

The Volunteers

by

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CAST

ALEX
LEAH
JUSTINE
MACIE

SET

Reception area of a private school.

INT. RECEPTION AREA OF A PRIVATE SCHOOL - MORNING

A swanky reception area. ALEX sits in one of the armchairs. She yawns several times before accidentally covering her mouth with her coffee cup. She spills coffee all over herself.

ALEX
Argh man, come on!

LEAH enters.

LEAH
Alex, oh good, you're here. I have something juicy to tell you.

ALEX
Of course I'm here, I've been here. Since eight like it said to be in the e-mail.

Leah leans to kiss her on the cheeks.

ALEX (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

LEAH
Kissing you hello.

ALEX
(without kissing her)
We don't have time for this, let's get started, I don't want to be stuck here all day.

LEAH
If you want your kids to be fully immersed "en francais," you have to kiss people hello, it's just what you do.

ALEX
I was hoping that the 40 grand I pay in tuition would take care of that immersion.

LEAH
In some areas, people kiss each other as many as 8 times per "bonjours", so your 40 grand is not gonna cut it.

ALEX
Good point. Come here.

They kiss.

LEAH
So, let me tell you,...

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ALEX
Give me the envelopes first.

LEAH
What envelopes?

ALEX
The ones that need stuffing.

LEAH
I don't have envelopes.

ALEX
You don't?

LEAH
Was I supposed to bring envelopes? Was I?
I didn't read the whole e-mail! No one
told me anything about bringing
envelopes. I'm just assisting here.

ALEX
Who's in charge?

LEAH
Macie.

ALEX
Where is she?

LEAH
I don't know.

ALEX
Can we start without her?

LEAH
I don't think so.

ALEX
Why not?

LEAH
She probably has the envelopes.

ALEX
This is...! I mean...! We're. Here. I'm
here. Ready to stuff the crap out of some
envelopes and we have to wait for her?
Who put her in charge?

LEAH
It's what she gets paid to do!?!

ALEX
She gets paid?!? And we get nothing?

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LEAH
We're volunteering. You don't get paid
when you volunteer.

ALEX
More people would volunteer if they were
getting paid, don't you think? I can't
believe we have to wait for her to get
started.

LEAH
You've barely been here 5 minutes.

ALEX
Those 5 minutes better count toward my
volunteering time, I tell you that much.
I hate doing this.

Leah huffs.

LEAH
You have *never* volunteered!

ALEX
I have a brand new *baby*.

LEAH
... even before the baby was born.

ALEX
I was busy being pregnant and all.

LEAH
You've been a mom at this school forever
and you have never ever volunteered.

ALEX
I didn't think they'd keep track!

LEAH
Do you realize that volunteering is an
important part of our school's identity.

ALEX
Of course. It's what I wrote on our
application just like everybody else in
this school.

LEAH
Our school thrives because of the
volunteer work of people like me.

ALEX
As a matter of fact, where do we clock
in? I want to make sure my hour is
accounted for.

LEAH
Don't know. I'm not in charge.

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ALEX
Don't you volunteer here like all the
time? You must know where it is!

LEAH
So. Where's the baby?

ALEX
In the car.

LEAH
In the car!?!?

ALEX
With the baby-sitter.

LEAH
What? That's cruel.

ALEX
It's not! I'm tired of paying for parking
and for a sitter. And that way, I can
double park right in front of the school
and not get a ticket.

LEAH
Wouldn't it be cheaper to get a ticket?

ALEX
The baby-sitter has a 48 hour
cancellation policy.

LEAH
Why are we still hiring these bitches?

ALEX
Cause we need to catch up on my sleep.
Baby's been waking up every night for the
past 10 days.

LEAH
Can't your John get up?

ALEX
Yeah, right! John woke me up last night
to tell me that the "baby was crying" I
get up there, he's not crying at all,
he's sound asleep but now I can't go back
to sleep for hours! - My husband hears
the baby when he doesn't cry but never
when he cries; so no, my John can't get
up!

LEAH
Your John is such a hoot. Don't think
about it anymore. You're gonna have a
great time today and you'll always
remember your first time volunteering.

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ALEX
Eighteen bucks an hour for a sitter and
no sleep, you bet I'll remember and where
is that envelope bitch!

LEAH
So, can I tell you my story?

ALEX
Yeah, sure, go ahead.

LEAH
You can't tell anyone.

ALEX
What?

LEAH
What I'm about to tell you.

ALEX
Why not?

LEAH
It's a secret.

ALEX
Okay.

LEAH
Mark and Justine came to our house on
Saturday - swingers.

ALEX
No!

LEAH
Oui.

ALEX
Mark and Justine?

LEAH
They tried "to do" my John and I right
after the main course.

ALEX
Before dessert?

LEAH
Yes.

ALEX
Non?!

LEAH
Swear to God.

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JUSTINE enters, she's carrying a bouquet of flowers.

ALEX
What did you cook?

JUSTINE
Bonjour everybody. How are you guys?

They all kiss each other hello.

ALEX
We were just talking about you.

JUSTINE
Really? Small world.

LEAH
What are you doing here? You brought flowers?

JUSTINE
I woke up this morning, met with my life coach and then I thought why not come here and help you guys out a bit - Leah, thanks so much for having us over this weekend. We had a blast.

ALEX
So we heard! Macie, finally! We can get started! You got the envelopes?

MACIE, on the phone, enters. She turns her computer on.

MACIE
I don't know, it's light, silver, SUV, Nissan or Honda, no, I don't know the license plate, all I know is that it's double parked in front of the school. Okay. Okay, Thanks.

She hangs up.

ALEX
Macie, you got the envelopes? Wait. What about a silver SUV?

MACIE
Getting it towed.

ALEX
No. That's my car. No, no tow truck.

Alex rushes out.

JUSTINE
Do you know if President Lefort is here?

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MACIE

I just got here.

JUSTINE

Right, of course, these are for you. I hand picked them especially for you from the store across the street.

Justine hands her the flowers.

MACIE

I have 12 minutes to win either of these 2 auctions so leave me alone for twelve and a half minutes. But thank you.

LEAH

(to Macie)

What's going on!

MACIE

I threw away my John's rusty old tool box.

LEAH

Oh my! Never touch a man's tool box.

MACIE

It was disgusting and I disposed of it four years ago; he just happened to notice yesterday!

JUSTINE

Have you started the seating chart yet?

LEAH

How did he notice?

MACIE

He used to trip on it every time he'd walk into the garage. He went to the garage last night, didn't trip on anything, thought that was weird, put two and two together and, voila... He'll leave me if I don't give him his stupid tool box back.

LEAH

Wow, that's extreme. What kinda tool box was it?

MACIE

A family one.

JUSTINE

Any chances my husband and I could sit next to the school president?

LEAH

What are you gonna do?

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MACIE

I found the exact same one on Ebay so I'm gonna win it and put it back in the middle of the garage where he'll be able to happily trip over it again and again and again.

JUSTINE

I think we should sit people according to income level. The poor with the poor, the rich with the rich.

LEAH

We have poor people in this school!?!?

JUSTINE

You know what I mean, the poor rich.

Alex comes back inside.

LEAH

That was fast.

ALEX

I had to move to the parking lot thanks to her (she points at Macie). And I got a ticket.

LEAH

I thought the baby-sitter was in the car.

ALEX

She hid when she saw the meter maid. She can't tell the difference between an immigration officer and a meter maid. Idiot. What about our envelopes, did they turn up by any chance? Cause I really want to go home now.

JUSTINE

You know what Macie? I'll just take care of the seating chart for you, you have a lot on your mind with that tool box issue and all. Give me what you've done so far, that way it's settled, you won't have to worry about a thing - Macie?

MACIE

What?

JUSTINE

The seating chart? Give it to me.

MACIE

I don't have one.

JUSTINE

What do you mean you don't have one. The fund-raiser is 6 weeks away.

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MACIE
We don't know who's coming yet.

JUSTINE
And why not?

MACIE
The invitations are still here.

ALEX
Really? Where? Because I can't find them.

JUSTINE
My John and I will be attending, let's
just place ourselves on the chart, it'll
be one less thing to think about.

MACIE
We'll figure that out later.

JUSTINE
But...

ALEX
Where are the invites?

MACIE
Middle shelf.

ALEX
Great! There were right here all along!

Alex sets everything on the table. Justine keeps an eye
on the entrance.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Is there a specific way you guys want to
go about doing this? Should one of us
label, another stuffs and one sticks.
Personally I can do which ever but
frankly I think I label better...

Justine looks at Macie's computer.

JUSTINE
This is the toolbox?

MACIE
Vintage classic oak Gerstner and Sons
toolbox. Pre 1930.

JUSTINE
I have the exact same one in my basement.

MACIE
Good for you! There are 12 bidders on
this particular one.

(MORE)

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MACIE (CONT'D)

I think they're doing it to spite me.
Especially USER360PAUSE. Fucker.

JUSTINE

You can have our toolbox if you want.
We're not using it.

MACIE

What about your husband?

JUSTINE

What about him?

MACIE

You sure he won't mind?

JUSTINE

No. He has a brand new 2014 Husky 52
inches, 18 drawer cabinet chest that he's
not using, so I know he won't mind at
all.

MACIE

Oh my god, that would be great. How much
do you want for it?

JUSTINE

You can have it for free.

MACIE

Why? What's wrong with it?

JUSTINE

Nothing.

MACIE

And it looks exactly like this one?

JUSTINE

Yeah.

Macie gets up and hugs Justine.

MACIE

You saved my life. Thank you. Thank you
and suck it USER360PAUSE! Suck it! - Oh
God. Such a weight off. Thank you.

JUSTINE

(looking at the picture)
Yeah, besides mine is so much nicer than
this one; it's real plastic, not that old
iron rusty crap.

MACIE

What? But if it's different, then it's
not the same thing at all. It has to be
the SAME!

(Rushes back to her computer)

(MORE)

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MACIE (CONT'D)

Oh great. It's too late now. I lost, I lost!

(beat)

And I would have paid so much more than this guy.

Justine sees the president enter. She rushes after him.

JUSTINE

Mr. President, mr. President, woohoo, let me help you with your bags.

(O.S.)

Oh gosh, they are heavy.

MACIE

Oh man. She's lucky. She's really lucky. People get beat up for doing shit like that! I could have gotten really mad just now. It could have been a fight.

ALEX

Macie, if you can guarantee a physical fight, I promise to volunteer here every single day of every single week of every single year.

MACIE

She has no idea how lucky she is.

Macie holds back the tears and storms out.

ALEX

Leah, care to join this stuffing party?

LEAH

I can not believe what just transpired right in front of my eyes.

ALEX

Can you try to figure it out with an envelope or two in your hands, these invites aren't going to stuff themselves!

LEAH

Did you see what just happened?

ALEX

No. I was busy stuffing away.

LEAH

How can she treat me this way?

ALEX

Invites in envelopes. And, repeat transaction.

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LEAH

"Here are some flowers Macie, you can have my toolbox Macie..." She's all over her! It's me and my husband she tried to "do" on Saturday.

ALEX

"My husband and I," but clearly not the biggest problem with that sentence.

LEAH

She's dismissing me like a dirty sock.

ALEX

Are you sure they even tried to "do" you guys?

LEAH

I know when people come onto me; thank you very much. They tried and they tried very hard!

ALEX

Maybe you misunderstood. Maybe all the man asked you for was a glass of wine and because you can't understand his stupid French accent, you assume he wanted to sex you guys.

LEAH

I did not assume anything! I can tell the difference between I want Chardonnay and "bend over," thank you very much.

ALEX

What did they say exactly?

LEAH

They didn't say anything. They just had that look in their eyes, you know? That look that screams; "I want you!"

ALEX

Never heard of that look.

Leah shows her the look. Alex remains unmoved.

LEAH

I can't do it; I'm not attracted to you!

They stuff.

ALEX

You probably had too much wine.

LEAH

We didn't have any wine at all.

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ALEX

And you think they'd try to fuck you guys sober? Are you on crack?

LEAH

I was very funny that evening.

ALEX

Stuff - it just doesn't make sense! Who just sits around like, "this is a lovely sofa, by the way, let's all have sex together."

LEAH

Why do you find it so hard to believe that people may want to share a moment of intimacy with my John and I?

ALEX

You guys don't seem like their types!

LEAH

We are a great type of people - a very sexual type of people.

ALEX

Sure.

LEAH

A very fuckable type of people.

ALEX

You both wear Brooks Brothers from head to toe!

LEAH

My John and I have great conversation and I'm fucking hilarious and everybody should want to have sex with us - labels!

Leah furiously sticks the labels on envelopes.

ALEX

They're not swingers..

LEAH

They are.

ALEX

They came to our house 3 weeks ago and they didn't try a thing!

LEAH

Maybe they didn't want to swing with you! Ever thought about that? You're probably not their types.

ALEX

I cooked caramel apple pork.

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LEAH
Your pork's not that impressive.

ALEX
How would you know? You're a vegetarian.

LEAH
Ever since I had your pork! It's a piece of shit.

ALEX
A piece of shit? Really? Well, let me tell you something; it's not because you sleep with your husband that everybody wants to have sex with him.

LEAH
What is that supposed to mean?

ALEX
Some of the other moms and I were talking and we want to thank you for sleeping with your man so we don't have to touch him.

LEAH
My John's hot.

ALEX
Thank you for sacrificing yourself. You are a true feminist.

JUSTINE (O.S.)
Macie! I got the chart. We can sit next to...

Justine enters.

JUSTINE (CONT'D)
Where's Macie?

ALEX
No idea.

JUSTINE
But, her auction. It's almost over.

Justine sits at Macie's desk.

JUSTINE (CONT'D)
(calling out)
MACIE!

LEAH
Oh! Enough with that bitch already! Macie, Macie, Macie! You can't play with people's feelings.

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JUSTINE

What...?

LEAH

All you had to do, Justine, all you had to do was insist a little bit, make us feel special, make us feel beautiful, make us feel wanted. All you had to do was show us you cared.

ALEX

My caramel apple pork is a family recipe! Bitch!

JUSTINE

What are you guys talking about?

LEAH

You know exactly what we're talking about.

Leah throws everything off the table.

ALEX

No, not the envelopes.

Alex picks everything back up.

LEAH

Our house. Saturday night. You and Mark.

ALEX

And why can't you call Mark, John just like every body else's husbands?

JUSTINE

What?

LEAH

You guys were all over us.

JUSTINE

No we weren't.

ALEX

Didn't think so.

LEAH

Alex, shut the fuck up!

(to Justine)

Tell me, to my face, you didn't find us attractive. Tell me right here (she circls her face) that you didn't want us on Saturday night.

JUSTINE

We didn't want...

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LEAH

You laughed at everything I said.

JUSTINE

I was being polite.

LEAH

You lying bitch I know you guys tried to
"do" us!

JUSTINE

Just because my husband's French, doesn't
mean that he wants to have sex with
everybody all the time. It's racist to
think that.

ALEX

It's not racist at all, it's not like
your man's black or anything.

JUSTINE

Oh my god, I won, I won, I won the
auction. I've never won anything before.

Macie enters.

MACIE

You did?

JUSTINE

I won, I won this time. I'm a winner. I
have to call my life coach.

Macie looks at the computer.

MACIE

That's not what I was bidding on. Twenty-
three hundred dollars? You paid, \$2300 of
my dollars for used pillow cases!

JUSTINE

Where is my phone?

Justine finds her phone.

MACIE

You guys, hold me back, hold me back.

Alex and Leah shrug their shoulders.

JUSTINE

(on the phone)
Hello, Tony? I won.

Macie punches Justine straight in the face.

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Lights out.