



A NIGHT AT THE HUMAN GARDEN

by Jeff Dunne

A SMITH SCRIPT

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CHARACTERS

WEI	Just a guy trying to do his job taking orders at the restaurant.
ANDY	A lost soul trying to find a purpose in life by enlisting in the army of General Tso.
MARGARET	A mother of two having a very tough evening with unruly kids.
MARIE	A woman struggling with depression.
ARNOLD	A simple man looking for a bipolar avian friend.

The genders of Wei, Marie, and Arnold can be changed as desired. It is recommended that Andy always be male and Margaret be female.

SETTING

A Chinese takeout restaurant in present time.

(A Chinese restaurant. A man is standing behind the counter talking on the phone and writing on an order pad.)

WEI

And an order of egg rolls. Anything else? *(Pause)* I'd recommend the sweet and sour chicken. *(He holds up a container.)* It will be very fast... *(He then looks a little sad, and tries to convince the person to buy it.)* It's very fresh... *(They have refused, and he puts the container onto the counter.)* Yes, fortune cookies come with-- No, they are free. We incl-- Yes, they come with-- Yes, many-- How many?!

(A man walks in, waits patiently for Wei to finish.)

We only have-- No... No. We don't have any other cookies besides-- No. No cake. Do you-- A what? I don't know what that is... No, I've never heard of-- No. We don't serve that. Nothing living... No. I-- Right. Twenty minutes okay thank you goodbye!

(Wei takes a big sigh, putting the call behind him, and turns to face the new customer.)

Well, that was strange.

ANDY

What was strange?

WEI

That call. The man tried to order a... never mind. What can I do for you?

ANDY

I'd like to speak to the general.

WEI

Sorry?

ANDY

The general. I'd like to speak with him.

WEI

The...

ANDY

The general. I want to speak with him. I'm here to—

What general? WEI

General Tso. I'm here to enlist. ANDY

What? WEI

I want to enlist. ANDY

In...? WEI

(Woman walks in, flustered and calling back out...)

Just stay in the car! MARGARET

The army. ANDY

I don't care... MARGARET

General Tso's army. ANDY

...what she said to y-- Don't you dare hit your sist-- Sit down in that seat this minute! MARGARET

There's no-- WEI

I'd like a Happy Family, please. MARGARET

What? ANDY

There's no such thing. WEI