

The Worst Table

A short comedy

By Karen Poulsen

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Cast of Characters

LUNA: Female. 21+.

CHASE: Male. 21+.

SERVER: Male or Female. 18+.

Place

A one table restaurant.

Time

Present time.

Synopsis

Strangers, Chase and Luna, fight over sitting at a small table with a sign stating "Worst Table in the House. Sit here and get 10% off your meal." They agree to share the table, but not without getting on each other's nerves and confusing the Server. They eventually find a common bond and enjoy their meal and drinks together.

There is a small table with a sign stating "Worst Table in the House. Sit here and get 10% off your meal."

SERVER is clearing the table.
CHASE enters and looks around.
LUNA enters from the opposite side, spots the table then sees Chase. They both run to the table at the same time, nearly knocking the Server over.

CHASE
Is this table available?

LUNA
No, I'm sitting here.

CHASE
I don't see your name on it.

LUNA
I don't see yours either.

SERVER
Well, why don't you share it?

LUNA
That would only spoil my appetite.

CHASE
You're just afraid you would enjoy my company too much.

LUNA
You wish. I'm not that desperate to save 10% off my meal.

CHASE
Okay, works for me. (To Server) I'll be eating here alone.

LUNA
Not so fast. I didn't say I was giving the table up. I just said I didn't want to share it.

CHASE
(Sitting down.) Suit yourself.

LUNA
Wait a second. You're telling me not only am I forced to have the worst table in the restaurant, but I also have to endure the worst company?!

CHASE
You could always sit at another table.

LUNA
There aren't any.

CHASE
Try take-out then.

LUNA
I'm not doing that. I want to sit and relax. (She sits.)

SERVER
Well, okay then. What are we having?

LUNA CHASE
I would like... Give me...

SERVER
Tell you what. I'll just start with a couple of waters.

CHASE
I'll take lemon in mine.

LUNA
Can you put an orange in mine?

CHASE
Orange?

LUNA
What? It tastes good.

SERVER
That's two waters. One with a lemon and one with an orange.

LUNA
And no ice.

CHASE
I'll take her ice.

LUNA
What is wrong with you?

CHASE
Me? Who doesn't take ice with their water?

LUNA
People who don't want the water dripping down onto their shirt.

SERVER

So, one with no ice and one extra ice. I'll be right back.

LUNA

Rude.

CHASE

No, the server wasn't.

LUNA

I was talking about you.

CHASE

Me?

LUNA

Yes, you. I would have had a real drink by now if you didn't insist on ordering at the same time as me.

CHASE

Well what do you expect. I'm thirsty too.

LUNA

Why don't you just go sit at the bar then?

CHASE

Because I can't order food there. It'll take all night to get our drinks as it is. Probably don't even know what you want.

LUNA

That's how much you know.

CHASE

Let me guess a...

LUNA

Frozen sangria.

CHASE

Of course.

LUNA

What's that supposed to mean?

CHASE

Only that it takes longer to make a frozen drink than a regular one.

LUNA

Well, regular ones are boring. I suppose that's what you're getting.

CHASE
Hell no! I'm getting a shot.

LUNA
Of course you are.

CHASE
That's original.

LUNA
And getting a shot isn't?

CHASE
There's nothing common about Johnny Walker Black.

LUNA
Oh, now we're just name dropping.

CHASE
(Drawing an imaginary line
down the middle of the
table.)
Look, here's your side, and this is mine. You get what you
want and I'll get what I want, no need to speak to each
other.

LUNA
(Holding the menu up in front of her face.) Fine with me.

CHASE
(Holding the menu up in front of his face.) No, fine with me.

LUNA
So childish.

SERVER
(Returning with waters.)
Have you decided what you want to drink from the bar?

LUNA
A shot of Johnny Walker
Black.

CHASE
A frozen sangria.

SERVER
Could you repeat that?

LUNA
A frozen sangria.

CHASE
A shot of Johnny Walker
Black.

SERVER

Ah, one more time.

LUNA

A shot of Johnny Walker
Black.

CHASE

A frozen sangria.

SERVER

Listen, I'm just going to bring two of each. How's that sound? (They start to respond.) That wasn't really a question. I'll be back and hopefully you'll be ready to order food. Unless of course you want to share the special for two.

LUNA

Ha, with him?

CHASE

She doesn't know the meaning of sharing.

SERVER

Fine, two specials.

LUNA

No, we don't want the specials.

CHASE

How do you know I don't want the special?

LUNA

Sure, bring him a special.

CHASE

No, I don't want that.

LUNA

Do you even know what it is?

CHASE

No, do you?

LUNA

It's - very special.

CHASE

I didn't think so.

SERVER

It's squid in lime sauce.

LUNA

Gross!

CHASE

Gross!

SERVER

Hmm, you both finally agreed on something. Maybe there's hope. (Exits.)

LUNA

So much for saving 10%, now I have to pay for two drinks.

CHASE

I'll drink your shot and pay for it.

LUNA

Maybe I want the shot.

CHASE

Okay, then I'll drink your sangria.

LUNA

Do you even like sangrias?

CHASE

On occasion.

Server returns with drinks.

SERVER

Hope you're thirsty.

CHASE

How did you get them so fast?

SERVER

The bartender has them ready 'cause that's all anyone orders anymore.

LUNA

Guess I need to change things up more.

SERVER

Ready to order the special then?

LUNA

No, that wouldn't go with my drinks. (Motions to Server to lean over and then whispers.) I'll take.

SERVER

Wait, what? I can't hear you.

LUNA

I would like(whispers again).

SERVER

The special?

LUNA

No! I guess you're trying to get rid of that because no one wants it. (Taking the Server's pen and paper.) Here, I want this, and that on the side.

SERVER

(To Chase) How about you? Are we going to play charades, or do you want to write yours down too?

LUNA

Turn the page so he doesn't see what I wrote.

CHASE

Really?

SERVER

Should I just get you what she's getting?

CHASE

Eww, no.

LUNA

You don't even know what I ordered.

CHASE

I don't have to.

LUNA

You're impossible.

CHASE

Thank you.

LUNA

Just order so we can eat and get out of here.

SERVER

Oh, do you have plans for afterwards?

LUNA

Yes.

CHASE

I do.

SERVER

Where are you two going?

LUNA

Nowhere together.

CHASE

With her?!

SERVER

I just thought that you seem to have so much in common.

LUNA

Are you purposely trying to get a smaller tip?

CHASE

Don't worry. I'll take care of you. (Points items on the menu he wants.)

LUNA

Oh sure, play the good cop.

SERVER

Now I get it. You work together. You're partners.

LUNA

Could you just put the order in now?

SERVER

Sure, you probably have to get back on patrol soon. Maybe you don't want to drink both of those. (Exits.)

LUNA

How can they think we have so much in common?

CHASE

Beats me.

LUNA

And a cop...do I look like a cop to you?

CHASE

Hardly. How about me?

LUNA

No, I'm getting kind of a musician vibe.

CHASE

Actually, I have to admit that you're right for once.

LUNA

Are you being serious?

CHASE

Yes, lead guitar.

LUNA

What kind of music?

CHASE

Rock, mostly '80s.

LUNA

My friends and I have been looking for some good dance music.

CHASE

(Handing his card to her.) Here, take my card. The website's on there. You can find our schedule under gigs.

LUNA

Thanks. We'll check you - I mean the band out. So you're Chase?

CHASE

Yes, that's me. What do you do ah...

LUNA

Luna.

Server returns with salad for
Luna and soup for Chase.

SERVER

Here's your soup and salad, but I wanted to let you know that another table opened up in case one of you wants to move.

CHASE

I'm good here. How about you Luna?

LUNA

I'm comfortable. Besides, I'd hate to get up in the middle of a meal and confuse everyone.

CHASE

Right, and why add 10% more if we don't have to?

SERVER

Okay, great. Your food will be out in a minute. (Exits.)

LUNA

Your soup looks pretty good.

CHASE

Want to try some?

LUNA

Sure. Do you want any of my salad?

CHASE

Maybe a bite. You know with the 10% we're saving, we could spend it somewhere else.

LUNA

Like on more alcohol?

CHASE

I heard the bar next store has some pretty good frozen drinks.

LUNA

Really? I understand the shots are pretty good too.

CHASE

Want to see if they have a table after we eat?

LUNA

Only if it's the worst!

BLACKOUT.

END OF PLAY.