

LAURA WALSH - SCRIPT WRITING SAMPLE

A short comedic scene in a traditional fantasy setting.

NO REFUNDS

INTERIOR of a vaguely medieval European tavern. There is a long wooden bar along one side. A half dozen tables are scattered around the room with small groups of townsfolk at each one. It's a friendly but generally subdued atmosphere, voices kept low, punctuated by the sounds of laughter and glasses clinking.

SCARLET (30s, F), a human innkeeper, stands attentively behind the bar. ASCARIUS (50s, M), a human mage in dark robes and UGERZ (goblin of unknown age, M) are seated at the bar and are arguing.

ISOBEL (20s, F), a tough human warrior with windblown hair and a few fresh scrapes on her arms and cheeks, walks up to the bar. She sits down and Scarlet brings her a flagon of ale.

Isobel turns her head to look at the very loud conversation that is in progress between Ugerz and Ascarius.

UGERZ

...house is still full of toads! You guaranteed your magical whatsit would take care of the problem!

ASCARIUS

I'm quite sure I did not say that whatsoever.

UGERZ

But you said--

ASCARIUS

Truly now! I never promise results. Magic is far too... ehm... persnickety. Magical items only function correctly when used with absolute focus of the mind. Really, this is basic spellcasting anyone would know.

ISOBEL (to Scarlet)

So is that the guy?

Scarlet nods.

UGERZ

Oh ho ho, basic, huh? Are you making fun of me?

ASCARIUS

No, no... don't get upset...

UGERZ

UPSET? You haven't seen me UPSET!

Isobel shifts over a couple seats so she's beside Ascarus.

ISOBEL (to Ascarus)

Innkeeper says you've got magic trinkets to sell?

ASCARIUS

Oh! Why, yes, I --

UGERZ (to Isobel)

EXCUSE me. We were in the middle of a negotiation here. You'll have to wait your turn!

ASCARIUS

My goblin friend, please, you must understand that --

UGERZ

I understand that I got conned! Tricked! Denied! You're a thief, you old magicky moo. Now gimme back my coin!

ASCARIUS

Please listen! As I explained, when you use one of these spells it cannot be returned or reversed.

UGERZ

What! That's cheating. You can't cheat me! I'm a goblin! We invented cheating!

ISOBEL

I... don't want to interrupt your conversation but I was hoping to --

UGERZ

Well, you ARE interrupting! And this is high injustice! Criminal malconduct!

Ascarius leans over and he and Isobel briefly confer while Ugerz gets more upset at being ignored. Ascarius hands Isobel a crystal pendant and a rolled-up paper. Ugerz laughs rudely.

UGERZ

You moron! That spell's not gonna work!

ISOBEL

I don't know. Maybe the problem was user error.

As Isobel holds up the crystal and focuses on reading the paper aloud, Ascarius turns away from Ugerz, fully ignoring him. Ugerz throws up his hands in exasperation and starts walking toward the door.

ISOBEL (mumbling at first)
...expulso inamibilis!

Nothing happens, other than Ugerz leaving the building. But Isobel looks up, glances around the tavern, and gives Ascarius a wry look. Ascarius looks smug.

ASCARIUS
There you are, the trinket works as advertised. It banished an ugly toad!