

Returning a Library Book  
(1st script at Second City, summer 2009)

By

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prompts: (subject) murder, (location) libraray

ACT I

Scene 1

*Scene opens with a librarian at his desk. Matthew enters, clutching a book wrapped in brown paper.*

MATTHEW

I'd like to return this book. I think it's a bit overdue.

*Librarian accepts the book and scans it into the computer. Matthew grabs the book and wraps it in the paper again.*

LIBRARIAN

A bit overdue?! Sir, this book is nine weeks overdue.

MATTHEW

Yes, yes. I, uh, it was a great read.

LIBRARIAN

Oh yes, most of our customers enjoyed...

MATTHEW

Shhh! You don't have to say the name out loud.

LIBRARIAN

Sir, you can't shush me, I'm a librarian.

MATTHEW

I'm sorry. But you don't have to say the name out loud. So, it is late?

LIBRARIAN

Quite late. Didn't you receive the emails?

*Librarian opens the brown wrapper, Matthew grabs it again.*

MATTHEW

No, no, I didn't. I didn't get any email.

LIBRARIAN

Well, let's see here. Yes, we sent several notices. Is your email address pussylover96@yahoo.com?

MATTHEW

No, it's pussylover69@yahoo.com.

LIBRARIAN

Well, that may explain why you didn't receive the notices. In any case, the book is more than thirty days late and we are going to have to execute you.

(CONTINUED)

MATTHEW

You what?

LIBRARIAN

This is a very popular book and it is very, very much overdue.

MATTHEW

I see.

LIBRARIAN

There is quite a waiting list for this book. The mayor, various local schoolteachers, an endless string of housewives, a priest, and...Bristol Palin. Yes, many people are waiting to read...

MATTHEW

Stop! Don't say it. I don't particularly want anyone knowing I checked this book out.

LIBRARIAN

I understand, sir.

MATTHEW

So, you are going to have to kill me?

LIBRARIAN

Execute you, yes, sir.

MATTHEW

For returning it late?

LIBRARIAN

Yes, sir.

MATTHEW

Well, if you must...

LIBRARIAN

Sir?

MATTHEW

I said, 'if you must...'

*Librarian pauses, shakes his head.*

LIBRARIAN

This raises a problem. We are not allowed to execute anyone who doesn't argue. I'm going to have to give you an extension.

*Matthew accepts the book back and walks toward the exit.*

LIBRARIAN

(Calls after him loudly.)

Sir, I hope you enjoy reading "My Fluffy Kitty Cat".