



By

*Smith Elder*

**WHY I LIKE IT:** *Drama Editor JANET EHRLICH COLSON writes... Love this short and quippy play by Smith Elder that gets to the heart of lust, specifically, LUST, Inc. (short for Liberator's Universal Sensual Tours), a multiservice agency of sorts delivering premiere services for every carnal desire imaginable - and more. Enter Kasey, a potential client and first timer in more ways than one, for whom money is no object. Find out what happens when top-tier customer service representative Irene works her magic to build a custom multi-orgasmic \$30,000 package featuring an executive model service technician with an impressively long... 'resume.' Friends and family agree that Kasey deserves nothing but the best, especially after all her hard work on that degree. We're talking top honors here (or bottoms, or vers, or whatever floats the boat. Lust, Inc. is all inclusive). There's a hitch in the plan, however, when Kasey turns out to be higher maintenance than anyone anticipated. Smith Elder shows off her comedic chops in this crackling comedy with explicit – I mean exquisite timing. **Five** shiny vibrating stars!*

*Insert quote here (batteries not included):*

IRENE

Of course.

(beat)

Would you like to examine any accessories?

KASEY

Excuse me?

IRENE

*Aides d'amour*, as the French called them. Though I believe that name referred quite specifically to artificial phalli. We are, thankfully, not so limited. Might I ask what brand of vibrator you prefer?

KASEY

I...actually I don't have one.

LUST, Inc.  
by Smith Elder

(Irene is sitting at her desk, adjusting her things. Kasey enters.)

IRENE

Good afternoon and welcome to Liberator's Universal Sensual Tours, Incorporated, the exclusive all-inclusive luxury answer to your personal sexual needs. How may I help you today?

KASEY

I...um, I have an appointment?

IRENE

Yes, of course, you must be Kasey. You called yesterday?

KASEY

Yes, I...yes, that was me.

IRENE

Excellent. It's wonderful to meet you. You know, it's such a pleasure to see a young woman so firm in her resolve.

KASEY

Um...what?

IRENE

For keeping the first appointment you made. Sometimes it takes three or four appointments to even get someone through the door. And never a cancellation, you know, they simply fail to appear. It can make some of our figures very tricky to work out. But never mind that. What sort of experience were you interested in engaging with us?

KASEY

Honestly I...I hadn't really thought about it.

IRENE

Oh, not to worry, many of our customers are in the same situation, not sure what we offer and not even

always sure of what they're interested in. And often someone comes in with a clear picture of what they want, only to change it as soon as they realize the sheer quantity of choices we have to offer...but that's what we're here for, yes?

(Kasey has, through this speech, begun to look uncomfortable to the point of illness. Irene stops, looks concerned.)

IRENE

Are you all right, dear?

KASEY

Yes, if I could just...maybe...sit down a minute...

IRENE

Of course, how thoughtless of me. Please.

(She leads Kasey to a chair. Kasey sits, overwhelmed.)

IRENE

So, if I may ask, what brings you here? How did you hear about us?

KASEY

A friend of mine. I graduated top honors, so my parents...they said if I...anyway, they gave me thirty thousand dollars.

IRENE

How very generous.

KASEY

They're very generous people. Also very rich. And one of my friends said...she'd come to you before...

IRENE

If I may ask her name?

KASEY

Lauren. Lauren Har--

IRENE

Yes, I have her right here. Just a moment while I add the customary credit to her account--we reward referrals highly here. There we are. Now. Where would you like to start?

KASEY

I don't...I've never, you know...

IRENE

Ah, well, not to worry, we have a system that I'm sure will provide you with a satisfactory result. First, as to the hardware...is your preference for humans of the male persuasion?

KASEY

Yes. I mean, of course.

IRENE

Oh, there's no of course about it! People have all kinds of preferences, you know. Now--

(She pulls out an enormous binder full of photos and flips it open. The binder is neat, organized, and professional, like a real estate agent's file of houses on the market.)

IRENE (cont'd)

We have some very nice models here.

(she flips through the binder)

All our employees are in excellent physical condition and are scored monthly for the tactile quality of their skin on a six-dimension, ten-point scale. And as you have quite a large budget with which to work may I suggest our executive model--

(She flips over a page. And unfolds it. And unfolds it. And unfolds it. Kasey's eyes widen; she looks up and nods vigorously.)

IRENE

Excellent. That model *is* a crowd-pleaser. Moving on...

(She makes a note on her computer, refolds the page, and puts the binder away.)

IRENE

What sort of a situation would you like to find yourself in?

KASEY

I'm sorry?

IRENE

We offer all kinds of settings and scenarios. For varying prices, of course. For example, we offer bars, spas, cruises, medical offices, home visits, cemeteries, national parks, truck stops, the occasional bathhouse--

KASEY

That's...quite a selection.

IRENE

We do pride ourselves on our variety.

(beat)

Does anything strike you as interesting?

KASEY

What about...

(She pauses nervously, looks around, then leans forward and whispers in Irene's ear. Irene smiles.)

IRENE

One moment.

(she checks her computer screen)

I believe that can be managed. Although I'm afraid it will be a bit pricey, because apparently it's against the law.

(beat; politely)

And scenario?

KASEY

What...I mean...

IRENE

Well, of course there's the classic seduction, and any number of variations on that. We carry more violent scenes, if that's what you'd like, or scenes which allow you to perform the role of the aggressor, either gently or with considerable force. We have random encounters, anonymous hook-ups, wildly detailed fantasies...Finally there is a highly customized version that is, of course, more expensive.

KASEY

Customized how?

IRENE

We have a few in-depth psychological questionnaires, and then of course after that you would need to spend a brief session with one of our expert counselors. Occasionally it takes them a few tries but almost invariably they get it right, given enough time.

KASEY

Let me think about it for a little while.

IRENE

Of course.

(beat)

Would you like to examine any accessories?

KASEY

Excuse me?

IRENE

*Aides d'amour*, as the French called them. Though I believe that name referred quite specifically to artificial phalli. We are, thankfully, not so limited. Might I ask what brand of vibrator you prefer?

KASEY

I...actually I don't have one.

IRENE

You surprise me! I thought every young lady nowadays acquired one practically at the onset of puberty. But no matter. I can make a few recommendations if you'd like--unless you were interested in something with a little more kick.

KASEY

I don't think...just the basic...stuff, you know...I think that'll be fine.

IRENE

Of course. This is all up entirely to you, I hope you understand. We only aim to please you to the fullest extent of our ability.

KASEY

Do you really mean that?

IRENE

Of course! Anything less would be a severe violation of the code set in place by John Liberator, our founder. To please is our whole function, our purpose in business and in life.

(beat)

Is there something we have not discussed that you would like?

KASEY

Well actually...what I want more than anything else in the world is...

(Pause.)

IRENE

Yes?

KASEY

To be loved.

IRENE

Oh, I'm so sorry, my dear. We don't carry that kind of thing.

(Kasey looks disappointed.)

KASEY

Well then I guess I'll just--

IRENE

I suggest you go to our subsidiary branch down the street. Liberator's Obviously Valid Emotions. Incorporated.

(Kasey looks stunned.)

IRENE

Have a nice day!

(Blackout.)

**THE PLAYWRIGHT SPEAKS:** *This play is one I wrote for a 24-hour theatre fest in college. I was enormously drunk the entire twelve hours it took me to write it. Thankfully, given the audience's reaction to the performance the following night, it seems like the play might still be funny if you're sober.*

**AUTHOR BIO:** Smith Elder holds a BA in Theatre from Illinois Wesleyan University and an MFA in Creative Writing from Goddard College, an educational profile sometimes referred to by guys from Tinder as a "PhD&D". This is appropriate; tabletop gaming is one of the primary ways she chooses to use both degrees (the other is formulating and delivering extremely precise metaphors in casual conversation). She can neither confirm nor deny that she keeps a medieval torture device under her bed. You can find some of her other work at her website, smith-elder.com (don't forget the hyphen!), which remains a work in progress, much like Smith herself.