

WHAT A DRAG

Written by

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**INT. IRENE'S APARTMENT - EARLY EVENING**

Bettie-Bee Kelly is visiting Irene Kelly's (her Mom's) apartment. Irene watches TV. Irene is unhappy, as usual.

KRISTINA

Okay, I have your clean laundry folded and put in the dresser, and your dirty laundry is in the hamper. Am I forgetting anything?

IRENE

Did you use that gross new fabric softener? I prefer the old one!

BETTIE-BEE

Yes, Mom. I used the old fabric softener.

IRENE

Good! That other shit makes my whole body itchy. It makes my fufu itch and red too, trust me you don't want to see me scratching at it, like I got those crabs again. It's like I'm tryna take the skin off my body!

BETTIE-BEE rolling her eyes, trying not to wretch at her moms comments, continues to wipe down some kitchen surfaces in the apartment with a cloth.

BETTIE-BEE

They, who? You never leave your apartment. But you should.

IRENE

Yeah, yeah.

BETTIE-BEE

I could take you to Liza's sometime for a show. Business is picking up again.

IRENE

Thank you, dear, but if I am to drink and see strip dancing, I'd invite that hot bit of ass Old Mr. Elmer from across the hall.

BETTIE-BEE

Jesus Christ, Mom. Don't put that image in my head. Also, it's a drag bar.

(MORE)

BETTIE-BEE (CONT'D)

Not the same thing as strip dancing. Two different things entirely, not that we haven't already had this conversation.

IRENE

What's wrong with your old Mom getting some. I might be old, but I ain't dry down there.

BETTIE-BEE

Jesus Mom, stop please.

IRENE

What, how did you think your Daddy and I made you, I was bent over that kitchen counter right there. Boy did that man know how to make my toes curl.

Bettie-Bee throws the cloth in the hamper, shaking her head.

BETTIE-BEE

I'm heading over to Liza's. I'll bring you some food later, 'kay?

Irene waves her goodbye, chuckling to herself, without making eye contact. She continues watching Steve Harvery on the TV. Bettie-Bee exits the apartment.

#### **INT. APARTMENT ELEVATOR - EVENING**

As Bettie-Bee enters the elevator, she's looking over a checklist she removed from her pocket. She's murmuring about getting everything done. STEVEN, MITCH and their dog, Zues, are already in the elevator as she enters.

MITCH

Hey Bettie-Bee.

STEVEN

Hey Gurl!

Zeus lets out a friendly bark to her.

Bettie-Bee nods at them and gives Zeus a pet, calling him a good boy.

The elevator door closes.

When it reopens, Mitch and Steven are arguing, and Bettie-Bee stands between them. They argue like old men.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
No, no! Andy Warhol painted the  
tomato soup cans.

MITCH  
That was Da Vinci! Warhol painted  
cans of carrot soup!

Bettie-Bee bends down to Zeus, and makes a fuss of him.

BETTIE-BEE  
(whispering to Zeus)  
They're worse than my Mother. I  
don't know how you do it.

They all step out of the escalator.

BETTIE-BEE (CONT'D)  
I'll see you guys at Liza's! I'd  
walk there with you, but I need to  
get there within this millennia.

The old men laugh, saying "fair enough," "see you later," and  
so on.

Bettie-Bee exits the apartment building, crosses the street,  
and enters Liza's.

**INT. LIZA'S BAR - EVENING**

HEY ZEUS, the bartender, is preparing for the busy period of  
the night, he is slicing lemons and limes into wedges. Bettie-  
Bee pulls out a checklist.

BETTIE-BEE  
Zeus is setting up bar, check.

COLLIN (from Northern England, Edinburgh) is taking images of  
MISS BRONCO and MADELYNN HATTER with his phone. Bettie-Bee  
greet them all.

BETTIE-BEE (CONT'D)  
Hey Colin!  
How's the photoshoot going?

COLLIN  
(Edinburgh Accent)  
Good! These pics are gonna pop off.

BETTIE-BEE  
You wanna pop one off on me...

COLLIN

As in, you want to be posted on our Instagram too? Good idea! It'll increase the business's transparency as a brand!

BETTIE-BEE

Sure, I meant that. Right. Let's save that for later though.

Since Collins arrival she had been crushing on him hard.

COLLIN

Yeah no problem, just tell me whenever your ready for me to pop off on you.

Bettie-Bee blushing starts fanning herself with her checklist.

Bettie-Bee notices Madelynn Hatter has no hat.

BETTIE-BEE

Hey Madelynn, where's your hat. The Madelynn Hatter can't perform without her hat, right?

MADELYNN HATTER

Actually, I'm not sure. One moment it was on my head. The next moment it wasn't. If you get a chance, could you help me find it?

BETTIE-BEE

Of course!

Bettie-Bee returns to her checklist, with a pen in hand.

BETTIE-BEE (CONT'D)

(to self)

Collins marketing, check.  
Need to find Madelynn's hat.

Hey Zeus calls over to Bettie-Bee.

HEY ZEUS

Bettie-Bee!

Everyone looks over. On the blackboard, a laser pointer is circling the word "Meatball sub, no Mariana"

Collin's by the bar, uploading the pictures onto instagram using his cellphone.

COLLIN  
She's as it again!

HEY ZEUS  
Your mom wants her usual, should I make it now?

BETTIE-BEE  
No, not yet, we've got work to do.

Bettie-Bee walks over to the window. We see that the laser pointer is coming from Irene's apartment from across the street, across the street in her apartment.

Bettie-Bee mouths "Not now" while waving her arms into an formation.

Bettie-Bee backs away from the window.

The laser pointer reappears on the black board, this time over a drawing of a hand holding up its middle finger.

BETTIE-BEE (CONT'D)  
Okay, who the hell gave mother that option. Who drew that?

ZAVVI appears.

ZAVVI  
I did! I figured it would save her the effort of yelling "Fuck You" from the across the street.

Bettie-Bee sighs and tries to wipe it off with a bar towel, but it doesn't change a bit.

ZAVVI (CONT'D)  
(happily)  
Really Zavvi. Permanent marker!

Bettie-Bee returns to her checklist.

BETTIE-BEE  
Zavvi annoys me... check.

Zavvi smirking, cleaning a bar glass.

ZAVVI  
Bitch!

Bettie-Bee makes her way to the greenroom/make-up area behind the stage.

**INT. LIZA'S GREEN ROOM - NIGHT**

ROLO VER ME is helping set up the show, and all the drag queens are putting touches on their makeup.

Bettie-Bee enters and approaches Rolo Ver Me, who is talking with PHOENIX BRIGHT about the show.

ROLO VER ME  
So you'll be doing the same hip routine from last week?

PHOENIX BRIGHT  
I think so! That seems like a safe bet.

ROLO VER ME  
Lovely! But don't be scared to go outside your comfort zone. Not all drag has to be-

BETTIE-BEE  
Not all drag has to be a Rupaul show, I bet you've told her this 10 times today already.

ROLO VER ME  
That means I've only got an hour to say it the remaining 90 times. Can't miss my daily quota.

They all laugh together, Rolo and Bettie-Bee walk over to the next drag queen together.

BETTIE-BEE  
Anyways, how's the set up going? Do you need any help?

ROLO VER ME  
No, I think we're good.

BETTIE-BEE  
Have you seen Madelynn's hat?

ROLO VER ME  
She doesn't have her hat? You can't have a mad hatter with no hat?

(MORE)

ROLO VER ME (CONT'D)  
That's like a batman with no bat.  
Or a... I don't know. I'm no poet.

BETTIE-BEE  
I know!

ROLO VER ME  
It must be around here somewhere...

They look around. Various drag queens are talking with each other as they get ready.

CLAIRE VOYANT talks with COOR BLIMEY.

COOR BLIMEY  
So, is your boyfriend still in the closet?

CLAIRE VOYANT  
I mean, it's only to his parents. Everyone else knows. I don't know how they haven't caught on.

COOR BLIMEY  
Totally. At some point, they must have blinders on.

CLAIRE VOYANT  
I mean he hasn't told them. But surely they've seen how we look at each other.

COOR BLIMEY  
Any predictions as to when that could change?

CLAIRE VOYANT  
(fingers on her temple)  
I see a future... where nothing changes! How's that for a prediction?

COOR BLIMEY  
Ouch.

CLAIRE VOYANT  
Yeah, it's whatever. I'm understanding. How's your man doing? Busy at the department?

COOR BLIMEY  
Yup. Still fighting fires.



CLAIRE VOYANT  
The guy stays hot!

COOR BLIMEY  
He's got a big hose and he knows  
how to use it.

They laugh and continue getting ready.

KITSCH KITSCH BANG BANG talks with PHOENIX BRIGHT

KITSCH KITCH BANG BANG  
Girl, I'm telling you. Those new  
extensions are so nice.

PHOENIX BRIGHT  
You know I wasn't gonna buy them,  
but I was told they make stand out  
even more.

KITSCH KITCH BANG BANG  
Will they work with your acts?

PHOENIX BRIGHT  
I don't think they match Shakira or  
Shania Twain exactly. But maybe  
it's like I am an alternate reality  
version?

KITSCH KITCH BANG BANG  
Shania Twain if she was a punk  
artist.

PHOENIX BRIGHT  
With songs like, "You're Still the  
One... I'm Going To Kill" or "From  
This Moment On... I Am Full Of  
Angst."

KITSCH KITCH BANG BANG  
Love that for you.

PHOENIX BRIGHT  
So, still working at Starbucks?  
Has it been busy lately?

KITSCH KITCH BANG BANG  
It's not bad. It's always busy,  
you know you know. White girls  
need their American drinks with  
Italian names.

PHOENIX BRIGHT

True facts.

KITSCH KITCH BANG BANG

We get to play our own music now,  
so that's nice.

PHOENIX BRIGHT

Shania Twain time!

KITSCH KITCH BANG BANG

Girl you know my playlist. Lizzo.  
Billie Eillish. The queens. Only  
they give me the energy I need to  
make people coffee.

PHOENIX BRIGHT

Really? You should try drinking  
coffee.

There is no hat in sight.

ROLO VER ME

I'm not seeing it. Did you ask  
Hey Zeus? Maybe it was on the  
floor? If anyone saw it, I bet  
it'd be him.

BETTIE-BEE

I didn't think to ask him. Good  
idea.

(to checklist)

Choreography and make up  
preparation, check. They should be  
ready soon.

Now, to find that hat.

Bettie-Bee heads back to the bar.

**INT. LIZA'S BAR - NIGHT**

Customers are now floating around the bar. People are  
chatting and excited for the show.

NAY sits with MIKE.

NAY

(a little tipsy)

Have you seen what a good job  
Timmy's doing?

MIKE

What? Ya gotta speak up Nay.

NAY

(louder, drunk)

I said Timmy's doing a great job.  
He loves working here.

MIKE

Oh yeah. He's a good kid. Bit of a  
slut though.

NAY

Yeah, he gets that from me.  
When he came out to me I told him I  
was so proud of him. I went out and  
bought him a huge tub of Vaseline,  
wrapped a red ribbon around it,  
told him to use it to grease his  
pipe. You know I'm still waiting to  
meet the guy he brings home  
someday.

MIKE

Knowing Timmy's tastes, you could  
be in for a shock.

NAY

What do you mean? I would be happy  
no matter what. So long as they're  
a good match and like my cooking.

MIKE

Would you consider a guy like me  
to be a good match?

NAY

What do you mean? A guy like you?  
Your so old.

MIKE

Yes, I'm ancient! Cheeky Bitch.

MIKE laughs

NAY

I would not care, he just needs to  
be happy. He deserves the sexual  
freedom to explore, and if  
his boyfriend is 2000 years old  
like you, I will be okay with it.

MIKE

Would it be weird though if the guy was older than you?

NAY

It would be okay, as long as he is a good cook, has a room for me when I stay and bakes me cookies.

MIKE

What? My ears are a little old Nay.

NAY

(Louder, laughing)

I said only if he he has a room for me and bakes me cookies!

MIKE

I ain't making no cookies.

At a table, Steven and Mitch are chatting with Leslie and Monica. Leslie and Monica hold hands.

Steven is telling the story of how his drunken friend ate the dog treats, he is laughing so hard at his story.

STEVEN

So, I was like Mitch!! Where did he get the candy bar from? He said, I guess he got that from the TREATS jar sweetie!" So I take the candy from Jerry.

Steven stops, mop his eyes with his hankerchief.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

By now time, I am reading the wrapper and I'm dying laughing. I look at Jerry and I says; Shit, I guess you're going to have a great sheen to your fur, you just ate a peanut butter candy bar meant for the Zeus.

Steven, Mitch, Monica and Leslie laugh heartedly at the story.

Leslie sips her vodka and cranberry.

LESLIE

I can't wait for the show.

MONICA

Me too.

LESLIE

This place really picked up steam since Collin got involved, who would have thought it a Scotsman. Bettie-Bee was smart for that one.

STEVEN

Actually, I believe his name is Carman.

MITCH

No, it's Calvin.

STEVEN

Calvin! That's it, Calvin. Like that comic strip. Calvin and Cobbs.

MITCH

That comic strip wasn't named that! It was Corn and the Cobbs.

MONICA

Wow. I hope we don't become like those two.

LESLIE

Baby, I know we won't. I have a feeling those two were born old. I bet they've always been like this. Like Benjamin Button.

MONICA

Maybe you're right. They're cute though.

LESLIE

You're cute.

MONICA

Awwwwww.

Monica and Leslie kiss.

MONICA (CONT'D)

His name is Collin, right?

LESLIE

Yeah, it's Collin.

The couples continue laughing and chatting. At the bar, Bettie-Bee walks over to Hey Zeus.

HEY ZEUS

Getting thirsty boss? You know they say ya shouldn't drink on the job.

BETTIE-BEE

Not exactly! But a drink does sound nice.... No! No time! Have you seen a big purple hat by any chance?

HEY ZEUS

Hmmm. You know, I think Timmy mentioned something about a big purple hat earlier. I bet he saw someone steal it! Tea!

(yelling)

Timmy!

TIMMY, the bar back, rises up from under the bar.

HEY ZEUS (CONT'D)

Where were you under... whatever. Timmy, did you say something about a big purple hat earlier?

TIMMY

I sure did! Zavvi was wearing one. It was freaking funny!

BETTIE-BEE

Please, not Zavvi. Ugh. Where's Zavvi?

TIMMY

He's having his smoke break outside.

HEY ZEUS

Bettie-Bee, before you go.

Hey Zeus motions at the blackboard. The laser is making super fast circles around the meatball sub, and then onto the word "hurry."

BETTIE-BEE

Yes, when you get a chance, make the sub and have one your minions bring me it. Thanks guys!

**INT. LIZA'S - NIGHT**

Outside the bar, Zavvi just finished his smoke. He flirts with customers as they enter the bar, such as FERGUSON MCKAY.

ZAVVI

Look at you, handsome. Sorry, I can't let you in yet. We have a new rule. You only get service if you're wearing no shoes and no shirt.

FERGUSON MCKAY

So I can keep my pants?

ZAVVI

You make a good point. Rules were meant to be broken!

Bettie-Bee enters.

BETTIE-BEE

Zavvi, are you flirting with my customers again?

Ferguson McKay begins unbuckling his belt.

FERGUSON MCKAY

He was just telling me about the new rules!

BETTIE-BEE

Keep your pants on Fergie, the only rule to be aware of here is don't trust everything Zavvi here says.

ZAVVI

I can't help it! I am so charming.

BETTIE-BEE

Riiight. Anyways, I heard you had a big purple hat. Any idea where it is?

ZAVVI

Oh yeah. The big purple hat with shiny lace that looks super expensive?

BETTIE-BEE

Yes! That big purple hat!

ZAVVI

I tossed it in the customer lost  
and found!

BETTIE-BEE

You thought it was worn by a  
customer?

ZAVVI

It's like I was telling Fergie.  
These customer clothing rules are  
changing all the time.

FERGUSON MCKAY

(flirtatiously)

And I don't mind!

Bettie-Bee makes her way back into the bar.

**INT. LIZA'S BAR - NIGHT**

HEY ZEUS

She wants an ice tea now!

The laser pointer circles around "ice tea" on the blackboard.  
Then it goes back to the word "hurry." Bettie-Bee.

BETTIE-BEE

(to self)

God she's so pushy.

Bettie-Bee goes to the green room.

**INT. LIZA'S GREEN ROOM - NIGHT**

All the queens are ready, except for Maddelynn who has no  
hat. The show has began, and drag queens are performing.  
Sometimes alone, others in groups.

Collin is taking photos of everyone.

Bettie-Bee goes to the lost and found bin. As drag queens  
make their way out of the room and on stage, Maddelynn moves  
further down the line and closer to her turn the stage.



**INT. LIZA'S STAGE - NIGHT**

Clair Voyant is on stage. She's dancing while lip-syncing to Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On." In between some lines, she makes jokes to audience members.

CLAIRE VOYANT

(singing)

My heart will go on and on

(to MITCH)

And yours will stop in about 20  
mins!

Audience members laugh. Mitch gives a thumbs up.

**INT. LIZA'S GREEN ROOM - NIGHT**

Bettie-Bee digging through the lost and found. Suddenly, her arm stops digging around.

BETTIE-BEE

Found it!

She pulls up the hat. Only half remains. She digs around some more and pulls out the other half. The pieces are frayed, dirty, and ruined. She holds them up together as if they could reconnect. Defeated, she drops them to floor.

BETTIE-BEE (CONT'D)

(Crushed)

What happened to it?

**BLACK SCREEN:**

**SUPER:** Earlier that day.

**EXT. LIZAS - EARLIER**

Zavvi is wearing the hat outside, where he smoked earlier. He's just wearing the hat and chatting with people as they enter the bar. Mitch and Steven are passing through to enter Liza's, and arguing like old men. Their dog is with them.

MITCH

I tell ya, The Rocky Horror Picture  
show features a big pair of red  
lips!

STEVEN

No no no! It had a huge green nose!

ZAVVI  
 Hey you hunks! I see ya brought  
 everyone's favourite!

As Zavvi bends down to the dog, the dog becomes really excited.

STEVEN  
 I think he likes your hat!

ZAVVI  
 Then he can have it!

Zavvi tosses the hat, and the dog catches it in his mouth. The dog chews it till it rips in half.

ZAVVI (CONT'D)  
 Whoops!

**INT. LIZA'S GREEN ROOM - NIGHT**

Bettie-Bee hold the ripped hat.  
 Maddelynn Hatter is about to go out.

ROLO VER ME  
 Where is her hat?!

BETTIE-BEE  
 I found it!

Bettie-Bee hold up one half of the hat.

ROLO VER ME  
 Fantastic!

BETTIE-BEE  
 Then I found it again.

Bettie-Bee holds up the other half, revealing its broken. Collin notices.

ROLO VER ME  
 Not fantastic. Not fantastic at  
 all. And we're running out of time.

**INT. LIZA'S STAGE - NIGHT**

Coor Blimey are sharing the stage. Coor Blimey is wrapping up, and Miss Bronco is about to begin her performance.

Miss Bronco is doing a Dolly Parton act.

MISS BRONCO  
 Hey ya'll put it together for Coor  
 Blimey's K-Pop performance.

The audience cheers.

COOR BLIMEY  
 (quietly, to Miss Bronco)  
 I love your outfit girl.

MISS BRONCO  
 (quietly, to Coor Blimey)  
 Thank you!

Coor Blimey waves the audience goodbye and exits the stage.

MISS BRONCO (CONT'D)  
 You've heard of the littlest whore  
 house in Texas. But now you're in,  
 the sexiest gay club in DC.

People laugh.

MISS BRONCO (CONT'D)  
 And if anyone wants their hair to  
 be as fancy as mine, come see me  
 after the show!

The audience woos and hollers.

MISS BRONCO (CONT'D)  
 (Without the accent)  
 Seriously though, I do mobile  
 haircuts so come see me.

Audience members clap while visibly confused.

**INT. LIZA'S GREEN ROOM - NIGHT**

BETTIE-BEE  
 What are we gonna do? Should we  
 just send her out? What would  
 people think?

TIMMY enters, holding a fancy looking purple bowl with a  
 wrapped up sub inside of it.

TIMMY  
 Irene's sub is ready.

BETTIE-BEE  
Someone save me.

Collin walks over.

COLLIN  
I've got just the idea.

Collin takes the sub from the bowl, and sits the bowl upside down on Maddelynn Hatters head.

MADELYNN HATTER  
How do I look?

ROLO VER ME  
Like a meal for a cannibal. But  
it's different. I don't know....

An announcer's voice is heard.

ANNOUNCER  
And now folks, give it up for  
Maddelynn Hatter!

BETTIE-BEE  
We're outta time.  
Maddelynn Hatter goes out on stage, wearing the bowl as a  
hat. They wait with anticipation. A huge applause is let out.

BETTIE-BEE (CONT'D)  
Could it be?

BETTIE-BEE peeks through the curtain at the show.

#### **INT. LIZA'S STAGE - NIGHT**

Maddeynne Hatter is dancing to a Diana Ross song. Whenever she draws attention to the bowl, people love it.

MADELYNN HATTER  
That's right, I'm wearing a bowl.  
Damn right. I'm a snack.

Audience members clap.

MADELYNN HATTER (CONT'D)  
So the question is, who wants to  
eat me?  
The audience goes crazy, cheering loudly.

She does dance moves with the bowl, using it to fan herself and spinning it on her head, and more. With each move, people

applaud.

MADELYNN HATTER (CONT'D)  
Evenin Bitches, Let's face it  
people, you can't have cereal...

MADELYNN HATTER (CONT'D)  
She puts the bowl on her breast.

The audience laughs even more.

**INT. LIZA'S GREEN ROOM - NIGHT**

BETTIE-BEE  
It's a hit. An absolute hit. How?

COLLIN  
People like to see something  
different. Something new.

ROLO VER ME  
We never woulda been prancing  
around wearing bowls when I was  
younger... so good job, I guess?  
Next we'll be sending out Miss  
Bronco with her ass full of  
spatulas.

BETTIE-BEE  
Thank you Collin. That was a quick  
save.

COLLIN  
I work quickly!

BETTIE-BEE  
I bet you can go slow too...

COLLIN  
Absolutely! Working slow is  
especially important for accounting  
work!

BETTIE-BEE  
Yes. That's absolutely what I  
imagined. Right. Well it looks  
like the show is a hit.  
(reviewing checklist)  
Have a great night? Check. Now  
only one thing remains for me.

Collin hands her the sub.

BETTIE-BEE (CONT'D)

Thanks.

**MONTAGE: KRISTINE LEAVING**

--Kristine congratulates some drag queens.

--Kristine says hello to some customers as she makes her way through the bar.

-- Kristine walks through the street, into the apartment building, up the elevator, and stands before her Mom's apartment.

BETTIE-BEE (CONT'D)

God, if you're out there, please make it so that Mom likes the sub.

**END MONTAGE**

**INT. IRENE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

BETTIE-BEE

Mom, I've got your sub.

IRENE

Took ya long enough. Had me waiting for eons. What were ya doing? Taking a shit?

BETTIE-BEE

I was looking for a hat, among other things.

Kristine hands her mother the sub. Irene begins evaluating it.

BETTIE-BEE (CONT'D)

Bread looks... fine. Not too dry, not too soft. Bit of loose flour on top. Good.

IRENE

No Mariana. Thank fuck. Meatballs aren't burnt. This actually looks not bad. But how long did it sit under the warmer? Only one way to tell.

IRENE takes a bite.

Beat.

IRENE (CONT'D)  
It's really, really, really...  
good. It's good. Good job kiddo.

BETTIE-BEE  
Awesome! Okay, well I'm gonna head  
back to visit with people, help  
out, you know the deal.

IRENE  
Sounds good Kristine. Enjoy your  
night.

Kristine exits the apartment.

**INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY**

Kristine stands right outside of her Mom's apartment door.  
She's happy her Mom enjoys the sub. Then her Mom's voice  
cries out.

IRENE  
(from behind door)  
Wait a sec! Where's my fucking ice  
tea?! Kristine are you still out  
there? Get back in here!

Kristine quickly tip toes away, back to the elevator. She  
stands in the elevator alone.

BETTIE-BEE  
Time for a drink.

The elevator doors close.

**FADE TO BLACK**

**THE END**