

THE CAT FROM IPANEMA

A Short Comedy

Written by

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

DANI. Gender Neutral Person who remembers the time before Social Media.

JORDAN. Gender Neutral Person who remembers the time before Streaming Cable Channels.

OVERHEAD VOICE. A vocal and non-seen presence announcing a flight announcement.

SETTING

This play takes place in the present at an Airline Gate for a flight to Brazil.

Fade up on a bossa nova tune inspired by The Girl from Ipanema by Astrud Gilberto.

DANI and JORDAN are sitting in a couple of seats at a airport gate minutes before boarding a flight. They are both digging in their carry-ons.

DANI

(frantically looking through her carry-on)

Jordan, I told you that I packed him.

JORDAN

Well, telling and knowing are two different things, Dani!

DANI

Would you keep your voice down?

JORDAN

Why? You don't want everyone to hear how big of a dildo my spouse is for forgetting Pete's ashes!

DANI

(to all the surrounding passengers)

Pete was our cat, everyone. Not a person.

JORDAN

Actually, Pete was the re-incarnated soul of my Grand Tio Pedro!

DANI

Which was never proven!

JORDAN

You know that cat played the piano just like Grand Tio Pedro.

DANI

When he was drunk!

JORDAN

Don't you dare speak bad of the dead!

DANI

Why not? He can't hear me. Especially since it was your responsibility to put his reincarnated cat's ashes in your carry-on!

JORDAN

So you're blaming me for losing him?

DANI

No, I'm blaming you for killing him!

JORDAN

Pete died of natural causes!

DANI

Our cat choking on your fidget spinner is not a natural cause.
But, I wasn't talking about him!

JORDAN

Oh my god! How many times have we gone over this!? That was an accident!

DANI

All you had to do was to make sure that the lever didn't move. But no! It moved and then splat went Grand Tio Pedro!

JORDAN

It was your idea to lower the piano out of our apartment window!

DANI

How else were we supposed to move it down from five stories up?

JORDAN

But it was YOU who told Grand Tio Pedro to stand below the piano to make sure no one walked underneath it.

DANI

Because it was him who wanted the piano back because you stopped playing.

JORDAN

Now, you're blaming my inability to play the piano for the death of my Grand Tio Pedro?

DANI

You know what?

Yes.

I am going to blame you for that.

JORDAN

I knew it.

DANI

I'm blaming you for getting rid of something that brought us together, Jordan. The first time I heard you play Astrud Gilberto's "Girl from Ipanema" on that out-of-tune piano at Costco when we worked there, I knew that you were the most talented person in that entire warehouse. And then after you played "I Want It That Way" by the Backstreet Boys... I knew that I found the person I wanted to spend the rest of my life with.

Pause.

JORDAN

Grand Tio Pedro was the person who taught me that song.

DANI

I never pictured him as a Backstreet fan.

JORDAN

Not that song. I was talking about "The Girl from Ipanema."

DANI

I know. I was kidding. But if he did teach you "I Want It That Way", then I would have married him first.

JORDAN

Would you have still have married me knowing I couldn't play any more?

DANI

Jordan, playing those songs opened the door to the person I was looking for. But it was your personality, your attitude, your wit, and your love that made me want to never leave you. And nothing will ever change that.

JORDAN

Not even my-

DANI

Not even your Parkinsons.

They hug (or kiss depending on consent).

DANI (CONT'D)

For better or for worse.

JORDAN

Thank you.

DANI

But you losing our cat's ashes? Could've been a deal breaker.

JORDAN

Hey! Pete was your responsibility, you crack head.

DANI

No. You're the crack head! You crack... crack. Crack... crack...

JORDAN

I knew you were smoking crack!

DANI

No! Not this time.

DANI unzips a pocket of her carry-on and pulls out a ziplock bag that contains an ash-like substance.

DANI

Hey, Pete.

I forgot that I put you in the Cracker bag!

JORDAN grabs the ziplock bag and hugs it.

JORDAN

Hi, Grand Tio Pedro.

DANI

Now who's looking like the crack head?

Pause.

JORDAN

He's going to like it there.

DANI

Who wouldn't like being spread on the beaches of Ipanema?

JORDAN

Where he and my Grand Tia Rosalinda first met.

DANI

The Girl from Ipanema.

Bell-tones fill the air followed by an
OVERHEAD VOICE is heard.

OVERHEAD VOICE

Brazilian Airlines Flight to Rio De Janeiro is boarding in 15 minutes.

DANI

Ready Pete?

JORDAN

Grand Tio Pedro's ready.

JORDAN and DANI stand up and exit with
their carry-ons.

END OF PLAY