

BERBERT  
by Adam Szymkowicz

aszymkowicz@gmail.com

CAST of CHARACTERS:

ANGIE, female  
T, female  
PAUL, male  
BERBERT

SETTING:

T's Office

TIME:

The Present

SCENE 1.

*(Lights up on ANGIE and T in mid conversation.)*

T  
Okay, then.

ANGIE  
But Paul wants to talk to you first.

T  
I don't want to.

ANGIE  
You have to. You know he likes to give advice. And he's still the boss.

T  
He's here?

ANGIE  
He'll be here in a minute.

T  
He won't understand.

ANGIE  
No, but--

T  
I should try?

ANGIE  
What else are you gonna do?

T  
What do I say?

ANGIE  
You'll think of something.

## SCENE 2.

*(Transition. ANGIE has left. PAUL is there.)*

T  
Paul, I fell in love.

PAUL  
You what?

T  
I fell--

PAUL  
I heard you. That's not what was supposed to happen.

T  
I know. I know.

PAUL  
I sent you here to hire a new staff.

T  
I know.

PAUL  
And you--

T  
Yeah. Fell in love.

PAUL  
But what about the hiring?

T  
I'm still going to do that. I'll totally do that. But I have to talk to HR because I'm in love with one of them.

PAUL  
I gave you clear instructions.

T  
I know.

PAUL  
And none of this was in the hiring manual.

T  
I want you to meet them.

PAUL  
Who?

T  
The person I fell in love with.

PAUL  
I'm not gonna wait around. I'm not gonna--

T  
We're having lunch. You can join us.

SCENE 3.

*(Transition. They have lunch. BERBERT is with them.)*

T  
Paul, I want you to meet Berbert.

PAUL  
Nice to--

BERBERT  
Berbert.

PAUL  
T speaks very highly of you.

BERBERT  
Berbert.

PAUL  
Does he--

T  
No. All they say is "Berbert."

PAUL  
And this is the one you're in love with?

T  
Yeah. Look into Berbert's eyes.

BERBERT  
Berbert.

PAUL  
Yes, they are very soulful.

T  
Right?

PAUL  
But--Maybe someone else, a little more--

T  
Love does not put on airs!! You said that.

PAUL

I know, but you're taking it out of context.

T

Are you envying? Don't envy.

PAUL

I'm not. I mean I'm trying not to.

T

Don't be hurt. I want you to bless my love with Berbert.

BERBERT

Berbert.

T

Before Berbert I was wicked, foolish, disobediant, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy hateful and hating. But no longer. Berbert makes me a better person. Makes me good. Makes me whole. I can sing now. I can taste things. Food tastes amazing. I was in a hole with no light, no hope and then Berbert looked at me and now--

BERBERT

Berbert.

T

I'm full of love now for everyone. Berbert fills my cup over.

PAUL

Okay, well I guess I'm happy, it's just-- I thought you and me would have a go of it one day.

T

Sure. Yeah.

PAUL

So.

T

I thought that too. I did. But you were always out of town and you know, HR would frown upon it.

PAUL

HR would frown upon this!

BERBERT

Berbert.

T  
Thank you for being happy for me.

PAUL  
I don't know that that's true.

T  
Well thank you for pretending. And thanks for coming down to the office. And for smoothing it over with HR.

PAUL  
Oh you want me to--

T  
Berbert and I really appreciate it.

BERBERT  
Berbert.

PAUL  
Look, I'm going to do the right thing here. I'm going to be generous and kind about this but before we move on, are you sure, like really sure, like absolutely sure that you and me--

T  
I'm sure. Maybe before. But not now. Because--

BERBERT  
Berbert.

PAUL  
And you're sure that he--

T  
There were impeccable references both for Berbert as a human and as an employee. Everyone loves and respects Berbert. And no one has ever treated me better.

PAUL  
I see.

BERBERT  
Berbert.

T  
What's that?

BERBERT  
Berbert.

T  
Berbert has something to say.

BERBERT  
Berbert.

T  
He's listening.

PAUL  
Yes.

T  
We're both listening.

BERBERT  
Berbert berbert berbert ber-berbert berbert berbert. Berbert berbert. Berbert berbert berbert  
berbert berbert berbert berbert berbert berbert berbert berbert berbert berbert berbert  
berbert berbert berbert berbert berbert berbert berbert berbert berbert berbert.  
Berbert.

T  
Well.

PAUL  
I guess there's nothing more to say.

BERBERT  
Berbert.

*(END OF PLAY)*