

Ho-Ho-Holier Than Thou

By Jonathan Hardin

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Characters

-Lucille Burgess (goes by “Lucy”):

A strong-willed woman. Office worker, married. Opinionated, though doesn’t always have the facts to back herself up. Knows what she wants, isn’t afraid to tread on a few toes.

-Betty Redford:

A fairly logical, intelligent woman. Office worker, married. Not as brash as Lucy, yet her hackles get raised when directly confronted.

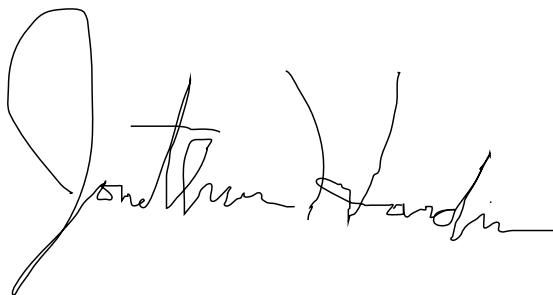
-Susan Hill:

A kind and considerate, if quiet, office worker. No family. 9 months pregnant.

[Only one spoken line, though always present. Unless otherwise directed within the script, she is always looking down, diligently typing at her desk.]

Setting

-An office. In December, around the holidays.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Hardin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

[Begin Excerpt]

BETTY: Hey! Who says *I'm* the one who has to stay?

LUCY: (*Stops.*) What? Isn't it obvious? Well, we can't make Susan do it, and I have Christmas stuff to do. You've just got a family dinner.

BETTY: Oh, and I suppose my family is automatically unimportant?

LUCY: Well, you can always reschedule that.

BETTY: What, and you can't reschedule your stuff?

LUCY: No, I can't. I mean, it's Christmas stuff.

BETTY: So?

LUCY: Well, you're Jewish. I thought your holiday stuff was already over anyway.

BETTY: (*Trying to contain herself.*) ...Oh, okay, I see. You think I have to stay solely because I'm *Jewish*?

LUCY: Jeez, Betty, when you put it like *that*-

BETTY: You think you have the right to a break because you celebrate Christmas? The hell do you think makes Christmas better than Hanukkah?!

LUCY: "Better," well, that's not *quite* what I-

BETTY: I really can't believe you right now, Lucy. I thought I knew you better than that, and I thought *you* knew better than that!

LUCY: It's not like that, calm down! Jesus! ...I mean, no not Jesus, I meant... Look, you know what I mean. I wasn't picking on you for being *Jewish*, I was just saying that I thought Hanukkah was over so you didn't really need the holiday break so much. Besides... Christmas *is* a better holiday, frankly.

BETTY: Wait, what?!

LUCY: Come on. Some thingy about candles and oil... or the birth of Jesus? *(Pause)* Clear winner there.

BETTY: Are you serious right now?

LUCY: Whether you think he's the Messiah or not, you gotta admit he's a big deal.

BETTY: You are being so ridiculous I can't even-

LUCY: Hey, if you've got nothing to say in defense, looks like I'll just be going on my break then-

BETTY: No way, not a chance. Alright, that candle and oil "thingy?" Yeah, Hanukkah. "Festival of Lights," actually. Celebrates the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem.

LUCY: ...So it's a glorified ribbon cutting ceremony?

[End Excerpt]