

SOUP KITCHEN

By

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Characters:

MIKE - Lovable Loser
ANN - Neurotic
GENE - Womanizer
SERVER - Out of this world

Setting:

Salvation Army - Hollywood BLVD, Kitchen.

MIKE, 46, enters the kitchen with,

GENE, 35, **THEY** walk to the counter where the,

SERVER, doctor, volunteer, hands **THEM** a plate of food with a smile.

MIKE

Thanks dude. **HEY!** Let me get another scoop of that dressing.

The **SERVER** adds another scoop.

MIKE

Thanks Doc. Hey Gene, this rich prick of a doctor comes here and volunteers. That's his Porsche outside.

They walk to the center of the room.

MIKE

HEY DOC! THANKS AGAIN!

The **SERVER** waives.

GENE

Where do you want to sit? Dinning room? Wait hold on... Who's that sitting over there?

GENE points his finger at,

ANN, 30, sitting alone.

GENE

Let's sit next to her. See what's up with this new chick.

THEY walk over and sit next to **ANN**.

MIKE

Can you believe this guy? Got the nerves to come here in a Porsche. He does this every holiday... Rich people.

GENE

Hey. Happy holidays. I'm Gene. This is Mike. Why you looking so down?

ANN

Is there something to be happy about? Who cares really? L.A., is what you all say. Right?

GENE

What?

MIKE

She's nuts Gene.

ANN

Look, I came here from New York. I don't have a place to sleep, can't get a job and I'm walking with all of my stuff.

GENE

I got a place you can come to.

MIKE

I got a car.

ANN

What? You have a place? And you have a car? And look at me. Sitting in a soup kitchen on a holiday... thinking I can come here and break into the industry. You all don't even help people. When I ask for help, I never can get it. I ask people why is like that here and all they say is... L.A.

GENE

That's just how it is here.

ANN

NO! That's not right! If you're down on your luck in New York, we don't say... New York. We help you. Like people supposed to do. But nooooo. Not here.

GENE and MIKE look at each other for a beat.

GENE

Hey Ann... There's a program called PILOT. They will find you a place and pay your rent for two years max. Here's the number.

GENE scrolls through HIS phone, then gives ANN the number.

MIKE

Hey Ann... If you come back here on Monday, the front office can give you a thirty day Tap Card. That way, you can ride public transportation for free.

ANN stare at THEM for a beat. SHE wipe the tears away.

ANN

Thanks Gene and Mike. You are the only two people who has told me anything.

GENE

No problem. Happy Holidays.

MIKE

Any time. Good luck with everything.