

## Can of Beans

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A one-act play

By Bizzy Coy

SCENE 1

DEANNA

Oh, Dirk. Light of my life.

DIRK

Yes, Deanna, joy of my heart?

DEANNA

I have the most spectacular surprise for you.

DIRK

I'm in the shower, honey.

DEANNA

It can't wait.

DIRK

What's so important -

DEANNA

Beans.

DIRK

Beans?

DEANNA

Beans, my love. Beans.

DIRK

I have shampoo in my hair.

DEANNA

It's a magical can of beans.

DIRK

I have shampoo in my eyes. Ow.

DEANNA

With this can, you can wish for a hundred eyes.

DIRK

You have to stop believing everything you hear.

DEANNA

Oh, I didn't hear it. I read it. On a sign.

DIRK

A sign?

DEANNA

Near the old bridge. "Magic beans. Free to a good home."

DIRK

We've got to get to Andrew and Eleanor's by seven.

DEANNA

You can wish for a hundred Andrews and a thousand Eleanors.

DIRK

No, thank you.

DEANNA

Rub it.

DIRK

No.

DEANNA

Dirk! Just rub it!

He does.

DIRK

Nothing's happening, sweetheart.

DEANNA

Oh, I remember now. The sign said "use a can opener."

He pulls out a can opener.

DIRK

Here.

DEANNA

Why do you have that in the shower?

DIRK

Can't a man have secrets anymore?

He opens the can.

A genie appears.

DEANNA

Oh my God!

DIRK

Towel! Throw me a towel!

BEANIE

(deadpan)

Hi, I'm Beanie the Genie. How may I grant your wish?

DEANNA

Oh, my God.

DIRK

Are you - real?

BEANIE

Would you like to try our new raging bean burrito, two for five dollars for a limited time only?

DEANNA

How does this work, exactly?

BEANIE

I don't know, ma'am. I'm just an intern.

DIRK

A genie intern?

BEANIE

Yeah.

DEANNA

But. Can you grant wishes?

BEANIE

If you wish for a raging bean burrito.

How many wishes?

DIRK

Three, obviously.

DEANNA

In this economy? Psh.

BEANIE

Two?

DIRK

Pssssshhhhhhhhhh.

BEANIE

One?

DEANNA

One.

BEANIE

One. Hmm. The burrito did sound good.

DIRK

We're on our way to dinner.

DEANNA

Can we talk about this later? And you - turn around.

DIRK

He gets dressed.

BEANIE

My shift is almost over. Do you want a wish or not?

DEANNA

Yes, yes, of course I want a wish. I wish -

DIRK

Whoa! Hold on.

DEANNA

My can, my wish.

DIRK

I opened it.

DEANNA

But I found it.

DIRK

But I opened it!

BEANIE

Oh, I get it. Is this, like, an unhappy marriage?

DEANNA

No!

DIRK

No!

DEANNA

We're happy.

DIRK

Very happy. But we've got to go, peaches.

DEANNA

Andrew and Eleanor will understand.

DIRK

I don't like to be late.

DEANNA

What could possibly be more important than being granted a wish?

DIRK

Beanie, what do you think. This tie - or this one?

BEANIE

Like, who wears ties anymore.

DIRK

Is that an old person thing? Oh, my God. Am I an Old?

BEANIE

...No?

DIRK

Excuse me, ladies. I'm going to change.

He starts to exit.

Wait.

DEANNA

What?

DIRK

It's Eleanor, isn't it?

DEANNA

Hm?

DIRK

DEANNA

You're picking out ties. You don't want to be late. You took a shower, for goodness sakes. I see it all. Very clearly.

DIRK

You sound crazy. Doesn't she sound crazy?

BEANIE

She did bring home a can of beans she found under a bridge.

DEANNA

Well. You don't need a genie to get your wish. Go. Be with Eleanor. See if I care.

DIRK

I don't want to be with Eleanor.

DEANNA

Andrew?! Oh, God. I always suspected.

DIRK

Honey.

DEANNA

What, then?

BEANIE

Wow, this can is really tearing you guys apart.

DEANNA

Not now, Beanie.

BEANIE

I'm gonna take off.

DIRK

No, don't.

DEANNA

You stay right there.

BEANIE

This is like an unpaid thing, for my resume, so. Although it's been... really fun?

Beanie disappears.

DIRK

Beanie, stop!

Something clatters to the floor.

DEANNA

What. Is that?

DIRK

Nothing.

DEANNA

What is it?

DIRK

I don't know what you're talking about.

DEANNA

Is that a can?

DIRK

No.

DEANNA

A can of BEANS?

DIRK

It's not what it looks like. It's... corn.

DEANNA

Corn?

DIRK

A magical can of corn. I found it under the old bridge on my way home.



DEANNA

That's why you had the can opener in the shower.

DIRK

I was going to tell you. I swear.

DEANNA

And you think I'm crazy?

DIRK

No! Never.

DEANNA

You wanted a wish all to yourself.

DIRK

Is that so wrong?

DEANNA

I'm your wife, Dirk!

DIRK

And I love you, darling! But sometimes... I need something that's just for me.

DEANNA

A can of corn?

DIRK

Exactly. Look. Why don't we - why don't we open it together?

DEANNA

Really? You mean it?

DIRK

Of course I do.

DEANNA

Okay.

They open the can.

Beanie appears.

BEANIE

Hi, I'm Corny the Genie. Would you like to try our new raging corn chowder, for a limited time only?

Beanie?

DEANNA

No. Corny.

BEANIE

That doesn't rhyme.

DIRK

Uh huh.

BEANIE

I thought you were the bean intern.

DEANNA

Unpaid bean intern. So I pick up shifts at the corn can when I... can.

BEANIE

How does one even apply for these jobs?

DEANNA

It's very competitive.

BEANIE

You mean, corn-petitive?

DIRK

Dead air.

BEANIE

Yeah, so, I'm gonna take a nap while you guys figure out your deal.

DEANNA

In the tub?

BEANIE

When you spend a lot of time inside a can, a tub is actually kind of spacious.

DIRK

Deanna. We are running very late.

DEANNA

Okay, quick. Let's each make a list of possible wishes, and if either of us has the same thing, that's what we'll wish for.

Okay.

DIRK

They scribble their lists.

BEANIE

You guys have any snacks?

DIRK AND DEANNA

NO!

BEANIE

I don't get meal breaks at either of these jobs. Isn't that illegal or something?

DIRK

Probably.

BEANIE

You mind if I eat these beans?

DEANNA

Please don't.

Beanie slurps them out of the can. A mess.

BEANIE  
(mouth full)

This is not very good.

DEANNA

Don't you dare get out of that tub!

BEANIE  
(mouth still full)

Gosh! Okay.

DIRK

All right. Things I would wish for. Pay off our house.

DEANNA

Travel into the future to meet our great-great-grandchildren.

DIRK

Wow. That's really good. Um, a trip around the world.

DEANNA

The ability to look into people's souls and see where they stand on a spectrum of good to evil.

DIRK

Um. A new dishwasher?

BEANIE

I wish I had health insurance.

DIRK

Why is boundless choice so debilitating?!

BEANIE

I wish I could wash all this bean-juice off me.

She turns on the faucet.

BEANIE

Look! I got my wish.

She washes her face.

BEANIE

What is this goop, anyway? Like, bean syrup? Bean water? What is it made of?

DEANNA

I wish I never found that stupid can!

There's a long pause.

BEANIE

Actually, you're not allowed to wish that.

DEANNA

Aaaauggghhhh! This cursed can! These blasted beans!

BEANIE

You guys are way overthinking this.

DIRK

She's right, honey. She's right. I don't need a new dishwasher, or to look into people's souls. Everything I want is right here in front of me. I wish for... a can of beans.

DEANNA

And I wish for... a can of corn.

BEANIE

Jesus, did I really have to be here for all this?

DIRK

I wish for the most wonderful wife in the world.

BEANIE

No, that's it, you wished your wishes.

DEANNA

I wish for the most wonderful husband in the world.

DIRK

I wish we had a dinner party to go to.

DEANNA

I wish we were running late.

DIRK

I wish you were wearing my favorite dress.

DEANNA

I wish you had a can opener in the shower.

DIRK

I wish you more happiness than there are beans in the world. Black beans. Green beans. Navy beans.

DEANNA

Wax beans. Pinto beans. Cannellini beans.

DIRK

Kidney beans.

DEANNA

Garbanzo beans.

DIRK

Jelly beans.

BEANIE

We get it you're listing beans!!!! Jesus Christ. I wish this dumb play was over already.

THE END