

“CHICKEN WITH CHEESE” by Alexander Lee-Rekers

GUS, working the counter at a small town diner, checks over the order of a once-acquaintance.

GUS: So let me check your order: you want the chicken, the chicken with cheese, two beef, one with no tomato, pickles on the side, and all with fries except the chicken with cheese which is a side salad... Cokes all round, plus a bottle of water. That's correct? Nothing left out? *(Pause.)* You're not going to get to me, coming in here like this. If that's what you're hoping for, you'll be sorely disappointed. I like working here. I like the hours, I like my boss, the customers... I like what I do and who I am. I suppose there's a part of me, once, that would've thrown myself down behind the counter in shame when I saw you walk in. But that's not who I am anymore. Cash or card?

Performance Notes:

- *Character relationship is a big factor in this piece. There's a lot of room for interpretation, for the backstory to inform the demeanour between these two.*
- *Think about the status of these characters: who has more power in the scene? What happens if you reverse the dynamic between them? How does it change the scene?*
- *The first half of this monologue is a fast food order. Don't waste this: use this to set the tone of the scene and the attitude Gus has towards the scene partner.*
- *There is one written pause in the scene. But feel free to play with silence elsewhere. A character like Gus can use a moment's pause to hammer their point home.*