

SMOKE

Kim Davies

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Seriocomic

John, thirty-one

*John is at a sex party. He's ducked into the kitchen for a cigarette, when in walks Julie, whom he hasn't met. He tells her s story about some goldfish he had to get for his employer, who is a photographer (and Julie's father).*

JOHN: You know . . . you know, if you just call up a pet store, and ask for, like, three hundred goldfish or whatever, they don't want to sell them to you. Because they think you're using them for animal experiments, or something perverted, or whatever. I was like "Um, this is for a major American artist," and they were like "You're shitting us." Like, so much fucking attitude. So I got them online. It's like thirty dollars for a hundred. And then setting up the shot . . . Christ. So he has this photo now, okay, which is like three hundred goldfish in clear plastic baggies on a white carpet. It's kind of cool-looking. It's like you're looking down on these rows of goldfish. It looks great. It was a huge fucking pain in the ass. Well, once he's done, he doesn't want three hundred goldfish. He doesn't even want one in a bowl. So I had to call up the company and ask if I could ship back these goldfish—no, I'm serious. Because what can you do? And they were like, no, go fuck yourself. So then I called up the pet store—The *same* assholes that gave me all the attitude in the first place, and I was like, I want to sell you three hundred goldfish. And they were also like fuck you. But they would take them for free. And so now I have to get like three hundred goldfish to Union Square and your dad is like, great, so you can go do that now, and then he just like takes off. And I'm like, you asshole. You asshole, I'm expensing a cab. So I cabbed it with three hundred goldfish downtown and—are you an animal rights person? Because I

gotta be honest with you, some of these goldfish did not survive the trip. *(Pause)* The rest are fine.

*Information on this playwright may be found at:  
www.smithandkraus.com. Click on the WRITERS tab.*