

Jam Tomorrow
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White Bear Lake, MN

Copyright: March 16, 2020

CAST: (all can be any race) 5+ (1 female, 4 any gender)
Handy (Sanitizer; any gender; any age)
Voices/Echoes (as many as you want)
An avatar: Julia Child (female, 40's)
Randy (worker, any gender, any age)
Kelly (worker, any gender, any age)

DOUBLING: 3 (1 female, 2 any gender)
Handy
Voice/Echo/Julia/Kelly
Voice/Randy/Echo

PLACE:
An empty supermarket

Jam Tomorrow

In blackout we hear, crowds in stores, cash registers buzzing, people buzzing, pleas for toilet paper, hand sanitizers, milk and bread.

VOICE 1

Hey! This is a line for ten or less! You have 12 items!

VOICE 2

That's a six pack. I only have seven. What about all the rolls of toilet paper?

VOICE 1

That's a pack of sixteen. It counts as one!

VOICE 2

Hey!

VOICE 1

Hey!

VOICE 2

HEY!

(VOICES grow louder and louder and then – suddenly - silence.)

LIGHTS up on an empty supermarket. Lights are somewhat dim. All is quiet. Under some empty shelves or an unlikely place, HANDY emerges.

HANDY

Guys! Hey guys! No one found me! I win! I ... guys? Sugar?

ECHO

Sugar ... sugar ... sugar ...

HANDY

Flour?

ECHO

Flour ... flour ... flour...

HANDY

Eggs?

ECHO

Fried...scrambled... poached ...

HANDY

Come on guys! Stop playing hide-and-seek. It's not fun anymore. I know! Let's bake something!

ECHO

Bake me a cake as fast as you can...

HANDY

Hey Butter! Let's bake! (Beat.) Awww... come on Butter! Butter me up!

SILENCE

HANDY

Guys? (Beat.) Butter! Speak to me. I know when my fellow sanitizers were flying off the shelf and there was plenty of butter left, I made fun of you. I shouldn't have told you that you were unhealthy and no one wanted you. I'm sorry. Butter? I know you're sort of healthy in a convoluted way.

JULIA CHILD AVATAR VOICE

A little butter won't hurt you.

HANDY

It was the best butter.

(A JULIA CHILD AVATAR appears. She may be dressed a bit incongruously – say as the Sugar Plum Fairy in a baker's hat. She definitely has a wooden spoon that acts as a wand.)

JULIA CHILD AVATAR

It had crumbs in it. Which made it more delicious. Come. Let's have a party. And you can't have a party without cake! But first we need ingredients.

HANDY

They're gone. All gone.

JULIA CHILD AVATAR

Milk and cookies! That solves everything.

ECHO

Gone ... gone ... gone.

(JULIA waves her spoon-wand. SUGAR PLUM FAIRY music is heard.)

(JULIA somewhat dances to the music. As she points her Wooden-Spoon-Wand, an ECHO (dressed in all white as a ghost or all black as a theatre techie) with a bowl appears.)

Butter!	JULIA CHILD AVATAR
Butter!	ECHO
	(Butter appears with wings – so yes – butterflies.
Sugars!	JULIA CHILD AVATAR
Sugars!	ECHO
Flour!	JULIA CHILD AVATAR
Flour!	ECHO
An egg, salt and vanilla!	JULIA CHILD AVATAR
Don't spill it!	ECHO
<i>And CHOCOLATE!</i>	JULIA
	(Chocolate is added.)
More chocolate!	JULIA
	(More chocolate is added.)
And more!	

(In time with the ballet music, they mix. They twirl. They swirl. They drop “dough” on a makeshift pan that has mysteriously appeared and throw it into an EZ Bake Oven which has also mysteriously appeared. While the cookies bake, HANDY and JULIA dance. The ECHO dances in the background. It’s actually sweet if incongruous. The music fades out, the cookies are baked.

HANDY takes them out and goes to eat but of course, they are not real and fall into crumbs or disappear and all is taken away by the ECHO.

HANDY

Oh no!

JULIA CHILD AVATAR

That’s the way the cookies crumbles!

(And as oddly and mysteriously as she appeared, JULIA and her ingredients disappear.)

HANDY

Alone. Again.

(With a sweeping hand wave, HANDY tries to get the music back. Nothing. One more time. Nothing. But then ... just a few bars are heard. HANDY tries to dance to but cannot. HANDY collapses.)

BEAT. Absolute silence.

There are sounds of life. Maybe a car horn. HANDY pays attention. Sounds of electricity being turned on, refrigerator units are coming to life. They are subtle and build. HANDY pays more attention.)

(RANDY and KELLY enter.)

RANDY

Don’t dawdle. There’s a ton of work to be done. The entire floor needs to be sanitized. And hey! Look! There’s a leftover hand sanitizer. It’s our lucky day!

HANDY

I’m useful! I’m finally useful! Just like butter.

KELLY

That's silly. There's only one measly truck of bread and butter coming. Let's just sanitize a small area.

RANDY

Nope – the whole shebang. Bread and butter today – jam tomorrow.

END OF PLAY

Chocolate Chip Cookies

1 cup flour

½ tsp baking soda

¼ tsp salt

½ cup butter - softened

½ cup brown sugar

½ cup white sugar

1-1/2 tsp vanilla

1-1/4 cups (or more!!!) chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Whisk flour, baking soda and salt. Mix sugars and butter. Add vanilla. In thirds, add flour to butter mixture. Stir in chocolate chips. (Letting the dough rest for a bit is good but not necessary.) Drop by spoonfuls onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes.