

Audition Side - "Never More Lenore" – G. David Post

Two office-mates interview a potential temporary employee. They have very different experiences when she comes in through the office door.

Ed (40-60) office worker, detail oriented. Inclined to ponder many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore.

Lenore (25-75) clerical temp; unflappable. Stately, of the saintly days of yore.

Mark (30-50) office worker, easy-going people-person. A dog owner. Nothing more.

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*(When a line is cut short, the finish of the line is in parenthesis in italics so the actor does not have to guess what their character is saying/ thinking. Line particles in parenthesis should not be spoken)*

(ED AND MARK AT THEIR DESKS)

**ED**

I wish they'd let me interview my own temps.

**MARK**

Well, they can't do that. (BRUSHING HIS PANTS) The puppy's covered me with hair.

**ED**

(REACHING POINTING) Pass the stapler over there.

**MARK**

(GRABBING, PASSING) It's like my wife just doesn't care. Here ya go.

**ED**

Thanks.

**MARK**

And you don't like anyone. Stupid shedding Labrador.

**ED**

I do

**MARK**

Leaving hair across the floor. Can hardly stand it anymore. ...And this one, you REALLY won't like.

**ED**

(CATCHING THE RHYME) What did you say?

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**MARK**

Yeah, (BEAT) Let's just leave it there. You're not gonna like her.

**ED**

No, before that.

**MARK**

Oh, the puppy is shedding all over everything. And it makes me crazy.

**ED**

But you were (*rhyming*)... (BEAT) ...but... ...wait... so, why am I not going to like her?

**MARK**

Because I know you.

**ED**

Then why did you... (*pick this one?*)

**MARK**

...blame HR. They called the agency, said we needed someone, anyone, and done is done. It's only for a week.

(LENORE, DRESSED ALL IN BLACK, KNOCKS VERY LIGHTLY ON THE OFFICE DOOR)

**ED**

So, what's her name?

**MARK**

(LOOKS OFF AND DECIDES) I can't tell you.

**ED**

You don't know her name?

(LIGHT KNOCKING)

**MARK**

No. I DO. I just can't... (CHUCKLES) ...You're going to...

**ED**

Why?

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**LENORE**

(KNOCK AND ENTER) Mr Allen? I've been knocking, while you fellows have been talking, I've been tapping, lightly knocking, standing here outside your door.

**ED**

What did you say?

**LENORE**

I just wanted to introduce myself.

**MARK**

(INTRODUCING HIMSELF) Mark Craven. You're from Work Solutions?

**LENORE**

I am. They left a message.

**MARK**

They said that your work is excellent.

**LENORE**

We didn't get a chance to speak, but they asked if I could work the week. (PAUSE) with people hard to find right now.

**MARK**

Summertime's vacation's peak.

**LENORE**

I called them back and told them sure. (EXPLAINING) I've helped them once or twice before. (TRYING TO BE PLEASANT) It's nice to meet you, I'm Lenore.

**ED**

(to MARK ALMOST ACCUSING) You knew about this?

**MARK**

(TRYING TO PUT THE FIRE OUT QUICKLY) Yup, just what I thought. (ESCORTING LENORE FROM THE ROOM) Great to have you for the week. Get yourself settled in that desk over there, get some coffee. We need to prep some work for you.

**LENORE**

The ladies' room?

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**MARK**

(POINTING) The Ladies' Room's the second door, and coffee's further down the floor... (to ED) Do you want a cup? (ED nods)

**LENORE**

Anything else?

**ED**

Just some coffee, nothing m..*(more)* (PAUSE) ...else. Nothing else. Thanks.

**MARK**

(CLOSING OFFICE DOOR) Well,... she... seems... nice. Professional.

**ED**

(YELLING) Lenore!?

**LENORE**

(QUICK IN DOOR) Yes, Mr Allen.

**ED**

Sorry, no, nothing more.

**LENORE**

Coffee, tho?

**ED**

Yes and close the door. (grunt)

**MARK**

I knew this was going to be a problem.

**ED**

I will lose my mind in a week. Unbelievable. 100,000 people out of work and they send me someone named (LENORE ENTERS WITH COFFEE) Lenore.

**LENORE**

Yes, Mr Allen. (HE IS STARTLED) Your coffee.

**ED**

Thank you.