

# Role Play

By

Tom Anastasi

Music by

Jon Bellini

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## Cast list

Kendra Sullivan  
Grace Morin  
Crystal Devlin  
Sarah Goldman  
Marty Stevenson  
Jim Oswald  
Dr. Miranda Goldman  
Roland Henry, IV  
Rabbi Saul Goldman

## Act I, Scene I

**Scene: The Theater at Curtain Call Community Theater.**

KENDRA

Hi. I'm auditioning for *Waiting for You*. Am I too late?

GRACE

Most have gone already, but you still have time, hon. Welcome to Curtain Call Community Theater. I'm Grace Morin.

KENDRA

Kendra Sullivan. I'm so nervous.

GRACE

Don't be. I'll be directing the show. Here's the rehearsal schedule and the audition form and a pen.

KENDRA

Okay.

GRACE

Did you bring a resume and headshot?

KENDRA

No. This is the first show I've done in a while. Was I supposed to?

GRACE

Many of the girls do, but don't worry.

KENDRA

*(As Kendra goes to her seat she knocks Grace's water bottle over, spilling it all over the table onto Grace. Grace has seen it all before and is relatively unparsed.)* Oh, my gosh. I'm so sorry.

GRACE

Don't worry, my dear. *(Wipes up the spill with Kleenex.)* Happens all the time.

KENDRA

Does it really?

GRACE

Well, no. That's just an expression. Not a problem, dear. A little water never hurt anyone. Let me go in the back and print off a few more forms.

KENDRA

Thank you. I'm so sorry.

*(KENDRA goes back and sees CRYSTAL filling out her form.)*

*(To Crystal)* I'm such a spaz. She hates me already.

CRYSTAL

The water? Come on, Grace doesn't care if you drown her. Be late for rehearsal, and whew. Her huge pet peeve is never holding the curtain for a show, so be early for call. One time John Kerry came to see *Titanic* when he was running for President. The Secret Service asked her to hold the show for a few minutes because the motorcade was running late.

KENDRA

Did she?

CRYSTAL

Nope. The curtain opened at 8:00. John and Theresa saw from the second scene on.

KENDRA

Be early. Got it.

CRYSTAL

I've known Grace for years. She's directed in New York, London, L.A. About 20 years ago, she directed shows in New York including two national tours.

KENDRA

How did she end up in Amherst, Mass?

CRYSTAL

She and her husband wanted to get out of the city. You'll learn a lot from her. I hope that curtain call doesn't fold. They need to raise \$20,000 or will have to close by Winter.

KENDRA

Will they be okay?

CRYSTAL

I hope so.

KENDRA

What have you been in?

*(MIRANDA ENTERS and joins the conversation)*

CRYSTAL

Last year with Curtain Call, I was Marion in *Music Man*, Peter Pan in *Peter Pan* and Luisa in *The Fantasticks*. (Partly curious and partly sizing up the competition) How about you?

KENDRA

Nothing since college. My college boyfriend junior and senior year didn't want me to be in plays so I changed my major from Theater to Business. Hi Miranda.

MIRANDA

Hi Kendra. Hi Crystal. You made it.

KENDRA

Miranda's my dentist. I've been out of theater for years, and now my fiancé's mad at me for auditioning. We got into a huge fight right before I left. I can't believe I wasn't late.

MIRANDA

(To Crystal) You tell guys right off, that you'll be at rehearsal four nights a week and do shows 30 weekends a year.

CRYSTAL

That's kind of true.

KENDRA

You're braver than me. They're fine with that?

CRYSTAL

Sort of. I've been having four or five torrid two week relationships a year between shows. I offer to let them take me away for the weekend, and they think that's a wonderful idea. Huge surprise, huh?

MIRANDA

When rehearsals start, you let them know you won't be as available for a while and they pretty much ditch.

CRYSTAL

That's kind of true.

KENDRA

This form. Did my mother write it? Age. 32. Marital status. Is engaged a status? Height and weight. No. Are they kidding? So, how much are you supposed to lie?

CRYSTAL

Take off 7 pounds and add an inch and a half.

KENDRA

Gotcha. Vocal range. I think I'm an alto. Vocal instructor. None.

(MARTY enters)

MARTY

Dulcinea (*Bows*)

CRYSTAL

Don Quiote de la Mancha! (*Curtseys*) (*To Kendra*) We're doing *Man of La Mancha* in three weeks. You should come see it.

KENDRA

I will.

MARTY

Hey Crystal. Is that dress new?

CRYSTAL

Yeah. I just got it. You like? Designed by...?

MARTY

Challenge me. Ellen Tracy.

CRYSTAL

Right again. I thought you were going to take a break.

MARTY

I figured I'd take a break from taking a break. (*To Kendra*) There's a new girl. I'm Marty.

KENDRA

Kendra.

MARTY

When's the wedding?

KENDRA

I just set the date a half hour ago. Valentine's day next year. Did you read my form upside down?

MARTY

(*Hold his hand up*) Giant Rock. What are you singing?

KENDRA

Not sure.

MARTY

Just like me. Always prepared. (*Goes to the desk to get his forms.*)

CRYSTAL

He used to be the Animal Control Officer in Holyoke. Now he owns the Pup Place, a kennel outside of town.

MARTY

It's not a kennel. It's a canine bed and breakfast. (*Goes to the table*)

CRYSTAL

(*Privately to Kendra*) He gets the lead in almost every show he does. Too bad he's gay.

KENDRA

He is? What a shame.

CRYSTAL

So, what do you do when you're not here?

KENDRA

I'm a dog trainer at Nuts-About-Pets at the mall. The puppies are so cute. I just wish it paid more. I've been off stage for so long, and I miss it.

CRYSTAL

I work at the mall, too. I'm the lunch manager at Bridges'. I went to college for design, but the job is perfect for my rehearsal schedules.

KENDRA

Schedules?

CRYSTAL

I like to start rehearsing for one show before the next one begins.

KENDRA

I just want to get cast for one show. Okay, here I go. (*To Grace*) Here you go.

GRACE

Thanks, Dear. Okay, so you added 2 inches and took off five -- no seven pounds. (*Sotto voce*) Don't worry dear, we all do it. (*Whispers*) You didn't have to. (*normal*) You didn't put down what you'll be singing.

KENDRA

I haven't decided yet.

GRACE

Okay, dear. Just remember to bring your sheet music in when we call you.

KENDRA

I was supposed to bring some?

GRACE

That's okay dear. We'll follow you as best we can.

KENDRA

Okay. Thanks.

MARTY

Good luck. *(To Grace)*. Here's my form.

KENDRA

*(To Crystal)* Did I mess up?

CRYSTAL

That's okay, they'll follow you.

GRACE

Okay, the only three people who haven't sung yet are Sarah, Kendra, and Marty.

KENDRA

Who else is auditioning?

CRYSTAL

*(To Kendra)* There's Jim. He's a photographer. He freelances and advises the commercial photography club at Amherst College. *(Loud enough for him to hear)* I think he's dated every girl in Fine Arts department.

JIM

They're just friends – who like theater.

MIRANDA

Friends, right. He has a new hot girlfriend every couple of weeks.

MARTY

Is it his fault that women are uncontrollably attracted to men with cameras?

CRYSTAL

We always wonder which new hottie will show up every opening night.

JIM

It's the price of fame!

GRACE.

Dr. Miranda. Any conflicts for you or Sarah?

MIRANDA

No.

GRACE

Let's see. You put on your form "no roles that are too edgy." There's a huge surprise.

MIRANDA

I have to be careful.

GRACE

Sarah.

(Sarah confidently walks up to the table and gives her audition form to Grace.)

SARAH

(*To Miranda*) Mom, can I have my music. (*To Grace*) Oh, yea, my dad says he can be in the play.

GRACE

Rabbi Saul's in! Great.

SARAH

I'm going to sing the last part of "Let's Have Some Fun Tonight. I'm going to skip the d.s. and go right to the coda. On three. (Author's note: Can use any public domain song.)  
Sings song

(Everyone claps!)

MOM OUT THERE BUYING STUFF

SHE THINKS WE ARE SO SWEET.

WHEN DAD'S AROUND WE HAVE A BLAST, WE'RE ALWAYS LATE FOR SCHOOL

WE HAVE THE COOLEST DAD TONIGHT , HE LOVES TO BREAK THE RULES.

GRACE

Good. Okay, (*Looks at the sheet*) Kendra. So, what are you going to sing for us?

KENDRA

(*Flustered because she has to follow SARAH and knows she'll never measure up.*) I don't know.

GRACE

Go ahead.

KENDRA

I think I'll sing something to the tune of "Happy birthday." (*Realizes how lame this is.*)

GRACE

Hey. All we're looking for is something to show off your voice. That's what Angela Lansbury sang to get the role of *Mame* on Broadway. *(This isn't true.)*

KENDRA

*(She has a good voice, but it feeling overwhelmed and self conscious. She sings very tentatively.)*

I'M AUDITIONING FOR A SHOW. I'M AUDITIONING FOR A SHOW. I'M AUDITIONING FOR YOU. I'M AUDITIONING FOR A SHOW!

*(Everyone claps for her, supportively. NOTE MARTY CAN SING A PUBLIC DOMAIN SONG IF TIME ALLOWS)*

GRACE

Okay, Kendra. I've never heard you read. Kendra, you read Jacqui and Marty read for Dorian.

*(They read together. Kendra is still recovering from her song and is more comfortable now, but is very stiff when she reads. Marty reads like he's already played the role, though this is a cold reading.)*

KENDRA (JACQUI)

He'll never be here. I can't believe I've waited all my life to wait for him.

MARTY (DORIAN)

She never showed.

KENDRA (JACQUI)

Twenty more seconds and then I give up.

MARTY

Jacqui, I thought you'd be here. *(As Marty)* Do you want me to skip the song?

GRACE

Yes.

MARTY

*(To Kendra)* Skip the words in capitol letters.

KENDRA (JACQUI)

I'm outa' here.

MARTY (DORIAN)

She's not showing.

KENDRA (JACQUI)

*(Sees Dorian)* You were supposed to meet me in the lobby.

MARTY (DORIAN)

You were supposed to meet me outside.

KENDRA (JACQUI) AND MARTY (DORIAN)

I can't I almost missed you.

KENDRA (JACQUI)

I love you.

MARTY (DORIAN)

I love you.

GRACE

And then the end. Great job, both of you. All right, everyone. Nice job. I'll be posting the cast list on our website call board 9:00 tonight. If you are cast, you'll have to be off book for Act I in three weeks.

*(ALL EXCEPT KENDRA, GRACE, JIM, AND CRYSTAL LEAVE))*

Kendra, hon. Come here a sec.

KENDRA

I did so bad. I'm really sorry.

GRACE

Kendra, honey. You have a wonderful voice, but pick something that really shows it off. Listen. I could tell you were dying up there. But you made it through.

KENDRA

I don't like singing in front of people I don't know.

GRACE

Hon—

KENDRA

I know. Definite liability for community theater. But performances are different.

GRACE

I know hon. You can hide a bit behind the lights. Like I said. You got talent, but you need self-confidence. You need both. Next time I know you'll do better.

*(GRACE and KENDRA exit)*

JIM

*(To Crsytal)* Hey Crystal.

CYRSTAL

Hi Jim. Great job, tonight.

JIM

You, too. Hey, I have an interview at Boston Market Corporate Headquarters to be their ad photographer. I have no idea what to wear.

CRYSTAL

Free-lance or employee?

JIM

Free-lance, but it could lead to full-time.

CRYSTAL

Since you're a photographer go for grey pants, blue blazer, yellow shirt and no tie.

JIM

Thanks. And to show my appreciation, how about if I take you to dinner?

CRSTYAL

You don't have to do that.

JIM

And a movie after.

CRYSTAL

Jim, I'm happy to help you out. You don't have to take me to dinner.

JIM

Crystal. I'm asking you out.

CRYSTAL

I don't know if this is a good idea. Jim, we've been friends for so long, and I don't know if I want to mix my theater world with my dating world. I'm recovering from my last relationship right now. I don't know about dinner.

JIM

You gotta' eat.

CRYSTAL

I suppose. But I'm not sure about a movie right now.

JIM

Okay. Dinner. Tomorrow night. I'll pick you up at Bridges at 5:30 and we'll go to La Cantina.

CYRSTAL

Okay.

(FADE OUT)