A Show of Hands

A short play
written by

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Cast of Characters

Louisa, the mother, female
Alan, the father, male
Kimmy, the oldest child, female
Michael, the middle child, male
Andrew, Michael's guest, male
Mazie, the youngest child, female
Sawyer, Mazie's guest, non-binary

Setting

Present day, a dining room with a door leading to the kitchen.

The dining room. On the table is a festive display of fall leaves, pine cones, oranges and cranberries. Very Martha Stewart.

Around the table sit ANDREW, MICHAEL, AND KIMMY. MAZIE and SAWYER are BOTH STANDING. The seats at both ends of the table are empty and there is one seat available next to ANDREW.

Everyone is silent as they look from one to the other awkwardly.

KIMMY
She is so pissed.

MAZIE
Shut up.

MICHAEL
So pissed.

MAZIE
You're a jerk.

LOUISA ENTERS with a mis-matched place setting.

LOUISA
I am SO sorry. I used the last plates for the dessert. But how nice to have an even number of people.

SAWYER
Thank you very much.

LOUISA
I'm afraid you won't match.

SAWYER
I am used to that.

MAZIE
I could swear I told you.

LOUISA
Well you didn't.

MAZIE
Well I think I did.

LOUISA
But you didn't.
(finishing the place setting)
There you go, dear.

SAWYER
Thank you.

ALAN ENTERS carrying a folding chair, a paper towel, and a bottle of kitchen cleaner.

ALAN
Here we go!

ALAN puts the chair down and sprays it liberally with the cleaner.

LOUISA
The food!

ALAN
(Wiping off the chair with the paper towel)
It’s nowhere near it.

LOUISA
You can’t just-

ALAN
(Stops wiping)
What? What can’t I do?

SAWYER
Thank you Mr. Lamont.

ALAN
No problem. OK, are we all set?

MAZIE
Thanks Dad.

ALAN gives MAZIE a side-hug and kisses her head as he squeezes past her to his seat.

LOUISA
I think so- Wait! Turkey! We need the turkey. Andrew, dear, could you help me? It’s a big one.

ALAN
(sitting at one end of the table)
Plenty for everyone.

MICHAEL
I’ll get it.

ANDREW
I’d be happy to help, Mrs. Lamont.

LOUISA
Thank you, dear. Let me show you. OH! I can get a picture! You know, I never get a picture of the turkey because I am always doing so much.

KIMMY
We know, we know.

LOUISA
It’s just on the counter - let me froof it up a little.

LOUISA and ANDREW EXIT

ALAN
(to KIMMY)
Be nice.

KIMMY
Ugh!

MICHAEL
(to MAZIE)
How was the trip?

MAZIE
What’s that supposed to mean?

MICHAEL
It means... how was the trip?

MAZIE
I know what you’re trying to say, so just don’t OK? Don’t. Judgement free zone.

SAWYER
It was very nice.

MAZIE
Don’t!

LOUISA ENTERS holding her phone.

LOUISA
(tapping her phone)
So exciting - Here comes the turkey!

ANDREW ENTERS holding a heavy platter with a very large roasted turkey.

ANDREW
Here’s the-

LOUISA
Wait! Wait! It’s not- Oh this thing.

ANDREW EXITS, backing out of the room.

LOUISA
Oh- Wait OK!

ANDREW ENTERS

ANDREW
Here’s the-

LOUISA
No! Oh, I can never work this thing.

SAWYER
Can I help?

LOUISA
Would you dear?

SAWYER takes the phone and tries to get the camera to work.

LOUISA
She’s very helpful.

MAZIE
They are.

LOUISA
Who are?

SAWYER
I need your face.

SAWYER holds up the phone, LOUISA makes a face at it.

MAZIE
Sawyer is they.

LOUISA
I have to make that face because when I got the phone I had just come from the dentist.

MAZIE
Their pronouns are ‘they’ and ‘them.’

LOUISA
Is that so?

SAWYER
Yes.

KIMMY
Isn’t that plural?

SAWYER
It’s a singular they. Here you go.

LOUISA
Thank you, dear. OK! Andrew?

ANDREW EXITS backwards out of the room.

ANDREW (O.S.)
Ready?

ALAN
Yes!

ANDREW ENTERS

ANDREW
Here’s the turkey!

ANDREW and LOUISA stand frozen as they wait for the camera to take a picture. Long pause. LOUISA turns the camera to see what’s wrong. LOUD CAMERA CLICK SOUND.

LOUISA
Oh shoot! OK! So if you can go back out-

ANDREW
How about if I just stand here?

LOUISA
OK.

ANDREW and LOUISA stand frozen as they wait for the camera to take a picture. Long pause. LOUD CAMERA CLICK SOUND.

KIMMY
Hooray! Let’s eat!

ANDREW
Where should I...?

LOUISA
Up by Mr. Lamont please dear.

ALAN
(to ANDREW)
Thank you sir.

LOUISA
Let’s say grace. ALAN?

ALAN
What?

LOUISA
Grace.

ALAN
Oh. Right. Michael?

MICHAEL
Oh. OK. Uh... Good lord, thank you for the... food... and we hold these truths to be self-evident-

LOUISA
You’re impossible!

ANDREW
Bless us, O Lord, and these, Thy gifts-

MAZIE
Well I’m sure glad Michael’s boyfriend is here to help.

MICHAEL
Jesus Christ! I’m not gay!

ALAN
(to MAZIE)
What is wrong with you?

MAZIE
No one here will face the truth! No one! Not one of you!

LOUISA pours herself a big glass of wine.

LOUISA
(Pouring herself some wine, to SAWYER)
Can I pour you some?

SAWYER
Please.

MICHAEL
(to MAZIE)
You are insane.

MAZIE
Just admit it, I mean we've all been here every year and seen your parade of male model "roommates."

ANDREW
Parade?

MAZIE
You are obsessed with your body image, drink white wine with EVERTHING-

ALAN
Mazie-

MAZIE
And you've worked at Sephora for ten years!

MICHAEL
I am a Regional Manager!

KIMMY
(standing up)
OK, enough.

ALAN
Kimmy-

KIMMY
No! Enough, OK? Let's just settle this! Let's just get it over with. Because I have been saving my Weight Watchers points for two weeks to eat this fucking dinner and I am STARVING! So! Show of hands. On the count of three, everybody who is gay raise their hand. Ready? 1-2-3.

SAWYER and ANDREW raise their hands. MICHAEL puts his hands down under the table. MAZIE halfway raises her hand. SAWYER looks at her quizzically.

MAZIE
(to SAWYER)
What?

LOUISA puts down her wine glass, and, staring at ALAN, raises her hand.

ANDREW
I did not expect that.

KIMMY
Shut up.

They all put their hands down.

There is a long pause.

SAWYER
Bless us, O Lord, and these, Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ALL
Amen.

There is another long pause.

KIMMY
So can we eat now or what?

END OF PLAY