

Ukulele

written by

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EXT. THEATER ENTRANCE - DAY

Lex, a charismatic psychic, stands at the entrance, waiting.  
Vern, an environmental inspector, approaches.

VERN  
(looking around)  
This place is really something. Are  
you Lex?

LEX  
(smiling)  
Yes, that's me. You must be Vern,  
the ... environmental inspector,  
right? Let's get started, shall we?

Vern enters the theater, followed by Lex.

INT. THEATER - DAY

Lex follows Vern as he inspects the theater, taking notes on  
a clipboard. They walk past various sections of the building,  
including ticket booth, the seating area, and the stage, with  
curtains drawn.

LEX  
  
You know, this theater has quite a history. It used to be a  
courthouse.

VERN  
(looking around,  
intrigued)  
Really? That's fascinating.

As they walk away, a gentle breeze flows along the curtain.  
Lex rounds a corner and notices the entrance to the jail cell  
area.

LEX  
(pointing to the entrance)  
And in there, we have some old jail  
cells left from when it was a  
courthouse. Care to take a look?

Vern, curious, nods in agreement and they proceed toward the  
jail cells.

INT. JAIL CELL AREA - DAY

Lex and Vern enter the dimly lit jail cell area. Vern inspects the cells, looking both intrigued and slightly unnerved.

LEX  
(nostalgic)  
These cells are from the days when  
this theater was a courthouse.

VERN  
(looking into a cell)  
That's interesting. I can't believe  
they've been preserved.

Vern notices a ukulele in one of the cells. Lex evilly smiles near the cell door.

LEX  
Why don't you go in and get the  
ukulele?

VERN  
(suspicious)  
Do you think I'm stupid?

LEX  
(chuckles, opens the cell  
door)  
Fine, I'll get it for you.

Lex retrieves the ukulele and hands it to Vern.

LEX (CONT'D)  
Now, follow me. I want to show you  
something interesting with the  
theater's acoustics.

Vern takes the ukulele, and they leave the jail cell area, heading towards the stage.

The cell door, left alone, creaks.

INT. THEATER STAGE - DAY

Lex and Vern enter the grand theater, with Vern holding the ukulele. Lex gestures for Vern to stand on the stage while she positions herself in the middle of the seating area.

LEX  
(enthused)  
This theater has amazing acoustics.  
Try strumming that ukulele.

Vern hesitates but then strums the ukulele. A spotlight turns on, and the ghostly apparition of Andrea playing a ukulele appears. She sweetly sings and walks forward before the vision fades.

VERN  
(amazed)  
Wow, what was that? It was  
beautiful!

Lex knowingly nods, a mysterious smile on her face.

LEX  
Play it again.

Vern strums the ukulele once more, and the ghostly Andrea reappears, walking a bit further, squinting at the lights, and then fading away. Vern stares at the ukulele, smiling and entranced.

Lex hears Andrea's voice whispering to her.

ANDREA'S VOICE  
(whispering)  
He likes my music.

Vern, unable to resist the allure of the ukulele, strums it again on his own. The spotlight turns on once more, and the ghostly Andrea reappears, playing and singing along.

We hear the music cut short by a blood-curdling scream and a bone-chilling crash.

Vern's face turns pale, his eyes wide in terror as he looks over the edge of the stage. He sees the lifeless body of Andrea below, after her fatal fall into the orchestra pit. Shaken and petrified, Vern strums once more and again witnesses the same crash. He fumbles with the ukulele and the crash happens again.

Vern tries to put the ukulele down, but again hears the same harrowing scream. In a panic, he quickly picks it back up and looks in shock at Lex, his hands trembling.

Lex nods empathetically.

LEX  
Sad story, I know. That needs to go  
back where it came from.

Vern gawks at the ukulele, then begins to rush stage right, desperate to get away from the scene of Andrea's tragic accident. Lex shakes her head and calls out, pointing.

LEX (CONT'D)

No, it's that way! I'll show you.

Lex leads Vern through the dimly lit theater, her stride confident as Vern follows, clutching the ukulele like a lifeline. They pass rows of seats and the grand curtain, making their way back to the room with the jail cells.

INT. ROOM WITH JAIL CELLS - DAY

Lex guides Vern to the cell where the ukulele was originally found. Vern hesitates for a moment, then puts the ukulele back in the cell.

LEX

Go ahead, put it back in.

As Vern steps out of the cell, Lex slams the door shut behind him, trapping him inside. Vern's face fills with terror as he realizes what has just happened.

VERN

No, wait! What are you doing?!

Lex smirks and walks away, leaving Vern trapped in the cell.

INT. CELL - DAY

Vern bangs on the cell door, screaming for help, but the music from the ukulele starts echoing around him, drowning out his cries. His screams become silent as the haunting music continues to play.

INT. THEATER LOBBY - DAY

Lex, satisfied with her work, pours herself a cup of tea. As she sips it, she hears Andrea's ghostly voice, now a hoarse whisper.

ANDREA (V.O.)

My audience, forever enchanted.

Lex smiles, knowing that Andrea has found a new captive audience, and Vern fades into the shadows of the cell.

FADE OUT.