

SCHRÖDINGER'S CAT

A short play

by

German Munoz

Cast of Characters

MABEL: Female, 30. American accent.

DONALD: Male, 30. American accent.

(/) means that the next speech begins at that point.

LIVING ROOM OF MABEL'S FLAT. THE LIGHTS ARE OFF. DONALD IS SITTING BY HIMSELF ON THE COUCH. A LARGE METAL BOX WITH LOTS OF LOCKS AND CHAINS IS ON THE FLOOR NEXT TO HIM OUT OF MABEL'S INITIAL SIGHTLINE. THE DOOR SLOWLY OPENS, MABEL CAREFULLY WALKS IN HOLDING A CAN OF MACE.

MABEL
Who's there? I'm armed!

DONALD
It's just me.

MABEL
Who the hell is "me"?

DONALD
Donald.

MABEL
Donald? What are you doing here?

MABEL TURNS ON THE LIGHTS.

DONALD
I came back to get some of my things I'd forgotten.

MABEL
But you gave me back your key.

DONALD
I made a copy.

MABEL
You made a copy? That's not nice, Donald.

DONALD
Sorry.

DONALD HANDS MABEL THE KEY.

MABEL
(CALLING OUT) Pickles, come here girl.
(TO DONALD) What did you forget?

DONALD
Oh, nothing, it's just some toiletries I'd left under the sink.

MABEL
Pickles! Where are you, girl? (TO DONALD) Under the sink? I'm sure I checked there.

DONALD
Well, you didn't check very well because I forgot some stuff under there.

MABEL
Pickles! (TO DONALD) What's that?

DONALD
Oh, it's for work. It's for an experiment.

MABEL
Donald, I've told you a thousand times. I don't want you bringing home any of your work things. I don't want radiation poisoning.

DONALD
It's not my home.

MABEL
It's a hazard. Radiation could be seeping out of somewhere.

DONALD
You said home.

MABEL
One day I'm going to wake up with a brain tumor.

DONALD
You said "home".

MABEL
Home?

DONALD
You said I shouldn't bring my work things home.

MABEL
I did?

DONALD
Yes. This isn't my home.

MABEL
Well, I made a mistake. Sorry. It's only been a few weeks. I'm sorry. (OFF)
Pickles!

DONALD
Actually, I think it's perfectly natural for you to / think I still live here.

MABEL
Donald, did you see- Oh no!

MABEL
Did you open that window? Did you open that window?

DONALD

No. It was open when I arrived.

MABEL

No!

DONALD

It must have been Flora.

MABEL

I've told her a million times not to leave the window open.

MABEL LOOKS OUT OF WINDOW.

MABEL

Pickles! Pickles! Come back! The world is dangerous!

DONALD

No shit.

MABEL

What?

DONALD

Nothing.

MABEL

Pickles! I can't believe Flora. I'm going to kill her when she gets home.
(OFF) Pickles!

DONALD

As I was saying, I think it's perfectly natural for you to think I still live here. For you to miss me.

MABEL

Pickles! Pickles! Come back! Donald, I'm sorry, I know this has been hard but I don't miss you.

DONALD

Of course you don't.

MABEL

Pickles! (TO DONALD) Now, whatever you came here to get, please take it and leave.

DONALD

I wouldn't miss you either if I had run off with a coworker.

MABEL

Pickles! Pickles! Donald, I'm going to stop apologizing for that. It happened.

I was honest with you. It wasn't on /
purpose.

DONALD

It wasn't on purpose. Of course. Of
course. It's not like I didn't have any
temptation at work too, you know.

MABEL

Pickles! Pickles!

DONALD

I had to suppress my sexual urges every
single day.

MABEL

Come back! Donald, you work in a nuclear
power plant. There aren't any women for
miles.

DONALD

That's not true! That's not true! We got
a new cleaner. Imelda.

MABEL

Imelda?

DONALD

Yes. She's from Honduras.

MABEL

Fantastic. Good for you. Now could you
please leave, I think I've lost my cat.

DONALD

How is he?

MABEL

Who?

(PAUSE)

Oh. Will is fine. He's fine. (OFF)
Pickles!

DONALD

Have you ever heard of the superposition
of states?

MABEL

Pickles! Pickles! (TO DONALD) The what?

DONALD

Superposition of states.

MABEL

Oh! Oh! I think I see her! She's coming
back!

DONALD
(LOOKS AT BOX) It's not her.

MABEL
Pickles, come here girl. Come back to mommy- oh, it's not her. Get the hell out of here, Houdini!

DONALD
The superposition of states is when a system can simultaneously be in two states at once.

MABEL
Pickles! (TO DONALD) What are you talking about?

DONALD
The superposition of states.

MABEL
What does that even mean? I never knew what the hell you were talking about half the time. It made me feel like an idiot.

DONALD
You never said anything.

MABEL
I was embarrassed.

DONALD
You never asked me to explain.

MABEL
Even when you did I wouldn't get it.

DONALD
You never asked!

MABEL
Yes I did!

DONALD
No you didn't!

MABEL
Donald, if you're not going to help me look for Pickles, please get the hell out.

DONALD
According to quantum mechanics, a system stops being a in a superposition of states and becomes one state or the other when a measurement is made. An observation.

MABEL

Donald, take your toiletries and your big metal box and go!

DONALD

There is actually a very famous thought experiment around that principle.

MABEL

Get out Donald.

DONALD

Do you know what it's called?

MABEL

I don't care what it's called. (OFF)
Pickles!

DONALD

Schrödinger's Cat.

MABEL

Pickles!- What?

DONALD

Schrödinger's Cat. It's what the thought experiment is called.

MABEL

Donald. Where is Pickles?
Where is my cat, Donald?
Donald, where the fuck is my cat?
What did you do to her?
I swear, if you boiled her in a pot or,
or, or microwaved her, I'll rip your
skin off!

DONALD

She's in the box.

MABEL

She's in the box?!

DONALD

Yes.

MABEL RUNS TO BOX. TRIES TO OPEN IT BUT CAN'T.

MABEL

Oh my God! It looks awful. Get her out of there! (KNOCKS ON BOX) Pickles, are you in there? Pickles!

END OF SAMPLE

If you'd like to read the full short play (10 pages) please

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