

Ke vins Above

**A comedy in one act
Written by Claire Scott**

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Kevins Above

CAST (in order of appearance)

Kevin Tully (Kevin 1)

Kevin Tully (Kevin 2)

Ryan

Rose McGedden

The Voice

Kevin Tully (Kevin 1). A man in his forties, recently deceased. Scottish and working class, he enjoys a drink, fancies older women and has a dry sense of humour.

Kevin Tully (Kevin 2). A man in his forties, recently deceased. Scottish and very rich, he enjoyed a playboy lifestyle, has a penchant for young, busty women and also has a strong sense of humour.

Rose McGedden. A woman in her thirties, she's the office supervisor of Afterlife Relocation Services (Earth Division). While she strives to be efficient, she has to endure the assistance of an idiot trainee, and as a result is rather harassed.

Ryan. A youth of about twenty, he's the office trainee at Afterlife Relocation Services (Earth Division). He's not very bright but has delusions of adequacy.

Voice. A disembodied repetitive message that welcomes people to the afterlife. (Could be a real person or a sound effect)

There is darkness as we hear the sounds of a hospital emergency team trying to save the life of a road accident victim. Machines bleep and voices tumble over each other as the unseen drama continues. We hear clothing being torn, the whine of the defibrillator machine charging, the bangs as the team struggle to restart the patient's heart. Throughout this we can hear splashes and underwater sounds. Then someone calls the time of death. The sounds of the hospital echo and fade, as do the underwater sounds, only to be replaced by cheesy musak. The stage is barely lit, giving only the suggestion of figures on it

Kevin 1 Hello? Hello?

Kevin 2 Hello? Is there anybody there?

Kevin 1 *(looking around)* Who said that?

Kevin 2 *(looking around)* Er...who said *that*?

Kevin 1 I asked first.

Kevin 2 Look, just show yourself whoever you are.

The musak cuts abruptly to be replaced by a polite female voice

Voice Your arrival is important to us!

Kevin 2 Okay, who said that!!

Voice All of our operators are busy at the moment. Please wait in the light while we try to connect you.

Kevin 1 The light? What bloody light? It's pitch...

A spotlight comes up revealing the two Kevins. They have their backs to each other. We can see that Kevin 1's hair is untidy and he is covered in blood. His jeans are torn, his sweatshirt has been cut up the middle and there are red marks where the defibrillator paddles have shocked him. One of his trainers is missing. Kevin 2 is resplendent in a wet suit, mask, flippers and snorkel

Voice Your arrival is in a queue and will be dealt with shortly.

The musak returns

Kevin 1 What arrival? What are you talking about? What the hell is going on?

Kevin 2 This is ridiculous. Will someone tell me exactly what the hell is going on?

The above dialogue is delivered simultaneously, with the characters coming together on "What the hell is going on?" As they speak they turn and see each other

Kevins 1 & 2 Arrrgh!

They look each other up and down

Kevin 1 Who are you?

Kevin 2 I was wondering that about you?

Kevin 1 I asked first.

Kevin 2 Oh, that's mature!

Kevin 1 Look, I don't know what's going on around here, but since you're the only person around I reckon it must be your fault, so why don't you just tell me who you are and let me in on what the hell is going on?

Kevin 2 Hold on! This is nothing to do with me, pal! For all I know you're behind this.

They begin to argue furiously, pushing and shoving at each other. Suddenly the musak stops

Kevin 1 Shhhh!

Kevin 2 Don't shush me, you stupid git!

Kevin 1 Shut up! It's going to speak...

The voice cuts him off

Voice Thank you for choosing Afterlife Relocation Services. We aim to make your transition to the next phase of existence as smooth and comfortable as possible. Your arrival is important to us. All of our operators are busy at the moment. Please wait in the light till we try to connect you.

The music returns. The two Kevins pause

Kevin 2 Afterlife Relocation Services? Is that what she said?

Kevin 1 (*bemused*) That's what she said. You know, I don't like the sound of that. (*to himself*) Okay, Kevin, get a grip...

Kevin 2 (*louder*) Afterlife Relocation Services? (*Pause*) Afterlife Relocation Services?

Kevin 1 There has to be a rational explanation for all of this. (*He looks at the other Kevin panicking in a wetsuit*) Probably!

Kevin 2 Oh shit! Oh shit! No way! No way...

Kevin 1 Shut up, I'm trying to think!

Kevin 2 Afterlife? Afterlife?

Kevin 1 Just shut up will you?

Kevin 2 Afterlife?

Kevin 1 You know, saying it over and over again isn't going to make it sound any better.

Kevin 2 opens his mouth

Kevin 1 Seriously, if you're planning to say "afterlife" again I'd reconsider, on account of the fact that I might just kill you if you do.

Kevin 2 Kill me? You're going to kill me?

Kevin 1 I'm telling you, it's coming!

Kevin 2 You're going to kill me? As in remove me from the realm of the living on a permanent basis?

Kevin 1 Are you naturally this annoying or does it take work?

Kevin 2 Just to be clear on this. If I say...that word...again, you are going to cause me to cease to be?

Kevin 1 I'm thinking about just doing it anyway.

Kevin 2 Okay, at the risk of incurring physical violence, I'm going to repeat once more. Afterlife! Afterlife Relocation Services!

He steps back as Kevin 1 advances on him

Wait! You don't get it, do you?

Kevin 1 Get what?

Kevin 2 You can't kill me. You can't do it. You know why?

Kevin 1 Amaze me!

Kevin 2 Because I think we might already be dead.

There is a pause

Kevin 1 Don't be so bloody stupid. How can we be dead? We're standing here talking to each other.

Kevin 2 Or are we?

Kevin 1 Yes we are.

Kevin 2 Standing where exactly?

Kevin 1 looks around

Kevin 2 Do you have the first idea where you are? No, me neither. Last thing I remember was a feeling of total freedom, swimming around, looking at all the lovely fishes, thinking of maybe having a few cocktails on the deck later with the delectable Sonia, then bang! Here I am, stuck in this nothing with you. (*Pause as he looks around*) Nope, I reckon I'm right. We're dead all right. Dead, dead, dead!

Kevin 1 (*pause*) Don't be so bloody stupid.

Kevin 2 Nice tee-shirt, by the way. I like the deconstructed look.

Kevin 1 looks down at his clothes

Kevin 1 What the hell...?

Kevin 2 So, what exactly were you doing before you ended up here?

Kevin 1 Well, I was...I was walking home from the...er...the...er...gym...

Kevin 2 looks him up and down

Kevin 2 The gym?

Kevin 1 Yes, the gym.

Kevin 2 Seriously?

Kevin 1 Yeah!

Kevin 2 And the name of this gym would be...

Pause

Kevin 1 The Pig and Parrot.

Kevin 2 I see.

Kevin 1 I remember I was crossing Borland Road, feeling pretty good about life and stuff and...

There is a pause

Kevin 2 And?

Another pause, while Kevin 1 works things out

Kevin 1 Oh shit! I'm dead! I'm sodding dead!

Kevin 2 Yeah.

Kevin 1 I remember a loud bang, then I went flying through the air. The last thing I remember clearly is looking down and thinking that I could see the pub from here. Oh God, is that really the last thought I had?

Kevin 2 Well, I don't know you very well. I don't know you at all, in fact, and I wouldn't be surprised if that was the last thought you had.

Kevin 1 You've got a smart mouth for a corpse. How did you die, do you reckon?

Kevin 2 indicates his wetsuit

Kevin 2 I'm not sure but I'm guessing it was a freak knitting accident.

Kevin 1 Were you this funny when you were alive?

The music abruptly halts

Voice Thank you for choosing Afterlife Relocation Services. We aim to make your transition to the next phase of existence as smooth and comfortable as possible. Your arrival is important to us. All of our operators are busy at the moment. Please wait in the light till we try to connect you.

Kevin 2 I can't believe we're on hold for heaven.

Kevin 1 Or hell!

Kevin 2 Maybe this is hell, being on hold for eternity, listening to...what the hell is that tune? It's beginning to bug me!

They listen attentively

Kevin 1 Can't place it. It's familiar though. Kylie, maybe?

The music ends abruptly and the stage lights come up. We see an office. There is a desk with a chair at one side and two chairs at the other, cubicle walls, a filing cabinet and a waiting area with chairs and a low table, and a display stand for pamphlets. Posters and notices adorn the walls, in one of which there is a door. Office paraphernalia covers the desk, a telephone, rolodex, desk tidy, files and papers etc. The two Kevins look wildly round at their new surroundings. Standing a little way away is Ryan, a junior office worker. He is dressed in a short sleeved white shirt and tie and black trousers. There is an ID tag hanging from his shirt pocket and he is carrying a clipboard

Ryan *(reading flatly off the clipboard and not looking up)* Welcome to Afterlife Relocation Services open brackets Earth Division close brackets. We're here to help you move on up. My name is Ryan. I will be your relocation advisor and I will be happy to... *(he looks up and stops short)* There are two of you.

The two Kevins look at each other

Kevin 1 Well done!

Ryan How can there be two of you?

Kevin 2 Erm...why wouldn't there be two of us?

Ryan There can't be two of you.

Kevin 2 Well quite clearly there can.

Ryan But there can't be. Wait! Are you conjoined twins?

Kevin 1 What?

Kevin 2 Conjoined twins? What are you on about, conjoined twins? Do we look like conjoined twins?

Ryan Well, no. But...

Kevin 1 Where did you get that from? Conjoined twins!

Ryan It would explain why there are two of you.

Kevin 2 Why does that even need explaining?

Kevin 1 Look, how about we go back to the beginning? You can start by telling us who you are and what the hell is going on.

Ryan Er...okay. *(reading off the clipboard)* My name is Ryan and I will be your relocation adviser and...

Kevin 2 takes the clipboard from Ryan

Kevin 2 Yes, we got that much Ryan. You're our relocation adviser. Great! Excellent! Good for you! What exactly does a relocation adviser do?

Ryan *(unsure without the clipboard)* Erm...well...I advise people about...

Kevin 2 Don't say relocation.

There is an awkward pause as Ryan searches for another word

Ryan ...relocation! I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Kevin 1 *(taking the clipboard from Kevin 2 and reading)* Yep, that's exactly what it says here.

Kevin 2 Hey, maybe all the answers we need are on there.

Kevin 1 *(leafing through papers)* Well, unless the answers we need are "yes," "no," or "I'll have to check with my supervisor" I don't think so.

Ryan takes his clipboard

Kevin 2 Ryan, I know this is difficult but we need you to focus now. We *(indicates Kevin 1)*, that is the two of us, need to know exactly where we are. Can you tell us that?

Ryan Yes.

There is a pause

Kevin 1 Well?

Ryan Oh, right. This is waiting area 3b of the Orientation Department.

Kevin 2 The Orientation Department?

Kevin 1 Of Afterlife Relocation Services?

Ryan Yes.

Kevin 2 And given that this is Afterlife Relocation Services...

Ryan ...open brackets Earth Division close brackets...

Kevin 2 ...open brackets Earth Division close brackets, is it fair to assume we have somehow, on some level, engaged with...the afterlife?

Ryan (*checking his notes*) Yes.

Kevin 1 Okay! Ryan, deep breath! This is the biggie! Straight answer now! Are we...dead?

Ryan Er...I'll have to check with my supervisor.

Kevin 1 What?

Kevin 2 It's a perfectly straightforward question.

Ryan No it isn't.

Kevin 2 What's complicated about "are we dead?"

Ryan (*again checking the notes*) Er...it depends on what you mean by "dead."

Kevin 1 We mean dead, as in no longer alive.

Kevin 2 Departed!

Kevin 1 Expired!

Kevin 2 No longer on the mortal coil!

Kevin 1 Beyond the kicking of the bucket!

Kevin 2 Deceased.

Kevin 1 All of the above.

Ryan Er...I'll have to check with...

Kevin 1 & 2 Your supervisor!

Kevin 2 You know, I just knew that!

Ryan I'll...er...just go and get her.

Ryan scurries off

Kevin 2 It's good that he has a supervisor.

Kevin 1 For all our sakes I should think.

Kevin 2 takes a handful of leaflets from a wall rack and reads aloud their titles, holding them up as he does so

Kevin 2 "So you want to be a tree!" "The food chain: points to consider when choosing a life form." Oh here's a beaut! "Not enough karma to be a chameleon?"

Kevin 1 Now that's clever. I like that.

Ryan returns with Mrs. Rose McGedden, his supervisor, an officious looking woman in her forties. She is dressed appropriately for office work in a dark skirt suit, and also has an ID tag on her lapel. Ryan is carrying a folder

Kevin 1 Ah, at last! The supervisor, I presume?

Rose (*to Ryan*) There are two of them!

Ryan I told you.

Kevin 1 Er...excuse me...

Rose There can't be two of them.

Ryan But there are.

Rose So I see.

Kevin 1 Hello!

Ryan Two of them.

Rose Well! Yes!

Kevin 2 We were just...

Rose How the bloody hell did you manage this, Ryan?

Ryan It wasn't my fault, Mrs. McGedden. The computer didn't say there were two of them.

Rose Well, as cock-ups go this is monumental. What am I supposed to do with them now?

Ryan I'm really very sorry, Mrs McGedden.

Rose Yes, well, that's all very well, but "sorry" isn't going to sort this mess out, is it? Did you double-check the paperwork?

Ryan Yes, of course, Mrs McGedden.

Rose You double-checked it? You're absolutely sure?

Ryan I'm absolutely positive.

There is a pause

Rose You didn't, did you?

Ryan (*pauses*) Not as such, no.

Rose I thought as much. Let me see it.

Ryan hands Rose his folder which she flicks through

Kevin 2 Erm...excuse me...

Rose Yes, yes! We have a bit of a mess to sort out here. Now, first things first! Which one of you is Kevin Tully?

Kevins 1 & 2 I am!

They stare at each other in shock

Kevin 1 Your name is Kevin Tully?

Kevin 2 It sure is.

Kevin 1 Mine too.

Kevin 2 You have the same name as me?

Kevin 1 No, I think you'll find you have the same name as me.

Kevin 2 Er, no! I think you'll find you have the same...

Rose Gentlemen, please! Which one of you is Kevin Bartholomew Tully?

Kevins 1 & 2 I am! (*They look at each other*) No way!

Rose I'm looking for Kevin Bartholomew Tully, born December 31st 1968.

Kevins 1 & 2 That's me!

Once again they address each other

Kevin 1 Seriously?

Kevin 2 Really?

Kevin 1 My God, what are the odds?

Kevin 2 This is outstanding!

Rose In Glasgow?

Kevins 1 & 2 Yes!!

Rose At 2.23 am?

There is a pause

Kevin 1 Er...dunno!

Kevin 2 No idea.

Kevin 1 But I'd be willing to bet on it.

Kevin 2 I was just going to say that!

Kevin 1 That's just spooky!

Rose (*getting flustered*) Mother's name?

Kevins 1 & 2 Linda.

Rose (*more flustered*) Father?

Kevins 1 & 2 Ron.

Kevin 2 This is amazing!

Kevin 1 This has to be one for the Guinness Book of Records!

Kevins Above

Plot Summary

Suddenly and without warning, two men named Kevin find themselves dead and in the waiting room of Afterlife Relocation Services (Earth Division). The problem is only one of them should be dead, but no-one seems to know which one. And as if death wasn't hard enough, there's no way back and it seems no practical way forward either. Faced with a harassed afterlife supervisor and an incompetent office trainee, the two Kevins have to find their way through the bureaucratic nightmare of sudden death and find a way to live (or die) together.

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