

Mercy

List of characters

Luke and Serena (A couple in their 20s)

Two store clerks

A few passers-by

A girl

Scene

A table with the accessories on it is set on the right side of the stage. Two girls, one of them standing and the other sitting, are chatting by the side of the table. On the stage, there are several passers-by walking and chatting. As the passers-by walk by the middle of the stage, almost every one of them look up at something, some of the passers-by in pairs even point at it. But all of them turn their head back and keep walking on.

(The sound of the noisy street fades as the couple come out hand in hand, talking delightedly. Then there is the sound of a cat meowing. The couple look around to search for the source of the sound.)

Serena (looking up and halting at the center of the stage) Oh dear, look! There is a cat on the roof beam. What's it doing up there?

Luke Mewing, I suppose.

Serena Very funny. It seems that it can't come down itself, can it?

Luke Maybe it just wants to draw people's attention. It is a cat, after all. If this cat can find a way to go up there, it must have a way coming down.

Serena Are you sure? But listen to how desperate it sounds.

Luke (Luke looks behind and finds that they make the way stocked.) We get in others' way. (He pulls Serena to the side to give way.)

Serena (looking around in anxiety) Oh, I really think it needs rescue.

(Both of them stare at the cat for a while with the worried look. Then, Luke turns to look at the two clerks aside, who are still chatting.)

Luke Maybe the cat is the pet of this store.

Serena Um...let's ask them (walking to them. Luke follows behind.) Excuse me. Is this cat yours?

Clerk A (with a cigarette in hand) No. It is just a stray cat.

Serena (frowning) Then, could you lend us a ladder or something? I want to get that

cat down.

Clerk A Miss, don't bother. We have got this cat down for several times but it still jumps up.

Customer I want to buy this, please.

Clerk A (turning to the customer) Okay, I'll give you a new one...

Serena (turning to another clerk) But...how long have it been up there?

Clerk B Probably thirty minutes. But it would come down anyway. Just leave it alone. (heading into the store)

Serena But...

Luke Thanks. Come on, Serena.

(Walking back to the center of the stage)

Luke You heard what they say, this cat will be fine.

Serena No, it won't and I won't either until I see it is fine. Oh, do something, Luke.

Luke Well...I'd like to, but how?

Serena How about climbing up these motors?

Luke (surprised) Are you serious?

Serena Of course. What if it gets stocked up there all day long?

Luke (hesitating and peeking around) But this is not our scooters. What if the scooter owners show up?

Serena Move. I'll do it. (She starts taking off her shoes.)

Luke Don't be kidding, Serena. It's too dangerous!

Serena There wouldn't be any problem. It just takes me a while to get it down. (She climbs up one of the scooters.) Come on. Hold the scooter.

Luke Oh my, you are serious.

Serena Of course I am. Don't be such a coward. It just takes a few seconds.

Luke (vexed and murmuring) Oh, what the hell. (holding the scooter in case Serena falls) Make it quick.

Serena Don't push me. Don't you see how panic the cat is?

Luke Don't you see you are drawing people's attention? (taking a look at the audience)

Serena (whispering) Hey, Kitty...Come on...(reaching out her hands) I hold it! I hold it! OUCH!

(As Serena holds the cat, it scratches her hand and they both fall off the scooter. Luke hugs Serena in time but the cat crashes on the floor, making a big sound and then runs away in high speed.)

(The two clerks come out as the noise is heard.)

Luke (supporting Serena) Are you alright?

Serena Oh my god...It scratched me. That cat...is it hurt?

Luke I don't know. Perhaps. (In a confused manner) I'm not sure. It just ran off so fast. Let's get the scooters back in the right place first. Oh no... (whispering) Serena, look, there is a scrape on the scooter...

Serena Oh my...I...(The couple lapse into silence as they hear two clerks standing aside whispering to each other.)

Clerk B Told them don't do it. Some people just wouldn't listen.

ClerkA Now they hurt the cat, satisfied?

Luke (pulling Serena's sleeve) Come on. Let's go.

Serena But what about the scooter?

Luke Haven't you got into enough trouble? Don't be so innocent. Come on, let's go, before the situation becomes worse.

Serena (depressed) Oh...wait, my shoes. (She puts on her shoes in a flurry, one hand on Luke's shoulder. As Serena is done, they hastily trot down the left wing of the stage) Oh, how ridiculous, I am just trying to save it.... (rubbing her wound and saying to Luke)

(The clerks remain on the stage; one of them sitting and the other standing, are chatting. There are several passers-by walking and chatting on the stage. As the passers-by walk by the left side of the stage, almost every one of them take a look at something on the ground, some of the passers-by in pairs even point at it. But all of them turn their head back and keep walking on. And as a girl walking to the left side of the stage, she halts and stares at the ground.)

A girl: A cat! Oh dear, it is bleeding....

(Black out)