

# **How You Drink Your Wine?**

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**A full-length play**

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## ACT 1

### GETTING READY

(The living room is on the right side of the stage with a door upstage left. There is a couch and two chairs pointing inward on each end. The kitchen is stage back in the center. A breakfast island with a stove on it is in front of a sink counter and fridge. There is an oval table on the right side of the stage.)

Stravinsky's Rite of Spring blares from an antique radio on a breakfast island in front of the kitchen.

CHARLES BUTLER , mid-forties, dressed in a suit and an apron that was once on antiques road show, stirs a pot as steam swirls up from it.

CHARLES

Da, Da, da da... Did you ever really love me?

MAMIE BUTLER, born to be a first lady, mid-forties dressed in a blue pants suit, takes two bottles of wine from a box on the living room couch and sits them in front of each six place settings.

MAMIE

Turn that radio down! Our subtopia has had enough.

Charles wipes his hands on his apron and twists the volume knob in a huff.

CHARLES

You wanted the kitchen remodeled into an open concept and you got it.

MAMIE

You've never been open to any concept I've liked. To you I am a concept.

CHARLES

Well there you go, you r pictures finally in the dictionary under concept. Or was that contempt.

MAMIE

You can teach it to your ninth graders.

CHARLES

Maybe you can use it in one of your future tenure talks I'm so fond of.

Mamie slams two bottles down on the table.

MAMIE

I told you not to make baked salmon and that malodorous soup. Now I have to get out all those strawberry scented Jesus candles your Mom gifted us twenty years ago.

CHARLES

I hate candles.

MAMIE

I know, I know, they tip over when you 're not looking and they cause a fire. How would one tip over out of the blue?

CHARLES

You forget to put it out.

MAMIE

Oh don't worry it's definitely out.

CHARLES

To her those were fertility candles.

MAMIE

It smells like the penguin house at the zoo in here... Dinner party self sabotage is what that is.

Charles stirs the pot and gives a chef's kiss to Mamie.

CHARLES

It will be perfection, just like Mother.

MAMIE

What you think is perfection could be a Coen Brothers horror film. Oscar worthy.

CHARLES

Don't bring him into it.

Mamie kicks up a heel, as she places napkins in perfect symmetry around the place settings.

MAMIE

You know I'm his favorite.

Charles does a vigorous shake of pepper into the cauldron of soup.

CHARLES

Why did you have to invite the new neighbors?

MAMIE

I thought they might like to meet Iris and Bud, same house and all. And you have something to tell them because I'm tired of hearing about it.

Charles smacks the spoon down on the counter.

CHARLES

You can't help but hear all of them, driving me crazy. Ding. Ding, chime, chime, bang, bang. What kind of person puts that many windchimes up hanging from there porch? They're just ugly, ugly hunks of metal. Green, rusting, no artistic patina. There has to be some law from like eighteen seventy four banning that many.

MAMIE

Well you look that up before you talk with her. I'm sure it will help.

CHARLES

I think you should be the one to mention it to her, it will probably be your house.

MAMIE

I'm moving to France. Far from your Mother.

CHARLES

And find another lover?

MAMIE

Oh Charles I could never be with anyone after you. You've ruined all other men for me. And don't think I haven't noticed that Zaftig never wears a bra, have you?

CHARLES

And don't think I haven't forgotten your favorite holiday is Krampus.

MAMIE

And yet I'm still a vision board girlie. You will not take my future.

CHARLES

Why haven't you even looked at the papers yet?

MAMIE

Because I don't want to be divorced at a dinner party just yet.

CHARLES

Well the court is going to dismiss tomorrow because of no activity.

MAMIE

Oh that's right the reason for the divorce in the first place. Too much activity.

CHARLES

You've packed so many boxes I can hardly get around the house.

Charles strolls in close to Mamie.

CHARLES

Did you ever really love me?

Mamie leans in breath to breath with Charles.

MAMIE

Did you ever really care?

CHARLES

How could I not care?

MAMIE

Not once in twenty years have you tried anything new. Took a leap of faith for me. Just for me. Not once. All we are is history.

(pause)

CHARLES

A lot of times in history it all depends on who wrote the book.

MAMIE

Or who teaches the class.

CHARLES

Can I take it pass fail this time?

MAMIE

Is all your financial aid in order?

CHARLES

Oh I definitely think I've earned a scholarship.

MAMIE

I have to put on my face and you have soup to throw out.

CHARLES

You're just jealous of its lack of bitterness.

(pause)

MAMIE

I've been mouth breathing through you culinary delights for twenty years, but think of the guest, the humanity.

CHARLES

I've often wondered, with you, is it psychological issues or something to do with your ancestry that makes you enjoyably pleasant to be around?

MAMIE

I give credit where credit is due Dear, your mother. I do hope she comes out of her room tonight and joins us. Though it has been ten years.

Charles spoons and sips a bit of soup and grins.

CHARLES

Two months, three days.

MAMIE

I think for this years Halloween party I'm going to go as her again. I love how she doesn't get it.

CHARLES

It is not funny that she thinks that urn you bought her is a vase for the flowers I bring her.

MAMIE

I promised I wouldn't tell. I keep my word. You can't be mad at me for that.

CHARLES

You live by the simple aesthetic: Am I mad at you

MAMIE

I haven't gotten flowers for ten years.

CHARLES

I'll buy you an urn.

Mamie flashes a sarcastic smile and starts to double check that the silverware lines up straight.

MAMIE

And don't forget you're also telling Bud and Iris we can't go with them. I would break it to Bud first.

CHARLES

I have the wind chimes, this is on you.

MAMIE

Iris has been waiting for me to go with her for three years, it is going to break her heart. And besides you are the one who refuses to grin and bare it even though it would be the last time. So this is on you.

CHARLES

Why do I have to tell Bud?

MAMIE

Because he's your best friend.

CHARLES

He is NOT my best friend.

MAMIE

Fine, your only friend but you tell him tonight. She is starting to ask me places and itinerary.

CHARLES

How long is this party going to last?

MAMIE

Wipe that look off your face, I have to go put on my face.

Mamie leaves up the stairs.

### **DRINKS BEFORE DINNER**

Charles opens the oven and sniffs, waving the heat with his hand.

The doorbell rings with the Beethoven's Fifth Symphony motif.

Charles spins around and stirs the soup.

Beethoven chimes again.

MAMIE (O.S.)

Charles get the fucking door! I only have one eye on.

Charles tosses in a dash of salt.

CHARLES

Just cherishing every second until I'm forced to see him again.

MAMIE

Then open the door for Iris!

Beethoven trills of to the adagio.



Suddenly the door swings open, and in strides BUD CARLSON, the ugly Americans cousin, mid-thirties dressed in an ill-fitting light blue short sleeve suit shirt and a green stripped tie, brown pants and hush puppies, strides in with his hand out.,

Charles gives him a thumbs up with a wince on his face.

BUD

Chuck what is up?

CHARLES

Bud has anyone ever told you, that you have aristocratic ears?

Bud tugs on his earlobes

MAMIE (O.S.)

Just in time for my lipstick.

Manie glides into the room.

BUD

Auh Mamie you still got it, you still got it.

IRIS CARLSON, mid-thirties, dressed in a yellow sundress and makeup both from her mid-twenties, clomps in with a dish.

IRIS

And I'll I've got is Heavenly hash, hello, hello.

MAMIE

Iris, I told you the new neighbor girl was bringing her special dessert.

BUD

I made her make it. Anytime I hear the word special I know that granola crap is gonna be involved in it somehow.

CHARLES

Chivalry and dessert.

Mamie kisses Iris on the cheek and takes the  
dessert

MAMIE

I'll stuff it down in the vegetable crisper, you can take it home with you Bud.

IRIS

It's safe in there fer sure, veggies are his kryptonite.

BUD

I eat things that eat veggies.

CHARLES

A plant lover to the tenth degree.

BUD

So what are the new neighbors like? They taking care of the old homestead?

MAMIE

Definitely homestead.

CHARLES

They have chickens. Without names.

IRIS

Do they wake you all up in the morning farm style?

Mamie sneers over at Charles.

MAMIE

With a big "COCK... A-DOODLE-DO"

Bud smacks his hands together and LAUGHS.

CHARLES

Rooster Dear.

MAMIE

Sorry that I'm a chicken whisperer, I can't help myself.

Charles flashes her a quick sneer.

IRIS

So everything seems normal around here. You miss us don't Cha.

BUD

I miss this place, it's a hoot a half.

Bud leans over to sniff the soup with a wince on his face, and Charles waves and almost whacks Bud with the pot spoon.

CHARLES

Peace and love, peace and love.

IRIS

So have you heard from Oscar lately?

Mamie double checks the silverware neatness on the table.

Iris mimics her.

CHARLES

Eighteen and still no drivers license.

BUD

I can teach him, no problem.

CHARLES

We don't have that much insurance.

MAMIE

I just hope he isn't partying too much so he can at least get D's. He's a bit of a fantast that one.

Bud

Oh so you haven't heard?

Bud slaps Charles on the back as Charles stirs the soup.

IRIS

I'm surprised he hasn't mentioned anything, very surprised  
Iris slaps her hands together.

CHARLES

Did he get that tattoo on his arm of that nautical compass he's been threatening to get?  
The irony...

MAMIE

My baby soiled his body?

CHARLES

You have a tattoo.

MAMIE

But it's tasteful.

CHARLES

Stay Wild?

BUD

On your ass. I saw it at the beach that one Labor day.

IRIS

Bud! Good gravy.

Bud puts up his "who me" palms.

CHARLES

And now it's like a neon sign flashing at me every other Friday night. Sometimes on Tuesdays.

MAMIE

Charles!

CHARLES

Good gravy.

(pause)

IRIS

Well Violet...

MAMIE

That's right her big senior year. Big college graduate.

BUD

(wide grin)

Oh it's big alright.

MAMIE

Violet is something else. How are her soap carving competitions going?

BUD

If it were an Olympic sport she'd get gold for sure. USA!

CHARLES

The two basketful in the bathroom are quite the conversation pieces. So many Venus de Milo's

MAMIE

Well if Oscar saw her on campus, I hope he was nice to her.

Bud slaps Charles on the back as Charles sips a bit of soup.

IRIS

Well they are sort of dating now. An item as one might say.

Charles does a spit take.

CHARLES

What?!

MAMIE

She might be graduating soon, it's harmless.

CHARLES

Dating how?

IRIS

You know, Violet is always looking for a song that can fix her.

BUD

Engagement how, that's how, congratulations.

Bud slaps Charles on the back.

Charles slips the spoon on the floor.

MAMIE

Fantast...

CHARLES

Engagement!? He's only been there two months.

BUD

I bet they've been foolin' around for years. Sneakin' into your garage or my garage.  
Always made sure she had access to condoms for her dates with boys.

Charles stares catatonic stiff and straight ahead.

CHARLES

(monotone)

How much is this going to cost me?

MAMIE

Don't you mean cost me?

CHARLES

Hey you're the one who always says Oscar has the ability to be responsible.

MAMIE

Oscar uses body wash.

CHARLES

(monotone)

I told him Freshman year, don't get a girlfriend study, study, study.

BUD

He'll get an A in anatomy.

Bud slaps Charles' butt.

CHARLES

He threw up in my mouth when he was one, the start of disappointment.

MAMIE

You were always bouncing him on your knee like you had to be the state fair for him to love you.

(pause)

IRIS

Sorry to ruin the surprise, Oscar said he wanted to tell you, but it's just such a bloomin' story.

MAMIE

How long have you known?

BUD

'Bout a month.

CHARLES

A month!

Bud gives Charles a bearhug.

CHARLES

(monotone)

Let me go.

BUD

Thanksgivings, Christmas's Fourth of July's to spent together.

CHARLES

All very plural things.

MAMIE

Well how... I mean when did this happen?

BUD

Sex is how it happened. She's got a Grandbaby Bud in the oven.

IRIS

Bud, Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Charles starts to fall over and Bud holds him up  
and shakes his hand in congratulations.

MAMIE

A baby! OH my God! What? I can't believe it.

IRIS

I couldn't believe it either, tell me about it. Complicating wedding plans I know.

MAMIE

How the hell can you think of wedding plans? I have to call him right now.

IRIS

Oofda, don't do that he has to tell you.

MAMIE

Well I need to call him something.

CHARLES

(monotone)

My 401k... I hate the park...

MAMIE

The vagitus...

Mamie breaths heavy in and out.

(pause)

MAMIE

Is it too late for the tattoo?

IRIS

I asked, they're keeping it fer sure.

MAMIE

Iris you really should have told me sooner. We have no secrets.



Iris gives Mamie a tight hug, and strokes her back.

IRIS

I know, I know, it never felt the right time for us and I promised the kids.

MAMIE

Exactly the kids.

CHARLES

(dumbfounded)

Rosebud...

BUD

Hey that's not a bad name if it's a girl. It has a ring to it, Rosebud.

MAMIE

Complicates a lot of things.

Mamie glances over at a shocked Charles.

Iris holds out a hand for Mamie to take.

The doorbell rings with the Beethoven's Fifth Symphony motif.

No one moves. The room breaths with tension and joy.

The orchestra fortissimo's again.

MAMIE

Pick up the baton maestro. Time to get on with the party.

Charles snaps out of it and shuffles towards the front door.

CHARLES

(monotone)

Right... I do love a party.

BUD

This is gonna be wild meeting them. Hey we're Eskimo neighbors.

Charles swings open the door.

BOOMQUIFA WILDE, a rat pack date hippie,  
in a floral paisley V neck mini dress and sandals,  
strides in with a pan and a flower pattern tote  
bag in her hands.

BOOM

Super secret dessert coming through. Set it on the table or in the kitchen Love?

IRIS

(to Mamie )

Now it's super secret dessert. Princess Kay of the Milky Way is what we have here.

CHARLES

Welcome.

MAMIE

Kitchen is fine, so the men don't pick at it.

Bud bends down and pretends to look at the  
dish as her breast bounces by.

Mamie whacks Bud in the arm with a scowl.

Boom sets the bag on the island and takes her  
phone out.

IRIS

(to Mamie)

Love?

MAMIE

(to Iris)

Ruby red slippers, ruby red slippers.

Boom dashes over and squeezes Charles tight.

Charles winces as Bud gives him a thumbs up.

Mamie glares at them both.

BOOM

Sorry I'm a hugger.

CHARLES

Don't forget Mamie.

BOOM

Tab will be right in, he always has to get his hair as perfect as he can. Image is business he always says.

BUD

Make your own luck.

IRIS

Why is dessert so super duper secret?

BOOM

(smiling)

Oh you'll see, and before you touch that bag, let me know what song you want played at your funeral. All will be revealed.

Charles turns and looks out the front door and in glides TAB WILDE, dressed in a gold lame jacket, white shirt, black pants and Italian loafers, no socks, and no yacht.

BUD

Elvis is in the building. Chuck would you look at that.

CHARLES

(wincing)

Welcome, welcome. That is a snazzy jacket.

BUD

Like you're young Elvis, Most impersonators are fat Elvis.

TAB

Hi I'm Tab, Tab Wilde, all original, never an impersonator.

CHARLES

Stay wild then.

Charles nods and smiles at Mamie.

Mamie strides across the room and shakes Tab's hand.

MAMIE

We are so glad you are here. Your hair looks perfect by the way.

CHARLES

Not a hair out of place.

BOOM

Oh don't tell him that, his head is big enough thank you.

Tab runs his hand through his hair.

Charles goes and stirs his soup.

IRIS

Hi I'm Iris and that is my husband Bud. We used to live in your house for years. It was always a hoot.

BOOM

I heard, I heard. It's a lovely home, I'm Boomquifa.

BUD

Huh? Queef like a --

Iris whacks buds arm.

MAMIE

Very original indeed.

BOOM

Everyone calls me Boom.

IRIS

(glancing at Booms breast)

If you ever wanna borrow my Jell-O Salad molds.

TAB

Her parents really are lovely people.

BUD

So if you're not Elvis what do you do for a living?

IRIS

How many times do I have to remind you Bud, We are not our job.

BUD

I'm a free vacation earning award winning car salesman, who else would I be?

CHARLES

Town Cryer.

TAB

It's OK I'm an esthetician. Vacation earning. Key West last year.

BOOM

Award winning hair..

BUD

Is that like an electrician of some kind.

IRIS

He removes hair from people Bud.

BUD

Like a barber?

IRIS

For your back.

MAMIE

Bet he'll give you a coupon.

Bud turns confused with his hands out.

CHARLES

Sell that why don't you.

Bud shakes his head.

BUD

Volume cancels luck.

MAMIE

Check on your salmon Charles.

TAB

I remove body hair from people.

IRIS

Waxing Bud, you know.

Iris points down at her lap.

BOOM

Like a bikini wax for your wife's swimsuit lines.

BUD

OH...

TAB

From pole to pole from hole to hole.

BUD

Oh my.

TAB

They call me the Brazilian.

MAMIE

(monotone)

Carnival.

BUD

Is that where you're from?

CHARLES

In my mind it is now.

BOOM

(like a Sephora salesperson overhelpful)

A Brazilian wax is a hair removal treatment that removes most or all of the hair from the pubic region, including the front, sides, back, and anus.

BUD

From where you shoot to where you toot.

CHARLES

You should put that on your business cards Tab.

BUD

Don't trip over a dollar to save a dime.

IRIS

He's a great salesman. Can sell your shoes back to you right off your feet.

TAB

So I've heard.

BOOM

Sales person.

BUD

I smell granola.

Bud take his phone out and scrolls as he looks agitated.

IRIS

Bud is always hungry.

BUD

So what do you do Boom, Boom?

TAB

Boom.

BOOM

I'm an artist. Mostly metal work statues.

MAMIE

Charles here has been admiring your windchimes.

CHARLES

All what is it, twenty now?

TAB

They are one of her best sellers.

BOOM

If you want one Charles I'll discount it down to five hundred dollars.

Charles' eyes go wide open.

CHARLES

That's a...well...

TAB

Two hundred dollars for a discount.

CHARLES

I'll have to ask Mamie if it's OK later. They do make quite the melodies.

MAMIE

They are quite the klanfarbe.

BOOM

They often remind me of the serial compositions of Milton Babbitt.

Mamie turns to Charles where Boom and Tab  
can't see her face and she sticks her tongue out  
at Charles.

CHARLES

(laughing slightly)

I thought I heard Captain Crunch.

(pause)



BUD

Our daughter is an artist. She makes soap statues.

CHARLES

We have some you can take with you if you want. They're in the bathroom like most great art.

Mamie stomps her foot.

MAMIE

Those soaps took a lot of work.

IRIS

Violet said she wanted to learn to carve Ivory and he brought home a bar of soap.

CHARLES

He's a World Wildlife Fund hero Bud is.

TAB

I donate to their work. Good for you Bud. And the tax write off is sweet to huh.

Bud turns towards Charles

Charles nods and grins.

BUD

Yeah the tax write off, only reason to do it.

Charles walks over and puts a record on his elaborate stereo system.

BOOM

I create a lot of abstract work I suppose best described as influenced by the sculptor Ann Webber.

MAMIE

I always love the wild explanations on those cards next to the pieces at the art gallery.

Suddenly the music of Milton Babbitt screeches out of the Hi-Fi speakers.

MAMIE

Charles please no one wants to hear your crap music. Sorry he just loves his vinyl collection. In thirty years he'll discover streaming.

CHARLES

Some abstract music for the party Dear.

Mamie turns and smiles at Boom, then spins towards Charles.

MAMIE

More like subtract. Why don't you put on that Chopin record you ordered last year.

BUD

Got any Van Halen?

Bud flashes up the hook 'em horns and bangs his head.

IRIS

That was our first concert, quite the dancer it was. I got high and drunk for the first time.

BUD

I got my first blowjob.

Iris smacks Bud on the butt.

CHARLES

Free vacation earning award winning?

Mamie smacks Charles on the butt.

TAB

Brazilians are great for that.

Charles drops the needle on the Chopin record.

MAMIE

And don't blast it like Oscar did.

Chopin Funeral March begins to ooze soft out  
of the speakers.

Bud does a quick little dance.

Charles rolls his eyes.

MAMIE

Would anyone like a drink? I have a fun surprise.

CHARLES

Went to three liquor stores for this. All of it expensive.

BOOM

I love a surprise, not knowing is the fun of life.

Boom lifts her phone up and stares at it in  
disappointment.

BUD

I think it's always better to know.

CHARLES

And yet...

IRIS

Mamie is the best at this kind of fer cute party thing.

TAB

I love a great bottle of wine for the spirit.

MAMIE

Follow me over to the dinning room table.

Mamie glides her hand in an elegant motion  
through the air.

BUD

Chuck, I'll take a McGolden.

Charles points to the dinning room table.

IRIS

Bud we drink wine at dinner parties. I keep on reminding you. Are you Sven or Ole?

MAMIE

Exactly, wine. On the table here you will find a place card with your name on it.

BUD

Hey we get two bottles each, alright.

IRIS

To last the whole party, plus the special secret dessert.

TAB

Not the most expensive wine.

CHARLES

You're not the one who went to three liquor stores my friend.

TAB

Cost doesn't equal quality, this is true.

MAMIE

So, on your card it explains why you have been offered your individual pairing of wine with your personality.

BUD

Says here I'm Sangiovese. We fought a war there once right.?

CHARLES

The one to end all wars.

BUD

I do know my history.

CHARLES

Vacation earning.

TAB

Award winning.

Charles and Tab high five.

BOOM

Thank you Love so much, I just love mine. Pinot Noir, focused, skeptical and an abstract thinker. Like every artist needs to be. You nailed me.

TAB

Like she knows you better than I do.

Iris glances over at Mamie with a concerned look.

IRIS

Lets see what I am now. Here we go, go.

BUD

Bet you get beer.

IRIS

Barbera wine, never heard of it. Quiet, serious and logically working towards goals. Don't I sound like the life of the party.

BUD

Told you, you should be beer.

MAMIE

You're a computer programmer?

Iris tosses the card back to the table with a slip of her wrist.

TAB

I do like an occasional Stella Artois.

Charles turns and grins at Mamie.

CHARLES

How many times do I have to remind you we are not our jobs.

TAB

Lets see what I am? I knew it. A flashy Zinfandel.

BOOM

We've only known you all a month, Wow.

TAB

Outgoing. Exuberant and accepting. You are a wine whisperer Mamie. A total wine whisperer.

CHARLES

Lets see the magical wine that I am. Drum roll please.

MAMIE

You'll be surprised.

Bud hand drums on the table, the perfect silverware jostles about.

Mamie glances around at the table with a sad look in her eyes.

CHARLES

Malbec, nobody drinks Malbec. Flexible, tolerant and pragmatic. Well it got me through twenty years of marriage.

MAMIE

Malbec will get you through the evening Dear.

Charles flips up Mamie's card into his hand and bumps her hip to hip.

CHARLES

Well lets see what valley of the grapes delight you have chosen for yourself Dear?

TAB

I see a lot of Merlot in your future.

BOOM

I'm guessing you are a friendly Gamay.

BUD

A sip of a PBR!

MAMIE

You know me so well Bud.

IRIS

A dessert Riesling tastes perfect for you.

Charles holds the card up and snaps it with a flick of his wrist.

CHARLES

And here we have it, Cabernet Sauvignon, driven, independent and holds high standards.

TAB

Very nice.

BOOM

So love all of that, wow.

IRIS

Wow...

BUD

See Chuck you sold yourself short, you made high standards, Mamie's still with you.

MAMIE

Charles is the luckiest man in the world.

Mamie pecks Charles on the cheek

Everyone pours themselves a glass of wine.

Bud and Charles pour heavy.

CHARLES

A toast to Mamie, Who always has the best party ideas. My idea for this party was a reading of the Taming of the Shrew.

Everyone takes a sip of their wine.

Bud slips his phone out of his pocket and glances at it.

BOOM

This wine is a wonderful work of art, very, very nice.

IRIS

Wow mine is great nice.

Tab holds his glass up to the light after He takes  
a sip.

TAB

I'm going to get some of this for the spa, it's just delightful.

BUD

This stuff will lead to sexy time. Get to our twenty fifth for sure.

IRIS

What is the key to a long marriage Mamie?

TAB

To early to even think about that for us.

BOOM

Your youthful confidence is a love sign language.

CHARLES

I think I should answer that.

Mamie sips her wine as she looks away from  
Charles.

MAMIE

I believe it all has to do with how you drink your wine.

BUD

I'm gonna drink all of it.

Iris whacks Bud in the arm.

BUD

Eventually probably not all of it tonight. Well tonight while I'm here.



MAMIE

It's all about what each personality can stand on any given day. Maybe sipping your wine is considered cute and sexy one day, then the next grating to the last nerve, shovel to the head.

CHARLES

Slurp, slurp, slurp leads to the other persons swigs and guzzles.

TAB

I prefer to sip.

MAMIE

Hoists and toasts after toasts as an excuse to gulp and quaff.

CHARLES

The art of it is to get just buzzed enough but not to buzzed that it juices your primal urge to want to buy the vineyard and plant a vine.

MAMIE

To a place where you know and the hard work and drudgery will pay off ever so briefly with a sweat eyed squint looking into the perfect bouquet before you taste heaven.

CHARLES

An afterlife of previous seasons.

MAMIE

And you take just a few more sips beyond the fermenting of the urge to stomp on the grapes, so you can day dream through the drudgery until you smile at the empty glass.

BOOM

Wow.

Tab gives Boom a sensual side hug and places his hand on her stomach.

Boom quick, glances at her phone, her lips in a straight line.

BUD

Why would you want to buy a vineyard when you can just go to the store and buy it?

IRIS

Exactly...

TAB

It you had a vineyard, you'd live at the wine store.

BUD

Oh I heard a great joke today.

Charles smiles at Boom and Tab.

CHARLES

All his jokes are unbelievably something.

BUD

What's the difference between a wife and a girlfriend?

(silence)

Bud throws jazz hands out.

BUD

Forty five pounds.

IRIS

What's the difference between a husband and a boyfriend,

BUD

Ten pounds?

IRIS

Forty five minutes!

Iris gulps her wine down.

IRIS

Next shows a little bluer folks, see ya at ten O'clock.

Charles slaps Bud in the stomach.

CHARLES

I do believe that was a burn.

MAMIE

Which reminds me we need a new fire extinguisher.

Bud sinks his head with a sad puppy slump.

BOOM

Oh I just remembered and I've been dying to ask you Iris. What Is that built in cage under the stairs for? Did you have a big dog or something.

MAME

Oh no...

BUD

I wish we had had a dog. That would have been soo cool. Teach it to play fetch.

Charles tosses a fork into the living room as he smiles at Bud.

Iris hands Bud her wineglass.

IRIS

It's the Barbera wine in case you've forgotten.

TAB

A parrot?

IRIS

Oh no, that was for Violet.

Bud hands Iris her empty wine glass back.

BUD

She's our daughter.

Boom places her hand on her tummy.

BOOM

You put your child in a cage?!

Mamie and Charles look at each other alarmed.

BUD

Put her in and locked her in there.

Iris tries to sip her wine her empty wine glass.

TAB

That's child abuse how could you?

CHARLES

Aggressive hide and seek?

Mamie pinches Charles' arm.

IRIS

For cripes sake. She was asleep walker when she was young.

BOOM

Just lock the door! Jesus Christ.

MAMIE

The whole neighborhood prayed.

CHARLES

I even did once.

Boom chugs his wine.

Iris glances at her annoyed.

BUD

Oh we locked the door all the time.

IRIS

Sometime three times a night. She somehow would unlock everything we tried so Bud built the cage and we locked her in at night.

MAMIE

The UPS driver brought her back three time in the morning I think last count was.

CHARLES

I found her once on our front step readding my model railroad magazine.

TAB

There had to be something else you could have done.

BUD

There was, lock her in a cage.

BOOM

But she was your baby!

IRIS

Well we didn't want to drug her.

TAB

Thank God for that.

Mamie nips her wine.

MAMIE

Oh she wasn't a baby then.

Charles laughs and tosses back some wine.

Mamie pushes him away from her.

IRIS

She had a mattress on the floor--

BOOM

On the floor?

BUD

Cot wouldn't fit, lord knows I tried to ram and jam one in there.

Bud tips his glass up to finish his wine off with  
a few taps on the bottom of the glass.

Going forward everyone continues to sip and  
gulp their wine.

IRIS

(tearing up)

Blankets, pillows, monitor, everything my baby could need.

TAB

How did she go to the bathroom?

Iris starts to cry.

IRIS

She just didn't have a lot to drink before bed really. I read her bedtime stories she was happy, she was safe. You weren't there you don't know. You just don't know.

CHARLES

Ok we all need to pour some more wine and remember--

BUD

I watched a video online and we crate trained her like a dog.

BOOM

So you did have a dog!

IRIS

(hysterical)

Well if you're ever parents and it happens to you, you're welcome you have a cage!

TAB

I hardly think that would be something to be thankful for.

IRIS

Exactly!

MAMIE

Well that's all in the past.

CHARLES

Way in the past, way, way in the past.

IRIS

And now she's all grown up and ready to graduate college soon, maybe.

BUD

And lets not forget she's getting married soon and having a baby!

Bud throws a happy hand wave in the air, then  
fist bumps Charles as he winces

BOOM

Who is the lucky husband?

TAB

Now we don't want to assume pronouns.

BUD

None other than Charles and Mamie's son Oscar.

TAB

Whoa!

MAMIE

(fake laugh)

A joyous time in our households..

BOOM

Well, well congratulations.

TAB lifts his glass into the air.

TAB

A toast to the young couple.

Iris and Bud stare down at their empty wine  
glasses.

MAMIE

He's a freshman at the same university.

CHARLES

My soup I forgot to stir it!

**DINNER IS SERVED**

Chopin marches at the start of the record.

Everyone sits at the oval dinning room table behind their two bottles of wine. One half empty each.

(The oval table is on the right side of the stage. Mamie is on the end left, Charles is on the end right. Tab is on the corner left, Bud is on the corner right. Boom is upstage left, Iris is upstage right.)

Mamie places a bowl next to each plate.

Bud scrolls on his phone as he shakes his head.

MAMIE

Sorry for the late addition to your dishes, I was hoping this entree would burn.

CHARLES

Coming in hot!

Charles sets a plater of salmon down near the center of the table.

TAB

I thought I smelled fish. I kept looking around for a tank.

Charles flashes an annoyed glance as Mamie grins.

CHARLES

Go ahead and start on the rolls, they are an old world recipe.

BOOM

Great now we are colonizers.

Iris grabs a roll from the basket.

IRIS

Well fed, it's good to be the colonizer, so good.

Iris raises her wine glass and take a gulp.



BUD

I hated history class. Why study what is already over.

Bud takes a roll and drops it on the floor.

IRIS

I plead the fifth.

BUD

Five second rule.

Bud picks up his roll and shines it on his shirt.

TAB

So we can learn from it for one.

IRIS

Or perfect it for the crushing blow to mankind next time.

BOOM

Do we ever really learn from history?

BUD

Well this is a question for Charles. He teaches high school history.

MAMIE

Charles teaches it because he got C's in college and needed a job.

Charles flashes a fake smile at Mamie.

BOOM

It is true that most CEO's were C students.

MAMIE

See there Charles you just missed it.

TAB

That's why they never spend their millions on anything important.

IRIS

The robber barrens of the early twentieth century built libraries, museums and theaters, oh my.

Charles carries in a cauldron of something as it  
streams under the lid.

BOOM

That was just to appease the illiterate masses.

BUD

Yeah never had much use for museums and libraries.

Charles sits the pot down a hot pad on the table  
and flips the lid off with a grand gesture of a  
magician as the steam forms a mushroom cloud.

Every guest turns their head and covers their  
noses in grimaces and eye squints.

BUD

Oh my God. What is that smell? It's like hotdogs and feet.

MAMIE

Please use the bowl if you feel you are going to lose your stomach.

IRIS

That smell will take the hair right off of you. Sorry Tab you're out of business.

CHARLES

It's my famous cabbage soup

BOOM

That soup is a crime against infamy. Whew...

TAB

I guess I should at least ask what's in it.

MAMIE

It's best not to know, save yourself man. My name for it is excreta.

BOOM

It does look all natural. Doesn't smell like it though.

CHARLES

Cabbage of course, purple and green, fish, mushrooms, onions, shallots--

MAMIE

Stop, the humanity, our guests only have two bottles of wine to get them through it.

Charles ladles some into his bowl dips again and offers.

CHARLES

It tastes way better than it smells. Everyone slowly holds up their bowl to be polite.

TAB

Just a little for me thanks.

CHARLES

And here we have salmon and don't forget the scalloped potatoes.

Every guest suddenly pours themselves a full glass of wine.

IRIS

My wine...

MAMIE

Did you pull the pin bones out of the salmon? I told you six times.

CHARLES

Left one in for you to start a new hobby.

Charles spoons in a spoonful of cabbage soup with a smile.

CHARLES

Mmm, mmm, so, so good. Everyone try it, you won't be sorry.

MAMIE

Trust the noble fool and don't let up on your smile.

Mamie sips in a spoonful and gulps hard and glares at Charles.

MAMIE

Not the worst thing I've ever put in my mouth Dear.

Mamie batts her eyelashes and grins.

Iris LAUGHS out loud.

Charles clinks his spoon on his bowl.

Everyone dips there spoon in the swill and sips  
with grimaced faces.

BUD

You know there's something there...

Everyone turns quick and stares at Bud.

Bud dunks and sips another spoonful. He then  
stares up and tilts his head side to side.

BUD

My face is tingly.

MAMIE

That would be the poison creeping to your brain.

CHARLES

Maybe to much allspice?

Everyone puts their spoon down and takes a  
long sip of wine.

Bud does the same and shakes his head.

(pause)

BOOM

So how did you and Charles meet Mamie?

MAMIE

We met at school.

TAB

Oh we met at college too.

CHARLES

We met when Mamie was in the fifth grade.

BUD

Likes them young.

Boom shoots a burn glance over at Bud.

BOOM

Really?

IRIS

Bud please.

BUD

It's a joke.

MAMIE

I was ten also Bud.

CHARLES

She gave me her pizza.

IRIS

Ah that ubiquitous yellow cheese school pizza for the young tummy.

MAMIE

Then he threw up on my shoes.

CHARLES

It was my seventh piece, I was going for a school record.

BUD

I could eat seven easy peasy.

MAMIE

His Mom had to come and drive me home. She asked if we were boyfriend and girlfriend.

TAB

That's sexualing it a bit, what did you say?

MAMIE

More like girlfriend and boyfriend. Ans she told me to keep thinking like that.

Suddenly Boom tips over her wine glass as she reaches for a roll.

BOOM

Goddamn , fuck, shit, hell, I'm so sorry Love.

The wine rivers towards the cabbage soup.

Charles yanks up the pot then trips back into his as the malodorous concoction dumps in his lap.

Everyone freezes in shock.

Charles does a slow spit take.

Everyone laughs out loud.

IRIS

There's the fish head, with eyes ew, ew.

BUD

That's garbage man.

BOOM

(still laughing)

I'm so sorry Charles I really am.

MAMIE

It's OK Boom. It's Pinot, I don't think it stains. But cabbage soup on the other hand, Charles here might need a hazmat suit or an exorcism.

Tab circles his hand all around in front of Charles.

TAB

That storm needs a name.

CHARLES

I babied that soup all day.

MAMIE

But think of the lives you saved Dear. Your sacrifice will be remembered for centuries.  
We salute you.

Everyone salutes Charles.

CHARLES

(dryly)

I'll be right back.

MAMIE

I can hose you off in the backyard if you want.

CHARLES

I'll take my chances with Venus de milo and your luffa thank you.

MAMIE

Not my luffa you won't.

CHARLES

Oh Luftwaffe...

Charles gets up and starts to pick vegetables off  
of him and toss them in the pot.

BUD

He smells like history makes me feel.

BOOM

These rolls a delish though.

MAMIE

Wine and bread, like we are having communion.

TAB

I feel bad, I was praying that soup would go away.

BOOM

Tab when have you ever prayed?

TAB

I prayed to get our house,

CHARLES

It was almost sold to two lesbians.

MAMIE

Oh Charles I've seen your browser history, I know you have nothing whatsoever against lesbians.

CHARLES

I have to go take a shower.

MAMIE

Take two.

Charles strolls off and heads upstairs.

MAMIE

Don't leave your towel on the floor we have guests.

Mamie gets up from the table and hurries into the kitchen

BUD

Huh, lesbians, that's cool

IRIS

Bud here is Bi.

BUD, TAB

What?

IRIS

When he wants sex he has to buy it.

Bud leans over and grabs Iris' hand.

BUD

Sugar you know you are my sex Groupon.



IRIS

More like grope on.

MAMIE

Yeah why are men like that? Always wanting to grope.

TAB

Left over brute force heathen DNA.

BUD

It's called genuine affection.

BOOM

It's called projective identification. You get other people to embody embarrassing aspects of the self so you can then define yourself in counterpoint to the disowned aspects.

BUD

Tab, you'd better grope your woman quick.

BOOM

He wouldn't dare ever grope me, ever.

BUD

Oh I believe that.

Mamie comes back with an armload of cylinder  
Jesus candles.

IRIS

Praise the Lord. What pray tell are those ?

Mamie Places them on the table.

MAMIE

Fertility candles from Charles' Mom.

BUD

You trying again? Aright!

Bud throws up a rejected high five.

Boom and Tab hold hands above the table and glance at each other.

MAMIE

From years ago. But, they have a strong strawberry scent. Like teen lip gloss super strawberry.

IRIS

Ah, lip gloss and Boones Farm how can we forget.

BUD

That's how I got my first blowjob.

IRIS

Would everyone here get married if you had the chance to do it all over again?

Iris hops up and sits back down on her hands.

Mamie light five candles and waifs the strawberry scent towards her.

Iris pours herself more wine.

TAB

I could not even imagine being married to someone else.

BOOM

That smells so, so good. Ahh...

BUD

Didn't answer the question Boomquifa.

Boom takes a sip of wine.

Tab taps Boom's hand.

BOOM

I think it's a question we have to ask ourselves every day.

TAB

And today is a new day.

BOOM

And the day's not over, night counts also.

MAMIE

Night is where the rituals become the daydreams or the nightmares.

BUD

Or a Disney theme park.

MAMIE

We all have our own Goofy

(pause)

IRIS

One minute you're happily married and the next minute the damn fool has cut open the resealable bag with a knife and you have to stab him in the heart with it.

BUD

Oh come on who can open those damn things. And I eat it all anyway so no need to close it.

Iris takes a gulp of wine.

IRIS

There you have my answer.

Bud leans over and kisses her on the cheek.

MAMIE

Sometimes you keep the candles for a reason.

The doorbell rings with the Beethoven's Fifth Symphony motif.

MAMIE

Charles are you done up there?

MAMIE

He takes the longest showers.

IRIS

(laughing)

He always has. Remember your honeymoon? The clawfoot tub overflow tampon incident?

BUD

The horror...

MAMIE

Best friends forever huh?

IRIS

Forever and a day.

MAMIE

Charles are you done yet?

BUD

Prolly thinking of lesbians.

TAB

We all born with X chromosomes. And I'm proud of mine.

Boom taps his hand and flashes a full tooth grin.

BOOM

Once a man understands that they started out female they truly become themselves.

Bud squeezes his hands in front of himself.

BUD

If I had boobs I'd play with them all the time.

IRIS

Leave mine alone for a change. It's like I'm a Friday night sex cow.

BUD

Hey that's the night you picked for date night. Don't blame me.

MAMIE

I used to be a sex cow...

BUD

I mean Tab you're prolly gonna get early onset arthritis.

Boom glares over at Bud.

Beethoven's Fifth chimes again.

TAB

I see breast and vagina's all day at work. The last thing I want to do when I get home is--

BOOM

Tab respects me way too much, it's about the whole woman as an infinite person.

IRIS

The infinite person?

MAMIE

O the whole woman is definitely making a comeback. Charles where are you?

CHARLES (O.S.)

Coming.

BUD

Told you, lesbians. Gets you every time.

The doorbell rings with the Beethoven's Fifth  
Symphony motif.

MAMIE

Charles!

(pause)

MAMIE

Charles?

(pause)

MAMIE

Damn lesbians. Throw that towel away!

BUD

I'll go answer it. Stretch my legs a bit.

Bud takes a swig of wine and strolls to the front door.

TAB

Lesbians are some of my worst tippers. They wait so long to come in for there waxing's. From the wolverine to preteen. So much pain that by the time they leave they're just so mad at me.

BOOM

Who could be mad at you? You're too shiny Babe.

Boom strokes the arm of Tabs gold lame jacket.

MAMIE

And those X chromanones.

Bud steps up and sets an open box on the table.

IRIS

Bud why did you open that? Again Sven or Ole?

BUD

Just being nice.

Bud takes out the purple object in the shape of an abstract elephant with and long cone nose with a bulbous thing on the end and puts the end in his ear.

BUD

Is this some kind of ear cleaner?

Mamie looks very confused.

TAB

Oh that's a elephant clitoral vibrator, ten speed sex stimulator.

IRIS

Oh for cute.

Bud pops it out of his ear and hold it out away from himself.

The sex toy buzzes to life.

Charles steps into the room.

Bud shakes with the willies.

CHARLES

Thinking of becoming a lesbian Bud?

IRIS

Bud put that down before you hurt yourself, right now.

Boom yanks it out of Bud's hand.

BUD

I'll never be the same, I'll never be the same.

IRIS

And yet...

BOOM

It's so, so cute.

Boom looks it all around and holds it up to her nose.

BUD

Don't smell it, for Christs sake.

TAB

One hundred percent waterproof design. We sell them at the spa. Best seller.

Tab winks at Bud,

TAB

Free vacation award winning.

BOOM

Does it work well Mamie. I have so much trouble sometimes getting to climax. No matter what Tab tries.

Iris take a gulp of wine.

MAMIE

Oh no, that thing isn't mine. Care to explain Charles? Oh and do you have a pen? I have something I need to sign.

Mamie flashes Charles a wide sarcastic grin.

CHARLES

Well... I... Just thought... I just thought it might help spice things up. Make the boudoir more exciting.

IRIS

The boudoir? Is this 1899?

MAMIE

Charles you already spilled soup and left me with fish. That's all the spice I can take from you.

BUD

Is that thing for your butt Charles? I don't even know you anymore. You move away and everything changes.

TAB

Never stick anything up your butt without a flare.

Boom nods.

CHARLES

I guess it's one of those "it's the thought that counts" kind of things.

IRIS

Well I think it's very nice. The nose is long.

BUD

I can't even think about something like that.

IRIS

Mind over what matters.



BOOM

How come you haven't brought one home for me Tab?

TAB

You told me never to bring work home remember?

Boom clicks off the vibrator with a grand gesture.

CHARLES

Now if you want it, I really don't think I'm going to get to use it.

MAMIE

You think?

BOOM

Well if you ever thought of me--

TAB

I can't help it if my clients are mostly women. You've never been jealous before?

BOOM

I am NOT jealous. There are plenty of mirrors in our house, You bought everyone of them.

Bud's eyes shoot all around.

TAB

You are drinking way to much wine don't you think?

BOOM

We are guest it would be rude not to.

MAMIE

I just thought it was a fun idea. I thought a Pinot fit you perfect.

IRIS

I think the wine is a wonderful idea. Mine doesn't go with salmon but the bread is divine.

Iris takes a bite of a roll and smiles at Mamie.

Boom clicks the vibrator on and jams the elephants snout into her ear and rolls her eyes to the ceiling.

TAB

Well we had all better eat something or we'll all be under the table.

Everyone grabs a dinner roll, bites and begins to chew.

Bud dips a chunk of roll into his wine.

Wine drips on the white table cloth as her plops it in his mouth and chews with his mouth open.

BUD

It's really great dunked in my... What was it Mamie?

MAMIE

Sangiovese...

CHARLES

Bud you are truly Jesus of free vacations.

Charles dips his bread and sucks the wine out.

MAMIE

Thank you for coming down off of your cross Charles. And thank you so much for the fishes and the loafs.

Mamie gestures across the table with her arm.

CHARLES

It's time you go back and get your marketing degree Dear.

MAMIE

A tenured professor in a class, how would that look?

Mamie and Charles stare at each other.

MAMIE

Hedonism, the rightness of the action based on the pleasure or pain it causes.

CHARLES

Existentialism, how to face the inevitability of death.

Iris gazes at Bud as he slurps in another chunk  
of roll.

IRIS

Absurdism, the universe is apathetic towards humans' desire for answers.

TAB

We're both Buddhist. Buddhist are us.

CHARLES

Seen your stores at the mall. I think we have a potbellied statue somewhere in the attic.

BOOM

The pursuit of enlightenment...

BUD

I could never ever be any kind of religious.

CHARLES

And why is that Bud, you fart too much in church and you were banned?  
(pause)

BUD

Those damn Catholic priests fucked all those little boys in the ass. They're all just cults  
for killing souls.

(pause)

TAB

We have essential oils at the spa that smell like your Jesus candles.  
(pause)

IRIS

We're going to be helping raise a Grandchild.

MAMIE

We're gonna be raising a Grandchild, who are we kidding.  
(pause)

Tab leans over and kisses Boom gentle on the cheek and places her hand on her belly for a second.

BOOM

Philosophies always forget about love.

TAB

All their money to keep going comes from hate. Pass the hate plate, Pass the hate plate.

MAMIE

For promised protection to keep our babies safe.

IRIS

And educated just right.

BOOM

Well if you're a woman a lot of religions would rather women not be educated. Or stoned for fucking them.

TAB

So the men don't get their feelings hurt.

BUD

We should have dessert.

IRIS

Men forgot about love.

MAMIE

Men forget about love.

(pause)

Charles takes a sip of his wine and glances over at Bud as he chomps on another piece of dripped roll, then back to a tear eyed Mamie.

CHARLES

And if we are not in it we are made to believe love is a horror beyond man's comprehension.

Mamie swirls her glass of wine as she looks down the top.

Charles grabs a bottle and offers to pour her more.

She then holds her glass to the ceiling.

MAMIE

To the blood of Christ! And if you don't know the different between a one hundred dollar bottle of wine and a ten dollar bottle of wine, you are really bad at math.

(everyone laughs to break the tension)

(pause)

"FRAAAP."

Iris quick slaps Bud on the arm.

Mamie pinches her nose as Charles rolls his eyes.

BUD

Hey you know what cabbage does to me. If I hold it in they smell way worse.

Boom lowers her chin into her neck as she tries to hide a smile.

IRIS

This is supposed to be fancy, say you're sorry right now.

BUD

Sorry. My wine is very buzz worthy.

"BRAAAP."

Boom quick "LAUGHS OUT LOUD."

Iris cocks her hand back.

BUD

Hey not it, Not it.

TAB

Sorry cabbage got to me to. Not my fault.

Mamie unpunches her nose with a slight sniff.

MAMIE

It's OK Tab, I don't smell a thing.

BUD

Guess I'll wear a shiny gold coat so I can fart and get away with it.

BOOM

(lightly laughing)

Lame, gold lame.

MAMIE

We all know Charles is to blame.

CHARLES

There is salmon.

Bud rises quick, grabs a candle and holds it to his groin. "BRAAAACK," "FRRRT"

A flame shoots out forward towards Charles shocked face as he quick turns away.

Boom starts to laugh in a hysteric fit.

Tab side-eyes her.

BUD

(laughing)

The best party trick ever.

CHARLES

(very annoyed)

Eyebrows...

MAMIE

They could have used a trim twenty years ago.

CHARLES

Raising a Grandbaby together? Is that the kind of manners we will be teaching?

“PBBBBT” Bud farts again as he sits back down with a grin.

Boom slaps the table and almost spills her wine.

BUD

A farting baby!

MAMIE

Young Rakish the first.

Charles waves his hand in front of his face.

CHARLES

Well that one stunk...

MAMIE

Not as bad as your soup.

Boom cackles.

BOOM

I’m so sorry I just can’t help it. I tried to hold it in.

Booms breast jiggle with every giggle.

Iris’s glances catch Bud and Mamie as they stare at Booms chest.

TAB

This sophisticated artist thinks that farts are the funniest things ever. Thank God she doesn’t like the three stooges.

Boom begins to laugh out loud! And shoves Tab almost out of his chair.

Tab sits back up and grabs Booms hand and squeezes as he stares at her.

BOOM

OK, OK I'll behave. I promise.

IRIS

Usually women don't laugh at toots and poots.

BUD

Well Chuck I don't know what all was in that soup but my farts don't smell much anymore.

MAMIE

Thank God for something.

Boom as she tries not to laugh slaps her hand over her mouth.

BOOM

Sorry...

(pause)

Charles with a straight face lets out a "POOT".

Boom SCREAMS with laughter as she leans back in her chair.

Everyone else begins to laugh out loud. Even Charles cracks a smile.

As they try not to laugh, everyone at different times takes a sip or gulp of wine.

Boom can't stop and wine shoots out of her nose onto her plate.

BOOM

I'm going to pee my fucking pants.

Suddenly Tab falls forward onto the table, his face bangs onto his plate.

He doesn't move.



Mamie SHRIEKS and jumps up from her chair

Charles freezes in place.

Frightened unsure looks wipe across Bud's and Iris's faces.

Boom slaps the table harder and HOWLS with laughter.

MAMIE

I don't think he's breathing! Tab's not breathing.

Charles suddenly rushes over.

CHARLES

Take his pulse!

Mamie grabs his arm and presses into his wrist.

CHARLES

Not there into his neck, is he dead, is he dead?

Boom LAUGHS her heart out.

Mamie presses hard into Tabs neck.

BUD

Boomquifa!

IRIS

What is wrong with you?

CHARLES

What's wrong with Tab?

Boom CACKLES.

Mamie presses again deep into Tabs neck.

BOOM  
(still laughing)

He's not dead.

IRIS  
How can you still be laughing!

MAMIE  
I feel a pulse!

CHARLES  
It's shock, I've heard of this.

BUD  
Lift his head and slap him.

IRIS  
You lift, I'll slap. Those damn farts of yours, you never learn, just never learn.

Bud lifts Tabs he's and Iris cocks her arm back.

BOOM  
STOP! He'll wake up in a few minutes. He has narcolepsy.

Bud lets go of Tab's hair and Tab's head smack  
the his plate again.

Iris swings her cocked arm into Bud.

IRIS  
You didn't have to drop him like a potato sack.

BUD  
Is narco contagious?

CHARLES  
For you maybe.

BOOM  
No he has sleep attacks. They don't last long, just a few minutes.

MAMIE

That is very scary, good to know.

BOOM

Only scary when he drives.

BUD

I love naps.

IRIS

You are a nap.

Suddenly Tab snaps his head up startled.

CHARLES

You missed dessert, sorry about that.

BOOM

You were only out a couple minutes.

TAB

Sorry, it can give everyone a fright I know.

IRIS

Boom here was practically hysterical.

TAB

She's used to my little vacations.

BUD

That was award winning.

Bud quick takes out his phone, scrolls, frowns  
and shove it back in his pants pockets.

MAMIE

Well I thought you had expired.

CHARLES

Like old milk?

IRIS

At least it wasn't Buds farts. They can be deadly, panic in the streets.

BUD

So with that narco thing, how many times in college did someone draw a dick on your forehead?

IRIS

Bud, please...

BUD

It's a real question.

TAB

Once, I fell asleep during oral sex after a date. Took me three weeks to talk her into it and she thought I fell asleep. Drew a great monster one. Took me three days to scrub it off.

BUD

She could have kept going. It's the thought that counts

Iris smacks Bud on the ass.

IRIS

We'd better have you checked for narco, barcko .

CHARLES

Thoughts and wash clothes., Thoughts and wash clothes.

MAMIE

I need to drink way more wine now.

CHARLES

At least you woke up.

MAMIE

You should try it sometime.

(pause)

BOOM

Well I think it's time everyone tasted each others personalities.

Boom grabs Mamie's Cab and pours herself a glass and swirls then sips.

BOOM

Delicious.

Iris pours herself a glass of cab and gulps it down.

IRIS

What they say is right, it gets better with age.

BOOM

It's only a few years old.

IRIS

Exactly.

**DANCING**

MAMIE

Well I feel like dancing,

Mamie walks over to the Charles' stereo and right behind her, Iris follows her into the living room.

BUD

Chuck I'm already feeling I know more facts about the Civil War. Four score and ten glasses to go.

CHARLES

Society is saved.

BOOM

So Charles how did you get interested in the Civil War?

CHARLES

The last twenty years of life... As a history teacher it's always the most interesting to the kids. And the lessons from the Civil War keep on needing to be learned.

BOOM

Love keeps on getting forgotten.

TAB

I think he's talking about the history of race relations.

IRIS

Lets not talk politics.

CHARLES

We are a nation of toddlers who haven't even learned how to spell love yet, and the only love we know it nurtured not inherited.

BUD

I inherited a Civil War cannon ball. Violet used to practice her shotput with it back in high school.

CHARLES

Only three broken windows and a tibia and fibula

BOOM

What?

Tab gulps his wine.

BUD

I heard the crack clear from inside the kitchen.

TAB

How bad did that hurt man?

CHARLES

Cannon ball bad.

Suddenly Roberta Flacks "The First Time I  
Ever Saw Your Face" Booms from the stereo.

CHARLES

Why don't you put on some Beethoven.

MAMIE

He's dead.

CHARLES

So is Roberta Flack.

MAMIE

Not for two hundred years.

Charles waves his hand whatever.

TAB

I broke my back once. Cracked three vertebra.

Boom gives Tab a sensual side squeeze.

BOOM

On our honeymoon.

TAB

One vertebra the first hour, second the second hour.

BUD

Damn son three hours.

TAB

And the third one the fifth hour.

BOOM

We're tantric.

CHARLES

Good for you both, you can cancel the gym membership.

BUD

I've heard of that. An iceberg will do that. But that's great you kept going for so long as little Tab was sinking. I've never had a problem.

TAB

I don't think you--

BUD

Hey Chuck look at our wives.

Mamie and Iris glance into each others eyes,  
pressed tight against each other as they slow  
dance in a groove.

CHARLES

Women dance together Bud. All the time.

BOOM

Starts at middle school dances. Boys with playboy bunnies in there eyes and lead in their shoes.

TAB

It takes a strong hand to put it in our short, that's for sure.

Bud cracks his knuckles.

BOOM

Though there is a look in their eyes.

BUD

Lesbians?

CHARLES

Not enough luck in the world...

BUD

Hope is not a strategy.

Suddenly Iris backs up agitated from Mamie.

IRIS

What do you mean you're not going on the vacation this year?

MAMIE

I'm sorry but...

IRIS

Gash darn it we've been waiting three years. Three years running no, no, no!

MAMIE

My schedule at the University... Since I got tenure...



IRIS

Oh we know, you're so important. Your perfect job, You're perfect son and let's not forget your husband. I'm Sven you're Ole Bud.

Charles flashes Mamie a wide grin.

IRIS

Guess you have to live next door for you to have time of day for anyone.

MAMIE

Now that isn't true.

IRIS

Bud works so hard all year for the chance every year at the perfect vacation. That we used to spend with our best friends.

MAMIE

Now you don't know everything.

IRIS

How are we going to be Grandparents together if we can't even--

MAMIE

I just need to figure things out.

IRIS

Figure things out? Friends for years and you need to figure things out? I don't think I've done anything wrong, we haven't spent any time together.

Mamie glances down in a stare then quick back up again.

MAMIE

We're getting a divorce OK a fucking divorce!

IRIS

So you don't want to be my friend anymore, fine with me, great.

MAMIE

No, not us, me and Charles. Me and Charles are getting a divorce.

CHARLES

Not yet, we are working on it.

Mamie glares back at Charles

MAMIE

Yes we are working on a divorce.

BOOM

I'm so sorry, that's got to be devastating.

Tab side hugs Boom

TAB

That just dulls the gold.

MAMIE

Sorry to mess up your apparel alchemy, but it's happening.

IRIS

You can't, you're both so perfect.

CHARLES

I've been trying to tell her.

IRIS

But all those years...

MAMIE

It's all just locked away behind glass in a picture frame. History on the wall.

Bud slaps Charles on the back.

BUD

Tough luck Chuck. And you love history. If you need a wingman I can report for duty.

IRIS

Bud you're not helping. Mamie I'm so, so sorry.

Iris gives Mamie a hug.

IRIS

Then you can come with us on vacation. I can help you work everything out down to burning his underwear. Or we can plan for the Grand baby and buy all sorts of toys.

Suddenly Bud chucks his phone down on the table.

BUD

Nobody's going anywhere.

IRIS

If you think we are taking cheating Chucks side then you can join him.

CHARLES

Whoa who cheated?

BOOM

For shame.

TAB

You're history.

MAMIE

Well it would have shown me it still worked. That would have been something at least.

BUD

I didn't earn the vacation this year. I didn't get it.

IRIS

You always get it, twenty years straight. How could you?

Iris and Bud stroll towards each other and meet in front of the kitchen island.

BUD

How could I? New young salesman getting all the leads, the ladies love him. And he takes the boss to the strip clubs.

IRIS

You know I don't mind if you go to those. If you've seen one pair of tits you've seen them all.

Iris sides her eyes quick towards Boom.

IRIS

Whatever it takes to get that money Honey.

BUD

You're gonna wish you never said that.

IRIS

There were prostitutes?

BUD

God I hope not.

IRIS

'Cause you can just go stand next to your best friend cheatin' Chuck.

CHARLES

Again, noooooobody cheated. Right Mamie?

(pause)

Mamie taps her foot with her arms folded tight  
in front of her as she stares at Charles.

CHARLES

Right Mamie!

MAMIE

He has no evidence.

CHARLES

Oh please...

(pause)

Mamie strolls over to Charles with a sarcastic  
grin on her face.

IRIS

Bud can we get back to your whores please

BUD

I saw Violet... I saw Violet, I saw Violet.

IRIS

Yea yesterday I know. Don't you dare try to change the subject like you always do.

BUD

No, I saw Violet.

IRIS

You're insane in the membrane.

CHARLES

What Bud is so eloquently trying to say is that when he went with his boss the last time he went to the strip club, he saw Violet... Dancing.

IRIS

WHAT!?

BUD

I looked up there she was. She didn't notice me. I dragged my boss out right away.

IRIS

And you kept this from me!? ARE YOU INSANE?!

CHARLES

It's all fixed now.

IRIS

What! How is it all fixed? Doesn't seem like it all fixed now to me.

MAMIE

How do you know?!

CHARLES

Me and Bud went back the next day and talked her into quitting.

MAMIE AND IRIS

WHAT!?

Mamie slaps Charles in the arm.

MAMIE

You kept it from me?

IRIS

You saw my baby naked as a jay bird?

CHARLES

Oh come on she used to topless sunbath in the backyard all the time.

Bud turns around with anger in every muscle in his body.

BUD

That's not true. You're gonna die.

Bud lunges towards Charles but Mamie steps in the way.

MAMIE

Bud it's true, I saw it with my own eyes.

IRIS

WHAT?! And you kept it from me?

MAMIE

Just a teenager being a teenager I thought.

IRIS

And now she's a whore.

CHARLES

No just a dancer.

MAMIE

Topless.

CHARLES

You are not helping.

MAMIE

I know.

Bud puts his arms on Iris's shoulders.

BUD

But lets remember she quit. She was worried about money for the baby. And now I'm giving her some. Chuck rented out the champagne room and went in and talked her out of it. Hey wait a minute.

CHARLES

Wanna kill me now wingman?

MAMIE

So you already knew about the baby?!

BUD

He didn't know, Violet told me later.

MAMIE

So then how did you get her to quit?

CHARLES

I simply told young Miss Violet that I would be in the Boom Boom Room everyday until she did.

MAMIE

Trust me that would definitely do it. Definitely.

(pause)

Everyone takes a drink of wine.

BOOM

Tab, how come you never take me on vacation?

TAB

I get clients ready for vacation all day long, You are my vacation from the vacations.

BOOM

(laughing)

What a load of bullshit.

Boom's phone dings on the table.

She races to it. Picks it up and gazes down at the screen.

Suddenly Boom SCREAMS OUT!

MAMIE

Did someone pass? I'm so sorry.

Tab and everyone rushes to Boom.

BOOM

The sonogram, the sonogram!

TAB

What's wrong?

Tab wraps his arm around her and tries to look at the phone screen.

BOOM

Oh, no, no, no...

TAB

What? What?

(pause)

Tab with a gentle touch grabs her face and looks into Booms eyes.

BOOM

Triplets.

Iris claps.

IRIS

Congratulations. Wow.

MAMIE

Yes congratulations.

IRIS

Babies for everyone.



MAMIE

They can all play together.

Tab just stares at the phone stunned.

BUD

Better watch Tab there with his narco flop.

CHARLES

Is there anything I can get you both?

TAB

Triplet is three right?

CHARLES

Can confirm.

TAB

That's a lot of topless sunbathing.

IRIS

Oh don't worry Chuck here will let you know.

Charles glares over at Iris.

(pause)

BOOM

Well I believe it is time for dessert..

### **ANYONE FOR DESERT?**

Charles strolls over to the stereo and puts on some bebop jazz.

BUD

So what makes it so secret? Is it one of those gold flake things?

TAB

Secret ingredient for sure.

Boom bounces over to her tote bag.

BOOM

The taste will take you out of this world.

CHARLES

Say Boom, about those wind chimes, I was thinking...

MAMIE

Charles would like to buy two instead of one?

BOOM

Wait for a windy day and take your pick.

Boom removes a pan from the bag and pops off  
the lid.

BOOM

Super secret dessert.

BUD

They're just brownies. I was expecting frosting, craving it actually.

TAB

Oh they will make you feel like frosting.

IRIS

Bud doesn't understand.

BUD

Got it the frosting is on the inside like a Juicy Lucy.

CHARLES

There's something on the inside alright and yes, YOU will burn your thumbs.

BUD

What?

MAMIE

Pot Bud. They are pot brownies.

BUD

Illegal drugs?

CHARLES

Not anymore El Hefe, not anymore.

IRIS

You'd better be careful Bud. This isn't a eat half the pan kind of dessert.

TAB

That would be a wild experience.

IRIS

He'd crap his pants... Twice.

MAMIE

What strain did you use?

CHARLES

Strain did you use? You don't know anything about marijuana.

MAMIE

I was in college for seven years Charles. I've done a lot of things that would be too much for you to know.

CHARLES

I can know anything.

MAMIE

You are better left with nothing.

CHARLES

I know everything about you.

BOOM

Sooo, the strain is, the Girl scout cookie strain.

BUD

Well that seems harmless. Named after girl scouts. And if it's used in brownies why didn't they just name the strain after the brownies?

TAB

Indeed.

CHARLES

Some mysteries Bud are left for history to decide long after we are gone.

BUD

Well I've never done drugs.

Suddenly Boom pushes one in Buds open  
mouth.

BOOM

Well now you have.

IRIS

Chew slow Bud.

BUD

(with his mouthful)

Physically impossible.

CHARLES

I can vouch for him on that.

Boom holds out the pan so everyone can take  
one.

BOOM

Take one to be polite, two to make it a party.

MAMIE

Hey I know, why don't we play three lies and the truth, since Charles here knows  
everything about me.

CHARLES

Anything but charades. There should be vaccinations against theater kids.

MAMIE

Well if anyone is big on drama that would be you Charles.

CHARLES

I just bring the party.

Tab grabs the lapels of his gold lame jacket and pops them.

TAB

Hey I thought that was my job.

MAMIE

Oh it's available.

BUD

I feel tingly in my head.

BOOM

Since I'm having triplets, Bud you can have mine.

IRIS

Oh no you will not Ole.

Iris takes another brownie and plops it in her mouth.

BUD

Hey careful, you've never done drugs either.

IRIS

Bud it's just pot and you seem to forget I went to college with Mamie and I have done things you don't know either, so there.

BUD

Chuck our women are wild. And have ink to prove it.

Tab shakes his head..

TAB

This does have a kick to it.

BOOM

You be careful too Tab we don't want a repeat of the Minneapolis incident.

MAMIE

What was that?

TAB

I am sworn to secrecy.

CHARLES

Speaking of secrecy. I was the child mayor of my the small town I grew up in, I'm ten percent Neanderthal. I am related to Napoleon.

MAMIE

Well I know nothing about those things Charles. What a fascinating life you've led.

TAB

I just don't see Napoleon.

MAMIE

At Waterloo maybe.

IRIS

I remember last five years ago you did take that DNA test. And you mentioned that most people have five percent Neanderthal blood in them.

BOOM

Yeah that's a truth.

MAMIE

I'd say so also. When he was thirty five his back became a caveman.

BUD

Chuck you're ancestors were humpin' apes.

CHARLES

Bud, Charles Darwin would have jumped off the Beagle if he would have met you.

IRIS

Bud is a pretty good swimmer.

Everyone starts to loosen up and laugh because  
of the effects of the pot brownies.

TAB

And knowing now that you are a history buff, The kid mayor is the truth.

CHARLES

Correct!

MAMIE

No way I'm calling bullshit. No way, no way.

BUD

I'd vote for ya.

BOOM

His eyes don't have the look of a lie. They just don't.

CHARLES

I ran as a school project and won. My Dad had to serve my four year term, but I won.

MAMIE

Well I never knew.

CHARLES

Ha!.

MAMIE

But you weren't re-elected were you?

BUD

I love this game. I was a porn star, I've seen a UFO, and I hate take and bake pizza.

IRIS

Bud a porn star? Oh my God, what was your name, Bud light.

Bud winks at Iris and slaps her on the butt.

TAB

I always thought a great male porn star name would be Christian Rock.

MAMIE

(laughing)

That is hilarious. Oh my God. Shit.

BOOM

OK, OK so no porn star. On to the UFO. UFO! UFO!

Boom waves her arms in the air.

CHARLES

If the aliens would have abducted Bud they would have vaporized us.

Charles makes a ray gun finger and shakes it at  
Bud as he laughs.

IRIS

Well I know for a fact that if all Bud could ever eat was pizza, he would do it.

BUD

But not take and bake, fine if its a cardboard variety from the grocery.

TAB

Great for the munchies.

BUD

But when you go to an actual pizza place, you want the damn thing cooked.

BOOM

Here, here.

MAMIE

Pizza, pizza.

BUD

When you go to Murry's Steakhouse they don't slap a frozen ribeye in your hand and tell ya to have a nice night. No they cook it.

CHARLES

And put it on a plate.

TAB

Knife and fork.

IRIS

I dropped my spoon on the floor.

CHARLES

So pizza it is! Four, eight, eight, eight.



Boom begins to dance with sensual moves.

BOOM

Well for me also a porn star--

BUD

Believe it next.

Bud slaps his hands together like a bull fighter.

IRIS

Bud that's rude. Prolly true but rude.

TAB

Hey I tried to talk her into it so I could retire but she said no 'cause they wouldn't let her use her real name... Boomquifa.

Mamie bursts out with a loud HA!

MAMIE

Oh my God I forgot about that.

Everyone giggles and laughs.

Bud salutes Boom.

BUD

It's like a boy named Sue.

IRIS

But with that body you could pull any name off.

Tab goes in for a carnal hug.

TAB

She sure could.

BOOM

How 'bout I sold pot to pay my way through college.

Bud grabs another brownie.

BUD

Sold! Give the lady a Doctorate.

TAB

I once mated with a dolphin.

BUD

I knew there were gay players in the NFL.

TAB

No the actual fish.

MAMIE

Mammal.

CHARLES

So your that guy, I've heard of you. Wow .

BOOM

Have you seen the size of a dolphin's penis? She wouldn't even know you were in the state, let alone the neighborhood.

IRIS

Who said it was a she dolphin?

TAB

Booya!

Iris and Tab high five as they laugh.

TAB

I punched a camel.

CHARLES

Those things spit I'd punch one to.

BOOM

He's a pacifist.

Charles pretends to punch Bud in the face. Bud doesn't flinch, he just smiles.

TAB

I am an ordained minister. Church of humanity. Ordained online mind you to give it more authenticity.

IRIS

Bud we could renew our vows. Right here right now. That would be so romantic.

BUD

You finally give in on the anal sex?

IRIS

Hell no never! And no thumb in either.

BUD

Sorry preacher.

CHARLES

Mamie, you told me we had to do it because Iris was bragging how good it felt.

MAMIE

Lies, lies, lies all lies.

Iris slaps Mamie on the butt.

BOOM

Tab they got you at minister.

Iris jumps up and down.

IRIS

Me. Me... I am in a loving relationship.

MAMIE

Oh Good For You...

CHARLES

Double that...

Tab claps a round of applause as Iris bows.

TAB

As a man of the cloth, gold lame, it's my duty to celebrate that.

IRIS

OK... I've embezzled money!

BUD

You're as honest as the day is long. Whatever the next one is, is it.

IRIS

I've ridden a Clydesdale, clip pity clomp

BUD

She got arrested for it on one of our vacation, but I was there, that one is true.

IRIS

Oh come on, that's not fair Bud dared me.

MAMIE

Woo Hoo! OK here we go.

Mamie giggles with helpless body contortions.

BUD

Lets do this!

Bud high fives into the air and almost falls over as he cackles.

TAB

Last one, this has to be the best one. Don't let us down.

BOOM

I think it will be Mamie who drinks the most wine.

Mamie side eyes both her bottles, with one left down to backwash.

BUD

Let's go Chuck. It's you're time to get even.

CHARLES

We are plenty even.

Bud drums rolls on Iris's shoulders.

Mamie stomps her feet and rolls her shoulders  
like a prize fighter as she enters the ring.

MAMIE

Prince once bought me a mattress after a house party . I dream in black and white, and I  
am bisexual.

Mamie as she laughs, lifts her arms high into the  
air.

TAB

The Prince?

MAMIE

He would have loved your jacket.

CHARLES

I've never heard this mattress story, ever. Not true, not true.

BOOM

What was he like. Had to be super weird right?

BUD

I've never seen purple rain.

Bud raises his arms and flutters his fingers down  
like rain.

MAMIE

He was very nice. We had a party at our apartment in college and I went to my room to  
chill a bit and was just sitting on my bed.

CHARLES

Riveting.

MAMIE

AND, Prince came in and sat down next to me. Don't know how or why he was there.

BUD

The Prince, purple Prince? Purple nurple Prince?

MAMIE

The Prince. We've established this.

CHARLES

Me and Bon Jovi hung out all the time.

TAB

Did he try to make out? Kissy, kissy Boom.

BOOM

I'll bet he was a great kisser, mmm, mmmm, mmmmmm.

MAMIE

I wish. We sat there on my bed for like five minutes me in shock. Finally her turns to me--

BUD

The kissin'.

IRIS

Bud...

MAMIE

He turns to me, looked me straight in the eyes and said... This mattress is lumpy as hell. Then he got up and left.

CHARLES

Still never heard it.

MAMIE

The very next day a brand new mattress was delivered to our apartment. The top of the line. Nothing from him ever again.

TAB

(laughing)

Surreal kindness at it's best and the best. Woo that is wild

BOOM

I knew he was cool. Good kissers are always cool.

IRIS

It was the most comfortable mattress I've ever been on.

BOOM

You? Wait...

CHARLES

Remember they were roommates in college. I guess I believe it now.

IRIS

That mattress made you sleep like a breastfed baby.

TAB

Sleep like a Prince.

CHARLES

Wait...

BUD

I dream in black and white too, after three beers. Any less and it's full color. Wonder what that means?

CHARLES

(laughing)

It means Freud was a fraud.

MAMIE

It's just always been that way.

BOOM

Are you color blind?

IRIS

She's just near sighted.

Everyone laugh louder than they should have.

BUD

And I suppose she says she's Bi, because of my browser history lie?

Bud laughs out loud and does a wiggle dance.

IRIS

Bud that's not funny, they are getting a divorce.

CHARLES

(laughing)

Oh it's hilarious. Imagine Mamie bi.

MAMIE

I'll bet you've imagined that. Several, several times.

TAB

I think it's a natural wonderful thing to imagine.

BUD

As long as you didn't imagine Iris in as part of Mamie's dynamic duo.

BOOM

Now everyone's experimented a bit I'm sure.

BUD

Not me.

CHARLES

Definitely not me.

MAMIE

Tell me about it.

TAB

Just hand jobs for me.

BUD

(laughing)

Oh Tab, tab, the fluffer man.

IRIS

Again Bud not funny. What people do on their own time...

TAB

(laughing)

It was kinda funny.



BOOM

I was ashamed he had to do. But a necessary task in the moment.

BUD

(laughing)

Stop, stop, This is driving me crazy. Chuck there is no way your wife is bi.

MAMIE

His wife? Not Mamie?

CHARLES

(laughing)

Now you stepped in it Bud.

BUD

(laughing)

There is no way Mamie is bi. Iris either for that matter. It's not in their DNA.

IRIS

So you know everything to know do you Sven? You are so, so sure what is true and not true?

MAMIE

(stern)

Iris...

BOOM

I think this is the right time to let everyone know that there is a second part to dessert tonight.

TAB

(stern)

Boomquifa...

BOOM

The frosting if you will.

BUD

(laughing)

WOO, I knew there was going to be frosting!

IRIS

OK Bud, slap this on your cake.

Bud turn his butt to Iris and tries to do a twerk.  
Everyone laughs but Iris and Mamie.

MAMIE

Well Mr. Know it all. I will have you know that--

MAMIE

Iris no!

BUD

Do what Mommy says.

IRIS

I will have you know that I myself am bi. Very bi, still bi.

Bud and Charles HOWL with laughter.

MAMIE

Well...

IRIS

But I love you Bud.

Mamie shakes her head.

CHARLES

(laughing)

I'm sorry Bud, you can come on vacation with us.

BUD

(laughing)

We'll go to Lesbos island in Greece.

TAB

It's a real place.

BOOM

Been there myself many times.

BUD

Now that I believe!

IRIS

And guess who I was bi with Bud? Our very own--

MAMIE

IRIS!

IRIS

Our very own Mamie.

Mamie throws her hands up in the air.

BUD

(laughing hysterically)

Wait, wait, on Princes mattress? Well Darling Nikki.

CHARLES

(laughing)

The Most Beautiful Girl In The World!

Boom and Tab start to slow dance.

IRIS

And for the candle on top!

MAMIE

No!!

CHARLES

I hate candles.

MAMIE

Oh you are going to love this one.

IRIS

I know he will.

BUD

I get to blow it out!

IRIS

Me and Mamie.

MAMIE

Mamie and I.

Iris swats her hand in the air at Mamie.

IRIS

Mamie and I were even engaged in college. So there! Frost that on your damn smile Ole!!

MAMIE

Well there it is...

Mamie sinks her head.

Bud doubles over with laughter

BUD

Honey moon Prince mattress!

Tab gulps his wine.

Charles stares at Mamie.

CHARLES

Wait Bud Wait... Iris is telling the truth.

BUD

(laughing)

And I'm a porn star!

Iris runs over to Mamie and hugs her and grins.

Mamie has a pained look on her face.

CHARLES

No, no, no. Bud she's telling the truth. Iris's telling the truth. I know that look. I know that look.

Iris slaps her own butt.

IRIS

Told you Bud. Laugh all the way to the ass slap. So now you know, now everyone knows.

BUD

(laughter dying down)

No way. How?

BOOM

I think on the Prince mattress is how.

CHARLES

She's telling the truth man, tellin' the truth. Oh no, no, no.

TAB

I know what the frosting is.

CHARLES

Mamie how could you never tell me?!

BUD

(very sad)

All the brownies are mine. You can't lose what you don't have. What is life?

CHARLES

Buddie come on, take a minute collect your thoughts.

BUD

That's the first time you ever called me Buddie. You are my best friend.

BOOM

Oh Wow, this is a group hug moment if there ever was one.

Bud bends over, his head between his legs as he breathes heavy.

BUD

I'll never vacation again. Just, just... I just don't know.

Charles strolls over the Mamie, holds both of her hands in a tender motion.

CHARLES

I just can't believe this.

MAMIE

Me and Iris still get together once a year for old times sake to get it out of our systems.

BUD

(very sad)

Oh my God.

TAB

It will work itself out Bud.

BOOM

I mean most times it does.

BUD

Most times?

Bud starts a frantic pace around the room.

IRIS

It's nothing to worry about Bud calm down.

BUD

It's everything to worry about.

CHARLES

Is this why you want a divorce.

MAMIE

No that is just about you and me.

IRIS

Nobody has anything to worry about, it's just sex, that's all it is.

BUD

Oh my God...

Bud runs his hand tight through his hair.

MAMIE

Pure hot passionate sex, just once a year.

BUD

But I love you Iris...

IRIS

I love you too Bud it's just sex.. Thunb in.

Bud throws his hand up in the air and spins around.

Charles shakes his head.

CHARLES

Just looking back in my mind. I don't remember suspecting..

IRIS

We were always surprised you didn't figure it out.

BUD

Chuck I need a wing man bad.

Charles' eyes go wide.

MAMIE

It was all there in black and white.

Charles suddenly turns his head to Mamie in a stare

BUD

Did it happen on vacations? Was that the once a year?

IRIS

No Bud we made it our own special time every year, just the two of us away.

BUD

Oh God...

MAMIE  
On April first. Spring has sprung.

BOOM  
Oh!

TAB  
HA!

Charles spins in a circle as he gasps.

CHARLES  
Unbelievable...

Mamie and Iris begin to laugh hysterically.

BUD  
What? What's so funny, how can you laugh? How can you laugh?

TAB  
They got you both good.

BOOM  
Pure genius.

BUD  
Whaaaat!?

CHARLES  
APRIL FIRST. April first Bud. April Fools. It never happened, we've been had.

Everyone laughs even Charles  
(pause)

BUD  
I knew that.

BOOM  
It's such a great holiday.

Bud grabs his wine glass and gulps.

Iris rushes up and side hugs Bud.



IRIS

I love you.

Bud shrugs her off.

BUD

Fun way to show it Sven.

TAB

A funny way to show it that's for sure. Pure Gold. Gold Lane.

CHARLES

I was hoping it was true, then I would have a reason for the divorce.

MAMIE

We could try more sex.. Watch a romcom.

Everyone fills their wine glasses and strolls over to the breakfast island.

CHARLES

You know me and romcoms.

MAMIE

I know you are stuck in your ways and it's beyond banal and boring. And infuriating. We've needed a new car for ten years but you refuse to budge and even look a new one. That Ford focus is done.

CHARLES

A new car is so expensive..

MAMIE

But all the repairs over the years add up quick.

CHARLES

Just buy another used car.

MAMIE

Then you are just buying someone else's problems. And repair shops are always dishonest.

CHARLES

Maybe it just needs a tune-up?

MAMIE

No, you need a new clutch and one of you headlights are out.

CHARLES

That's a do it yourself project.

MAMIE

You've been doing a lot of that lately.

CHARLES

It could be our Focus is just out of gas.

MAMIE

Taking a walk wouldn't be the worst thing.

Bud suddenly lift a box out of the tote bag

BUD

Hey I found the frosting! Edible chocolate flavored body paints for couples. Enhance fun and intimacy with skin-friendly, mess-free. Ease to clean.

MAMIE

Are you up for that Charles. Put things in focus?

BUD

So how do you paint people?

IRIS

Nude Bud, with no clothes.

TAB

We're all adults.

BUD

Oh no, I could never be unfaithful to Iris.

IRIS

I don't know, I think it might be fun. I've seen your search history too Bud.

BUD

I don't know. My head is spinin'. If Chuck does it I'll do it.

MAMIE

Well Chuck, what do you say?

TAB

It's just painting that's all we Promise.

CHARLES

This is how Van Gogh became mentally disturbed.

BOOM

Bud you'll get to see the Brazilian.

Boom leans over and whisper's something to  
Iris.

BUD

Oh I don't...

Boom quick lifts up her skirt and flashes Bud.

BUD

Oh wow!

IRIS

(laughing)

You OK ?

BUD

Clear cut the whole damn rainforest.

TAB

I can get you all appointments.

MAMIE

Charles should I make an appointment?

CHARLES

Ok fine but I wants the lights down way down. Way down.

MAMIE

The light of Jesus will watch over us sinners.

BUD

I have a question, hell I have lots of questions.

BOOM

Ask away.

BUD

Are there certain parts we can't paint?

BOOM

Just ask for permission.

IRIS

But don't be crude and just paint X's on all the tingly parts.

TAB

Yes be artistic.

CHARLES

Uh if I could chime in a moment.

MAMIE

(laughing)

Go ahead Charles.

CHARLES

Do we do this piecemeal with the clothes like in strip poker or just drop everything and get it over with?

Bud claps.

BUD

Great question, great question.

IRIS

It's not a game show Bud.

BOOM

Remove whatever clothing you feel comfortable with.

TAB

But keep in mind if you want to paint somewhere on someone else. You have to make that spot available on your canvas.

BOOM

And we all need to be in close together no paired off partners.

CHARLES

I'm beginning to get the feeling the both of you have done this kind of thing before.

MAMIE

I can't believe we are actually doing this, we were just talking about philosophy.

CHARLES

Second thoughts Dear? There's always a romcom?

MAMIE

My thoughts are clear.

CHARLES

You're the one that mentioned hedonism.

IRIS

Wait we are about to be Grandparents.

MAMIE

Exactly.

Boom thumb hooks the straps of her V neck dress wide and out in front, then lets it drop to her waste. Black lacy bra on.

BOOM

I'm starting like this.

IRIS

No clapping Bud. You clap and you're dead.

Bud yanks his clip on tie off and tossed it to the floor, then rips his shirt of and flings it in the air.

CHARLES

Can I clap now?

Iris rolls down her sundress to the waist.

IRIS

Now I'm Pinot noir too. Bra stays on.

Mamie takes of her pants suit down to her underwear.

Charles quick follows suit.

Boom goes around and hands every one a jar of chocolate and a brush.

MAMIE

Charles I've bought you plenty of boxers why do you insist on still wearing those tighty whities?

CHARLES

I just love a classic look.

TAB

I do hate to lose the jacket.

Tab gets down to his boxers.

MAMIE

See that's a classic look.

BUD

OK hold on.

Bud (with his back to the audience), kicks off his shoes, drops trow and steps out of them.

Then he drops his boxers to the floor.

Every one freezes mouths agape.

The rooster from next store goes "COCK-A-DOODLE-DO"

BOOM

That is an award winner.

MAMIE

You were a porn star.

IRIS

It is a very nice vacation dontcha know.

CHARLES

That's an arm.

TAB

And half a jar of paint.

IRIS

OK Bud you've shown off now put it away.

BUD

It's not fair, not fair I tell you.

Bud pulls his boxers back up, then dips his brush and paints a smile on Mamie's face.

Mamie paints a dick on Charles' forehead as everyone laughs.

MAMIE

Thanks for modeling Bud.

CHARLES

So romantic.

Iris paints a sun on her belly and rotates around Boom.

TAB

Very funny Iris.

Tab paints a heart on his chest. And then hugs Boom to transfer it to her, sort of.

MAMIE

Charles it is your turn.

CHARLES

I'm a shy artist.

MAMIE

Is there kissing?

BOOM

Only kiss your spouse and touching anyone else with permission. Where's that elephant thing?

MAMIE

Shangri-la

Mamie turns to Charles and kisses him slow and passionate.

Tab starts painting swirls on Boom's breast.

Bud bends down and accidentally pushes Iris into Charles a bit.

He kisses Iris's shoulder and works his way down in sensuous pecks.

CHARLES

Bud you are kissing my damn arm.

(pause)

MAMIE

Thank you Charles, I love you.

Suddenly a spotlight on the back corner.



An old woman stands in the stairs doorway,  
arms crossed tight in front of her.

CHARLES

(surprised)

Mother!

MAMIE

(monotone)

Mother...

Bud drops his brush to the floor.

MOTHER CHARLES

What the hell is going on out here? Isn't anyone going to feed me? You dumbasses should  
be on a bed. Damn rookies.

Tab passes out backwards to the floor.

Blackout

**THE END**