

ODE ON A DONUT SHOP
A Play in One Act

written by
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Dramatis Personæ

Judd – in his 20s, a sweet and somewhat vacant boy

Sean – in his 20s, a sweet and somewhat vacant boy

Dwayne – in his 50s, friendly and paternal but with a temper

The man in the jacket – in his 30s, ominous and powerful

Setting

A donut shop, 1:24 AM

Dwayne, wearing a paper hat, quietly prepares donuts behind the counter. Judd and Sean sit at a booth, drinking coffee.

JUDD
Look, man, all I'm saying is...her shit is complicated.

SEAN
Complicated like how?

JUDD
Like, it's really complicated.

SEAN
Tell me how it's complicated.

JUDD
Her feelings towards relationships...they're weird.

SEAN
How are they weird?

DWAYNE
You're evading the question.

JUDD
Sorry?

SEAN
This is Dwayne. He makes donuts. For a living.

DWAYNE
(cheerful)
I do!

JUDD
Can you give us some free donuts?

DWAYNE
Excuse me?

SEAN
Judd, don't.

DWAYNE
That's really rough, bro.

JUDD

What's rough?

SEAN

Judd, back off.

DWAYNE

I was treating you really nice, letting you hang out here. And you have to go and make it about asking me to not do my *job* right now? Are you kidding me, bro? You don't even know me. I just thought more of you, man. I thought we had a good thing going.

(Dwayne goes back to preparing donuts.)

SEAN

Well, can I have a free donut?

DWAYNE

Yeah, bro. Totally. We tight.

(An ominous man in a long brown duster enters.)

SEAN

Oh, crap.

JUDD

What?

SEAN

This guy looks...like someone. I don't know. Like he could be someone. Y'know?

JUDD

No.

(The man in the jacket approaches their table.)

MAN IN THE JACKET

Can I get a dozen donuts, to go?

SEAN

Excuse me?

MAN IN THE JACKET

I would like a dozen donuts, please. Assorted flavors.

JUDD

We don't – we don't work here. At all.

MAN IN THE JACKET

Regardless, my request stands.

SEAN

I could go get you a dozen donuts if you want. Assorted flavors?

JUDD

What are you talking about? You don't work here.

SEAN

I don't care.

MAN IN THE JACKET

I don't care, either.

SEAN

Then sure, I'll get you a dozen donuts.

(Sean stands and goes to the counter. The man in the jacket sits down across from Judd.)

JUDD

Well, it's like I was saying a minute ago...her shit is complicated.

MAN IN THE JACKET

Oh, sure. Tell me more about that.

JUDD

Her feelings towards relationships...they're weird.

MAN IN THE JACKET

That sounds really tough for you.

JUDD

I know! That's all I've been wanting to hear!

MAN IN THE JACKET

It's OK, man. You can cry if you want.

JUDD

Why would I cry?

MAN IN THE JACKET

I guess...sometimes I make people cry, I don't know.

(Sean returns with a box of donuts.)

SEAN

They don't have assorted flavors, so I got you a dozen unglazed chocolate cake donuts.

MAN IN THE JACKET

You deliberately misremembered my order!

SEAN

I don't think you can misremember something deliberately.

MAN IN THE JACKET

Regardless! Those donuts sound like shitty brownies. Did you get me a dozen shitty brownies?

SEAN

I guess...

JUDD

Sean, that's a foul, bro. Real foul stuff.

SEAN

I mean, they're still good donuts.

MAN IN THE JACKET

Sean, we all kind of wish you'd leave right now.

SEAN

What? Why?

JUDD

I'm really sorry, Sean. It was just such a lousy donut order.

SEAN

It was all they had! I promised the man a dozen donuts, and a dozen donuts have henceforth been procured!

MAN IN THE JACKET

Sean, we just wish you'd make this easier and go quietly.

SEAN

What? Come on, man. These are good donuts.

MAN IN THE JACKET

Maybe if you ate all twelve of those donuts, we'd feel differently.

SEAN

I mean, I can't do that.

MAN IN THE JACKET

Then I guess you don't really care about the feelings of two guys who used to have a lot of respect for you.

Make that three. DWAYNE

You lost your respect for me? SEAN

It was a really lousy donut order, man. DWAYNE

It was all you had! SEAN

Regardless. DWAYNE

Regardless, Sean. JUDD

Judd! Come on! You're my brother in law! SEAN

I mean, if that's what you want to call it. JUDD

You married my sister! SEAN

But did he? MAN IN THE JACKET

Yes! SEAN

I did, actually. JUDD

Honestly, Judd? Sometimes I wish you just...wouldn't. MAN IN THE JACKET

I'm sorry. JUDD

It's OK. MAN IN THE JACKET

Look, what if I eat *two* donuts? With some coffee. SEAN

MAN IN THE JACKET

No coffee.

JUDD

And do it six times.

SEAN

What?

JUDD

Eat two donuts six times.

MAN IN THE JACKET

Twelve donuts, Sean.

DWAYNE

Don't be a goddamn babyman, Sean.

SEAN

Dwayne, you're my stepdad!

MAN IN THE JACKET

He is?

DAYNE

(cheerful)

I am!

SEAN

So...don't...just, can't *someone* be nice to me?

DWAYNE

Maybe if you'd eat all those donuts.

SEAN

But Dwayne...you know I can't do that. It's impossible.

MAN IN THE JACKET

Eat the goddamn donuts, Sean.

SEAN

Guys, I'm scared. I don't think I can do this.

MAN IN THE JACKET

What are you more afraid of? Eating twelve nastyass shitty round brownies, or losing three of your best friends?

SEAN

I've never met you, man! What the pissing hell is *happening*?

JUDD

That's cold, Sean.

SEAN

Is it? Do *you* know him?

DWAYNE

Don't be a goddamn babyman, Sean. Eat the donuts.

SEAN

Guys, I'm really scared.

JUDD

Eat the goddamn donuts, Sean.

SEAN

I can't. Please. Just stop.

MAN IN THE JACKET

We're all leaving, Sean.

SEAN

Please. Don't. I'll...I'll do it.

JUDD

Then do it.

DWAYNE

Be a man.

*(Sean goes to the corner and sits on the floor.
He opens the box of donuts, starts to eat,
and starts to cry.)*

MAN IN THE JACKET

Look, man, all I'm saying is...her shit is complicated.

JUDD

Complicated like how?

MAN IN THE JACKET

Like, it's really complicated.

JUDD

Tell me how it's complicated.

MAN IN THE JACKET

Her feelings towards relationships...they're weird.

DWAYNE

You want a free donut, man?

MAN IN THE JACKET

What flavor?

DWAYNE

Any flavor you want. We got 'em all.

*(Sean continues eating his shitty round
brownies and crying.*

Fade to black.)