

Kingdom
By Dan O'Keefe
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CAST

KING - 40s
SQUIRE - Youth
CASHIER - Teen
MANAGER - 30s

(It's a White Castle. The Cashier is standing behind a counter. The Squire enters, reading a declaration.)

SQUIRE

Hear ye, hear ye! Bow your heads and rejoice in your hearts, for here enters your new King!

(The Squire claps excessively as the King strolls in.)

KING

Do not be afraid! I am a gentle king, but a firm king.

SQUIRE

Gentle but firm!

KING

Do well, and I will lavish you with praise. Fail me, and I will send you to the dungeon! Tell me, good sir, what is your name?

CASHIER

Duncan.

KING

Duncan! I knew a king by that name... he had a little issue with his nephew. But no matter! Where is your ruler?

CASHIER

Oh god not again.

KING

Your ruler! Your king, the man you bow to and pray that you get the chance to kiss his feet!

SQUIRE

Smooch his feet!

CASHIER

Yeah one second.

(The Cashier exits.)

SQUIRE

Sir, this will be a great addition to your growing empire, and would make a good summer castle. It comes fully furnished with chairs, tables and even a counter.

KING

It seems like just what I've been looking for.

(The Cashier enters with the
Manager.)

CASHIER

So, here's my manager.

KING

That must be what royalty is called around these parts! How exotic... but no matter, I am here to inform you that I am taking over this castle and kingdom.

MANAGER

Like, you bought the property?

KING

I will do no such thing! Either accept me as your new ruler, or I will unleash a horde upon this castle!

SQUIRE

A horde! A horde!

MANAGER

Sir, do you know where you are?

KING

Of course I know where I am! I'm at le chateau de blanc!

(The French is greeted with empty
stares.)

CASHIER

Huh?

SQUIRE

Do not question your king!

KING

No hold on a second! This is White Castle, right?

(The King quickly exits, but re-
enters immediately.)

KING

No I was right this is White Castle! Every castle must have a king, and I am now your king!

MANAGER

Sir are you feeling alright?

SQUIRE

The king is feeling fine the king is always feeling fine!

CASHIER

Why do people like this keeping showing up?

KING

Now tell me, your royal manager-ness, do you surrender your castle and kingdom to me?

MANAGER

First off, sir, I don't have the ability to do that. Second of all, this is a franchise, not a castle!

KING

This is not a- hold on a second!

(King exits and reenters again quickly.)

KING

If this isn't a castle why does it say that on the sign?

MANAGER

It's a brand.

KING

A wha?

SQUIRE

A BRAND SIR!

KING

I know what a brand is, yes I do, I definitely do know what a brand is! A brand is what this is! On a completely unrelated note, Squire, come over here!

(The King and Squire huddle opposite the manager and cashier).

CASHIER

What time is it?

MANAGER

10:45.

CASHIER

Can I take my break?

(The huddle ends, the King and Squire return to the restaurant workers.)

KING

After a brief discussion-

SQUIRE

Brief discussion!

KING

My squire and I have come to the conclusion that we shall not be taking over this "brand," whatever that may mean. So hereto forth, my squire and I will continue on our way.

SQUIRE

HERETO FORTH WE GO!

KING

We must continue to our next kingdom. Squire, before we go, call off the cavalry outside so they don't shoot us when we walk out.

SQUIRE

Right away sir!

(The Squire exits)

MANAGER

Didn't you just walk outside?

KING

Shhh it makes him feel important.

(The Squire re-enters)

SQUIRE

The cavalry is unarmed!

KING

Good squire, good!

(He ruffles the Squire's hair)

KING

Now, we must continue, outward we go!

(They turn to leave)

MANAGER

Wait!

CASHIER

(under their breath)

No don't wait just leave.

MANAGER

We don't even know your name!

(The King proudly steps up)

KING

My name... is Burger King.

Blackout.