

The Costumes We Wear

Spencer Ventresca

Cast of Characters

Danny

20s. Works at a bar. Lighthearted and fun at parties

Michael

20s. Once a close friend of Mary's. Once had feelings for her.

Mary

20s. Compassionate and empathetic, too much at times and she knows it.

Bartender

Nothing distinct about them.

ACT I

Mary sits at a crowded bar. She is dressed as a witch of some sort. There are Halloween decorations all about. Michael And Danny walk into the bar. Michael is dressed in many Kellogg's cereal boxes, it is not clear what Danny is dressed as but his costume has many small dots on them.

DANNY

Let's try to get a game of pool in before-

MICHAEL

Too late.

DANNY

It's alright we could take them I think.

MICHAEL

Yes, a great way to get fired real quick.

DANNY

That reminds me, I need pick up my check.

MICHAEL

And Mary's here.

DANNY

Hey Mary, What's up?

MARY

Hey Danny, hey Michael.

MICHAEL

Mary, good to see you.

MARY

Good to see you too.

DANNY

What are you drinking?

MARY

It's a Tequila, something-or-other. Here try it.

Danny tries the drink.

DANNY

That's actually really good. You wanna-

MICHAEL

No, I'm good.

DANNY

Right. I'm just gonna go get my check real quick.

MICHAEL

Sounds good.

DANNY

Get me a Whiskey Ginger, I'll be right back.

MICHAEL

Gotcha. Good to see you Mary.

Michael walks down the bar and struggles to find space to order, deliberately avoiding the open seat next to Mary. Mary notices.

MARY

There's room over here.

MICHAEL

Thank you.

Michael waits for the bartender.

MICHAEL

Do you know what specials they have for-

MARY

I'm not really sure.

Michael reads the specials directly located in front of Mary.

MICHAEL

So are you a Witch from anything in particular?

MARY

One of three.

MICHAEL

Like a Shakespeare thing?

MARY

Like a witches often come in threes sort of thing.
Emily and Tara are meeting here with Jake and his new
girlfriend.

MICHAEL

New boyfriend.

MARY

It doesn't matter.

MICHAEL

Okay. I'm sorry.

Pause.

MARY

What is your costume anyway?

MICHAEL

I am Captain Kellogg.

MARY

I was going to say Cereal killer.

MICHAEL

Captain Kellogg. Rodney is meeting us here. He's my
boss. General Mills.

MARY

Cute.

MICHAEL

Thanks.

There is a pause.

MICHAEL

Did you-

MARY

Look, we both knew each other was coming so we don't
have to...

MICHAEL

No, I get it.

MARY

Yeah. But I don't want to make things

MICHAEL

Yeah, no, I get it.

MARY

I'm just saying.

MICHAEL

It's fine. Forgive me for not knowing exactly how to act around you.

MARY

I mean, no but it's fine.

MICHAEL

Aside from pleasantries, I'm otherwise excommunicated from you. No social media, or anything. From avoiding all eye-contact, acting like we were never friends to-

MARY

Is there a point?

MICHAEL

I don't know when I'm supposed to act like your buddy.

MARY

It's new to me too.

Michael finally orders his drinks from a Bartender dressed as a masked superhero.

MARY

When is Rodney getting here?

MICHAEL

Not sure. He's at Sharkish Bar up the street but your guess is as good as mine.

MARY

Fair enough.

MICHAEL

If Danny ever gets back from grabbing his check we might meet him there.

MARY

You don't have to.

MICHAEL

Nothing to do with you, I just need my General.

MARY

You're such bullshit.

MICHAEL

Of course I'm bullshit! We both are. Why are you instigating right now?

MARY

I don't know. Maybe I don't want you to feel comfortable.

MICHAEL

If we're going to be strangers we should commit to our roles at least.

MARY

You messed me up! You can't make that choice.

MICHAEL

Believe me, it wasn't my choice.

The masked bartender serves the drinks.

MARY

Wasn't it though?

MICHAEL

Please don't. I told you how I felt about you and that was it. I never asked for anything, I wasn't all that tactful for sure but I couldn't have done anything differently, please-

MARY

Ha! Tactful. Drunk at the bar was so tactful.

MICHAEL

...I wasn't drunk.

MARY

But I was! It wasn't all that early in the night. I was not in a position to handle what you were saying.

MICHAEL

I didn't realize.

MARY

There's a lot you didn't realize. Like how I may have felt throughout the whole thing. And what was I supposed to tell my boyfriend, "My best friend is into me but it's cool" How could we stay friends. You put a lot on me, not to mention what all that did to *my* mental state. You didn't think Michael!

MICHAEL

I was rattled too. And don't think for a second that I never considered how you were feeling. That I didn't know that you'd be looking back on our friendship, reliving and questioning every word that was said and reinterpreting. And that-

MARY

You're barely scratching the surface right now but if you cared so much about me why didn't you just keep your mouth shut as opposed to putting me through that?

MICHAEL

(A little too loud)
Because, I was rattled too!

They both lower their voices.

MICHAEL

And please don't act like I did something so extremely awful. I was just honest with you. I was so close to you I felt I had to reveal my bias. I was honoring your trust not betraying it. We were just one conversation away from understanding, and beginning to move on, and you let the sun go down on me.

MARY

You betrayed our friendship.

MICHAEL

I did! (pause) You're right, I did. I gambled that our friendship was strong enough to overcome that ...unfortunate fact, and I lost. In the end, I wasn't in a great place mentally, and that's no excuse but the way I saw it was, you had a boyfriend and a close family to help you through the storm. I wasn't as lucky. I told you because I needed to do so to get out of the storm. To hop that hurdle. I was selfish but it was a point where I had to be. I can't regret it but I am sorry for it.

MARY

What am I supposed to say to that?

MICHAEL

Absolutely nothing. To my understanding, in order to rationalize my behavior you rewrote the concept of who I was to one that was more menacing, one that wanted you in an inappropriate way and I can't blame you for that at all. All I ever wanted was the best for you.

MARY

You think a lot. If you felt more you'd understand more.

MICHAEL

I feel too much.

MARY

Join the club.

There is a pause.

MICHAEL

I am not happy being a stranger in your life but I've accepted it.

MARY

Stop being a robot.

MICHAEL

I'm trying...

MARY

I'm not over it. This conversation proves that. You hurt me and now I have more to process.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to have this conversation now.
I can't imagine how you're feeling.

MARY

I feel like someone who was in my life just pleaded his case against why I shut him out in the first place and actually making me feel guilty for it all the while saying he only wants the best for me, and simultaneously that he is moving on. I'm sorry it's just hard not to see the hypocrisy.

MICHAEL

When you say it like that you make me sound like-

MARY

A sociopath.

MICHAEL

Well-

MARY

I'm sorry, I wish I could chalk this one up and move on but I just can't. Not now at least.

MICHAEL

That's fair.

MARY

We just have to learn to be strangers again and that is going to take time.

MICHAEL

We have time.

There is a pause. Michael finishes Danny's drink and steps away to make a phone call.

MICHAEL

(Into his phone)

Hey Rodney! Are you still at Sharkish?... Okay sweet, we're a few blocks away... yeah we'll come to you then go from there... Okay cool. Bye.

Danny returns with his check.

DANNY

Hey, you get the drink?

MICHAEL

Yep, I drank it too. Wanna meet up with Rodney there?
It's easier than having him be the one to make moves.

DANNY

You're bullshit dude.

MICHAEL

What?

Danny walks to Mary.

DANNY

Mary, have a lovely evening! We'll be heading to
Sharkish bar if you'd care to join.

MARY

I think I'm good. What's your costume anyway?

MICHAEL

My first guess was gravel, but he won't tell me.

MARY

Yeah that or sand.

DANNY

Close!

Danny pulls a bottle of Thyme out of his pocket.

MARY

You're the sands of Thyme?

DANNY

Precisely.

MICHAEL

Alright, We're leaving.

MARY

See you, goodbye Michael.

MICHAEL

So long Marianne.