

Four Fifty-Nine

By

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Cast of Characters

<u>Kirk</u> :	M. 20-30s. Attempting to be optimistic, too smart for his own good.
<u>Shannon</u> :	F. 30-50s. Sassy mother.
<u>Brian</u> :	M. 20-40s. Typical settled bachelor.
<u>Jim</u> :	M. 20-30s. Bearer of bad news, a romantic.
<u>Rose</u> :	F. 20-30s. A Lost fan. Very petite in manner.
<u>Voice</u> :	
<u>Note</u> :	Although this play is very silly, it is important to remember that it takes place at the end of the world. The most joy will be found within this play if you remember that. The lines will only be funny if the characters are genuine.

Scene

There are five desks, one for each of the (physical) cast members. It's a typical office. It would help if there were a sign indicating that it was Pickett Miller and Stern Inc., but it's not necessary.

Time

It is nearly evening, summer time. It should feel like this is happening tomorrow.

ACT I

Scene 1

At three separate desks sit ROSE, SHANNON, and BRIAN, already sitting at their desks performing various tasks (talking on the phone, typing on laptops, writing down notes, etc.). KIRK is at the water cooler/coffee maker, pouring himself something.

KIRK

Today is gonna be great, guys.

No one responds.

Yep! today is going to be g-r-e-ate!

KIRK begins slowly making his way to his desk. Everyone is still working while KIRK works his way around the others. He leans against SHANNON's desk a little before she is finished speaking on the phone.

SHANNON

(To the phone)

Yes, Mr. Fitzpatrick, we will see you tomorrow morning.

Thank you for calling!

(Hangs up.)

KIRK

Hey, Shannon.

SHANNON

Hey, Kirk.

KIRK

Was that a client?

SHANNON

Yes, Kirk. It was a client. Why? Are you checking up on me, making sure that I'm doing my job?

KIRK

What? No!

SHANNON

Because I am a highly professional employee, and I do not appreciate others thinking I do not take my job very seriously.

KIRK

No, I was just making conversation.

(CONTINUED)

SHANNON

Is that what you do all day, just go around accusing and insulting your coworkers?

KIRK

...You know, today is going to be a great day.

Phone Rings.

SHANNON

I don't have time for this.

(Picks up phone.)

Hello, this is Pickett, Miller, and Stern how may I help you?

KIRK turns from SHANNON to lean against BRIAN's desk. BRIAN is currently typing on his laptop, distractedly replying to KIRK's attempt at conversation.

KIRK

Would you like to know why today's going to be a great day, Brian?

BRIAN

Hm?

KIRK

Today is going to be a great day because I am going to propose to Charlene.

BRIAN

Who? Ugh, this Taco Bell is not sitting right.

KIRK

You know, my girlfriend?

BRIAN

Oh, I didn't know you had a girlfriend.

KIRK

Well, I've only been dating her since I started working at PMS.

BRIAN

Don't call it that.

KIRK

What? PMS? Oh, I like it. It has a nice punch to it.

BRIAN

Right. So you're proposing--

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

Tonight! I have it all planned out. It's Monday so she'll want to watch jeopardy. Right when they announce the final question, I'll mute the television and whip it out!

BRIAN

(Coughs)

Excuse me?

KIRK

The ring. I'll whip it out.

BRIAN

Jesus.

KIRK finishes his walk to his desk and stands behind it.

KIRK

Yep. Guys, this is going to be the best day ever.

KIRK punctuates the word 'ever' by sitting down. Immediately after he sits down, a siren wails in the distance and becomes suddenly louder as JIM walks in.

JIM

Today is officially the worst day ever.

KIRK

No, Jim. Actually, today is the best day ever.

JIM

No, Kirk, you're wrong. Look on the internet! I'm sure they have it up on Yahoo! News by now.

KIRK

Yahoo! News, Jim? Really? Is that your most reliable news source?

Everyone gathers except KIRK who is standing steadfast at his desk, attempting to remain oblivious to the apparent disaster that is unfolding.

ROSE

It says it's the end of the world! But what does that mean?

SHANNON

Let me see..."Authorities say that today is the end of the world. At 4:59 pm, the Galaxy will fold into itself

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SHANNON (cont'd)

and create a black hole, sucking us into instant death
and non-existence."

ROSE

Non-existence?!

BRIAN

4:59?! But it's 4:51 right now!