She immediately starts taking inventory and adjusting displays.)

KALLIE

We should leave.

MABLE

What?

KALLIE

Yeah just like clock out and leave and then like never clock back in.

MABLE

You're joking.

KALLIE

I hate this place.

MABLE

You are joking, right?

KALLIE

About quitting? Yes. But not about hating this place. It's actually the worst.

MABLE

I don't know, I don't think it's the worst.

KALLIE

Macy you've only been here for a couple days.

MABLE

Mable

KALLIE

What?

MABLE

My name's Mable.

KALLIE

Ok

MABLE

...Ok

(Pause.)

I mean you can call me Macy if you want I guess.

KALLIE

I'll call you Mable

MABLE

Ok...thanks

KALLIE

Yeah whatever

(KALLIE watches as MABLE works in silence for a moment.)

KALLIE (CONT'D)

The little cars go in the front.

MABLE

I'm sorry?

KALLIE

That display you're working on, boss wants the little cars in the front and the rest of the toys behind them. 6 year olds go berserk for those cars, pick them up and throw a fit until Mom gives in and buys them one, so we put them in front to sell more.

MABLE

Ohhhhh ok. Thank you, I would have never known to do that.

KALLIE

Not your fault. The new hire training here is a joke.

MABLE

Right? I mean not that I'm not thankful for the training I got, It just wasn't as I guess informative as I thought it would be. I'm not like trying to bash the training, I just—

KALLIE

(laughing at MABLE)

Relax. I'm not gonna tell on you for bashing this place. I do it like all the time

MABLE

Right, sorry

KALLIE

Sorry? For what?

MABLE

I don't know just, sorry

KALLIE

Ok

(They work)

MABLE

You know it's gonna snow today?

KALLIE

No it's not.

MABLE

The forecast said we're supposed to get snow.

KALLIE

We never get snow. The forecast always says we are gonna get snow and then it never happens.

MABLE

Well maybe it's right this time.

KALLIE
Or maybe it's wrong like it always is.

(They work)

MABLE
So how long have you worked here?

KALLIE
Too long

MABLE
Oh

KALLIE
...like 3 years

MABLE
Oh so you're like a toy shop expert.

KALLIE
Don't call me that.

MABLE
Sorry

KALLIE
I'm just kidding.

MABLE
Oh, right. Sorry

KALLIE
You say sorry a lot.

MABLE
Yeah I'm sorr-

(KALLIE locks eyes with MABLE, they sit for a short moment before KALLIE slowly shakes her head “No”.)

MABLE (CONT'D)

Hey so, why is the store called “Rollie Pollie”?

KALLIE

I don't know Mable. I don't get paid enough to care.

MABLE

Right

KALLIE

Why did you wanna work here?

MABLE

Come on, working in a toy shop? During holiday season? It seemed fun.

KALLIE

You're weird.

MABLE

What?

KALLIE

Holiday season is the worst. The rich stuck-up Moms want you to gift wrap everything and it has to be perfect for their bratty children.

MABLE

I don't know, I like gift wrapping. It's fun. It's like a little project to make the shift go by faster. Plus you get to use all the fancy wrapping paper and ribbons and bows.

KALLIE

Just wait.

MABLE

Wait?

KALLIE

Yeah. For the rushes. The waves of customers who have zero patience, who don't understand that we're not robots who can just work non-stop.

MABLE

Robots can't work non-stop.

KALLIE

Huh?

MABLE

Robot maintenance

KALLIE

Machines, they think we're like machines that can just produce perfect work every single time. No mistakes.

MABLE

Machines make mistakes. Like printers. Printers are always getting paper jams and then a *person* has to fix it.

KALLIE

Whatever. You get my point.

MABLE

And you get mine?

KALLIE

You have a point?

MABLE

Yes, that nothing replaces human interaction. Customers don't just want a machine to process their transactions. They want a person to talk to, somebody human.

KALLIE

The only reason these customers want a person here behind the counter is so that they can yell at somebody because they hate their lives and feel the need to take it out on somebody who doesn't have a choice but to be kind and just smile through the pain for the sake of a paycheck.

MABLE

You seem like you need a vacation.

KALLIE

You seem like you were born yesterday.

MABLE

Born yesterday?

KALLIE

Yeah, have you never worked customer service?

MABLE

Well I've worked with kids and I was a lifeguard over the summer before I moved here.

KALLIE

There it is.

MABLE

There what is?

KALLIE

The reason you're so like..like happy. You don't know what it's like to be berated by customers for 8 hours in a single day.

MABLE

Well maybe I-

KALLIE

These people don't care that we're human beings with feelings. They just want what they want and if we can't deliver what they want exactly how they want it, they throw a fit.

MABLE

You just said the word "want" like so many times.

KALLIE

I don't want to work with somebody who doesn't get it.

MABLE

Get what?

KALLIE

That this is a war zone. Customer service sucks. People are bad.

MABLE

I know people can be bad.

KALLIE

Do you? Cause you seem like you have no idea what you've gotten yourself into with this job.

MABLE

I just thought I'd be good at selling toys cause I'm good with kids.

KALLIE

What a useless sentence that is.

MABLE

Are you always this blunt with the new hires?

KALLIE

What?

MABLE

Wait, is this hazing? Are you like hazing me?

KALLIE

Why would I be hazing you?

MABLE

You know, like initiation

KALLIE

That is not what's happening.

MABLE

Well then what is happening? Cause I'm really confused.

KALLIE

Did you do the scooter inventory?

MABLE

What?

KALLIE

Stay here.

(KALLIE walks over to MABLE and takes the clipboard from her, then heads to the back. MABLE works by herself for a moment until KALLIE re-enters.)

KALLIE

24

MABLE

Wow we have 24 scooters back there? That's awesome!

KALLIE

No Mable, it is not awesome. This is a doorbuster. Last year we sold like 50 and this year they ship us less than half of that? Who signed off on that? We're gonna have customers losing it when we run out of these stupid scooters cause that means little Timmy won't be coming downstairs to see a brand new scooter underneath the Christmas tree.

MABLE

Do you think that—

KALLIE

What do they expect us to do?

MABLE

Maybe we could—

KALLIE

God this is so typical. Somebody at an astronomically higher pay grade than us messes up something important like this and then we're expected to just figure it out? THEY PAY US PACKING PEANUTS AND EXPECT US TO JUST FIGURE IT OUT?!

MABLE

Well maybe we could just—

Be quiet. I need to think.

KALLIE

I just, I have an—

MABLE

MEGAN NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR YOUR VOICE TO BE HAPPENING.

KALLIE

Mable

MABLE

(Pause, then)

What?

KALLIE

My name is Mable.

MABLE

I have to make a phone call.

KALLIE

(KALLIE heads to the back. MABLE is by herself. She walks the store, looking at each display. Maybe she picks up a toy and examines it. Maybe she walks behind the counter and pretends to be ringing up a customer. She just wants to be good at the job. KALLIE returns and catches MABLE off guard.)

Woah. Hi.

MABLE

Weirdo. Hi.

KALLIE

That was a short phone call.

MABLE

KALLIE

24 scooters is all we get. I'm gonna have to come up with a way to deal with the angry customers.

MABLE

Well what if we don't have any angry customers?

KALLIE

Where is your brain?

MABLE

Just hear me out. I have an idea that I think...

KALLIE

That you think? What? Spit it out.

MABLE

Right, sorry. Usually you interrupt me so I thought—never mind. Anyway, what if we just do the same thing you taught me with the little cars? Like we could take other popular products and place them in the front of the store. That way, customers will be distracted by those products and hopefully buy them instead. Then we could—

KALLIE

Well what are we gonna do once people start asking about the scooters? We're gonna have customers looking for the scooters no matter what. They never forget the scooters.

MABLE

Yes, I'm getting there. You just did the thing where you interrupt me.

(Pause.)

Anyway, we could keep all the scooters in the back and when somebody asks for one, we just act like we completely sold out but that we'll check the back "just in case" and then when we bring one out, we can be like "wow you're so lucky. I dug through everything in the back and found the last scooter, just for you". Surely they can't be mad if they think they're getting special treatment.

KALLIE

(she thinks, then)

Ok that's actually not a bad idea.

MABLE

I think we're gonna like working together.

KALLIE

Don't get ahead of yourself.

MABLE

Right, sorry.

KALLIE

(Pause.)

No, I'm sorry.

MABLE

What?

KALLIE

I'm sorry I got your name wrong earlier...twice.

MABLE

Oh, it's ok.

KALLIE

It's really not. It was rude. I didn't mean to be rude. I just— I think this place has sucked the life out of me. I mean not that that's an excuse for forgetting your...I'm just—I'm sorry. Won't happen again.

MABLE

Thanks Kallie.

KALLIE

(checking her phone/watch)

The others are here.

MABLE

The others?

KALLIE

Yeah, the reinforcement; the other employees.

MABLE

Wait, there are other employees?

KALLIE

Oh yeah. You just haven't met them yet because throughout most of the year, we only staff the store with 2 employees. But once we get this close to Christmas, we have to bring in 2 more people to keep everything stocked and register lines down. We've had the same 2 temps for the holidays for the last couple years.

MABLE

Ohhh I see. Well cool, this will be fun. We can all work together and make the boss proud.

KALLIE

You sound like a Disney princess when you speak.

MABLE

What?

(Enter CAM and SAM)

CAM

WHAT IS UP ROLLIE POLLIE? IT IS GOOD TO BE BACK.

(notices MABLE)

Who are you?

SAM

Dude don't be rude. She's probably the newbie.

KALLIE

Yeah this is Mable.

MABLE

Hi, I'm Mable.

SAM

Hi Mable

CAM

Hi Mable

CAM

My name's Cameron but everyone just calls me Cam.

SAM

Yeah my name's Sam but everyone just calls me...Sam.

CAM

Smooth Sam, real smooth.

SAM

Shut up

MABLE

Ok, nice to meet you Cam and Sam

KALLIE

Alright well we've got like a hundred tiny animals to unpack and put into acrylic containers before the store opens in an hour so Sam, you and Mable can work on those. Cam, you and I are gonna go cut the transport packaging off the scooters.

CAM

Cool and are we putting them in the same place as last year?

KALLIE

Actually, we'll be keeping them in the back.

CAM

Like the whole time?

KALLIE

Yes, like the whole time.

CAM

Why?

KALLIE

Walk with me and I'll explain. It's a whole thing; actually, Mable's brilliant idea.

(KALLIE smiles at MABLE who smiles back. Then, KALLIE and CAM head to the back.)

MABLE

So what did she mean by “tiny animals”?

SAM

Yeah we sell these tiny like rubber animals. Great stocking stuffers, and choking hazards.

MABLE

What?

SAM

Nothing, that was a joke.

MABLE

Oh

SAM

Here

(pulls bags of animals out from behind the counter and hands a bag to MABLE)

MABLE

Oh my gosh there are so many of them.

SAM

Yeah children love these little guys.

MABLE

I can see why.

SAM

(pulling out clear containers)

We'll put these into a few different containers and then we always set them up on the counter right next to the registers.

MABLE

Why not out on the floor with the other toys?

SAM

You know how when you go to the grocery store, there's always tons of candy next to the registers?

MABLE

Yeah

SAM

It's cause they want you to grab something on your way out. We call it impulse merchandise here in the biz. You're always at the register like "oh man that shopping really took it out of me. I think I deserve a treat. What's this? A chocolate bar right here as I'm checking out my items and leaving. I guess one piece of candy couldn't hurt" and then you buy it and the corporate lords win.

MABLE

So the tiny animals are like candy?

SAM

Precisely, they can't leave without grabbing at least one.

MABLE

Cool

(They sit in silence for a moment as they unpack animals and drop them into the containers.)

SAM

The little lions are my favorite. I just think they're so funny cause like an actual lion would kill you so fast but this little rubber lion is just so cute and tiny.

MABLE

I like the ducks. I just want to throw like a hundred of them in the bathtub and have an army of tiny ducks.

(We watch as the two study their tiny animals for a moment before KALLIE and CAM enter.)

KALLIE

What are you guys doing? Put the animals in the containers. It isn't that hard.

MABLE

Sorry Kallie, we were just—

SAM

Doing exactly that! Putting them in the containers.

KALLIE

Ok well can you do it at a normal pace? You both looked like you were moving in slow motion.

SAM

Yup, got it.

CAM

(looking out the window)

Oh my god

KALLIE

What?

CAM

No way

KALLIE

What is it Cam?

CAM

(gesturing to the window)

It's snowing.

(Everybody stops what they're doing and looks out the window.)

MABLE

Oh yeah the forecast said we were gonna get light snow.

SAM

It never snows here.

CAM

Yeah it like never snows. Even when the forecast says it's gonna snow, we all just believe it's a lie because it never snows here.

MABLE

This town is so weird.

KALLIE

Ok it's snowing. No big deal. Everyone just continue doing your job.

SAM

We should go outside.

KALLIE

What? No. we have too much work to get done before the store opens in an hour. We are not going outside.

CAM

Come on Kallie. IT'S SNOWING.

SAM

Yeah come on Kallie. We could catch snowflakes on our tongues.

KALLIE

Or we could do our jobs like we're supposed to be doing.

CAM

What are you gonna do if we go outside? Fire us?

(silence as CAM and SAM receive a death stare from KALLIE)

SAM

Wait can you—can you like fire us?

KALLIE

Get back to work on the tiny animals.

SAM

But can you?

KALLIE

You guys, the animals. All of you, now.

(CAM, SAM, and MABLE help each other sort tiny animals into clear containers. KALLIE takes a look out the window before heading to the back.)

MABLE

Is she always this intense?

SAM

Yes

CAM

Yes

MABLE

Oh

SAM

Well maybe not this intense, she does seem a little more on edge than usual.

CAM

She probably just wants the promotion.

SAM

Promotion?

CAM

Yeah the promotion

SAM

What promotion?

CAM

You know, boss wants an assistant, like a manager-type position.

SAM

Oh I didn't know that. I guess it would explain why Kallie is so scary today.

CAM

Oh my god I just realized, if she gets the promotion, she'll actually be able to fire us.

SAM

But she wouldn't do that right? She wouldn't just fire us, she likes us. Right?

CAM

I don't think she likes anyone.

SAM

Except maybe Mable.

MABLE

Trust me, she did not like me until earlier today and I'm still not sure she actually likes me. I think she just tolerates me.

SAM

What? There's no way she doesn't like you.

MABLE

I wouldn't be too sure.

SAM

I bet she likes you. I just met you and I like you.

MABLE

What?

SAM

Like—as like—a coworker or umm what's that word? Like somebody you know but not like know know? Cam what's the word I'm thinking of?

CAM

You're on your own on this one.

SAM

Like a person you know on like a surface level like first-name basis. Not that we're only on a first-name basis cause we work together but like-

CAM

Sam, bud, move on.

SAM

ACQUAINTANCE

MABLE

You like me as an acquaintance?

CAM

Yeah cause that's something normal people say all the time.

SAM

Alright, subject change: Cam how the heck did you find out about the promotion?

CAM

Oh uh boss let me know about it.

SAM

What? When? Why?

CAM

Like a couple days ago over the phone, in case I wanted to take it.

SAM

You were offered the promotion already? Like over Kallie?

CAM

Well I assume Kallie will be offered the promotion as well. I mean she's here way more often than I am.

SAM

Plus she knows how to log inventory

CAM

Sam we all know how to log inventory.

Oh right yeah

SAM

(Pause.)

You know how to log inventory right?

CAM

...yeah

SAM

You sure about that?

CAM

Totally

SAM

You don't sound too sure.

CAM

I don't know how to log inventory. *(to CAM)* Maybe you could show me?

MABLE

Yeah and I'll come too. Not because I also don't know how but because I can-like help or something.

SAM

Just come with me, both of you.

CAM

(The three of them head to the back, SAM and MABLE following CAM. KALLIE enters with the clipboard. She's overwhelmed. She's checking displays, fixing, adjusting. She stops. She looks out the window and sits on the floor. She closes her eyes. It's peaceful. CAM enters.)

CAM

Hey so I'm gonna show Mable and also maybe Sam how to log inventory and then we'll get back to the animals if that's ok.

KALLIE

Whatever. Just make sure all the animals get unpacked before you go on break.

CAM

Yes ma'am

KALLIE

Ew don't "yes ma'am" me. I'm barely older than you.

CAM

Why are you on the floor?

KALLIE

Why aren't you back there teaching dumb and dumber how to log inventory?

CAM

Don't call them dumb.

KALLIE

Fine. Actually Mable is kind of smart.

CAM

Sam is smart too.

KALLIE

I would like to see it then.

CAM

Come on. Let's get you up off the floor.

(extending his hand to her)

KALLIE

(pulling herself up)

Fine. But only cause we have a stupid amount of work to get done and without me, this place would perish.

CAM

You know the store wouldn't fall apart if you took a day off.

KALLIE

Oh I beg to differ.

CAM

Do you ever? Take a day off?

KALLIE

Shouldn't you be teaching Sam and Mable how to log inventory?

(CAM weighs his options. He heads to the back. KALLIE returns to working by herself before SAM enters.)

SAM

Good news! I thought I forgot how to log inventory but turns out I totally remember. I just thought I forgot until I saw Cam do it and I was like "Oh my god I know how to do this". Isn't that crazy? Brains are so weird.

(KALLIE stares at SAM.)

SAM (CONT'D)

Ok I'm gonna keep sorting animals now.

(They work.)

KALLIE

What do you think would happen if I just like quit?

SAM

WHAT

KALLIE

Like do you think you guys could figure out how to run this place without me?

SAM

You're quitting?

KALLIE

I didn't say that. I said what do you think would happen if I *did* quit.

SAM

Uhm I don't know. I guess we'd just do whatever boss told us to do.

KALLIE

Whatever boss told us to do?

SAM

Well yeah—

KALLIE

Sam, when have you ever seen the boss? Like here, working.

SAM

Well maybe—

KALLIE

This place is nothing but a side project for boss!

Bosses never know how to run the place. All they know how to do is sign paychecks and fire people. It's the employees running the place. We know how everything works. We know the customers. Bosses know nothing.

(Pause.)

SAM

Well then I guess we'd just have to figure it out.

KALLIE

But do you think you could? Figure it out?

SAM

I think we wouldn't have any choice but to figure it out.

(They return to working in silence for another moment.)

SAM (CONT'D)

Hey which one is your favorite?

KALLIE

What?

SAM

Which of the tiny animals is your favorite?

KALLIE

I don't know. They're meant for children. Why would I have a favorite?

(CAM and MABLE enter mid-conversation)

CAM

And if you can't remember one of the steps, you can just ask one of us.

MABLE

Thanks *(to KALLIE)* I know how to log inventory now.

KALLIE

Good job?

SAM

Tiny animal time!!!

(SAM, CAM, and MABLE return to sorting animals.)

KALLIE

(quietly)

Little elves

CAM

What did you just say?

KALLIE

(while heading to the back)

Don't forget to put the full containers on the counter.

CAM

(after KALLIE has exited)

Did she just call us little elves?

SAM

Cam what is your favorite tiny animal?

CAM

I'm like 90 percent sure that Kallie straight-up just called us "little elves".

SAM

Mine is the lion and Mable's is the duck.

MABLE

Aw you remember my favorite tiny animal?

CAM

You guys ever get the feeling that Kallie views herself as like above us?

SAM

I like the ducks a lot too. Not as much as the lions but I do like them.

CAM

CAN YOU GUYS PLEASE STOP TALKING ABOUT TINY ANIMALS FOR LIKE ONE MINUTE???

(Pause.)

MABLE

I'm sorry

CAM

No Mable—don't feel sorry. I shouldn't have yelled. I'm just kind of freaking out because I think, like I think maybe I should take the promotion?

SAM

You don't think Kallie wants it?

CAM

I don't think Kallie deserves it.

SAM

What? She's like the most devoted to this place.

CAM

Is she? Or is she devoted to bossing us around?

SAM

Well how else would we know what to do?

CAM

We'd figure it out! We're smart! Sam, you are smart.

SAM

Doesn't Kallie normally call the shots? If she isn't here, who calls the shots?

CAM

We do!

SAM

Right but like who's in charge?

MABLE

Cam would be in charge right?

CAM

Nobody needs to be in charge! We're all adults!

SAM

But the chain of command—

CAM

WE WORK IN A SMALL TOY SHOP, IT ISN'T THAT SERIOUS.

(Pause.)

MABLE

So are you taking the promotion?

CAM

I don't know. I mean who would you rather be manager? Kallie or me?

MABLE

Well I've only known Kallie for like 2 days and I kind of just met you so I guess I don't know?

SAM

I think you should take the promotion if you want to.

CAM

I don't know if I want to. I hadn't really thought about it too much. I just figured Kallie would take it but then she called us "little elves" and that—

SAM

Wait what?

MABLE

She called us "little elves"?

CAM

YES like just now!

MABLE

Well maybe she meant like cause we're good at our jobs like the elves in the North Pole.

SAM

Oh we should totally get elf costumes and dress up for work. Ya know cause we work in a toy shop and everything?

MABLE

Oh! And we could make a hot cocoa station and give out candy canes!

SAM

OH we are totally onto something here.

MABLE

We could turn the whole shop into the North Pole!

CAM

YOU GUYS I'm pretty sure she didn't mean it in an endearing way.

SAM

What?

CAM

Kallie! She didn't-like-ugh! Ok you know what. Maybe I'm just overthinking this. Maybe she's actually just on edge because she wants the promotion and it's making her seem rude or something.

MABLE

Maybe she's on edge because she was offered the promotion and she doesn't want it but she feels too much pressure to accept it.

(Pause.)

CAM

That doesn't make any sense.

MABLE

Oh it definitely does.

SAM

Why wouldn't she want the promotion?

MABLE

Because she doesn't like working here?

CAM

What? She likes working here.

MABLE

Has she ever said that? That she likes working here?

(CAM and SAM think.)

MABLE (CONT'D)

I've only known Kallie for a couple days but I kind of think I understand her way more than the two of you do.

(KALLIE enters carrying the clipboard, her eyes are glued to it. She does not look up from it until she is done speaking.)

KALLIE

Alright I hope those tiny animals are all sorted because we have got some repricing to do. Cam, you're gonna work on the products out on the floor because those are top priority. Sam, you can tackle the overstock in the back. Mable, you can pick where you wanna be.

(looks up at the other three staring at her like deer caught in headlights)

Hello? Am I not speaking English? Let's go people, we have a lot to get done. And like no time

SAM

(carefully)

We may or may not have more tiny animals to sort.

KALLIE

Oh my god, fine. You and Mable can continue working on the stupid animals. Cam, re-pricing. Start with the products on the floor. I will handle the ones in the back. *(on her way to the back)* I swear I have to do everything by myself around here.

(exits)

CAM

(while switching to re-pricing)

SEE! She's like kind of mean to us.

MABLE

Is she? Or is she just burnt out?

CAM

If she's so burnt out, why doesn't she just take a day off?

MABLE

A day off doesn't fix being burnt out. It's just temporary relief.

CAM

Well then why doesn't she just leave?

SAM

Leave? Like quit?

CAM

No Sam, leave like walk into the ocean. OBVIOUSLY I MEANT QUIT.

SAM

You know she mentioned something about quitting earlier.

MABLE

She did?

CAM

What did she say?

SAM

She just like asked me what I thought would happen if she quit.

CAM

Cool and you didn't think to mention this to me like immediately???

SAM

Well she told me she wasn't actually quitting!

CAM

But clearly she's considering it!

MABLE

(noticing the weather outside)

Hey the snow is like really coming down out there.

SAM

Do you think Kallie is actually gonna leave us?

CAM

I mean I can't imagine she wants to work in a toy shop for the rest of her life but like what else does she do?

(Pause.)

SAM

I'm not sure.

CAM

Nothing I guess.

MABLE

Woah there's no way she doesn't have like aspirations.

SAM

Aspirations?

MABLE

Yeah like dreams, life goals.

(Pause.)

Like what does she do outside of work?

CAM

Uhm I don't know.

SAM

She doesn't talk about anything other than work.

MABLE

Ok that cannot be true.

CAM

Actually he's right. Kallie never tells us anything like personal. It's like all she can think about is work.

MABLE

Well do you guys ever ask her about life and stuff?

CAM

Life and stuff?

MABLE

Yeah, like questions about her life outside the store.

(Pause.)

SAM

I guess not.

CAM

Well she never asks us anything about life and stuff.

SAM

Well not anymore.

MABLE

Not anymore?

SAM

Yeah when we first started, she used to be more like happy? I guess? And she would ask us about stuff outside of work.

CAM

Oh my god I totally forgot about that. Kallie used to like make jokes, and laugh, out loud.

SAM

Yeah remember when she used to bring in children's books?

MABLE

She used to bring in children's books?

CAM

OH YEAH I remember now. She used to read stories to the kids who were waiting on their parents to finish up at the register.

SAM

It was actually kind of adorable. She would sit in a chair over on the rug and the kids would sit around her and she'd read books to them.

CAM

She would even do silly character voices.

MABLE

What happened?

SAM

What do you mean?

MABLE

What happened? Why did she stop all of that?

CAM

I guess she just stopped caring?

MABLE

Or maybe she's burnt out. Maybe nobody appreciated all the work she put into making this place a happy place and it really did suck the life out of her.

SAM

Oh

MABLE

You know she said that? She said this place sucked the life out of her.

CAM

So, what? She hates it here now?

MABLE

I don't know. Maybe?

SAM

So what should we do?

CAM

What do you mean what should we do?

SAM

Well there's gotta be some way we can help Kallie feel better and like her old self again.

CAM

Is that really our responsibility?

SAM

I mean she is our friend right?

CAM

Oh you mean *acquaintance*?

SAM

Are you making fun of me right now? Really Cam?

MABLE

I feel like you guys should all be friends. I mean you've been working together for a couple years now right?

CAM

Kind of. We only come in during certain times in the year when the boss wants extra help around the store because of the higher volume of customers.

SAM

Yeah we're here for the holidays, back to school, and sometimes during—

(KALLIE enters with her clipboard. CAM, SAM, and MABLE freeze and look at her.)

	KALLIE		
Did you guys finish the tiny animals?			
	SAM		
Yes			
	KALLIE		
Are you lying to me?			
	SAM		
Yes			
	KALLIE		
Shocker			
	MABLE		
We were a tad bit distracted.			
	KALLIE		
Distracted with what?			
	CAM		SAM
Work stuff		Personal stuff	
	KALLIE		
What?			
	MABLE		
We were talking about schedules.			
	KALLIE		
Whatever. I honestly don't care. Just focus on getting your tasks done.			
	CAM		
There's like nothing to do!			

KALLIE

Yes there is and there are customers arriving in less than an hour.

CAM

Ok well I finished re-pricing out here.

KALLIE

Oh well good to know somebody actually knows how to do their job.

CAM

They've been doing their jobs. Sorting the animals just takes time. There's a lot of them and they're very tiny.

KALLIE

I know it takes time. I've done it before.

CAM

So then maybe you should cool it.

KALLIE

Cool it? Maybe you should take your break.

CAM

I don't feel like I need a break.

KALLIE

Take your break Cam.

CAM

Ok fine. I'll take my break.

(heads to the back)

KALLIE

Can you two please finish sorting the animals?

SAM

Yeah sorry, we kept getting distracted. It was my fault.

MABLE

Oh no! It wasn't your fault. We just all need to stay focused.

SAM

I like your method, I'm gonna copy it.

MABLE

Oh really? I've just been kind of dumping out a small bunch at a time to sort.

SAM

Yeah it seems more effective than picking them out one by one like I've been doing.

MABLE

I think your method works well too.

KALLIE

Oh my god stop flirting and do your jobs.

SAM

Oh we weren't-

KALLIE

(taking out her phone)

Shoot I'm getting a call from boss.

(KALLIE takes the phone call and heads to the back. Adlib can take place for the call until she's off. SAM and MABLE sit in silence for a moment.)

SAM

...that was weird.

MABLE

(noticing a notepad in SAM's pocket)

What's that notebook for?

SAM

(pushing the notepad further in his pocket; hiding it)

Oh nothing. It's just like—nothing.

MABLE

(looks out the window)

You know the snow has really picked up.

SAM

(looking out the window)

Oh wow. It's so pretty.

MABLE

It is. Isn't it?

(They both go and peer out the window.)

MABLE (CONT'D)

Do you know why the store is called "Rollie Pollie"?

SAM

No, why?

MABLE

Oh no I was asking.

SAM

Oh sorry. I guess none of us actually know.

(They watch the snow.)

SAM (CONT'D)

It never snows like this here.

MABLE

Really?

SAM

Yeah I've never seen snow like this. It's like a winter wonderland out there.

MABLE

It looks like good snow too.

SAM

Good snow?

MABLE

Yeah like snowman making snow.

SAM

How can you tell it's snowman making snow?

MABLE

Cause it's piling up fast which means it packs well. You know how when you're building a snowman, you have to pack the snow?

SAM

I've never made a snowman.

MABLE

You've never built a snowman??

SAM

Well no, it never snows here.

MABLE

Wait, have you lived here your whole life?

SAM

Yeah I mean I grew up here and then my parents convinced me to go to school here. That's part of the reason they started our family here, cause of the college.

MABLE

That's why I moved here. For school, I transferred from my community college.

SAM

Oh cool!

MABLE

So you've seriously never built a snowman?

SAM

Never

MABLE

Should we?

SAM

Build a snowman?

MABLE

Yeah we could go build a snowman. It can live outside the store and greet customers.

SAM

I'm not sure Kallie would approve of this.

(CAM enters)

CAM

Approve of what?

MABLE

A snowman

CAM

A snowman?

SAM

Yeah we wanna build a snowman out front.

MABLE

Maybe if I ask her like really nicely, she'll let us build one.

CAM

I don't think she's gonna but go for it I guess.

MABLE

I got this.

(heads to the back)

CAM

Kallie is gonna shoot this idea down so fast.

SAM

Hey, at least give Mable a chance to convince her.

CAM

Nah Kallie is gonna step on her dreams of building a snowman.

SAM

I don't know, I believe in Mable. She's hard to say no to.

CAM

Uh huh? You gonna ask her out?

SAM

WHAT

CAM

Just wondering

SAM

Why would I ask her out?

CAM

I'm not stupid. I know you want to.

SAM

Do not!

CAM

Ok whatever you say man.

(Pause.)

Do you think she'd say yes?

SAM

Called it.

CAM

CAMERON

SAM

Yeah I'm pretty sure she'd say yes.

CAM

You really think so?

SAM

Yeah just make a move already.

CAM

We've barely met!

SAM

And yet you're obviously perfect for each other.

CAM

What if she says no?

SAM

At the end of the day, we all get to go home and sleep it off. It's not like you'll be stuck in here with her. It'll be old news by tomorrow and nobody will care.

CAM

I don't know. I'm scared.

SAM

Don't be scared. You're a catch.

CAM

SAM

Aww thanks

CAM

Just do it.

SAM

I will think about it.

CAM

Boring

SAM

Fine! If I ask Mable out, then you have to take the promotion.

CAM

What? That's not how this works.

SAM

You and I both know you deserve the promotion.

CAM

Kallie's been here longer.

SAM

But you worked full time last summer.

CAM

So did Kallie.

SAM

Yeah but she's not like nice to the customers.

CAM

I just don't know if I'm like actually, ya know, manager material.

SAM

Of course you are! You know like everything about this place.

CAM

Yeah I just don't know if I can be like a good leader.

SAM

No! You can be anything you wanna be!

CAM

I'm being serious Sam. I don't want to mess it up and look stupid.

SAM

You're not stupid. You're freaking Cam Jones.

CAM

You can't just tack my last name on and expect it to make a difference.

SAM

But you're Cam Jones! You got this, seriously.

CAM

God my name is so generic.

SAM

I like your name.

CAM

Thanks bud

(they "work")

SAM

Hey guess what Mable asked me.

CAM

What?

SAM

I said guess what—

CAM

No Sam, I heard you. What did she ask you?

SAM

She asked me why the store is called Rollie Pollie

(CAM and SAM think for a moment before KALLIE and MABLE enter. KALLIE rushes to the window.)

SAM

Personally, I think a snowman would go great at the end of the sidewalk like right where—

KALLIE

Everybody shut up.

(Everybody shuts up.)

KALLIE (CONT'D)

Check the doors.

CAM

Check the doors?

SAM

Like if they open?

KALLIE

Yeah, boss said people are getting snowed in right now.

(They lock eyes with each other, frozen for a moment before)

CAM

(While running to the store door)

NO WAY NO WAY NO WAY NO WAY

SAM

(While running to the back)

I'll check the one in the back!

CAM

(Struggling to open the door)

IT WON'T OPEN. WHY DIDN'T WE GET A DOOR THAT OPENS INWARD???

KALLIE

THAT'S NOT HOW DOORS WORK IN AMERICA.

CAM

WELL MAYBE IT'S HOW THEY SHOULD!!!

(SAM enters. KALLIE, CAM, and MABLE all look at him.)

SAM

It won't open.

CAM

Kallie! Pull the door off the hinges!

KALLIE

With what tools?? All we have is a monkey wrench from that time all the scooters came with loose screws!!

CAM

Well we have to do something!!

KALLIE

YEAH I'M AWARE

(attempts to open the door, struggles, fails)

SAM

Guys look outside. Even if we somehow got the door open, we would still be blocked in with all the snow.

MABLE

Yeah I mean it's piled up pretty high and it's not slowing down.

(Pause.)

KALLIE

No way we're stuck.

MABLE

Ok let's all just take a deep breath—

KALLIE

NO WAY WE'RE STUCK!!!

CAM

This weather is insane.

KALLIE

How did this even happen?! The first time it snows in this godforsaken town and it's a full-on blizzard?!?!?

SAM

I guess winter has just been loading this whole time.

KALLIE

What?

CAM

What if we call someone to come save us?

MABLE

If we can't leave, neither can anybody else.

CAM

There's gotta be something we can do.

SAM

What are ya thinking?

CAM

Oh I don't have any ideas. I just feel like we have to do something.

KALLIE

Hey Cam, THAT'S HOW WE ALL FEEL

CAM

Ok well do you have any ideas??

KALLIE

Body slam the door.

CAM

Pardon?

KALLIE

Throw your body up against the door.

CAM

No! You throw your body up against the door.

SAM

Do you want me to body slam the door?

MABLE

I really don't think any of us should be body slamming the door.

(Pause.)

KALLIE

So what? We just have to stay here until it like goes away??

MABLE

Until it melts off, yes.

SAM

We're really stuck aren't we? Like for real.

CAM

I think so.

KALLIE

This is my worst nightmare.

SAM

Does this mean we still have to do our jobs?

KALLIE

Sam-

SAM

I'm just saying, it doesn't look like we'll be open for business today.

CAM

He's right. This town doesn't know how to deal with weather like this. Nobody's gonna be open for a while.

KALLIE

Did you guys ever finish sorting those tiny animals?

MABLE

Yes

KALLIE

Are you lying to me?

MABLE

Also yes.

KALLIE

I hate it here.

SAM

Soooo what now?

KALLIE

Well Sam, I'm gonna take a break. If you guys need anything, don't.

(heads to the back)

SAM

Oh my god Kallie's broken.

MABLE

What? She is not broken, she's just taking a break.

CAM

Exactly. Kallie never takes breaks.

SAM

It's official. Kallie is broken.

MABLE

(quietly to herself)

I'm beginning to miss 3 days ago when I didn't work here.

CAM

I can't believe we're actually like stuck in here.

MABLE

(pulling herself together)

Everything is gonna be ok. It's just snow. It will eventually go away.

CAM

Yeah but like how long is that gonna take?

(SAM sits on the floor at the window. He watches the snow.)

MABLE

I'm not sure.

CAM

(noticing SAM)

What are you doing?

SAM

I've never seen it snow like this. It's like a tornado of snow.

MABLE

(sits next to SAM)

Yeah, it is.

(MABLE and SAM watch the snow from the floor while CAM watches from afar.)

SAM

Was it us or the snow?

MABLE

What?

SAM

That broke Kallie?

CAM

It was Rollie Pollie.

(All three of them watch the snow. Lights out)

END OF ACT

ACT II

(Lights indicate a shift in time as all four characters move about the stage. They work. Eventually, SAM and MABLE head to the back. KALLIE and CAM are left in the shop. CAM works on a display. KALLIE side eyes him as she works on a separate display.)

You're doing that wrong.

KALLIE

No I'm not.

CAM

You most definitely are.

KALLIE

It's just toys.

CAM

It's our job.

KALLIE

How many ways are there to arrange toys?

CAM

Just-here I'll fix it.

KALLIE

(walks over and starts fixing the display)

No stop, I don't need you to fix it.

CAM

You obviously do.

KALLIE

Stop it. I am not incapable. I can do my job.

CAM

KALLIE

Just let me fix it.

CAM

No! This is *my* display. Go work on *your* display.

KALLIE

Fine!

(KALLIE walks back over to her display. They work.)

KALLIE

(quietly)

Mine's better

CAM

What did you just say?

KALLIE

I said mine's better.

CAM

Excuse me?

KALLIE

You should have let me help you with yours.

CAM

I don't need your help. My display looks good.

KALLIE

No, my display looks good. Your's looks like a kindergartner did it.

CAM

You know what? Finish your display and we'll ask Sam and Mable which one is better.

KALLIE

Woooooow classic man, just making everything a competition.

CAM

OH don't pretend like you don't wanna know which one would win.

KALLIE

Fine, go get Mable.

CAM

And Sam?

KALLIE

No, Sam is biased. He'll choose yours.

CAM

Well so is Mable! She'll probably just choose yours.

KALLIE

Mable is not biased. She just started working here.

CAM

We've been here forever and the two of you have been gabbing this whole time! She's biased!

KALLIE

Gabbing? Who says that?

CAM

You know what I mean.

KALLIE

Mable is not biased. We barely know each other.

CAM

Fine! Let's get her to pick a display.

KALLIE

Fine.

CAM

Fine!

(Pause.)

CAM

MAAAAAAABLE!!!

KALLIE

Ah why are you yelling? Just go get her.

CAM

No way. I'm not leaving. You could sabotage my display.

KALLIE

You're the worst.

(MABLE enters out of breath.)

MABLE

You called??

CAM

Yeah. Which one of these displays is better?

MABLE

Which one is better?

CAM

Yeah like if you were a customer walking into the store, which display would you go see first?

KALLIE

That's a terrible question. That's not gonna tell us which one is better.

CAM

What? Yes it will! The whole point of the display is to draw the attention of the customer so they spend time looking at the products.

MABLE

You know I'm really not sure if I'm the right person to choose.

KALLIE

Yes you are.

MABLE
Maybe Sam can choose?

KALLIE
No

MABLE
Oh

KALLIE
Come on Mable, we both know my display is the better one.

CAM
Sabotage!

KALLIE
Shut up Cam

CAM
Look how cool mine is Mable. You cannot tell me my spacial reasoning skills are not absolutely crushing it.

MABLE
I'm really not qualified to make this decision.

KALLIE
Yes you are. You work here. Now choose a display.

MABLE
Ummm

(MABLE studies the displays. KALLIE and CAM stare into each other's souls. Their eyes narrow. SAM enters, he takes in the room.)

SAM
What's going on out here?

CAM

Quick Sam, which display is better?

KALLIE

No, he's biased!

SAM

What's happening?

MABLE

I think both displays look great. Maybe it can be a tie?

CAM

No ties!

KALLIE

No ties!

SAM

Classic Cam and Kallie shenanigans.

KALLIE

Pick one Mable.

MABLE

I like them both.

KALLIE

But which one do you like more?

MABLE

I think they're both winning displays.

CAM

But which one is more of a winner?

SAM

Maybe we just let this one go? It's kind of mean to put Mable in the middle of this.

KALLIE

Stay out of it Sam.

CAM

Woah don't take your anger out on my boy Sam.

KALLIE

Relax

CAM

Don't tell me to relax.

KALLIE

(being annoying about it)

Relax

CAM

I'M RELAXED

KALLIE

No you're not.

CAM

UGH!

KALLIE

Just admit that my display is better.

CAM

I refuse.

KALLIE

We both know it's better.

(In the midst of the argument, SAM and MABLE slip out and head to the back.)

CAM

My display looks good. I can do this job just as good as you.

KALLIE

Well

CAM

Well what?

KALLIE

No, I'm correcting you. What you meant to say is "I can do this job just as *well* as you."

(Pause, death stare)

CAM

What is your problem? Why can't you just let me be good at something??

(Pause.)

KALLIE

What? I was just—

CAM

I know it's just a display but I also know that I did a good job with it.

KALLIE

Jesus I didn't mean to like actually upset you.

CAM

You don't have to be so mean all the time.

KALLIE

You think I'm mean?

CAM

I mean kinda

(returns to his display)

I don't know, maybe you're just tired.

Tired?
KALLIE

Yeah like burnt out.
CAM

(KALLIE returns to her display, after a moment...)

Your display looks good.
KALLIE

Thanks.
Yours looks good too.
CAM

(They work)

And I'm sorry.
I wasn't like trying to be mean.
KALLIE

Yeah but you weren't like trying to be nice either.
CAM

What?
KALLIE

You just—you don't have to be like that Kallie. You don't have to be so guarded and like aggressive all the time.
CAM

Being guarded is how you protect yourself.
KALLIE

CAM

Being guarded is how you lose friends.

And what are you even guarding yourself from? It's literally just the four of us in here.

(MABLE enters)

MABLE

(carefully)

Is the competition over?

CAM

Yeah it's over.

MABLE

Cool. Sam said he needs your help with something.

CAM

With what?

MABLE

He didn't really say.

CAM

Interesting.

(heads to the back)

MABLE

What now?

KALLIE

You can take over Cam's display. If you want.

(MABLE walks over to CAM's display. They work.)

MABLE

Can I ask you something?

Sure

KALLIE

Why did you stop bringing in children's books to read to the kids?

MABLE

How do you know about that?

KALLIE

....someone told me.

MABLE

Which one was it? Sam or Cam?

KALLIE

Both

MABLE

Morons

KALLIE

Yeah, I'm sorry if I wasn't like supposed to know or something. I just–

MABLE

Don't apologize, it's fine.

KALLIE

...Ok

MABLE

(They work. After a moment, KALLIE turns towards MABLE. She lets her guard down.)

KALLIE

Um– sometimes kids get bored after being in here for a while so I used to read books to them while their parents finished up shopping.
It kept the store calm.

MABLE

(carefully)

Why'd you stop?

KALLIE

I don't know, cause other things needed to be done.

MABLE

Do you miss it?

KALLIE

I miss when I didn't hate it here.

So yeah

(They work for a moment before KALLIE stops and sits on the floor.)

MABLE

Are you ok?

KALLIE

Come sit on the floor with me.

MABLE

Ok...

(sits on the floor next to KALLIE)

Why are we on the floor?

KALLIE

I think we deserve a break.

MABLE

Oh cool.

(Pause.)

KALLIE

So is it everything you hoped it would be?

MABLE

What do you mean?

KALLIE

Working in a toy shop. Is it as fun as you thought it would be?

MABLE

It's kind of fun. Sorting the animals was fun.

KALLIE

Just wait until we have customers.

MABLE

Right. The true test.

KALLIE

(Pause.)

I think I hate it here so much because it reminds me how much fun I used to have.

MABLE

When you used to bring in the books?

KALLIE

When I still wanted to be here.

MABLE

Because now you don't?

KALLIE

I wrote one.

MABLE

What?

KALLIE

A children's book. I wrote one.

Really?
MABLE

Yeah, it's stupid but I kinda thought working in a toy shop would help me write more.
KALLIE

Did it?
MABLE

Do I look like Barbara Park?
KALLIE

Who?
MABLE

Barbara Park!
KALLIE

(The two stare at each other for a moment, MABLE has no clue who this person is.)

KALLIE (CONT'D)
SHE WROTE JUNIE B JONES!!!

Ohhhhhhh I loved Junie B Jones when I was little.
MABLE

Yeah everyone did.
KALLIE

So you wrote a children's book?
MABLE

I mean I tried my best to but—
KALLIE

Can I read it?
MABLE

Oh I don't know if it's any good.

KALLIE

Pleaseeeeeeeeee

MABLE

Nobody's read it.

KALLIE

Can I be the first?

MABLE

You know you're relentless.

KALLIE

I know. That's what makes me such a good friend.

MABLE

It doesn't even have pictures yet. I don't really know how to draw so I just wrote the story.

KALLIE

That's ok. It's a work in progress.

MABLE

I don't have the book here with me.

KALLIE

Next time.

MABLE

Next time? You're really gonna keep this job after all this?

KALLIE

Are you?

MABLE

What

KALLIE

Just wondering

MABLE

Well stop.

KALLIE

Ok. Sorry.

MABLE

Not this again.

KALLIE

What? What again?

MABLE

All your “sorrlys”. Apologizing all the time makes you seem weak. Don’t let people think you’re weak.

KALLIE

I think you’re one of the most interesting people I’ve ever met.

MABLE

You should meet more people.

KALLIE

Just take the compliment.

MABLE

Fine. Thanks

KALLIE

We’re gonna be such good friends.

MABLE

If you say so.

KALLIE

I do. I say so.

MABLE

KALLIE

Alright.

(KALLIE stands up and resumes work. MABLE does the same but then decides they're about to become best friends.)

MABLE

Do you have any siblings?

KALLIE

No.

MABLE

Really?

KALLIE

Do you?

MABLE

Yeah, 1 older and 1 younger.

KALLIE

Middle child. Shoulda known.

MABLE

Favorite color?

KALLIE

Red

MABLE

Mine too!!

KALLIE

Cool

MABLE

Do you like movies?

Who doesn't?

KALLIE

I LOVE movies. We should have a movie night! Ya know like when we get out of here.

MABLE

Ok but no inviting Sam and Cam.

KALLIE

I mean I wasn't planning on it.

MABLE

Uh huh sureeee

KALLIE

I wasn't!

MABLE

Not even Sam?

KALLIE

Why would I invite Sam?

MABLE

Oh I don't know, cause you're in love with him??

KALLIE

Am not!

MABLE
*(gasps and runs to check the door to the back is closed all the way,
then returns)*

PLEASE you so are!

KALLIE

No I'm not! I just met him!

MABLE

Yeah and the two of you have been like superglued together this whole time.

KALLIE

Nuh huh!

MABLE

Yeah huh!

KALLIE

Well, you were the one who kept putting us together on the tiny animals!!

MABLE

Yeah and that task took FOREVER cause the two of you wouldn't stop flirting.

KALLIE

What? No! We were just talking!

MABLE

Mhmmmm

KALLIE

(They work.)

Do you really think he likes me?

MABLE

I KNEW IT

KALLIE

Shhhh just answer the question.

MABLE

I mean he was practically drooling over you when he met you.

KALLIE

Stop you're just saying that.

MABLE

Do I seem like the kinda person who just says stuff?

KALLIE

What should I do?
MABLE

I don't know, just be cool?
KALLIE

Have I not been cool?
MABLE

I don't know. I haven't been watching you to make sure you've been being cool.
KALLIE

Well can you?
MABLE

What?
KALLIE

Just keep an eye on me to make sure I'm being cool around Sam and if I'm not being cool, you can like nudge me or give me a signal to stop being weird.
MABLE

I'd rather see you be weird.
KALLIE

Kallie please!
MABLE

Ok ok I'll keep an eye on you.
KALLIE

Ok thanks. That makes me feel better.
MABLE

You're weird.
KALLIE

YEAH that's the problem.
MABLE

KALLIE

I don't think it's a problem to be weird.

MABLE

But I shouldn't be weird around Sam?

KALLIE

Everyone's weird. Everybody does weird stuff. I don't think it matters.

MABLE

But you said to be cool.

KALLIE

Weird is cool.

MABLE

Oh. Cool

(They work.)

MABLE (CONT'D)

What's the weirdest thing you do?

KALLIE

Huh?

MABLE

Like when no one is watching. What's the weirdest thing you do when no one is watching?

KALLIE

Uh I'm not sure.

MABLE

Come on there's gotta be something.

KALLIE

Um

(She searches, then)

When I was little-like really little-like 3 feet tall little, I used to lay on the floor with my eyes closed and I'd pretend that I didn't exist.

Not that I was like dead, but that I was just somewhere other than earth.

I think I'd imagine I was in some alternate reality where people never existed because I distinctly remember there being no people in whatever space this was.

Um I don't have like a solid reason as to why but I know it calmed me down. I guess I found comfort in imagining that nothing, not even myself really existed therefore nothing mattered? I don't know. I know it probably sounds dumb but I still kinda do it. Not in like the same exact way but sometimes when everything feels like too much, I like to lay on the floor with my eyes closed and try my hardest to forget that I exist.

Like "oh rent is due? Oh I have work to do? No, because I don't exist."

"Oh people are relying on me? Waiting on me to fulfill some type of potential? They can't possibly be. I don't exist. I'm nowhere to be found."

Like I always have the option to do nothing even if it's only for a brief moment. I can always slow down and pretend like I just don't exist.

(beat) Ok your turn, what's the weirdest thing you do when no one's watching?

MABLE

Uh dance?

KALLIE

MABLE

MABLE

We should do that.

KALLIE

Dance?

MABLE

No, your thing.

KALLIE

You wanna?

MABLE

Floor time!!!

KALLIE

Yeah ok, floor time.

(They both lay down staring at the ceiling. KALLIE closes her eyes.)

MABLE

Soooo do we just lay here?

KALLIE

Close your eyes.

MABLE

(closes her eyes)

Ok

(Pause.)

Now what?

KALLIE

Close your mouth. Just...don't exist. For one moment.

(They lay. They stop existing. It's peaceful. After a moment...)

KALLIE

The store is so quiet.

MABLE

Yeah, it is.

KALLIE

I don't think it's ever been this quiet.

MABLE

It's the snow. Snow silences everything. It's like a blanket of quietness.

KALLIE

Huh

(They continue laying, not existing for another moment.)

MABLE

Will you promise to bring your book in? So I can read it.

KALLIE

Mable I don't-

MABLE

Please

KALLIE

(Pause.)

Ok, I promise.

(They sit up. They smile at each other. They exist.)

MABLE

What do you think Sam and Cam are up to?

KALLIE

No clue.

MABLE

Should we check on them?

KALLIE

Nope.

(They lock eyes, then they lay back down. They don't exist for another moment. Then, SAM and CAM enter. KALLIE and MABLE sit up.)

SAM

Oh sick. Floor time!!

(joins them on the floor)

CAM

Why the floor?

SAM

Cam! Read the room. Get on the floor.

(CAM joins them on the floor. They all sit for a quiet moment. The store is silent.)

CAM

We finished the checklist.

KALLIE

What?

CAM

Your clipboard. With the list. We finished it.

KALLIE

Huh, I guess we're done then.

SAM

What do we do now?

(Pause, MABLE turns to CAM)

MABLE

What's the weirdest thing you do when no one is watching?

CAM

What?

KALLIE

Don't be lame. Answer the question.

CAM

I don't know.

SAM

Come on Cam, think.

CAM

Uh well sometimes I play chess.

KALLIE

That's not weird.

CAM

It is cause I don't play it with another person. I just set up the board and play a game against myself.

SAM

How does that work?

CAM

I just switch back and forth trying to make the best decision for either side until it becomes an impossible game.

MABLE

How do you win?

CAM

You don't.

KALLIE

Yeah that is weird. (*shifts attention to SAM*) Your turn Sam. What's the weirdest thing you do when no one is watching?

SAM

This is a tough one.

CAM

HOW? You do weird things all the time.

SAM

No I know. It's hard to pick just one thing to be the weirdest.

MABLE

Just think "what would be the silliest thing to explain to another person?" and then explain it to us.

SAM

I draw.

KALLIE

Again, not weird.

SAM

No, like everything. I draw everything all the time.

(pulls a tiny notepad with a pencil attached out of his pocket)

I never leave home without this. I try and only draw when no one is watching so people don't ask what I'm drawing because then I have to explain that I'm just drawing what I'm currently seeing and nothing cool.

MABLE

Why do you draw everything?

SAM

I don't know. I guess it just helps me process things.

CAM

How have I never noticed you have a whole notepad in your pocket?

MABLE

Can we see something you've drawn?

SAM

Um sure.

(SAM tosses the notepad over to the other three. They look through it together.)

CAM

Sam these are like really good.

MABLE

Yeah you're really good at drawing.

SAM

Oh thanks. I guess I just do it so often that I've become kind of good at it.

KALLIE

"Kind of"? Sam these are amazing.

SAM

Thank you

MABLE

(pointing to one page)

Oh my god is this the shop??

SAM

Oh, yeah

CAM

Wow it looks exactly like real life.

KALLIE

It's so tiny.

SAM

Yeah the notepad is pretty small.

KALLIE

No I mean the shop. In your drawing. It's so little. Like we work in such a little place.

(All four of them stop and look around.)

CAM

(sort of to himself)

Maybe I should take the promotion.

KALLIE

Wait. What did you just say?

CAM

Nothing.

KALLIE

No you said promotion. I heard you.

SAM

Uh oh

CAM

(stumbling over his words)

I was just thinking out loud. Talking to myself haha I guess another weird thing I do haha.

KALLIE

Were you offered a promotion?

CAM

...maybe

KALLIE

When?

CAM

Probably like right after boss offered it to you.

KALLIE

I wasn't offered a promotion.

MABLE

Uh oh

CAM

You weren't?

KALLIE

Why would you be offered a promotion over me? I've been here for like ever!

CAM

That's what I was wondering!

KALLIE

I mean, no offense but like why'd boss ask *you* instead of *me*?

CAM

Ok none taken I guess

KALLIE

(looks out the window)

I'm never getting out of here.

SAM

Kallie, the snow will melt off eventually and we'll be able to leave—

KALLIE

NO I mean like I'm never getting out of this store. This job! I've been here for so long and I'm not even good enough to get a promotion? I just feel like stuck. Like I can't leave. Like I'm not good enough to leave.

MABLE

Do you want to leave?

KALLIE

(she thinks, then)

Cam, take the promotion. You deserve it. You're a hard worker.

CAM

Is that a genuine compliment? From *Kallie*? Sam pinch me, I think I'm dreaming.

KALLIE

I think I have to leave. This place is so little. I just, I've outgrown it.

MABLE

What are you gonna do?

KALLIE

I don't know. I'll figure it out though. Maybe I'll finally write more.

CAM

Write?

MABLE

Kallie's a children's book author.

KALLIE

Well not yet. I've barely written the one book and it doesn't even have pictures.

MABLE

(gasps)

OH I HAVE A BRILLIANT IDEA

KALLIE

What??

MABLE

Sam, you should be Kallie's illustrator!

SAM

Illustrator?

MABLE

Yeah for her children's book!

KALLIE

Wait that's actually a really good idea.

MABLE

Thanks, I'm full of them today.

SAM

So I would just draw the pictures for each page?

KALLIE

Yeah. I've written the story, it just needs pictures.

SAM

You would trust me to draw for your book?

KALLIE

Are you kidding? Look at your drawings. You're really talented.

SAM

(smiles)

Cool

KALLIE

Should we shake on it?

(KALLIE and SAM shake hands.)

MABLE

Oooooo how official.

CAM

Maybe you can convince the boss to promote your book in the store.

KALLIE

Ok now let's not get ahead of ourselves.

SAM

So we're like business partners now?

KALLIE

Yeah!

MABLE

(to CAM) If you're the new manager, maybe you could make the decision to promote Kallie and Sam's book in the store.

CAM

I mean that's if I even take the promotion.

KALLIE

Why wouldn't you take it?

CAM

I don't know, I mean at first it felt like too much responsibility but like looking at Sam's drawing showed me how small this place is. Like maybe I could be manager. Maybe I could be in charge.

MABLE

(mimicking CAM from earlier)

"Nobody needs to be in charge! We're all adults!" Remember when you said that?

CAM

Oh wow look who's comfortable enough to make fun of us now.

MABLE

Just saying...but for real, you should totally take the promotion.

SAM

Take! The! Promotion!

KALLIE

Yeah! Take! The! Promotion!

ALL BUT CAM

Take! The! Promotion! Take! The! Promotion! Take! The! Promotion!

CAM

OK OK I'll take the promotion.

MABLE

(clapping)

Yay!!

CAM

You guys are so weird.

MABLE

Yeah but weird is cool.

KALLIE

Ah I've taught you well young one.

CAM

Oh so you can call us "young one" but we can't say "yes ma'am" to you??

KALLIE

Shut up, you know that's different!

CAM

Ok ok fine

KALLIE

Oh my god you're probably gonna get the key to the snack cabinet.

CAM

THERE'S A SNACK CABINET???

KALLIE

Oh yeah. I've spent way too much time here to not have a snack cabinet.

CAM

Show me.

KALLIE

Ok come with me.

(KALLIE and CAM head to the back.)

SAM

We're totally convincing Cam to give us those keys.

MABLE

Oh yeah

SAM

I'm putting pretzels in there.

MABLE

Oooo I'll put peanut butter in there and then we can have pretzels and peanut butter.

SAM

Oh I loveeeeeee pretzels and peanut butter.

MABLE

It's a classic combo.

SAM

You right.

(Pause.)

MABLE

You know what's weird? I'm not even mad that we're stuck in here.

SAM

No for real! At this point, I don't mind it.

MABLE

Yeah honestly, It's been kinda fun.

SAM

This is silly but I kinda feel like we're like The Breakfast Club.

MABLE

Oh my gosh we are like The Breakfast Club!!

SAM

I love that movie.

MABLE

Me too!!

SAM

It's SUCH a good movie.

MABLE

Oh my gosh you should come to Kallie and I's movie night.

SAM

You guys are having a movie night?

MABLE

Yeah! OH wait, I wasn't supposed to invite you.

SAM

What?

MABLE

Uhhh nothing. Just forget I said that.

SAM

Oh ok

MABLE

It's just, it's supposed to be just Kallie and me. Cause we're besties now.

SAM

You are? Man how long have we been here?

MABLE

I guess it's more of a work in progress.

SAM

Ohhh I see.

(Pause.)

Well, maybe we can have our own movie night. Like just you and me. Or not, I don't know—

MABLE

No yes we should do that.

SAM

Ok cool.

MABLE

Also we should build a snowman. You know, when we actually get to go outside again.

SAM

Oh absolutely we should.

(KALLIE and CAM enter.)

CAM

WHAT IS UP ROLLIE POLLIE. I'M YOUR NEW MANAGER

SAM

Lets goooooo!!!

MABLE

Yayyyyyyy!!!

CAM

(like Elvis)

Thank you, thank you very much

MABLE

So it's official?

CAM

Yup! Just emailed boss!

KALLIE

Sam, grab a ruler from the school section. Mable, grab one of the tiaras from the princess costumes.

(no one moves)

KALLIE (CONT'D)

Please?

(SAM and MABLE fetch their items.)

KALLIE
Cam, will you please take a knee?

CAM
What?

KALLIE
Just! !!! (*gestures as if to say "trust me!"*)

CAM
Um ok

(CAM takes a knee, KALLIE takes the ruler and dubs CAM.)

KALLIE
I dub thee: King of Rollie Pollie
(places the tiara on CAM's head)

SAM
Yeah! All hail the King!!!

CAM
(while standing back up)
Thank you fair sir

SAM
Why of course, your royal highness

MABLE
As newly crowned king, what spectacular plans do you have?

CAM
I promise to do my best to not only banish long register lines but also fill the store playlist with songs we actually like!

SAM
Yayyyyyyy!!

MABLE
Yayyyyyyy!!

CAM

I am honored to now lead the Rollie Pollie Kingdom.

MABLE

King Cam, would it be ok if I started bringing in children's books to read to the kids? To keep Kallie's legacy alive and restore peace among the land of Rollie Pollie?

CAM

Of course

KALLIE

My legacy?

MABLE

Yeah! I mean you're the one who started the tradition. Plus, I'm good with kids remember? So I can look after them while their parents shop.

SAM

And I can help each kid pick out their favorite tiny animal at the register. Ya know, boost our sales a bit.

MABLE

Right, the candy

SAM

Exactly, can't leave without grabbing at least one.

(KALLIE takes a good look at CAM, SAM, and MABLE)

KALLIE

You guys really got it figured out huh?

SAM

We do.

MABLE

We promise.

CAM

But there's some empty spots on the bookshelf so be sure to send us the first draft of your book with the newly illustrated pictures.

KALLIE

You got it.

SAM

Is it still snowing?

MABLE

(looks out the window)

Oh I guess it stopped.

(All four of them freeze looking at each other before KALLIE walks over to the door. She looks back at them, back at the door, she opens it.)

END OF PLAY