



Kindness is Like Soooo Two Hundred Years Ago
By 5th Grader Katherine Foulke

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Characters

La, a bratty, super lazy, really unhelpful spoiled girl. La is 12.

Karal, a jester who tries to help La not to be such a brat

Mom, who doesn't like her daughter's attitude but cannot change her

Dad, who only wants to fix the car and get out

Patty, La's little sister. a really cute, really stupid little girl, who likes cows. Patty is 7.

Cow, a deep thinking brainiac who tries to make the world a better place...NOT! is really just a cow

Man

Sheep

Person from the Crowd

Stranger

Little Girl

Old Woman

Person

Passing Stranger



Scene One

(La, her mom, dad and little sister, Patty, are on vacation at Colonial Williamsburg, and standing in the middle of main street while horses and buggies and people in colonial garb go by. La is on her ipad when she sees a street performer but ignores him.)

LA

Mom, dad can we go back to NY now?"

KARAL

(the street performer walks up to La while playing a flute, and says in a really happy tone)

Well hey there! (La ignores him and keeps looking at her ipad.)

(Karal shoves his business card in her face)

Karal the jester of fun and glee at your service millady!

LA

(La totally ignores him and keeps looking at her ipad.)

Mom can we go already this place is sooooo lame.

LA's MOM

Ok, I agree that it is pretty lame, but it was the closest place where we could stop the car and repair it.

LA's DAD

(Carrying the luggage)

(calls) Lizy, La, come on over and help me!

MOM

Ok c,mon girls!

LA

OMG! First I had to, like, walk from the fence to the car and that was, like, 2 whole feet of walking. My body can't take this. Then I had to like GET OFF MY IPAD what could be, like, worse. What next? You like want me to like actually help you!?



DAD

Uh yea.

(Patty climbs on a cow standing nearby.)

MOM

Oh boy, La go help your sister get off the cow.

LA

No way are you gonna get me to help that THING!

MOM

That THING is your sister now go help her.

(La goes back on her ipad)

MOM

Fine go help your father. I'll get Patty. Patty! Get off the cow and stop riding it like it is a pony!

PATTY

(Said to the cow) It is a pony in my eyes! Her name is Stardust Moonbeam Unicorn Rainbow Sunshine Princess!

MOM

The cow's name is BETSY!

COW

(could not care less about being ridden) Moo!

PATTY

(gasps) Stardust Moonbeam Unicorn Rainbow Sunshine Princess is trying to accept me into her civilization and welcome me into her kind!!

(tries to communicate with cow) MOO!

LA

Mom! My ipad is like out of juice, I'm, like, doomed. What will like become of me?

MOM

Find something to do.



LA

Like, what? this place is like Boring-landia.

(Karyl overhears and snaps his fingers to freeze time. He reaches backstage and pulls out a huge pile of books. He looks through them while mumbling the titles)

KARAL

Gloomy...Selfish...Way Too Caring (He looks up at La and laughs) No way....ah here it is-- Unkind. (Karyl opens the book and reads the first page) "When you find someone who's unkind, takes things from granted, and is a complete B-- I won't say that last word."

(walks up to La) Here! Read this (hands her a book) it is called a book. Say it with me boook.

LA

Ok, sure. Whatever. I'll use this super old fashioned thing that only elderly citizens and ancient people use (throws book at Karyl)! IN YOUR DREAMS GRANDPA!!!!

MOM

(Astounded) LA!! (picks up the book, turns to Karyl) I am SO sorry! (turns back to La, shoves the book in La's hands) READ IT!

DAD

All right everyone let's go get checked in at a hotel...the car won't be ready till tomorrow.

KARAL

(Imitating La) In your dreams Grandpa! (To himself and the audience) I'll be watching her. (Towards La) I'll make sure you become a nicer person. You'll get four tries, and if you don't succeed (evil laugh)....(back to positive, louder) So anyway, don't fail!

(Later. The whole family is in their hotel room getting ready for bed)

LA

(Picks up the book fiddles with it) MOM!!!!!!!! My book is out of batteries. It won't turn on!

MOM

This is going to be a LONG night.

DAD



Goodnight everybody. Goodnight Lizy.

MOM

Good night Tom.

DAD

Goodnight La.

LA

Night dad.

DAD

Good night Patty.

COW

MOOO!!!

DAD

I don't even want to know how the cow got here. Oh well, fix it in the morning.

(4 hours later Patty slams open the door and is covered in dirt, hay, leaves and cow poop. She is wheezing, has one eye twitching and is heavily panting)

PATTY

(wheezing yelling)

YOU LEFT ME IN A COW PATCH!!

(Stops wheezing and yelling. Talks fairly fast.)

The scientific percentages of you naturally leaving me in a cow patch and accidentally bringing home Stardust Moonbeam Unicorn Rainbow Sunshine Princess instead are very low, so therefore YOU PURPOSELY LEFT ME IN A COW PATCH!!!!

MOM

How long did it take you to come up with that explanation?

PATTY

4 hours exactly and I had to ask the printing press dude what scientific meant.



DAD

Patty just go to sleep!

(Everyone goes to sleep)

Scene Two

(The book hums and lights up. La and Patty travel through time 6 hours later it is morning.)

(In the morning, La wakes up in a room that is totally different than her hotel room. Everything is made of wood and all of her electronics are gone. Her parents are also gone. Patty is still with her)

(Sound of a rooster crowing)

LA

Ugh, Patty did you change the sound of the alarm clock again?

(La smacks the book thinking it is an alarm clock)

LA

(Wakes up and looks around) OMG where am I?

PATTY

Whaaa shubop ta na shubadolamadoterom???? WHERE AM I?!

LA

I don't know. Why is this stupid bed itchy?

PATTY

It smells like cows!!!!

LA

(Looks like she just had a terrible thought) Ahh we've been kidnapped HELP HELP!

(A man walks in the bedroom. He is dressed in farm clothes and dirty boots and a straw hat. He looks annoyed.)



LA

Ahh the man that kidnapped us. Get him! (La runs at the man, pulls his arms back and digs her knee into his spine.)

MAN

GOD SAVE THE KING, WHAT WAS THAT!

PATTY

Why are we here?

LA

Yeah why are you here, what do you want?

MAN

I just wanted to tell you to get out of bed and start the day's chores. The laundry needs to be done and the chicken eggs need to be collected.

LA

What? WHO ARE YOU!

MAN

Who am I?! I am your father.

LA

What do you mean?

(Looks around at the sparse room and her old fashioned nightgown. Laughs). I have to hand it to you you are a very good actor I bet our parents set this up.

MAN

What in tarnation are you talkin about? Oh never mind just do the laundry.
(hands La a washing tub and leaves)

(Girls get out of bed.)

LA

OMG let's just get dressed. (looks in closet. there is only one shabby dress and some laced boots)
OMG like...OMG WHERE ARE ALL MY LIKE CLOTHES!



(Girls go down to the kitchen in clothes from closet.. La enters first and collapses into a chair at the table.)

LA

Somebody please get me a skinny, half caf, vanilla latte with one and a half Splendas.

MAN

What? Stop fooling around and eat some porridge.

LA

What? What is porridge? (GASPS) You mean you want me to like EAT THAT (points to the bubbling pot over the fire.)

MAN

Yes.

LA

But that like smells toasts the disgusting.

(Patty enters the room)

PATTY

I'M HUNGRY!! Give me an EGGO, EGGO, EGGO!

MAN

What? The eggs aren't GOING anywhere. You need to GO GET THEM after you eat your porridge.

PATTY

Do you mean pop tart?

MAN

No, I mean porridge!

PATTY

Popcorn?

MAN

Porridge!

PATTY

Pop-Rocks?

MAN



Porridge!

PATTY

Pizza Bagel?

MAN

No, I mean porridge, NOW! (Patty eats the porridge) Back when I was your age, children ate the good food their parents provided!

LA

What year was that? Like the year...12?

PATTY

Or the year 13?

LA

Or like 6?

PATTY

Or the year 1748?

MAN

I wasn't born yesterday! The year was 1718 and children obeyed their parents! (exits)

(Patty and La laugh, but La's laugh quickly turns to panic as she is looking around and realizing MAN is not joking)

LA

OMG! It's like sooooooo 200 years ago!!

PATTY

Ha ha ha

LA

What's so funny?

PATTY

I was just thinking about that funny glowing book on the nightstand.

LA

WHAT FUNNY GLOWING BOOK!?

PATTY



You know, that funny book that was right next to you when we woke up that you thought was an alarm clock. After you went to sleep last night in our hotel room, I was bored and tried to read it, but I it was glowing and shaking and making funny noises so I put it back down.

LA

THE BOOK!

(La runs to their room grabs the book and brings it back)

Ok, here it is and it says that is was... written in 1748!? That's the year we are in right now!

PATTY

How did you get it anyway?

LA

Some dude gave it to me, wait what was his name again um Karal the jester of good times and laughter or something. He might be behind this. What if he is living in this time? WE HAVE TO FIND HIM! Let's go into town.

PATTY

Ok. Pappa wants us to sell the eggs!

LA

(offstage) He's not our Dad!

Scene Three

(A colonial town. Karal is standing in the town square as people mill about. Karal notices La and Patty in the distance walking towards town)

KARAL

(To himself) She's coming! (Looks again) Wait a minute, wait a minute there's two of her! Oh well, only one might make it out of these tests alive. (Karal snaps his fingers to freeze time and walks over to someone with a basket of fruit and takes it from them) (Snaps his fingers to unfreeze time).

(La and Patty walk into the town square)

LA



(Asks someone) Who is that person in the middle of the crowd?

STRANGER

Who is that? Why that is Karal the jester, the funniest lad in town.

LA

(surprised turns around to Patty) Patty! that's the guy!

(Karal throws the fruit to ground. People start grabbing at it)

KARAL

(Throwing his voice to STRANGER) Help me! Help me! I've dropped all my fruit!

STRANGER

Oh I'll help you (goes to give him back the fruit)

KARAL (in a whisper)

No go away.

LA AND PATTY

Free food!!!

(They run and pick up as much as they can carry and run off with it)

(Karal watches them run off and bangs his head on a pole)

KARAL

No, you weren't supposed to steal the fruit. You were supposed to give it back!
Stupid stupid dumb Karal DUMB. I won't give up. That was just a first test. They will absolutely
be nice a second time around.

(Karal leaves dramatically)

PATTY

(Patty and La walk back in eating an apple. Karal is gone) WHAT? Where did he go?!

STRANGER



He's off to Cedarville to bring joy there.

LA

Oh no we'll lose him! Um what to do, what to do.

(Karal walks back on stage and walks over to DRIVER)

KARAL

If you yell "Off to Cedarville, ye all take care" as loud as you can right now I'll give you some of this fruit. I'll give you even MORE if you make them work for you--those two girls (He imitates the girls) "Like totally like yah OMG!"

DRIVER

That might be how you talk where you're from, but this is America, speak English. I didn't understand that last thing you said.

(Karal gives the driver a look)

DRIVER

Ok, I'll do it. (Loud) Well off to Cedarville, ye all take care.

KARAL

(To himself) If they've learned to be nice, they'd ask for a ride instead of hopping straight in.

PATTY

What If we jump into that wagon heading off to Cedarville...

LA

(Interrupts) wait be quiet. What if we jump into that wagon heading off to Cedarville?

PATTY

Wow, great idea La

LA

I know....I'm a genius

(La and Patty jump into a moving wagon.)

KARAL



Aaaaaaand. They hopped into the wagon. Sigh. (Burries his face in his hands) Next test...

(Wagon drives for about an hour then stops.)

DRIVER

Alright Pinto (the horse pulling the wagon) let's stop at our farm for awhile before we head into Cedarville.

(La and Patty try to sneak off the wagon but driver sees them.)

DRIVER

HEY! GET BACK HERE

LA

RUN!

(La and Patty run but driver catches them)

DRIVER

Gotcha!...now how long have you two been in there?

LA

Not long, just an hour

DRIVER

AN HOUR! do you know how hard it is for Pinto just to pull me and all of that hay? No wonder he was going so slowly, you two added just about another 150 pounds!

LA

Oops well we'll just be on our way then heh heh uh c'mon patty. (ushers Patty away)

DRIVER

Oh no you don't. (grabs La and Patty) Since you two feel that a little work isn't much you two will be doing all my farm work as pay for the joy ride.

(Karal is watching from the distance)

LA

WHAT!?! (really annoyed) That could take forever. OMG, we don't like have all day.

DRIVER



Well then you better get started.

LA

UGGGGGGGGGGH!

KARAL

Maybe a little hard work will make her a nicer person.

DRIVER

Well here's the bucket for collecting the milk from the cow and you'll find the shears for shearing the sheep hanging on the fence post.

LA

Ok so what do I do?

DRIVER

You milk the cow and shear the sheep.

LA

Whatever.

(Walks over to cow)

Alright cow make milk. (waits) Ugh, cow make milk already!

COW

MOO

LA

(Walks over to driver) Your cow is broken.

DRIVER

Well you have to milk it!

LA

It won't milk!

KARAL

(Head in his hands) No no no no no no no. (He does a finger gun at his head, then walks away.)



DRIVER

Squeeze the udders.

LA

Oh um I totally knew that. I was was just uh testing you to uh make sure that you know what you are doing so I'd better get milking heh heh.

Alrighty then (walks back over to cow) let's do some milking. (tries to milk cow)

DRIVER

Miss, that's the ear not the utter. Miss, that's the tail. Miss, that's the nose.

LA

Oh yes. (finally milks cow correctly)

LA

Now can we go?

DRIVER

Already! No, you still have to shear the sheep.

LA

WHAT?!

LA

Patty go shear the sheep. I'll negotiate with the driver.

PATTY

Ok.

LA

GO NOW!

(Patty leaves)

LA

Alright if we do all of this for you, you will drive us to any place we want to go.

DRIVER

No.

LA



Aww man you're a better negotiator than I thought...nuts.

DRIVER

If you do this I'll take you into Cedarville.

LA

Fine.

PATTY

LAAAA I NEEDED WOR HEWP

SHEEP

BAAAAAAAAAAAA

BAAAAA

BAAAAAAAAAAAA

PATTY

NO SHEEPY! NO!

PATTY

LAAAA SHEEPY GO CRAZY! HELP ME!

LA

Ugh, fine I'll help you.

Scene Four

DRIVER

Ok, your chores are done. I guess I can take you into Cedarville now.

LA

Yes! Finally. That was so hard.

DRIVER

Imagine doing that every single day.

(the driver takes them into town on the wagon. La and Patty get off the wagon)

Alright girls, I wish you....

LA

Let's look for Karal



(Karal is hiding behind a building and watches them get out of the wagon)

KARAL

They're coming! What to do to make them nice....what to do? What to do?

(Snaps his fingers to freeze time. He walks between people in the town to decide who to mess with for this test.)

(Karal notices a little girl frozen walking down the street.)

KARAL

Ah ha! Test number three! Let's see if they will help this "adorable" little girl.

(He snaps his fingers to unfreeze time and he pushes her and she falls down and starts crying. He hides)

LA

Maybe we can split up and look for him.

PATTY

Ok, yeah. We'll look in the shops he might be in.

LA

You check Gloucester Street. I'll check the side streets.

(They are caught up in their conversation and step right over the crying little girl)

KARAL

AH Oh GAH NO YAAAARGH.

(Karal too steps over the little girl)

KARAL

I hate my job. I'm going to go get a drink. (He turns back to look at the little girl, almost helps her up, then.) eh whatever. (He walks off)



(La checks the cobbler's shop and the blacksmith with no luck. Patty comes out of the wig shop wearing a crazy curled blond wig with pink bows and a big huge frilly pink dress)

PATTY

I checked all the places he would be like the wig shop. He wasn't there.

LA

Why you wasting time trying on clothes? We need to find him. We need to get back home. I'm tired and hungry and I wish Mom and Dad were here. I even wish we were back in the hotel room. I even miss Mom's French Fry Song.

(La and Patty improvise the French Fry Song Mom used to sing because Patty was afraid of ketchup. Singing is interrupted by Karal's entrance. He is drinking)

LA

You, what have you done to us? Send us back to modern day now!

PATTY

Yeah.

KARAL

All I can tell you is remember to be kind and think of others.

(Karal walks away. La and Patty are left on the street.)

A PASSING STRANGER

(seeing Patty's dress and wig)

Marvelous! That look will never go out of style!

LA

No, it never will go out of style!

(The stranger leaves. La immediately whips her head around to Patty)



Yes, it will go out of style. Get that stupid dress off you moron.

(It is getting dark they are really far away from home and have no money and they are hungry and tired. They sit down on a crate outside of a tavern. Patty takes off the wig sadly)

LA

Well this is officially one of the worst days in the history of worst days. (pauses) I'm sorry I called you a moron.

PATTY

It's ok.

(Someone who works at the tavern comes out with a leftover loaf of bread)

TAVERN WORKER

You look hungry. Here, have this.

(La is about to bite into it when she sees a poor old beggar woman leaned up against a barrel. La turns to patty.)

LA

She looks hungrier than we are.

PATTY

Yeah she does.

LA

Do you think that we should give her our bread?

PATTY

Umm what do you think?

LA

I think we should.

PATTY

Me too.

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(La walks over to old woman and gives her the bread)

LA

I would love for you to have this bread.

OLD WOMAN

Thank you! (The old woman looks up at La and smiles so brightly her face seems to glow. La smiles back and heads back over to Patty.)

LA

Well that was the last of our food. I don't know why I did that. I just had this feeling inside of me that I can't explain. (La smiles)

PATTY

Maybe it's puberty(poo-bear-de)

(The waiter that gave La and Patty the loaf of bread goes back to the tavern through the back door. Karal is waiting there for him.)

KARAL

Good work.

(Karal comes out and reveals himself to La and Patty.)

The book does what it needs to do. If you learned your lesson, which is something I didn't do, you'll go back to your time. If you still haven't learned your lesson you'll get my job.

LA

What?

PATTY

What do you mean your job?

LA

There's something you're not telling us.

KARAL

Just kidding. Haha. Let's go back to your time now.



LA

Ughhhh tell us!

KARAL

Fine! My job has been to make you nicer. There was a time when this wasn't my job, but someone else's job. To make me nice. And I kind of sort of...not exactly...kind of...well...failed.

LA

Wait did we...kind of sort of...not exactly..kind of...well...fail? If we did, will we have your job?

KARAL

Yes. You would have my job.

LA

Well...it can't be that hard. After all, you do it. And look how easy we were!

PATTY

Yeah! You must have had so much fun with us!

KARAL

(sarcastically) Oh yes. You were soooooo easy. Soooooo fun.

LA

I know, right?

(Karal starts to lunge towards La, but stops himself. He counts to three and then puts on a smile)

KARAL

Yet, you didn't fail--which is VERY hard to believe. Your test is over.

(Karal is about to snap his fingers when La grabs his wrist forcefully to stop him)

LA

We're going back home, right? Don't you snap your fingers until we know what's going to happen.

KARAL



(He stands and shakes his wrist) You could have just said “Karal, wait.” But if you must know-- which I thought was already clear--yes you ARE going back home.

PATTY

What’s going to happen to you?

KARAL

I will find another horrible person to teach. And maybe get one step closer to leaving this stupid job.

(Karal snaps his fingers and La and Patty are sent back to modern day. It is morning of the same day. It takes them a moment to realize that there are electric lights shining around them and people in modern day attire walking past them. They turn and see their parents sitting at a table inside the tavern waiting for them. Before they go in La and Patty see Karal standing in the back doorway. He gives them a wink. Each of them gives him a huge smile)

(La and Patty go over to their parents table and sit down)

DAD

Ah there you two are. Did you wake up early and go for a walk? We were starting to get worried. Well, the car is fixed so wata you say after breakfast we hit the road and leave this death town?

LA and PATTY

NOOO!!! WE JUST GOT HERE WE CAN’T LEAVE THERE’S SO MUCH COOL STUFF
THAT WE NEED TO DO AND TO SEE AND TO TRY!!!

PERSON

HEY KEEP IT QUIET OVER THERE I’M TRYING TO ENJOY MY MEAL BEFORE I HIT
THE ROAD AND GET OUT OF THIS STINKIN PLACE

LA

THIS STINKIN PLACE!??

(Karal walks over to man with the same book in his hand)

KARAL



(To himself) Just the same book as La. (looks at La) This will be interesting. (To the man) Here read this.