

CAST

PERSON 2

Someone who needs to vent.

PERSON 1

A sympathetic ear.

ERIC

A balloon. Not played by a human being. Do not cast Eric. He is just a balloon.

SETTING

NON-SPECIFIC

This conversation could take place anywhere.

SYNOPSIS

Person 1 has had a bad day. Person 2 hears about it.

AT RISE: PERSON 1 is standing on stage by themselves, blowing up a balloon. As they tie it off, PERSON 2 approaches.

PERSON 2

Ugh, thank god you're here. I have just had the most annoying day at work.

PERSON 1

(Responding with only mild interest.) Oh yeah?

PERSON 1 pulls a marker out of their pocket and begins drawing on the balloon. Neither the audience nor PERSON 2 can see what they are drawing.

PERSON 2

Yeah. Get this...

PERSON 2 launches into an improvised rant about an interaction with someone named Eric that they work with. This goes on for about 30 seconds. PERSON 1 is given very little space to respond – which is fine, since PERSON 1 is distracted by what they are drawing on the balloon and only offers up conversational continuers such as “ahuh” and “mmhmm” and “yikes,” etc. At some point, PERSON 1 will cap the marker and put it back in their pocket – signaling to PERSON 2 that they have finished the drawing.

PERSON 2

(Ending their rant.) Well? Do you think I'm overreacting? What would you do about it?

In response, PERSON 1 pauses, then reveals their completed balloon to PERSON 2 (and to the audience). It is a large, cartoonish face.

PERSON 1

Let's say this is Eric.

PERSON 2

(Pointing the balloon.) THAT's Eric?

PERSON 1

(Shrugging.) Sure. This is Eric. He's got what, a wife? Couple of kids?

PERSON 2

He's single, actually.

PERSON 1

Even better.

PERSON 1 pauses, then suddenly gives an exaggerated yell of frustration while squeezing the balloon until it pops.

After a few seconds of stunned silence where PERSON 2 just stares at PERSON 1, the lights go out.

END.