

At Birth

a dirty comedy by

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At Birth

By Mark Cornell

Characters:

Julius, 45, black, smart, athletic, handsome, jerkish, from Detroit

Ethan, 38, Julius's boyfriend, white, smart, high-strung, from England

Brittney, 20, white, big girl, dim bulb, emotional, Carolina girl

Matt, 21, Brittney's husband, white, small, aggressive, Carolina boy

Savannah, 38, white, Matt's mother, oversexed, trashy, Carolina girl

A parrot (hidden), voice only

A snake (dead), doesn't speak

A baby (not real), cries

Setting:

Brittney and Matt's mobile home in the country, near Chapel Hill, NC

Time:

The middle of November.

Note-

When the parrot speaks, he should repeat exactly, accent and all, the person he imitates. The parrot should be a live voice and not a recording.

Act One

Lights up on the inside of an old and trashy trailer home. Outside the trailer, we see a chain go from a metal stake in a cemented tire to under the house. There should be an old bike and car parts visible. The trailer has several antenna on the roof, as well as a satellite dish. Inside the trailer, baby stuff and toys are scattered around worn furniture. On the walls are a Dale Earnhardt poster, Carolina Panthers gear, a large gold cross. In a corner of the living area, a huge birdcage is covered by a blanket. Off left, a small, dirty kitchen loaded with dishes and piled food items. ETHAN, 38, and JULIUS, 45, stand, taking it all in. Both are dressed casually, but clean and sharp. The TV blasts *Animal Planet*. From somewhere in the room there is meowing, as if from a cat. It is unnaturally loud. Outside, a dog barks. After a moment, JULIUS grabs the remote and hits the TV off. Momentary silence. Then the sound of someone down the hall vomiting.

JULIUS

Do not judge, sweetie.

ETHAN spies a large glass case.

ETHAN

That's a python, isn't it? In that glass case?

JULIUS

Who doesn't like a good living room snake?

ETHAN picks up a huge jug of murky water from a wall shelf, looking inside. He shakes the jug and pieces of something unpleasant rise from the bottom.

ETHAN

Something horrific used to be in this jug.

JULIUS

Not necessarily.

ETHAN sniffs the jug, recoils.

ETHAN

Bloody hell.

JULIUS

What are you doing? Put that down.

ETHAN

Smell this.

JULIUS

No. Put it down.

ETHAN

Smell it, Julius. Tell me it doesn't smell like death.

JULIUS

Give me that.

JULIUS takes the jug from ETHAN, screws to top on, and puts it down.

ETHAN

(breathing heavily)

Oh, no. I can feel myself getting hysterical.

JULIUS

Honey, don't do that. I don't have your Lorazepam.

ETHAN

If I see a confederate flag, I'm going screaming into the abyss.

JULIUS

No, you are not. We are not spending the afternoon arguing about critical race theory or the wall or gay rights or the second amendment or-

ETHAN

You want me to close my eyes, Julius, and act like-

JULIUS

Ethan, you promised me you would make nice today.

ETHAN

Our eight month old daughter has been living in a trailer with a 20-foot Nazi python and you want me to make nice?

JULIUS

The python is not a Nazi.

ETHAN

You don't know that.

JULIUS

Maybe it would help you if you smiled.

ETHAN

How about a half-hearted sneer?

JULIUS

I read that when we smile, even if it's forced, our bodies produce endorphins which make us feel better. Try it.

He smiles. They wait for it to take effect. They wait a long time.

JULIUS (cont'd)

Well?

ETHAN

It's not working. In fact, I'm feeling bitchy.

JULIUS

Maybe it takes a little longer for you.

Then: a toilet flushes. Moments later, BRITTNEY enters from the hall. She is a large girl, around 20, in sweat pants and a sweatshirt that has a big number "8" on it.

BRITTNEY

I gotta stop bingin' on Twizzlers.

BRITTNEY grabs a box of Twinkies from the top of the TV, opens the door...

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

(playful)

OK, Dale, here's dinner! Twinkies! Do you want it? Do you? Show me you do! Show me, show me, show me!

...and, as the dog goes absolutely ballistic, yanking his chain taut, she tosses the Twinkies box outside. After mauling the box, the dog quiets. BRITTNEY closes the door.

JULIUS

Some dog you got there.

BRITTNEY

Pit bulls're totally misunderstood.

ETHAN

Are they?

BRITTNEY

Dale's, like, the most gentle dog you've ever seen. Except when he's hungry. Or it's rainin'.

Outside, thunder rumbles. The dog roars. Inside, more meowing. It's loud.

JULIUS

I guess the cat doesn't like the rain, either. Wherever it is.

BRITTNEY

That ain't the cat. The cat died.

(emotional)

It was an ugly death.

BRITTNEY goes into the kitchen, prepping to remove something from the oven.

ETHAN

So what's meowing?

BRITTNEY

(pointing to the covered birdcage)

That's the parrot. He misses the cat.

JULIUS and ETHAN turn to the birdcage covered in a blanket.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

They loved each other crazy, like Adam and Eve did. Don't worry, he'll stop meowin'.

They all wait as the parrot meows. A half-dozen times. Stops.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

See? If I don't put the blanket over the cage, he'll spend, like, the whole day lookin' for the cat. Ever seen a parrot cry?

(emotional)

It's the most gut-wrenchin' thing you ever seen in your life.

A buzzer goes off in the kitchen.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

I hope y'all love cupcakes!

BRITTNEY gets the buzzer. She removes cupcakes from the oven.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

Gonna let 'em cool down before I put the Candy Cane icin' on.
Have a seat gentlemen.

They sit on an old couch. Entering the living area again, BRITTNEY grabs the remote and turns on the TV again. Up comes *Animal Planet*. She sits in an old barcalounger. Awkward. A cell phone rings. It's the sound of a car burning rubber. BRITTNEY digs into her sweat pants.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

Sorry, that's my cell. It's prob'ly Matt. I hope it's Matt.
(emotional)
My life is a total zero without Matt.

She looks at the phone.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

It's Matt. Thank you, Jesus.

Standing, she answers the phone, walking away for a bit of privacy.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

(on phone, like a little girl)

Hello, Matty-wattie gummy bear. (beat) Yeah, they're here.
Where're you? You were supposed to be here 15 minutes ago.

JULIUS turns off the TV.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

(on phone)

Well, hurry your lovable little man cheeks along, munchkin
boo-boo.

(emotional)

I miss you so much.

She kisses the phone, then ends the call. She wipes her teary eyes.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

He's on his way. He was huntin'. And he always loses track of time when he's killing things, doggone it.

She hits the TV on and sits again.
Awkward.

JULIUS

Do you think we could do this without the TV on? If you don't mind?

BRITTNEY

(getting up)

No, gosh. I'm sorry. Just a habit I got.

She shuts off the TV.

BRITTNEY

Matt's workin' all the time at the shop and I like to have it on. Just makes me feel like I ain't all alone in the world. I had postpartum depression real bad. Like, *oh, my God*. I mean, I'm good now, but there were days when I felt like the TV was the only thing that kept me from huggin' a toaster in the bathtub. But it can be off.

BRITTNEY sits again. Very awkward silence now. The bird meows. Several times. Staring at the blank, quiet TV, BRITTNEY starts to panic a little, until...

ETHAN

I must say, this is a very...*comfortable* place to raise a child.

JULIUS

Ethan.

ETHAN

What?

JULIUS

Don't condescend.

ETHAN

I'm not condescending.

(to Brittney)

I'm not condescending. It's lovely here.

JULIUS

Lovely?

ETHAN

Yes, lovely. I think it's lovely.

JULIUS

You think it's lovely?

ETHAN

You want us to make nice, so I'm making nice.

JULIUS

Yeah, but you don't have to be *swimmingly* nice.

(to Brittney)

I'm sorry. Things have been very difficult for Ethan.

ETHAN

I hate it, Julius, when you speak for me.

JULIUS

Well, hasn't it been difficult?

ETHAN

Yes, but-

JULIUS

It's OK to admit to it. It doesn't make you less of a father. You're a *good* father.

ETHAN

OK, I'll admit it.

(to Brittney)

It's been difficult. Extremely bloody difficult. The boy won't sleep, he would hardly take the bottle for months-

JULIUS

Hold on now-

ETHAN

He cries all the time, Brittney. For no reason, seemingly. Hours. Makes you want to drive a nail into your own head.

JULIUS

Brittney doesn't want to hear this.

ETHAN

He spits up constantly. Vomits, really. Like he's bulimic.

JULIUS

He's not bulimic.

(to Brittney)

He's not bulimic.

ETHAN

I didn't say he was bulimic. I said "*like* he's bulimic."
Like he's bulimic.

BRITTNEY giggles.

BRITTNEY

Ethan, has anyone ever told you you sound just like Adele?

ETHAN

Adele? I sound like Adele?

BRITTNEY

You do! It's so weird! It's like havin' a celebrity in my own livin' room!

ETHAN

Actually, Adele is from the Tottenham district of London. She speaks what we would call Estuary English, and in her case, a dab of Cockney, or, Mockney, as we might say. I'm from Cheltenham. In the Cotswolds in Gloucestershire. But I speak BBC English.

BRITTNEY

Wow, I don't even know what you just said. But it sounded, like, exotic, just like Adele. Can you sing?

ETHAN

No.

BRITTNEY

Oh. Too bad. Y'all want a Diet Squirt or somethin'?

JULIUS

That would be fine. Thank you.

BRITTNEY gets up and goes into the kitchen.

BRITTNEY

I can prob'ly frost the cupcakes now, if you're hungry.

JULIUS

We can wait for Matt.

BRITTNEY

Okey-dokey.

As BRITTNEY gets the drinks out of the fridge, JULIUS turns to ETHAN, who cuts him off. They keep their voices low so as not to be heard.

ETHAN

That girl has to be putting on an act.

JULIUS

What are you doing? Brittany doesn't need to know her child has been a horror.

ETHAN

You said to admit that it's been hard.

JULIUS

And moreover, she'll never take the child back if you describe him as some kind of devil baby.

ETHAN

He is the devil, Julius. You'd know that if you were ever home.

JULIUS

That's not fair. I'm home as much as I can be.

ETHAN

Are you?

JULIUS

Look, I know struggle is a new concept for you, Ethan.

ETHAN

Don't you dare give me that bollocks right now.

JULIUS

I'm sorry.

ETHAN

(mocking him)

"Hi, my name is Julius, and it was so hard growing up in Detroit with all the burned out buildings, gun fire, crack heads, race baiting, eating fried bologna every day-

JULIUS

You don't need to-

ETHAN

-not to mention our titanically bad professional gridiron team-

JULIUS

It's called football, and I'm sorry, OK?

ETHAN

Dr. Carlson told us that when we feel like we are crossing lines with each other, that we need to say "line cross"-

JULIUS

-I know that-

ETHAN

-and I have to say that was a major bloody line cross. C'était un gros putain de franchissement de ligne!

JULIUS

Please, I beg you, don't speak French right now. *Please.*

BRITTNEY returns with the drinks.

BRITTNEY

Two Diet Squirts!

She hands them the cans. They pop them open. Sip. They hate it. They both smile. Big. Fake.

JULIUS

We've been a little stressed.

BRITTNEY

(sincere, oblivious)

Really? You don't seem stressed.

JULIUS

We are. The news hit us kind of hard.

ETHAN

As I'm sure it did you.

BRITTNEY

(not following)

Oh, yeah. Like, wow. Like...

BRITTNEY makes the sound of bomb whistling through the air and then exploding. She flails, like it blows her up, as in a video game.

JULIUS

Exactly. To get a call from the hospital telling us some disgruntled nurse had switched our babies?

ETHAN

It's insane.

BRITTNEY

Insane in the membrane.

ETHAN

Plus, there's been a situation at the university. With a student of Julius's.

JULIUS

Line cross, Ethan.

ETHAN

She knows, everyone knows. It's all over the internet.

BRITTNEY

I don't do the internet no more. That's how they track us, you know.

Beat.

ETHAN

Do you have tea? I could really use a cup of tea.

BRITTNEY

We got Diet Squirt. And milk. And Budweiser. But that's for the baby.

JULIUS
What's for the baby?

BRITTNEY
The milk.

The parrot meows.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)
I said the word "milk."
(to parrot)
Sorry, Ricky!
(to Julius and Ethan)
Don't say milk.

The parrot squawks.

THE PARROT
Don't say milk.

It squawks again.

THE PARROT (cont'd)
Don't say milk.

BRITTNEY
Oh, boy. I hope Ricky don't wake the baby. Not that that's ever happened. She slept through the worst crash in Charlotte Motor Speedway history. Happened right in front of us. We had, like, the *best* seats.

JULIUS and ETHAN look at each other.

ETHAN
(stunned)
Baby?

JULIUS
The baby is here?

BRITTNEY
She's sleepin' in the bedroom.

JULIUS
Sleeping? Here? *How?*

ETHAN
May I see her?

BRITTNEY
Sure. Of course.

BRITTNEY pulls out her phone again and starts looking through it.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

I got some really cute July 4th pictures. Here's one of her in her crib holdin' a lit sparkler.

JULIUS

A lit sparkler?

She shows JULIUS the phone. He turns away immediately.

JULIUS (cont'd)

That's not a lit sparkler.

She looks.

BRITTNEY

Oh, my goodness. I am sorry. During the day, Matt likes to send me pictures of his babymakers. He's always thinkin' about me.

ETHAN

No, what I meant was, may I go down the hall and see her? The *real* her.

BRITTNEY

Oh. But she's sleepin'.

JULIUS

Brittney, I thought we agreed "no babies."

BRITTNEY

Matt's mom was gonna watch her, but she got picked up again last night outside the Merrymaker.

JULIUS

Picked up? You mean, arrested?

BRITTNEY

Yeah. She's sorta got this problem. She likes to sell her body for alcohol.

JULIUS

That sounds like two problems.

BRITTNEY

But she is totally *awesome* with the baby. But I keep tellin' her, "Nana, you're, like, too old to be out at bars. You're almost 38."

ETHAN

I'm 38.

BRITTNEY

(laughing, disbelieving)

Oh, no you're not.

(sensing Ethan is serious)

Really? Oh, my God. You don't look that old.

JULIUS

You should have told us the baby was going to be here.

BRITTNEY

Well, I was gonna call and reschedule, but you said today was the only day you could meet.

JULIUS

Yes, I've been a little busier than normal at work, and Ethan's mother is flying in from London tomorrow-

ETHAN

Please, do not pin this on my mum.

JULIUS

Look, the whole point of "no babies" was so they wouldn't be a distraction. So we could talk. Like adults. About this sick joke that's taken place.

BRITTNEY

The baby won't bother no one. I swear. She's an angel.

(emotional)

I would blow my brains out for her.

Crying, BRITTNEY gets up and goes into the kitchen to blow her nose. JULIUS looks at ETHAN, who is clearly focused on seeing their child.

JULIUS

Ethan, just pretend like the baby isn't here.

ETHAN

I'm not like you, Julius. My heart is not an emotional dead zone.

JULIUS

We all have our dead zones, Ethan. Yours is a little further south.

ETHAN

Line cross!

JULIUS

You line crossed first!

ETHAN

I don't think it's too much to be able to walk down the hallway and peek in for two seconds. *Two seconds.*

JULIUS

What about after we talk?

ETHAN

My child is in the next room. A child I haven't seen for eight months-

JULIUS

You can't wait another half hour?

ETHAN

Don't you want to see her?

JULIUS

Sure, but-

ETHAN

Doesn't having her so close make you go *absolutely mad*?

JULIUS

I want to deal with this problem. That baby comes out and you'll be all about the baby.

ETHAN

This again?

JULIUS

Because I can tell you, at home-

ETHAN

Stop.

JULIUS

-I have to shit my pants, apparently, to get you to notice me.

ETHAN

Line cross, Julius!

JULIUS

I have to hurl on myself, I guess, or, I don't know, wail endlessly for your nipples!

BRITTNEY

(returning)

You breastfeed?

ETHAN

No. Of course not. I don't produce milk.

The parrot meows.

BRITTNEY

You said "milk."

ETHAN

I don't produce...moo juice. Obviously. So I chest feed. I let the baby suck on my nipples. It's for comfort and not nutrition.

BRITTNEY laughs nervously.

BRITTNEY

I've never heard of that.

ETHAN

Our doula suggested it.

BRITTNEY

Your do what?

In the next room, the baby starts to fuss a little, then stops as MATT enters. He's small and thin. He's in full camouflage clothes and he has a 12-gauge shotgun over his shoulder and a dead turkey in his other hand. His face is covered in war paint. He has a hunting helmet that says "kill or be killed."

MATT

Yo, yo, yo. I'm here.

MATT looks at ETHAN and JULIUS, who rise from the couch.

MATT (cont'd)

What's up? I'm Matt.

ETHAN

Hello, Matt.

MATT

(reacting to the accent)

Whoa, you must be Ethan.

Leaning the shotgun against a wall (and hanging up his helmet), but still holding the turkey, MATT gives ETHAN a fist bump. MATT crashes into it hard, grunting.

MATT (cont'd)
Say "hello" again.

ETHAN
Uh...hello.

MATT
Wow, you sound just like Adele.

BRITTNEY
Right?!

He turns to JULIUS.

MATT
Julius, right?
(confident)
Hey, bring it, man.

He puts his fist out for a fist bump.
JULIUS puts his fist up. MATT crashes
into it JULIUS'S hand hard, too,
grunting.

MATT (cont'd)
What'd I miss? Hey, baby. Gimme some of that bedonkadonk.

MATT squeezes BRITTNEY'S ass and then
kisses her. With tongue.

BRITTNEY
Oh, sweetie shu-shu chicken wing. I love you so much.

MATT
I love you, too, Britt. Sorry I'm late. Mornin' from hell.
Like I was seein' double.

He blinks a lot, hard.

MATT (cont'd)
Fuckin' turkeys. Shot up a bunch of mail boxes on the way
back just to blow off steam. How's little one?

BRITTNEY
She's perfect, as usual.

MATT
And you? You feel OK?

BRITTNEY
All right, I guess.

MATT
Talk to me, Brittney. Be honest.

I'm OK. BRITTNEY

You sure? MATT

Yeah. BRITTNEY

No more barfin'? MATT

Just once. BRITTNEY

Any cryin'? MATT

A little. BRITTNEY

But you're all right now? MATT

I'm OK. BRITTNEY

Sure? MATT

Yeah. BRITTNEY

You wanna sit on my face later? MATT

That'd be nice. BRITTNEY

BRITTNEY clings to MATT. He loves it.
They separate. Finally.

Momma home yet? MATT

No. Nana ain't home. BRITTNEY

That stupid, drunken skank. MATT
(to Julius and Ethan)
Y'all thirsty? We got beer.

JULIUS

I think we're good. We've got Diet Squirts.

MATT goes into the kitchen and puts the turkey in the ice chest.

MATT

Come on, man, have a beer with me. You drink beer, don't you?

JULIUS

Sure. Of course-

MATT

Then drink one with me and don't be a dickless pussy.

ETHAN

Pardon me?

JULIUS

("let it go")

Ethan.

MATT

I'm just messin' around. Y'all wanna stay for turkey? This bird is bit of a lightweight, but it'll feed four.

MATT grabs four beers out of the fridge.

JULIUS

Thank you. But we'll have to pass. Ethan is vegan.

MATT

My cousin Fat Bobby is like that. He went into a turkey coma one Thanksgivin' that turned into a real coma. Dude won't touch the stuff now.

Returning, MATT gives everyone a beer as:

MATT (cont'd)

Cupcakes look awesome, baby.

BRITTNEY

You want me to put the icin' on now?

MATT

No, no, no. I thought we could toast our kids first.

MATT snaps open his beer.

MATT (cont'd)

To our bundles of fuckin' joy. May they grow up and be everything we thought they'd be. And more.

He holds up his beer. BRITTNEY opens hers. JULIUS and ETHAN just stare a moment. JULIUS opens his beer. They wait for ETHAN.

ETHAN

A wonderful sentiment, mate, but drinking alcohol while breast feeding is a big no-no. Don't drink that, Brittney.

MATT

It's fine. Drink up, babe.

ETHAN

Brittney, put down that beer.

MATT

Brittney, chug.

ETHAN

The beer gets in the milk, Brittney, and the milk goes to the baby.

The parrot meows.

BRITTNEY

You said "milk" again.
(to the parrot)
Sorry, Ricky!

THE PARROT

(singing)
*I close my eyes
Only for a moment
And the moment's gone*

BRITTNEY

Oh, Ricky's so upset! He's so sad!

BRITTNEY goes to the cage, hugs it as:

THE PARROT/BRITTNEY

(singing together)
*All my dreams
Pass before my eyes, a curiosity
Dust in the wind
All they are is dust in the wind*

BRITTNEY

Oh, Ricky, I'm so sorry! I love that song, too!

ETHAN

Brittney, tell me you haven't been drinking this whole time. Tell me you didn't drink while you were pregnant.

BRITTNEY turns from the cage.

BRITTNEY

OK. I didn't drink while I was pregnant. Except I did.

ETHAN

Ever heard of fetal alcohol syndrome?

MATT

Relax, would you, Ethan? My mother used to put me to sleep with a shot of bourbon. And look at me now. Balls to the ground and ready to roll.

JULIUS

Bourbon? To a baby?

MATT

(to Julius)

Is he always like this?

(to everyone)

Fuck it.

He "clinks" beers with JULIUS and BRITTNEY and drinks. He sits.

MATT (cont'd)

So what'd I miss? You didn't get baked without me, did you?

JULIUS

No, we didn't get baked.

MATT

Good. Hey, I want y'all to know up front you got nothin' to worry about with me, OK?

ETHAN

What do you mean?

MATT

With the whole gay thing, the whole gay parents thing, the whole gay black and white parents thing.

ETHAN

Brilliant.

MATT

Shit ain't like it used to be. I got nothin' against suckin' cocks.

ETHAN

Splendid.

MATT

I mean, half the population sucks cocks, and when you add in all the gay dudes, too, it's way more than half. And whether it's a white cock or a black cock or a purple cock, who cares, right?

JULIUS

Right. Let's leave politics on the front porch.

MATT

As long as no one tries to suck my cock, other than Brittney, we'll have no problems.

ETHAN

We understand.

MATT

Or you ask me to suck your cock.

ETHAN

We're not going to do that, mate.

MATT

Then we're good. We're gonna be tight, I can tell.

The baby starts fussing again.

MATT (cont'd)

Is that little one?

BRITTNEY

Oh. Yeah. Weird.

MATT

She don't never cry.

(looking at Julius and Ethan)

Must be you guys. Boom! Just kiddin'.

He laughs.

BRITTNEY

(exiting)

Lemme go check on her.

MATT slaps BRITTNEY playfully on the butt as she leaves. She puts her beer down on the way out. ETHAN moves to follow. Stops.

MATT

Brittney is off the chain, ain't she? Y'all gonna sit?

They do.

MATT (cont'd)

You watch, kid'll be calm in two seconds. Brittney's the boss, man. You seen the baby yet? Cute as fuck.

ETHAN

We haven't seen her yet, no.

The baby stops fussing. They all notice.

MATT

See? Brittney got the magic touch. Of course, the kid slept right through the night from day one.

JULIUS

I thought we weren't going to have our children around when we talked.

MATT

You don't like kids, Jules?

JULIUS

That's not the issue-

MATT

Maybe you shouldn't've had one if you didn't like 'em.

JULIUS

Excuse me?

MATT

I was told one of y'all is the actual daddy. Must have been you, Ethan.

JULIUS

No, it was me.

MATT

Prob'ly should have have been Ethan, given the way you feel.

JULIUS

I like children, Matt.

MATT

(to Ethan)

Notice he didn't say love?

(to Julius)

So did they make you splat into a cup, Jules, or did you actually have sex with a woman?

ETHAN

Our surrogate's name is Maggie, and, no, they didn't have sex.

MATT

Well, that's too bad. You could have shown your pork sword where the real battlefield is.

JULIUS

Can we change the subject, please?

MATT

Oh, I'm sorry, man. I didn't know. Hey, bro, no need to be ashamed, OK? Not every guy needs the Magnums.

JULIUS

What?

MATT

Jules, it ain't a big deal, dude. So you don't gotta weapon of mass destruction, so what?

JULIUS

Matt, come on, man.

MATT

My Uncle Tiny takes these pills called "Extenze." They totally work. You should get some. Wal-Mart sells 'em in bulk.

JULIUS

This is all an act, right? You're not really like this, are you?

ETHAN

They're *both* like this, Julius.

MATT

I thought black dudes packed the full heat. Well, there goes that stereotype.

JULIUS

But I do have a big dick, actually. And I have been with a woman. I was married to one once. I betrayed her.

MATT

Well, obviously you betrayed her, Jules. Hello? Ethan, straight up, has Jules got a little cap gun or what?

JULIUS

Why are you obsessing over this?

ETHAN

(insistent)

I want to see my baby!

MATT

Oh. You didn't bring it?

ETHAN

I'm talking about the baby that's here. The one I saw birthed.

MATT

You know, you should've brought the other one. Maybe you wouldn't be so freaked out right now if you had.

JULIUS

There weren't supposed to be any babies.

MATT

So where's yours? I mean, ours. I mean, yours. This is whacked.

JULIUS

He's with the nanny.

MATT

Nanny? One of y'all don't stay home?

ETHAN

I do. But I also I work part-time at the Arthur Murray studio in Durham. I teach ballroom dancing.

MATT

Cool.

THE PARROT

Carrie Ann Inaba! "Nine!" Len Goodman! "Nine!" Bruno Tonioli! "10!"

MATT

We love that "Dancin' with the Stars" shit. You teach dancin', too, Jules?

JULIUS

I'm a professor at UNC.

MATT

Professor of dancin'?

JULIUS

No, Matt. I'm-

MATT

Whoa, whoa, whoa, don't tell me. Let me guess. (beat)
Uh...you're a professor of....jackin' off.

MATT snickers.

JULIUS

Geography.

MATT

Hey, I was close. Listen. Jackin' off, geography. Jackin'-
off-graphy. Gee-ah-ackin'-ography-off. See? Practically
the same thing.

BRITTNEY returns.

BRITTNEY

She's back asleep.

MATT

Course she is.

BRITTNEY sits back down, this time on
MATT's lap. She smothers him. She's
big. He's little. But they seem quite
comfortable.

MATT (cont'd)

You're the best mother. I'm gonna totally pound you so hard
later.

BRITTNEY

Oh, cookie dough, you're so good to me.

MATT and BRITTNEY kiss, like it's going
to lead to sex.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

(emotional)

I don't know what I'd do if Midas turned you into gold in
Fortnite.

They stop kissing.

MATT

Britt, you hear they got a nanny?

BRITTNEY

Oh. Why would you have a child to let him get raised by
someone else?

ETHAN

Lots of people have nannies, Brittney. It's not uncommon for
both parents to work.

BRITTNEY

That's true. But I heard nannies steal jewelry and like to go down on your man in your hot tub.

MATT snuggles.

MATT

Maybe tonight you play our nanny. I'll put water in the oil drum. It'll be awesome.

They kiss. Release.

MATT (cont'd)

Crazy about this whole baby thing, ain't it?

ETHAN

It's a lot more than crazy, mate.

MATT

It's like Dr. Phil shit. We should all go on TV.

BRITTNEY

We've tried to get on that show before. It's really hard.

JULIUS

What's happened to us is shocking. And stunningly negligent.

ETHAN

We're going to sue the hospital.

MATT

Boom!

JULIUS

We haven't decided yet what we're going to do.

ETHAN

We're going to sue the bloody hell out of the hospital.

MATT

Boom! Boom!

JULIUS

I don't want to get involved in any more lawsuits, Ethan.

ETHAN

The hospital is going to pay, and that nurse is going to get the death penalty.

MATT

Boom! Boom! Boom!

JULIUS

She's not going to get the death penalty, Ethan.

ETHAN

She is and I'm going to be there when it happens, and I'm going to film it and post it on 50 social media sites.

MATT

I watched my cousin Jimmy Lee get the chair. Dude got a huge boner.

ETHAN

The real question is why would she do this?

JULIUS

We've talked about this. She was disgruntled over a raise she didn't get.

ETHAN

So she alters the course of human lives?

MATT

Oh, lighten up, parents alter courses every fuckin' day. Ministers do. Bosses. I mean, can you imagine all the courses Mr. Rogers altered by pretendin' to be Mr. Nice guy when in reality he was a fuckin' Vietnam sniper? I mean, the dude was a real psycho killer!

ETHAN

Matt, that's a urban legend, mate.

MATT

Bullshit. He wore sweaters to cover up his tattoos!

BRITTNEY

Why do you keep callin' Matt mate when his name is Matt not mate?

ETHAN

It's a British term, Brittney. It's like saying "friend."

MATT

How do we know this nurse actually switched the babies anyway?

JULIUS

She confessed.

BRITTNEY

Maybe she's cuckoo for Cocoa Puffs and makes things up. People make things up, you know.

MATT

Sure. My Grandpa Tubby claimed he invented Colonel Sanders secret recipe and that turned out to be total booshee.

BRITTNEY

Two of my aunts believe aliens're suckin' the brains of children, although I heard that is actually true.

ETHAN

Did the hospital come out and do a blood test?

BRITTNEY

Yeah. But what did that prove?

ETHAN

It told us whose baby is whose.

MATT

How does a blood test do that?

ETHAN

DNA.

BRITTNEY

(confused)

DNA? Is that like LOL?

JULIUS

No, Brittney, DNA is deoxyribonucleic acid...which is made up of molecules...which have in them all the genetic information of the human body...which means that DNA is...is...help me here, Ethan.

ETHAN

DNA is like a salad. And if you want to know whose salad is whose, you look at the ingredients.

BRITTNEY

I ain't much of a salad eater. Now put a cinnamon bun in front of me and I'm, like, whew!

MATT

Can DNA be wrong?

ETHAN

No.

BRITTNEY

But I believe this is my baby.

ETHAN

But it's not.

BRITTNEY

You emailed me a photo. Your baby don't look like me. This one does. Has Matt's dimple, too.

ETHAN

Didn't you get the DNA test results?

BRITTNEY

I'm dyslexic.

ETHAN

I'll clarify. I have your child and you have mine.

JULIUS

We, Ethan, we, and ours. We and ours.

ETHAN

I mean, we have your child and you have ours.

JULIUS

Technically, it's mine, even though I promised I wouldn't say that, but since we're claiming ownership all of a sudden-

ETHAN

I'm sorry, we, we, we, ours, ours, ours.

MATT

Blood tests can get fucked up. For years, my dumbass pediatrician had me listed as type O blood when I should've been type A.

ETHAN

I'm talking about a DNA test, not a typo.

MATT

That's what I said, "type O."

JULIUS

Not type O, Matt, typo. *Typo*. Like accidentally typing the wrong letter.

BRITTNEY

The easiest way to tell is whether your baby looks like your other kids.

JULIUS

I'm black, Brittney. I'm a black man. And I am genetically half that child. The easiest way to tell is if the child is black.

MATT

Bad news, Julius. Our baby is as white as rice.

JULIUS

That's impossible.

ETHAN

Her mum is white, Julius.

BRITTNEY snickers.

BRITTNEY

You said mum instead of mom.

JULIUS

I know Maggie is white, Ethan. But there must be some visible part of that baby that looks like me.

ETHAN

Now who's getting possessive?

MATT

Maybe you ain't as black as you think you are.

ETHAN

What does that mean?

MATT

I mean, we all got family trees. Maybe Jules got roots goin' into the wrong yard.

ETHAN

Maybe we should bring the child out here and see for ourselves?

BRITTNEY

But she's asleep again now.

MATT

Are none of your other children white?

JULIUS

This is my first.

ETHAN

This is *our* first, Julius. *Our* first.

MATT

Your *first*? That's unusual, ain't it, Jules? In your part of town?

ETHAN

Why is that unusual? And what do you mean, his part of town?

JULIUS

Take it easy, Ethan.

ETHAN

No, he's using subtle phrases that seem to suggest that despite him saying he's "OK" with everything that in fact he's not "OK" with everything.

MATT

I am. I am as with it as the next guy. I've never once attended a klan rally. And I know I don't have no gay friends, but I have seen a ton of knobs in the community center shower.

ETHAN

What in the hell does that have to do with-

JULIUS

Make nice, Ethan.

BRITTNEY

Why would you wait so long to have a child?

JULIUS

We didn't really have the time for kids. I don't mean that exactly. That sounds selfish. We just wanted the situation to be ideal.

BRITTNEY

It's ideal if Jesus says it is.

ETHAN

We waited through my grad school and for Julius's tenure to come through-

JULIUS

Which it did.

ETHAN

-and then to find the right house, and then for the builders to finish the renovation on the kitchen, and then we had some debts to pay off, and the surrogate process was a laborious one, and now that it's all behind us...

JULIUS

It's ideal.

ETHAN

Well, maybe not exactly ideal, Julius. A student is accusing you of sexual harassment.

MATT

Damn.

JULIUS

Line cross, Ethan. Big fucking line cross.

MATT

I hope he's hot, this student.

ETHAN

It's a girl.

MATT laughs.

MATT

Oh, shit, man, you really fucked up, didn't you?

JULIUS

This young woman is hell-bent on ruining me because I tried to *help her*.

MATT

When you say "help her," do you mean, like, you were helpin' her grade go from a D to an A or you were helpin' her put your d in her a?

MATT laughs. So does BRITTNEY.

JULIUS

It's not funny, Matt. It could cost me my career.

MATT

It's only geography.

JULIUS

Only geography?

MATT

Look, man, I ain't runnin' down geography or nothin', but, listen, we already know where everything is. So why're you wastin' your time?

JULIUS

So where did you go to college, Matt? Yale? Princeton? Stanford?

MATT

I went to the University of Lloyd's Tire and Alignment.

BRITTNEY laughs.

BRITTNEY

Ain't he funny? He's *so* funny.

(emotional)

Don't ever stop bein' funny, Matty. I'll hang myself.

MATT

If you hang yourself, I'll hang myself.

BRITTNEY

That's the sweetest thing you've ever said to me.

They kiss. Passionately. Like sex is imminent. Just then, in the front door comes MATT'S mother, SAVANNAH. She is bedraggled and angry.

She's in a tank top and panties and that's it. The panties have a bullseye in the front and the back.

SAVANNAH

Holy Hump Day you two, it's like livin' with Pamela and Tommy Lee.

MATT

(getting up)

Momma?

SAVANNAH

Yeah, I posted bail, no thanks to you.

MATT

Momma, we're kinda in the middle of somethin' here.

SAVANNAH

(moving right past him)

I can see that. Is this like a group grope, because hang a goddamn sign on the door next time, would you?

SAVANNAH goes right into the kitchen and roots around in the cupboards.

MATT

Why don't you have pants?

SAVANNAH

Pants come, pants go.

MATT

Shit on toast, Momma, do you gotta be a fuckin' skank all the time?

SAVANNAH

Oh, this from Mr. Middle of the Night Every Night, "Oh, baby, let's get my big horse outta the barn!"

MATT

I'm with Brittney!

SAVANNAH

Leave me alone, would you? My ass itches, my back hurts, my tits're sore, I ain't showered, and my throat is as dry as a gravel road. Where's the whiskey?

MATT

You drank it all last weekend watchin' all eighteen seasons of *The Bachelorette*.

The parrot squawks.

THE PARROT

This is the final rose!

SAVANNAH

That fuckin' parrot never shuts up. Who're you people?

MATT

Remember that phone call we got from the hospital?

SAVANNAH

No.

MATT

The call about the babies gettin' switched. These're the other parents.

SAVANNAH

You're two dudes.

ETHAN

Yes.

SAVANNAH

Kinky.

(lustful, Julius)

How you doin'?

JULIUS

Not very well.

SAVANNAH

You're *cute*.

MATT

Not now, Momma, please.

SAVANNAH

My name's Savannah.

MATT

Momma!

SAVANNAH

For a 40-ounce I'll let you go backdoor.

ETHAN

What?!

MATT

Oh, my God.

SAVANNAH

I'm just tryin' to get to know our guests!

MATT

They're gay, Momma!

SAVANNAH

Oh, gay-shmay! A cock is a cock is a cock.

MATT

Would you just put some clothes on and get out of here?

SAVANNAH

Don't be such a prude, son. As I delivered you, you literally saw the inside of my boogie-woogie.

MATT

Momma! For God's sake!

SAVANNAH

(to Julius)

What's your name?

JULIUS

I'm Julius. This is my husband Ethan.

ETHAN

Delighted.

SAVANNAH

Now Ethan is obviously gay, no offense-

ETHAN

None taken.

SAVANNAH

-but anyone with eyes can see Julius here is as straight as a white line durin' a sobriety test.

MATT

He ain't straight, Momma.

SAVANNAH

He is.

MATT

Not.

SAVANNAH

Is!

MATT

Not!

SAVANNAH

(to Julius)

You're gay?

JULIUS

Yes.

SAVANNAH

Oh, bullshit. Look at yourself. Everything about you says "I dig chicks."

MATT

Change chicks to dicks and you've got it, Momma.

SAVANNAH

Let's do a test.

ETHAN

A test?

She shakes her hips at JULIUS.

SAVANNAH

See anything you like?

JULIUS

Uh...

SAVANNAH

I only got one leg.

MATT

Oh, Christ.

SAVANNAH nudges her leg towards JULIUS.

SAVANNAH

This one's plastic. Looks real, don't it? Wanna touch it?

MATT

Momma, would you please close taco town for two seconds?

SAVANNAH

Hey, I've been holed up in prison, OK?

MATT

For one night!

THE PARROT

Would you please close taco town?

SAVANNAH

Shut up, feather face.

THE PARROT

Shut up, feather face.

SAVANNAH
Stop repeatin' crap, Ricky!

MATT
He's a parrot, Momma!

SAVANNAH
I don't give a shit!

MATT
For the last fuckin' time, get outta here!

SAVANNAH
Fine! I'm showerin'! Goodbye!

SAVANNAH exits down the hall. Long
beat.

MATT
Fuck!

Beat.

BRITTNEY
So...like, what did y'all name the baby?

ETHAN
Eric.

MATT
Oh, so you want him to be a waitress?

JULIUS
What does that mean?

MATT
The only Eric I know waits tables at the Sweaty Beef House.

JULIUS
First of all, Eric is a boy, so he would be a waiter, not a
waitress. And second of all, a person's life is not
determined by his or her name.

MATT
Eric is a waitress.

JULIUS
It's waiter, Matt. Waiter.

MATT
Ess. Waiter-ess.

BRITTNEY laughs again.

BRITTNEY

Stop. You're killin' me, Matty.

ETHAN

Actually, we say server now. It's gender neutral.

MATT

Names matter. Why do you think half of Hollywood changes their names? Because Muffy McClitoris won't get work.

ETHAN

What did you name little miss perfect down the hall?

MATT

We named our baby Princess.

JULIUS

You named the baby Princess? You're kidding, right?

BRITTNEY

No, my baby *is* a princess.

ETHAN

I don't like you referring to my baby as your baby.

BRITTNEY

She is my baby.

ETHAN

No, she's mine.

BRITTNEY

She's mine.

ETHAN

YOU CAN'T HAVE MY BABY!

ETHAN'S booming voice silences the room.

ETHAN (cont'd)

I mean, *our* baby.

Down the hall, the sound of the shower comes on with a big thunk.

SAVANNAH

(off stage)

Goddamn shower head!

MATT nudges BRITTNEY off him. He stands, looking territorial.

MATT

Whoa, whoa, hold on there, Ethan. You can't come into my castle, start demandin' shit and gettin' all loud on us.

ETHAN

You have an issue with loudness? It's like a zoo here!

JULIUS

I apologize for my husband. He hasn't slept in eight months.

ETHAN

Don't apologize for me, Julius. If you'd have just let us look at the ultrasound, we wouldn't be here.

JULIUS

I wanted it to be a surprise.

ETHAN

I knew, I *knew* that baby wasn't ours when we got him home, if for no other reason that I heard the doula say "it's a girl!"-

JULIUS

She never said that.

ETHAN

-but instead of supporting me, you made subtle remarks at my mental well-being, "you were *emotional*, Ethan," and then off you went to yet *another* circle-jerk conference.

JULIUS

Line cross, Ethan.

ETHAN

Well, who's the crazy one now, Julius? Huh? WHO'S THE CRAZY ONE NOW?!

BRITTNEY

Turn to the Lord. That's what I did. When the postpartum hit, I just said "no" to medication and "yes" to God.

JULIUS

I thought it was the TV that helped you.

BRITTNEY

Right. Jesus and the TV. And sweets. Especially Twizzlers.

ETHAN

I want to see our daughter.

MATT

I'm confused. What is it you people think's gonna go down here today?

ETHAN

You people?

JULIUS

We came here to talk, like reasonable adults, about what has happened, and come to some mutually beneficial agreement. What did you think was going to happen here today?

MATT

I thought we'd get fucked up and have some laughs.

ETHAN

I want my our baby back.

BRITTNEY

What?

ETHAN

I want to switch back. Why else would we be here?

JULIUS

What Ethan means is-

ETHAN

Stop speaking for me!

BRITTNEY

Nobody said nothin' about switchin' the babies back.

ETHAN

Well, we can't raise each other's children!

BRITTNEY

(blocking the hallway)

I ain't switchin' 'em back.

ETHAN

We'll see what the courts have to say.

JULIUS

Let's not bring the courts into this.

BRITTNEY

Courts? You can't decide this with no basketball one-on-one against Matt. That's unfair. He's little.

ETHAN

There is no way you two actually believe Princess is your real baby. The hospital said the babies were switched. The blood test was conclusive.

BRITTNEY

Princess is my real baby.

ETHAN

In the delivery room, no one said "it's a boy!"

BRITTNEY

I don't know. I was cryin' a lot.

ETHAN

Matt, did you hear anything? Or see that when the baby came out there was a little wiggly worm between his legs?

MATT

He shot out so fast I couldn't see nothin'.

ETHAN

Don't you want to, at least, see Eric, Brittney?

BRITTNEY

And have him lay a guilt trip on me? No, thank you. My mother was the queen of guilt trips, until she took a trip to California and came home the king of guilt trips.

MATT

Look, Brittney is Princess's momma. She's even started callin' her "mommma."

ETHAN

Princess is speaking? Already?

BRITTNEY

Yeah. And walkin', too.

ETHAN

At eight months?

BRITTNEY

Eric ain't talkin' and walkin'?

JULIUS

He babbles. And he hasn't gotten up on two feet yet.

BRITTNEY

Oh. Well, girls develop faster, so I hear.

JULIUS

I planned my life so if I ever had a child, she wouldn't grow up like me. And now we've taken that chance away from her.

MATT

Here we are talkin' about changin' the course of lives again. This is what happens, Jules. Shit never goes the way you expect.

JULIUS

But everything you're giving Princess is what I've been trying to avoid.

MATT

What's that? A father with a redwood between his legs?

BRITTNEY laughs.

JULIUS

No. Poverty, Matt.

BRITTNEY stops laughing.

BRITTNEY

Well. That's not funny.

MATT

First of all, fuck you. Second of all, I'm buildin' a piss powered go cart that's gonna take the world by storm.

ETHAN

I just want the pretty and sweet and sleeping child! The one I've been raising cries at everything, is never satisfied, and seems to hate me!

MATT

Whose fault is that?

ETHAN

Not mine!

MATT

Like you got no influence?

ETHAN

He is who he is! Nothing I do makes him happy! Hey, maybe Brittney shouldn't have been playing beer pong while she was carrying him for nine months, mate!

BRITTNEY

I don't understand why you keep calling him mate!

MATT

It ain't that hard to make a baby happy, Ethan. They got, like, three things they want in the whole world. And two of 'em are nipples.

BRITTNEY

Maybe the problem is you're given' him the wrong nipples.

MATT

What?

BRITTNEY

Ethan chest feeds.

MATT

What...in...the...fuck?

BRITTNEY

Plus, you're kind of a yeller, Ethan, and I don't know nobody who likes to be yelled at.

ETHAN

I'M A EXEMPLARY NURTURER!

JULIUS

You know, I wouldn't say that this particular environment here is exactly ideal for raising a healthy, happy, well-adjusted child.

ETHAN

Our house is quiet and calm and peaceful!

MATT

Except when *you're* talkin'.

JULIUS

Do you have any idea, Matt, the effect of living here is going to have on Princess?

MATT

Proof's in the puddin', Julius.

JULIUS

The proof is in *my* pudding, Matt.

BRITTNEY

I like tapioca myself.

ETHAN

THIS ISN'T ABOUT PUDDING, YOU WANKERS!

In the cage, the parrot squawks.

THE PARROT

THIS ISN'T ABOUT PUDDING, YOU WANKERS!

JULIUS

Oh, Jesus.

THE PARROT

Oh, Jesus.

JULIUS

Is there any way we can shut that parrot up?

MATT

You got a problem with my fuckin' parrot?

THE PARROT

You got a problem with my fuckin' parrot?

JULIUS

Yeah, I got a problem with your fucking parrot!

THE PARROT

Yeah, I got a problem with your fucking parrot!

JULIUS

Can you get him to stop doing that?

THE PARROT

Can you get him to stop doing that?

MATT

He's a parrot! Parrots repeat what they hear!

JULIUS

(screaming)

Put him outside so we can talk like rational adults!!

BRITTNEY

Looks like you're both yellers.

In the next room, the baby cries.

MATT

Look what you did. That's twice now you people've made Princess cry.

ETHAN

Again with the "you people!"

BRITTNEY

(looking sick)

Excuse me.

She starts off.

ETHAN

I'm coming with you.

ETHAN attempts to follow, but MATT blocks his path. BRITTNEY disappears down the hall.

MATT

That ain't gonna happen.

ETHAN tries to push past him. MATT
knocks him back.

JULIUS
All right, take it easy.

MATT
You got somethin' to say, Julius?

MATT confronts JULIUS. JULIUS towers
over him.

JULIUS
Dude, why are you getting in my face? I'm like twice your
size, man.

MATT
You don't think I can kick your ass? I will wipe the shag
rug with you.

JULIUS
Because I'm gay?

MATT
You said it not me, Queen Latifah.

JULIUS
You are a sad, little boy.

MATT
Boy? Oh, you wanna go? Is that it?

JULIUS
No, no. I don't need any more legal problems, Matt.

MATT
Ain't no cops here, Julius.

JULIUS
I know what's going to happen! I'm going to end up in jail!

MATT
You mean the hospital. With your teeth in a Ziploc.

JULIUS
Do you know what a Napoleon complex is?

MATT
Do you know what "gummin' your food from now on" complex is?

In the next room, the baby stops
crying. ETHAN tries to get past MATT
again. MATT grabs him.

MATT (cont'd)

I will hit you. I will hit you right in the mouth.

ETHAN wiggles free.

MATT (cont'd)

And I don't even care where that mouth has been.

ETHAN

Oh, bugger off.

MATT

I'm gonna smash you, Ethan, all the way back to England, just like we did to your tea drinkin' British asses in 1776.

JULIUS

(pulling Matt away)

Matt, don't touch my husband!

MATT gets right in JULIUS'S face.

MATT

Say "draw" and it's on, King Kong.

JULIUS

Were you picked on in high school, is that it?

MATT

I was *the man* in high school.

JULIUS

Really? I was a linebacker on the football team. I was an all-city catcher on the baseball team.

MATT

I used to fuck all-city catchers in the ass.

JULIUS

Really? Does Brittney know?

Pissed, MATT backs up one step and gets into a martial arts pose.

JULIUS (cont'd)

Oh, what is this?

MATT

You and me. Right now. *To the death.*

JULIUS

Are you fucking deranged?

The parrot squawks.

THE PARROT

Are you fucking deranged?

Turning, JULIUS goes for the parrot.

MATT

What're you doin'?

JULIUS rips back the blanket.

JULIUS

Shut up, you stupid bird!

THE PARROT

Shut up, you stupid bird!

Underneath the blanket is a solid steel cage, like a dungeon, with only a rectangular slot for food to enter and exit, like solitary confinement. You can't see the bird at all.

JULIUS

What the hell?

THE PARROT

What the hell?

MATT rushes JULIUS and jumps on his back. MATT attempts to strangle JULIUS. They spin around.

JULIUS

Get off me, you maniac!

MATT

Die, fucker, die!

JULIUS, choking, falls to his knees.

ETHAN

STOP! STOOOOOOOOOP!!

From the bathroom, the toilet flushes. Also from the bathroom:

SAVANNAH

(off stage)

What the fuck're you doin' in here?!

BRITTNEY

(off stage)

I had to hooch!

Hearing this, MATT stops.

MATT

What's goin' on?

He gets off JULIUS, who falls gasping to the floor.

SAVANNAH

(off stage)

Can't a woman pearl dive in the shower in fuckin' peace?!

ETHAN goes to JULIUS.

ETHAN

Julius? Are you OK, honey?

BRITTNEY comes out from down the hall.

MATT

Baby?

BRITTNEY

I don't feel so good.

MATT

Oh, no. Should we call the doctor?

BRITTNEY

No.

MATT

Baby, you gotta take care of yourself. You're too important to this family.

BRITTNEY

I know why I'm sick to my stomach.

MATT

Yeah? Why?

She holds up a pregnancy dipstick.

BRITTNEY

I did a test earlier today. I'm pregnant.

MATT

Wh...what?

BRITTNEY

Yeah. The stick says we're gonna have another baby. I was gonna surprise you.

MATT

Oh, my God. That is awesomely cool!

He gives her a big hug. He kisses her.

BRITTNEY

Licorice butt, I just blew chunks.

MATT

Who cares? You're havin' a baby! Woo-hoo! I'm so pumped!

They hug again. JULIUS, on his feet,
looks at MATT.

JULIUS

I'm going to fucking kill you right now.

MATT

Oh, don't be like that, Jules.

He moves towards MATT. ETHAN
intervenes.

ETHAN

Julius, please.

JULIUS

Ethan, call 9-1-1.

ETHAN

Why?

JULIUS

Tell them there is a dead redneck hobbit at this location.

MATT

Redneck? Oh, I see how it is. I treat you and all your
cornholin' with respect, but I don't get the same courtesy?

JULIUS

Oh, my God. I'm going to really enjoy this.

ETHAN

Julius, no more fighting, *please*.

JULIUS

Don't worry. It'll be quick.

ETHAN

Julius.

JULIUS

Ethan, this is between me and Dueling Banjos here.

MATT

Duelin' Banjos? You need sensitivity trainin', Jules.

ETHAN

Your tenure is already at risk, Julius. You hurt him and-

JULIUS

Fuck my job. I'll sell auto parts, like my father. It's what the man always wanted anyway. I'll do my time in prison and we'll move to East Lansing and live in my sister's garage.

ETHAN

Sounds wonderful. "Hi, my name is Ethan. I'm your son's gay boyfriend he's never told you about."

MATT

Come on, Julius. Let bygones be bygones, dude.

JULIUS

No problem. Right after I rip your face off.

MATT

Wow, you look like you're gonna pop a blood vessel. We should be celebratin', man!

JULIUS

I will be, trust me.

ETHAN

Brittney's pregnant, Julius.

BRITTNEY

I'm gonna have another baby.

MATT

Let's have cupcakes!

MATT goes into the kitchen. The shower stops with a big thunk.

MATT (cont'd)

Ooooooh. Candy Cane icin'. Love it. Have a seat, baby. I'll frost the cupcakes.

BRITTNEY

Oh, I've been blessed in every possible way.

MATT starts frosting the cupcakes.

MATT

We all have. But that's the Lord for you.

ETHAN points to BRITTNEY'S stained sweatshirt.

ETHAN

You have a little something on your sweatshirt there.

BRITTNEY looks.

BRITTNEY

Oh, gosh. I threw up on myself. That's gross. Can you hold this?

BRITTNEY, who still has the dipstick in her hand, gives it to ETHAN, who takes it, grimacing. BRITTNEY takes off her sweatshirt, revealing a "Detroit Lions" t-shirt underneath.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

It's so funny. I wasn't sick at all the first time. Now, puke, puke, puke. Barf, barf, barf.

BRITTNEY takes back the dipstick.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

Thanks.

Soaking wet, SAVANNAH enters in only a towel.

MATT

God bless America, Momma!

SAVANNAH

My clothes're in the livin' room, Matt, and don't bitch to me! Your wife just played peek-a-boo while I was rub-a-dub-dubbin' the nub!

MATT

Oh, for fuck's sake!

SAVANNAH sorts some clothes, and then takes off the towel, and starts drying herself with it. She's totally naked. There is a huge tattoo of a heart on her butt. Everyone turns away.

MATT (cont'd)

WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?!

SAVANNAH

Gettin' dressed! This is where I get dressed!

MATT

We have guests!

SAVANNAH

They can look away!

MATT

We're all lookin' away!

SAVANNAH

I don't got nothin' nobody ain't seen before!

MATT

That don't mean we wanna see it!

BRITTNEY

I don't think Ethan has seen it before. Ethan, have you seen a woman's sex thingies before?

ETHAN

Yes! I did summer stock!

MATT goes up to her, covering his eyes, trying to get her out of the room.

MATT

Out, Momma!

He grabs the rest of her clothes and gives them to her.

SAVANNAH

I hate livin' here!

He pushes her out.

MATT

Go!

SAVANNAH

Stop pushin' me!

MATT

GOOOOOOOOOOOOO!

And down the hall she goes.

JULIUS

(suddenly)

We're out of here.

JULIUS goes for his coat.

MATT

What? Don't leave.

JULIUS

You'll be hearing from my lawyer. And he's a total sleaze, too.

ETHAN

We can't leave.

JULIUS

We can and we are.

ETHAN

My baby is here, Julius. *Our* baby.

MATT

Come on, everyone, have a seat. Julius, I'm sorry, man.

JULIUS

No, you're not. Goodbye.

ETHAN grabs him.

ETHAN

Don't do this, Julius.

JULIUS

If I stay here, I will break that little shit in half.

MATT

Oh, now you're just bein' silly.

JULIUS

I'm serious, Matt!

MATT

Don't be a hater. I'm havin' a kid. Celebrate with us.

JULIUS

Celebrate you two procreating? That's like grandstanding for the Ebola virus.

MATT

Man, you sure talk in riddles when you're pissed. Come on. Suck it up. Life is short. Would it make you feel better if I let you pop me one? Someone grab my mother's towel. I'm kind of a bleeder.

JULIUS sees BRITTNEY'S t-shirt.

JULIUS

Why are you wearing a Lions t-shirt?

BRITTNEY

I have a half-brother who played for the Lions.

JULIUS

(a little stunned)

Really? I'm a huge fan, being from Detroit. What was his name?

BRITTNEY

Joey Mangold.

JULIUS

Joey Mangold? I remember him. Tight end. Played a couple of years. He caught two touchdowns against the Packers.

BRITTNEY

You know him?

JULIUS

Of course! He had a heart issue, right? Forced him to retire?

BRITTNEY

Yeah. He moved to Las Vegas. Haven't heard from him in a long time.

MATT

My momma has heart problems, too. I wish she'd move to Vegas and disappear, too.

BRITTNEY

Your momma's heart issues're 'cause of her age, I think. She's gettin' up there after all.

ETHAN

Right.

BRITTNEY

But she's been a such an awesome help with the baby. When she ain't, like, drunk. Or in jail.

ETHAN

How'd you and Matt meet?

MATT

I used to be in this killer metal band and one of the guys got us this house party gig in Saxapahaw. Britt was there bustin' outta this tank top. We both got shit-faced and woke up in the bathtub together.

BRITTNEY

I can't wait to tell that story to our kids.

MATT

See, this is nice. Everyone talkin'. Gettin' along. It's all good, ain't it? Julius? Stay, man.

JULIUS stews.

MATT (cont'd)

Stay.

Beat.

JULIUS

Fine. But you give me any shit, Matt, and...

MATT

You got anger problems, Julius. After the cupcakes, you and I're gonna smoke a bowl together. Britt, help me finish frostin' the cupcakes.

BRITTNEY and MATT go into the kitchen and finish frosting the cupcakes. JULIUS and ETHAN sit. ETHAN grabs JULIUS'S hand lovingly. He notices.

JULIUS

What?

ETHAN smiles.

ETHAN

You defended me, you prat. Against Matt.

JULIUS

Why wouldn't I?

ETHAN

Just reminded me of one of the reasons I fell in love with you.

MATT and BRITTNEY bring in the cupcakes. Outside, thunder rumbles. The dog goes crazy. MATT b-lines for the door, opens it, and tosses out a cupcake.

MATT

Here! Now shut your goddamn mouth, Dale!

The dog mauls the cupcake and quiets. MATT closes the door.

MATT (cont'd)

Hope it don't rain. Last time it rained, Dale ate the baby stroller.

MATT gives everyone a cupcake.

MATT (cont'd)

One for everyone.

MATT, BRITTNEY, and ETHAN sit.

ETHAN

(to Brittney)

You're going to have a cupcake?

BRITTNEY

I can't resist.

ETHAN

Won't you throw it back up?

BRITTNEY

I will. Totally worth it.

Putting the dipstick down, finally,
BRITTNEY bites into the cupcake.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

These're so good. If I do say so myself.

They all eat. MATT, ETHAN, and JULIUS
notice something grotesque about the
way they taste. MATT'S supportive
anyway.

MATT

Yum yum, baby!

BRITTNEY

I'm what you call an experimenter. No one's died yet!

JULIUS and ETHAN grab their beers and
wash away the taste, hard.

JULIUS

What's with the cell block you built for the bird?

MATT

Ricky begged me to build it. He's depressed. He can't face
the world. The love of his life licked up a pool of anti-
freeze.

BRITTNEY

(to Julius and Ethan)

What do you think of the cupcakes?

JULIUS

Unique.

ETHAN

Brilliant.

MATT

Isn't she the most amazin' girlfriend?

ETHAN

You two aren't married?

MATT

Nah. My first wife, Katie Anne, a real gonad-grindin' bitch, she won't sign the papers. Shouldn't've got married. I was young and dumb.

BRITTNEY

Y'all married?

JULIUS

Eight years. We met at the University of Chicago. I was teaching there.

ETHAN

I was a meandering graduate student.

JULIUS

Ethan could always make me laugh. He had a way with words.

JULIUS and ETHAN look at each other, smile.

ETHAN

Julius was so commanding. Confident.

JULIUS

Good looking.

ETHAN

And he liked me. I was lucky.

ETHAN grabs JULIUS'S hand.

MATT

And now he's diddlin' chicks. What a twist.

ETHAN pulls his hand away from JULIUS'S.

JULIUS

I didn't do anything inappropriate with that kid.

Awkward. The parrot squawks.

THE PARROT

I didn't do anything inappropriate with that kid!

Still awkward. Breaking the silence:

BRITTNEY

So...have y'all ever thought about livin' in England?

ETHAN

Sure. I miss home.

JULIUS

I'm not sure I'd fit in. Ethan comes from money.

ETHAN

Line cross, Julius. I come from a nice, comfortable family that loves each other. It's been downhill ever since.

JULIUS

Line cross, Ethan.

ETHAN

Be honest. Is there anything you're happy about?

JULIUS

Line cross. And it's not me that's unhappy, Ethan.

ETHAN

Line cross. No? Why is it whenever the Lions lose a game, I can't speak to you for three days?

JULIUS

Line cross. Why is it you call all your dance students "clumsy pathetic illittrés?"

ETHAN

Why is it you don't laugh anymore?

JULIUS

Line cross. Why is it you keep crying in the shower?

ETHAN

LINE CROSS! WHY IS IT YOU CAN'T GIVE ME A FUCKING HUG?!
(beat) You didn't even hug me after my father died.

Beat. BRITTNEY and MATT giggle.

BRITTNEY

You two're funny.

MATT

What's with the "line cross" stuff?

ETHAN

It's a thing we're doing to let the other know when we've crossed the line in our relationship.

BRITTNEY

Well, it sure sounds like it's helpin' a lot. Y'all want another cupcake?

JULIUS/ETHAN

I'm good.

BRITTNEY

You cook, Ethan?

ETHAN

I can cook, I just don't like to.

BRITTNEY

Why not?

ETHAN

It's under appreciated.

JULIUS

Oh, my God, stop being a queen. I do appreciate your cooking.

ETHAN

Do you?

JULIUS

Ethan, you get these ideas in your head how you think things ought to be and anything less than that is a disappointment. Same thing with the baby. For years you built up this idea of what having a baby would be like, and now that it's here, it's not what you thought.

ETHAN

Nothing is what I thought. I'm raising a child who I just discovered is not even mine, and I'm living with a husband who I now suspect wants to be straight again. How should I respond, Julius?

The parrot imitates MATT and BRITTNEY giggling.

THE PARROT

You two're funny.

ETHAN

I'm going to the toilet.

BRITTNEY

First door on the left.

ETHAN exits down the hall.

MATT

Toilet plugs easily!

Awkward silence.

MATT (cont'd)

So, Jules, are you gay or straight or bi or somethin' else?

JULIUS

I'm gay.

MATT

Your hubby there thinks you're turnin' straight.

JULIUS

I know.

MATT

So why'd a student accuse you of playin' with her tits?

JULIUS

That's not what she's accusing me of.

MATT

What's she accusin' you of?

JULIUS

Touching her on the chest.

MATT

So you touched her on the chest but you didn't play with her tits?

JULIUS

No, I didn't.

MATT

Well, if that ain't gay, I don't know what is.

JULIUS

It's not gay at all.

MATT

Guys don't get that close without at least coppin' a feel unless they're gay or they're doctors, and you ain't no doctor.

BRITTNEY

Doctors definitely cop feels. So do dentists. And the hairy guy that inspects the gas meter.

JULIUS

Actually, Matt, I am a doctor. I have a Ph.D.

MATT

A real doctor, J. A real one. Not some dude who didn't know what else to do with his life.

BRITTNEY

So why did you touch that girl on the chest?

JULIUS

I was trying to calm her down. She was terribly homesick. Sobbing in my office.

BRITTNEY

Remember, Julius. Jesus saves.

JULIUS

She was at the top of her class in high school, too.

MATT

Like you, I'll bet.

JULIUS

Like me. But I excelled in college. This girl was struggling.

BRITTNEY

Not everyone's the same.

JULIUS

No. Life had been easy for her. I had something to prove. Especially to my father.

MATT

At least you know who your father is. I wouldn't know my dad if he ripped a fart on this couch.

JULIUS

My father thought my desire to get an education was a slap in the face to hard work. To this day, I remain a complete disappointment to him.

MATT

The whole homo thing probably doesn't help.

JULIUS

Actually, I've never come out to my family.

MATT

Uh oh.

JULIUS

Ethan thinks it shows a lack of commitment, and he thinks touching this girl shows a lack of commitment, but I think having this baby shows a lot of commitment.

MATT

I'm gonna guess if you went home shoutin' "Gay man has arrived," they wouldn't exactly throw a party.

JULIUS

No.

MATT

Why'd you think touchin' that girl would help?

JULIUS

Because that's what Eric likes. And I didn't know what else to do.

BRITTNEY

Princess loves to be swaddled.

JULIUS

Yeah, that's what the hospital told us to do. But Eric just wiggles out of it. If I take off his shirt and put my hand there, he calms down.

BRITTNEY

I thought nothin' calmed him down.

JULIUS

That does.

BRITTNEY

Does Ethan do it?

JULIUS

He's tried. It's only my hand that works.

BRITTNEY

That must be really hard for him.

JULIUS

Devastating.

BRITTNEY

I'm sorry.

JULIUS

Don't let Ethan fool you. He loves Eric. He'd circle the globe for that boy.

BRITTNEY

(looking off)

Ethan went to the bathroom, didn't he?

MATT

Been in there awhile. Hope he didn't clog the fuckin' toilet.

BRITTNEY

Maybe he's pregnant.

JULIUS

Ha ha.

BRITTNEY

Hey, with technology today, you never know.

JULIUS

Even if Ethan could get pregnant, he wouldn't be because Ethan won't touch me, and, to be honest, I don't want him to.

MATT

Julius, bro, you gotta tap that shit, man. I mean, I think slappin' chubs is fucked up, but don't you love your husband?

JULIUS

(thinking about it)

Yes. I do.

MATT

Then let go of all the bullshit and *love him*.

JULIUS

I'm hurting, Matt. *He's* hurting. So we're lashing out. And we don't know how to stop.

MATT

Pot works every time.

BRITTNEY

(still looking down the hallway)

Why ain't Ethan comin' out?

ETHAN appears with the baby, who is swaddled. ETHAN looks up at them.

MATT

Sweet Satan on a stick.

MATT, JULIUS, and BRITTNEY are up on their feet.

ETHAN

(overwhelmed)

She's so beautiful.

BRITTNEY

My baby!

JULIUS

Ethan, don't do anything crazy now.

MATT

We are way past crazy!

ETHAN

She's sleeping. Look at her, Julius.

MATT

She's white as fuck, right, Julius?

BRITTNEY

Give me my baby, Ethan!

ETHAN

(diabolical)

This is *my* baby, Brittney. She will always, always, *always* be *mine*.

BRITTNEY steps towards him.

ETHAN (cont'd)

Get away from me!

ETHAN crosses past them.

MATT

Ethan, if you hurt one hair on my child's head-

JULIUS

Matt, let me deal with this.

MATT

You gonna deal with it like you dealt with that chick in your office?

JULIUS

Shut your mouth and let me talk to my husband.

MATT

Fuck you, it's my child.

ETHAN

IT'S NOT YOUR CHILD, MATT!! IT WILL NEVER BE YOUR CHILD!!

The baby starts crying. Quietly.

BRITTNEY

Oh, no. My baby is cryin'!

MATT

Ethan, put that baby down!

ETHAN

I just want to hold her!

JULIUS

OK. OK. Everyone, just let Ethan hold her for a moment!

ETHAN holds the child. Looks down at her. Ethan is in love. After a moment:

BRITTNEY

OK, that's enough.

BRITTNEY moves in close.

ETHAN

Sod off!

ETHAN avoids her and moves towards the door.

MATT

Where you think you're goin'?

ETHAN

I'm leaving and I'm taking her with me! Cheers!

Black out.

End Act One.

Act Two

Lights up. Just as we were at the end of Act One. Baby in arms, ETHAN moves towards the door.

MATT

Where you think you're goin'?

ETHAN

I'm leaving and I'm taking her with me! Cheers!

MATT

Fuck you are!

MATT blocks his path to the door.

BRITTNEY

Oh, no, no, no, no, no-

MATT

Not gonna happen, Ethan.

JULIUS

Ethan, think about what you're doing.

ETHAN

I'm doing what's right.

BRITTNEY goes for the baby. There is a brief struggle.

ETHAN (cont'd)

Get back!

ETHAN knocks BRITTNEY back. She screams.

MATT

You're a dead man now!

MATT goes for ETHAN, but JULIUS grabs him by the shirt and pulls him away.

JULIUS

Hold on, little man!

MATT

This is my favorite shirt!

JULIUS

Ethan, Jesus Christ, don't do this!

ETHAN works his way to the other side of the room.

JULIUS (cont'd)

Ethan!

MATT

Put that baby down!

BRITTNEY

He's gonna hurt her, I know she is!

JULIUS

He's not going to hurt her!

ETHAN

Back away, all of you!

JULIUS

Ethan, stop! If you don't give back that baby, everything we have, everything we've ever wanted, will be taken away from us!

ETHAN backs into the parrot's cage.

THE PARROT

(imitating Matt)

Gimme some of that bedonkadonk!

BRITTNEY

If you don't gimme my baby, I will shove my head in that oven...AND I MEAN IT!!

The baby cries out, and then goes back to slow and quiet sobs.

ETHAN

(to the baby)

Shhh, sweetie. It's going to be OK. Daddy is going to save you. You're going home with me where you belong.

MATT

Ethan, you ain't gettin' outta here with that baby.

BRITTNEY screams and charges ETHAN, and the two of them run in circles in the room, BRITTNEY hot on ETHAN'S heels. JULIUS and MATT watch a moment, until ETHAN bumps the glass case with the snake. It tips over and the snake, quite large, tumbles out onto the floor. ETHAN screams.

Jeff!

MATT (cont'd)

MATT lunges for the snake. He picks it up. It's limp.

JULIUS

Oh, my God. Is he dead?

MATT

He's been dead since yesterday.

MATT holds the snake.

MATT (cont'd)

Oh, Jeff...

BRITTNEY

Gimme my baby, gimme my baby, gimme my baby...

BRITTNEY goes to the stove.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

Gimme my baby, gimme my baby, gimme my baby...

BRITTNEY turns on the gas.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

Gimme my baby, gimme my baby, gimme my baby...

BRITTNEY opens the oven door and shoves her head inside.

MATT

Britt!

Dropping the snake, MATT goes to Brittney.

MATT (cont'd)

Goddamn post-partum shit never ends!

He pulls her head out of the oven.

BRITTNEY

(delirious)

Ohhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

MATT

(to Ethan)

This is your fault, Elton John!

BRITTNEY, dizzy, starts to moan.

Brittney? MATT (cont'd)

I think... BRITTNEY

What? MATT

I think I'm gonna... BRITTNEY

What? MATT

I think I'm gonna... BRITTNEY

BRITTNEY falls to her knees behind the barcalounger, bends over, and vomits. As she does so, ETHAN sneaks around towards the door again.

Ethan, stop! MATT

JULIUS blocks ETHAN'S path.

Julius? ETHAN
(looking at him in horror)

JULIUS
You can't do this, Ethan. I don't blame you for wanting to leave, but you can't take this baby. You can't.

ETHAN breaks down, sobs. BRITTNEY pukes.

Let it all out, Britt. MATT

ETHAN
This is my child, Julius! *Our* child! Our family! I just want us to be happy again!

BRITTNEY pukes.

There you go. That's nice. Hey, there's the cupcake. MATT

I know you do, Ethan. And it's what you deserve. But look at me. Look at me. JULIUS

JULIUS grabs ETHAN'S face. Forces
ETHAN to look at him.

JULIUS (cont'd)
I'm sorry. For everything. Give me another chance to love
you like I know I can. Like I used to.

JULIUS kisses him, like he loves him.
ETHAN responds. BRITTNEY pukes. The
parrot makes the sound of puking.

ETHAN
Come with me, Julius. To England. And we'll start over
there.

ETHAN moves to leave. MATT sees him.
He grabs, among the scattered toys, a
large plastic light saber, steps
towards ETHAN, and holds it in a
threatening manner.

MATT
Don't take another step, Ethan.

JULIUS
What is that?

MATT
It's an Anakin Skywalker light saber.

JULIUS
How *old* are you?

MATT
When I was a kid, my mother used to hit me with it when she
was drunk. It's lethal.

JULIUS grabs MATT, takes the light
saber out of his hands, and shoves him
to the ground with ease.

MATT (cont'd)
Hey!

Just then, from down the hall, comes
SAVANNAH, dressed like a slut.

SAVANNAH
Yeah, I hit you with the light saber. What of it?

MATT
(getting up)
Whack my sack, Momma, how do we get rid of you?

SAVANNAH

Give me some money. I'll make a run to the ABC.

SAVANNAH looks around and takes it all in.

SAVANNAH (cont'd)

I smell gas.

MATT

Oh, shit. Fuckin' pilot light!

MATT hurries to the oven, closes it, shuts it off.

SAVANNAH

You got the gas on? What the hell's goin' on here? This some Mayan calendar thing?

Weak and dazed, BRITTNEY finally comes up from behind the barcalounger.

MATT

Britt?

SAVANNAH

That girl is a mess.

BRITTNEY collapses onto the couch. MATT helps her. SAVANNAH looks at ETHAN.

SAVANNAH (cont'd)

What's that in your arms there, mister?

ETHAN

It's my baby.

MATT

It's Princess. He's tryin' to steal her 'cause he thinks she's his.

SAVANNAH

You people're fuckin' crazy.

The parrot squawks.

THE PARROT

You people're fuckin' crazy.

SAVANNAH

I hate that bird.

(to Julius)

Hey, big man, does this outfit say "Enter Where you Please" to you?

JULIUS

No, it doesn't.

SAVANNAH

Does it say "Everything One Hundred Percent Off, Just Say the Word?"

JULIUS

NO!

SAVANNAH

Does it say-

ETHAN

Hey, I'm right here!

SAVANNAH

You want in on the action? I'm plenty wide to take two willies at once.

ETHAN

Why does everything have to be about you and your bits, you bloody slag?!

SAVANNAH

I don't know what you just said, but it makes me feel warm all over.

SAVANNAH sees the vomit behind barcalounger.

SAVANNAH (cont'd)

Ah, hell, what is this?

MATT

Brittney threw up.

SAVANNAH

On the rug? She should go out behind the doghouse like I do.
(gesturing to couch)
I sleep right *there*, you know.

MATT

She's pregnant, Momma.

SAVANNAH

Who's pregnant?

MATT

Brittney.

SAVANNAH

Is it yours?

MATT

That's real funny comin' from you.

SAVANNAH

Oh, so I'm a cheap slut because I don't know *exactly* who your daddy was?

MATT

Yes!

SAVANNAH

Ain't I narrowed it down for you?

MATT

Chatham County ain't narrowin' it down, Momma!

SAVANNAH

Ease up there, Wolverine. Tell me what you're *really* pissed about.

MATT

You were supposed to watch Princess today, Momma, while we talked to these people about what we oughta do about this baby thing! Instead, you got arrested for havin' sex in the parkin' lot of the Merrymaker!

SAVANNAH

First of all, dry humpin' ain't sex, OK? Even if I did have my pants off. Second of all, can I do the X-box?

MATT

No!

She sits on the couch. Grabs the remote.

SAVANNAH

I'm suddenly in the mood to kill some Reapers.

MATT

No, Momma!

The parrot squawks.

THE PARROT

No, Momma! You stupid drunken skank!

SAVANNAH

I'm gonna bitch slap that parrot.

MATT
Britt!

BRITTNEY has crawled back to the oven, turned it on again, and has her head in it again. MATT pulls her out, shuts off the gas again.

SAVANNAH
That girl needs to be on a ton of medication.

MATT
(to Ethan)
You see what you've done?! Have you no fuckin' feelings at all?!

ETHAN
Ce n'est pas ma faute si elle est folle!

SAVANNAH
Goddamn you Brits speak funny!

MATT puts BRITTNEY, wobbly, out of it, in the barcalounger.

MATT
Sit here, honey. *Don't move.*

SAVANNAH
Hey, Julius, wanna get me a drink down at the Merrymaker?

MATT
Momma, I told you before. Jules is gay.

SAVANNAH
Gay, like gay-gay? Or gay, like...
(she air quotes)
..."gay?"

MATT
Gay like homosexual!

SAVANNAH
No, he ain't.

MATT
Yes, he is! *And he's married!*

SAVANNAH
To a woman?

MATT
(gesturing to Ethan)
No! To that guy right here!

SAVANNAH

Married, like married-married or married, like...
 (she air quotes)
 ..."married."

MATT

Married like if they split up, someone is gonna get half of
 someone else's shit!

SAVANNAH

Ain't no way this hunk of beef is gay!

JULIUS

I am, Savannah! I am gay! I am a gay man!

ETHAN

My goodness, you *can* say it out loud.

SAVANNAH

It's impossible! Look at you! You're hunky, you're black,
 and I'll bet I could run my fingers through your chest hair.
 Strip that shirt off and let's see.

JULIUS

Stop.

ETHAN

Black men can't be gay?

SAVANNAH

You don't wear no makeup, neither, and you don't got any
 fishnet on.

ETHAN

I'm not wearing fishnet.

SAVANNAH

Don't matter. You still scream Nancy.

JULIUS

Have you guys ever met a homosexual?

SAVANNAH

In person?

MATT

My crazy cousin Wendy has multiple personalities and one of
 'em is gay.

SAVANNAH

You got a nice, big one swingin' in those pants, don't you,
 Julius?

JULIUS

Not this again.

SAVANNAH

How big is it, LL Cool J?

ETHAN

HUGE! It's huge, and bold, and black, and beautiful!

SAVANNAH

(turned on)

Well, my, my. Who let the horn dog out?

MATT

Momma!

SAVANNAH

WHAT?!

MATT

Help me!

SAVANNAH

How?

MATT

By gettin' the hell outta here!

The parrot squawks.

THE PARROT

By gettin' the hell outta here!

SAVANNAH

Fuck off, bird brain!

THE PARROT

Fuck off, bird brain!

SAVANNAH

That's it.

SAVANNAH grabs the shotgun MATT brought in.

SAVANNAH (cont'd)

You're done insultin' me you fuckin' squawk box!

She shoves the shotgun through the feed hole. The bird squawks.

MATT

Momma!

SAVANNAH

I got you, you son-of-a-bitch!

She fires the shotgun. The cage lurches. The bird squawks. BRITTNEY screams. ETHAN screams. The baby cries. JULIUS protects ETHAN and the baby. MATT intervenes.

MATT

Momma, you lunatic! Leave the bird alone!

MATT grabs the shotgun. It fires again. The cage lurches. The bird squawks.

MATT (cont'd)

Momma!

SAVANNAH

Eat this, Ricky!

The shotgun fires a third time. The cage jumps. The bird squawks.

ETHAN

Please, stop!

SAVANNAH

Prepare to meet your feathery maker, you double talkin', ball of-

MATT

Momma, for God's sake!

MATT twists her arm to get her off the cage.

SAVANNAH

My arm!

MATT

Let go of the gun!

SAVANNAH

You're breakin' my arm!

MATT

Let go of the gun!

SAVANNAH

Let go of my arm!

MATT finally pulls his mother off the cage as BRITTNEY screams. Everyone stops. The only sound is the baby crying.

JULIUS

This place *is* a zoo.

The baby's cries fade out. MATT now holds the shotgun and points it at his mother.

MATT

Step away from the cage, Momma.

SAVANNAH

(whimpering)

My arm.

MATT

Step away from the cage, you crazy cum-guzzlin' skeezo!

The parrot squawks.

THE PARROT

Crazy cum-guzzlin' skeezo!

MATT cocks the gun at SAVANNAH.

SAVANNAH

You wouldn't.

MATT

Wouldn't I?

She gasps.

SAVANNAH

You're after your inheritance, ain't you?

MATT

Please, Momma. All you got is zero dollars and a thousand dildos!

SAVANNAH

They're antiques!

MATT

They're disgusting!

SAVANNAH

They're magnificent!

MATT

They're gonna be full of bullet holes unless you step away from the cage!

She steps away from the cage.

MATT (cont'd)

Now nobody move a fuckin' muscle!

MATT looks into the feed hole of the cage.

MATT (cont'd)

You missed.

SAVANNAH

My arm...I'm gonna have one arm and one leg now!

(to Julius, desperate)

Ever done it with a girl with one arm and one leg?

MATT suddenly turns the gun on ETHAN.

MATT

Ethan, try to bolt and I will gun you down.

JULIUS

Be serious, Matt!

MATT

I *am* serious. My aim is solid, too. Even if I do occasionally see double.

MATT blinks a lot.

SAVANNAH

It's all that pot, you bong head!

MATT

It ain't the pot. Last week, an exhaust pipe fell on my head at work. Back away from the door, Ethan.

ETHAN

No way, mate.

JULIUS

Ethan, please.

MATT

You ain't gonna take my son!

SAVANNAH

You mean, daughter. She has your daughter. They're the ones with the boy.

MATT

That's what I meant!

JULIUS

Matt, don't do anything dumb. He's not leaving. I promise you.

MATT

Your words don't mean shit to me.

ETHAN

You'd shoot me with this baby in my arms? What if you miss and hit the baby?

Blinking, he turns the gun on JULIUS.

MATT

Julius, if he tries to leave, I'll shoot you instead.

JULIUS

Matt, take it easy and put down the gun.

BRITTNEY

Make him put his gun down first, Matt!

JULIUS

I don't have a gun! Or...or maybe I do, Matt.

MATT

Say what?

JULIUS moves a little closer to MATT.

JULIUS

Maybe I have a gun in both my hands. Or maybe my hands are guns.

He raises his hands like guns and points them at MATT.

JULIUS (cont'd)

Are you seeing double, Matt?

MATT blinks a lot.

MATT

I'm trippin' out!

JULIUS

Welcome to the gun show, Matt.

JULIUS slowly keeps coming towards MATT.

ETHAN

Julius, are you out of your mind? He's going to kill you!

JULIUS

No, he isn't.

MATT

Stop right where you are!

ETHAN

Julius!

SAVANNAH

This is about to get interesting.

JULIUS stops at the end of the barrel.

ETHAN

This is insane!

JULIUS

I'm not afraid of guns. I'm from Detroit.

ETHAN

You don't need to be a hero, Julius!

JULIUS

Matt's not a killer. Are you, Matt?

MATT

I am in *Grand Theft Auto*.

JULIUS

But this isn't a video game, is it?

MATT

Ain't nobody leavin' with my kid! My first wife, Katie Anne, a real ball crusher, stole our opossum Greg when she left and now won't let me see it! I ain't goin' through that hell again!

JULIUS

(pointing to the ceiling)

Is that water stain on the ceiling in the image of Kate Upton?

MATT

(looking)

Where?

JULIUS lunges at MATT and removes the shotgun quickly from his hands. He then shoves him to the ground.

MATT (cont'd)
 Hey! Stop doin' that!

JULIUS opens the front door and tosses
 the gun outside.

MATT (cont'd)
 That is a Winchester!

JULIUS closes the door. We hear Dale
 maul the gun.

JULIUS
 It was a Winchester!

Outside, the shotgun goes off.
 Everyone gasps, including the bird.
 JULIUS opens the door and looks out.
 He closes the door.

JULIUS (cont'd)
 The dog is fine.

BRITTNEY
 (out of it)
 We have a dog?

JULIUS
 But the septic tank is not.

SAVANNAH
 This place blows.

MATT
 No one says you gotta stay here.

SAVANNAH
 And go where? My R.V. rolled into Jordan Lake, Matt.
 Accidentally, of course.

JULIUS
 Why don't we all please come and sit down?

No one moves.

JULIUS (cont'd)
 Please? Ethan? Sit. Everyone. Sit. Now.

They all sit. ETHAN, with Princess,
 sits far away from MATT and BRITTNEY.

SAVANNAH

(re: the snake)

Why is Jeff down on the floor? Dog didn't get to him again today, did he?

MATT

No.

SAVANNAH

Those two never saw eye-to-eye about nothin'.

JULIUS

I want to talk about the babies!

SAVANNAH

I need a cigarette first.

JULIUS

You need a cigarette? YOU NEED A CIGARETTE?!

SAVANNAH

Clearly not as much as you.

JULIUS

Why are you smoking?! If you smoke, the baby inhales the smoke, too! Have you not been getting the memos on second-hand smoke! It kills!

SAVANNAH

(turned on)

Wow. You're psycho. I love psychos.

BRITTNEY

When is the room gonna stop spinnin'?

MATT holds her. She hardly notices.

MATT

Come here, honey. I'm here for you.

JULIUS

OK. Can we talk? Like adults now?

MATT

What's to talk about? Y'all're gettin' the chair, just like that nurse!

JULIUS

Ethan has not hurt the baby! And he's not leaving here with it! We're working this out!

MATT

We've gone too far, dude, to work this shit out!

JULIUS

No, we haven't! You can always make things work! You just have to work at making it work!

The baby starts crying.

JULIUS (cont'd)

All right. Now. Let's go back to why we came here in the first place. And come to some...

(the crying distracts him)

...some decision...about...how we...see, Ethan, this is what I was talking about. We can't talk. We can't talk with a baby here. Can you try and calm her?

ETHAN

I've never successfully calmed a baby before.

JULIUS

Brittney will help you. Brittney?

MATT

Tell her what to do, Britt. Britt? Sweetie?

BRITTNEY

(out of it)

Talladega Nights should have won Best Picture.

JULIUS

Brittney, are you all there?

BRITTNEY

I would like to get a bunny.

MATT

Oh, honey, baby.

(to Ethan)

I'm puttin' you on my shit list! You're gonna pay big time!

JULIUS

Matt, no more threats!

MATT

Brittney's my girl, man. You understand, don't you? Finally?

SAVANNAH

Ethan didn't do nothin' to Brittney. She was eatin' the drapes three days ago.

MATT

So?

SAVANNAH

She's postpartum *and* pregnant! She's fucked-up!

MATT

Tryin' to run off with Princess sure as hell ain't helpin'!

SAVANNAH

Neither is a good toke of that oven!

JULIUS

We have to calm this baby, people!

MATT

Hum a lullaby.

ETHAN

Like what?

MATT

Like "99 Bottles."

ETHAN

Seriously, mate?

BRITTNEY

HIS NAME IS MATT! It's not mate, it's not breed, it's Matt!
It's not intercourse, it's not procreate, it's Matt! It's
not nooky, or bonin' or bangin' or nailin' or ballin' or
ridin' or porkin' or feedin' the kitty! It's Matt!!

Beat.

ETHAN

My apologies, Brittney. Matt..."99 Bottles" is not a
lullaby. (beat) Fine.

(singing)

99 bottles of beer on the wall

99 bottles of beer

Take one down, pass it around

98 bottles of beer on the wall

98 bottles of beer on the wall

98 bottles of beer

Take one down, pass it around

97 bottles of beer on the wall...

It's not working. He stops.

ETHAN (cont'd)

It's not working!

JULIUS

Try putting your hand on her chest.

MATT

Yeah, I don't think that's a good idea, dude.

SAVANNAH

I used to give Matt a shot of bourbon. Worked like a charm.

JULIUS

We're not doing that.

SAVANNAH

One time he didn't wake up for two days. It was awesome.

JULIUS

We're not doing that!!

ETHAN

What else, Matt?

MATT

That's all I got. Britt ain't never had to do much.

JULIUS

Savannah?

SAVANNAH

Who can fuckin' think with that goddamn baby cryin'?

MATT

Momma! Help!

SAVANNAH

What do I give a shit what happens here anyway?!

MATT

If you ain't gettin' outta here, then help us or I'll let slip to Sheriff McCoy about why your R.V. nose-dived to the bottom of Jordan Lake!

SAVANNAH

It was an accident!

MATT

I got two words for you: the, R., V., was, a, meth, lab!

SAVANNAH gasps.

MATT (cont'd)

It was a sucky meth lab, but it was still illegal!

SAVANNAH

You are a bad son! Bad! Bad, bad, bad!

JULIUS

Brittney?

She looks up at JULIUS.

JULIUS (cont'd)
Have you come back to Earth?

BRITTNEY
Yes. In the Enterprise.

MATT
Brittney? Baby?

BRITTNEY looks MATT in the eyes.

BRITTNEY
Hi, Matt.

MATT
Hi, sweetie. We need your help. The baby is cryin'. Help Ethan to soothe it. Can you do that?

BRITTNEY
I love Princess.

JULIUS
We know you do.

ETHAN
Maybe Princess just needs to be changed.

BRITTNEY
I changed her.

ETHAN
Maybe she's hungry.

BRITTNEY
I just fed her.

ETHAN
Maybe she hates me.

JULIUS
How can she hate you? She doesn't know you.

ETHAN
That's a terrible thing to say to me.

JULIUS
I didn't mean it like that. Can we feed her again? Maybe you can chest feed her, Ethan.

MATT
No, no, no, there's no fuckin' way I'm gonna watch my baby suck on that man's nipple.

ETHAN

Oh, don't be so prehistoric.

MATT

Tellin' you not to put my baby's mouth on your useless titty don't make me a fuckin' caveman!

ETHAN

It does mean you're not as progressive as you pretend to be!

MATT

Hey, I'll move the goal post back on you, but I ain't takin' the fuckin' thing off the field!

JULIUS

What happened to leaving politics on the front porch?

MATT

We don't have a front porch!

ETHAN

Sometimes you have to tell the world who you are and fight for what matters, right, Julius?

JULIUS

Sometimes, yeah. Do you think, right now, your nipple is worth fighting for?

ETHAN

It's what the nipple represents, Julius.

MATT starts to say something and then
JULIUS cuts him off.

JULIUS

Don't, Matt. Just don't. We all know you're about to make a crude, remarkable statement about nipples. Just don't. Please? For once in your life, don't be a goddamn diehard, cornpone, countrified fuck right now.

MATT

Is that what I am to you, Jules?

JULIUS

I'm sorry. That was cruel.

MATT

I am who I am.

JULIUS

Right. You're short, I'm black, you're straight, I'm gay. That's how we came out of the womb.

MATT

So why'd you get married to a woman?

JULIUS

I was in denial. I've always been gay. I can't change that, even though I've tried. But you? Your thinking can change. The things you were taught can change.

MATT

Do you like everything about your thinkin'? Do you like everything you was taught?

BRITTNEY

I don't know why we can't just be OK with each other. Don't we all want the same things? Someone to love, who loves us? One really good friend? A nice family?

They all look at each other.

ETHAN

A tasty meal.

Smiles.

JULIUS

A nap on a Sunday afternoon.

MATT

A good movie.

ETHAN

Someone to acknowledge your feelings.

BRITTANY

A simple hello.

MATT

A fuckin' chainsaw.

ETHAN reacts.

ETHAN

Tickets to the opera.

MATT reacts. A showdown.

MATT

Lettin' boys be boys.

ETHAN

Equal rights for everyone.

MATT

Gun rights for gun people.

ETHAN

Peaceful protesting.

MATT

Fire-hosin' douchebag protestors.

ETHAN

A gay president!

MATT

A president with balls!

ETHAN

To never forget the legacy of Harvey Milk!

The parrot "meows." The baby cries
louder.

JULIUS

Ah, Christ.

BRITTNEY

You said the word "milk" again.

JULIUS

Savannah? I'm asking again. Any ideas to help us?

SAVANNAH

Oh, I got ideas.

THE PARROT

Oh, I got ideas.

SAVANNAH

Wouldn't it be cool if that fuckin' parrot stopped repeatin'
shit?

MATT

Then he wouldn't be a parrot, would he? Can we get back to
the baby!

JULIUS

Savannah?

ETHAN

Why are we asking *her*? She's a proper doolally!

JULIUS

No one knows what a fucking doolally is, Ethan, and she's got
20 years of experience in being mother.

SAVANNAH

(lustful, to Julius)

I got experience in a lot of things. You ever done the butter churner?

MATT

Momma, come on! Stop bein' a goddamn whore all the time!

SAVANNAH

You are who you are and I am who I am!

JULIUS

But you can change.

SAVANNAH

I can no more quit dick chasin' than you can, Julius! You can't shoot a pigeon and expect to make pigeon soup!

BRITTNEY

Huh?

JULIUS

All right, look. If you help us, Savannah, I will buy you a drink down at the Merrymaker.

ETHAN

What?

SAVANNAH

Ooh, now we're talkin.'

JULIUS

It won't be a date! I will not have sex with you! You see that man right there? That's my husband, and I love him. He's the only person I have ever truly loved. *I am not fucking that up!* Not anymore! So help us! And I will buy you a drink! Hell, I'll get you completely hammered! Hell, I'll buy you the whole goddamn Merrymaker!

MATT

No, goddammit! You ain't doin' a thing! She's gonna help us because this is your one-and-only grandchild, Momma, and you love her, I know you do, and it's time you were a good fuckin' influence!

Beat.

SAVANNAH

Fine.

MATT

Thank you, Almighty God.

SAVANNAH

I do wanna be a good grandmother.

JULIUS

Of course you do.

MATT

Tomorrow we'll work on closin' your legs and shuttin' your mouth.

SAVANNAH

Oh-kay! With Matt, if the alcohol didn't work, I used to do this thing my granddaddy, God rest his soul, called static. No, wait, he called it scatic.

ETHAN

Scatic?

JULIUS

Like scat singing and static put together?

SAVANNAH

How the hell should I know? It was sorta like continuous rain. He had this CD I used to play.

BRITTNEY

We don't got a CD like that.

JULIUS

What CDs *do you have*?

BRITTNEY

Not much. I think we have one from that musical with all the cats.

ETHAN

Cats?

BRITTNEY

Yeah, with all the cats. You ever heard of it?

ETHAN

Yes, it's called *Cats*.

BRITTNEY

What's called *Cats*?

MATT

Why don't I get out my electric guitar?

SAVANNAH

No, Matt! No one wants to hear *Smoke on the Water*!

THE PARROT imitates the opening guitar riff of *Smoke on the Water*.

MATT

Hey, I can play other things! I used to be in a metal band, remember? I wrote a great song about pig skulls.

SAVANNAH

No guitar! You know my heart's got a bad valve!

JULIUS

What's wrong with your heart?

SAVANNAH

I got this condition. The whole contraption could blow at any moment.

JULIUS

That's terrible.

SAVANNAH

My valve is yippee-skippee as long as no one is mean to me.

JULIUS

Sounds like a raw deal.

SAVANNAH

We get the hand we're dealt and if we got any courage, we push in all our chips.

The baby cries out.

SAVANNAH (cont'd)

Oh, my God! I'm gonna feed that baby to the parrot!

MATT

Wait. We can just get music off itunes or go to youtube.

MATT pulls out his iphone.

JULIUS

Go to youtube, Matt.

ETHAN

What should we pick?

SAVANNAH

I like Guns and Roses.

ETHAN

What is Guns and Roses?

MATT

I like Kid Rock.

JULIUS
What about something a little softer?

BRITTNEY
Like soft rock?

JULIUS
No, like classical.

SAVANNAH
Guns and Roses *is* classic rock.

BRITTNEY
Ricky and me like "Dust in the Wind."

MATT
Hold on. Everyone's talkin' at once.

JULIUS
Search that scatic rain thing.

MATT
How do you spell "scatic?"

SAVANNAH
Fuck if I know.

JULIUS
It's probably s-c-a-t-

MATT
Wait.

MATT tries to type on his iphone.

MATT (cont'd)
S...what?

JULIUS
S-c-

MATT
S-t?

JULIUS
No, c. C as in cartography.

MATT
As in what?

JULIUS
As in cartography. As in celestial. As in Cairo. As in
cocksucker.

S-c. Got it. MATT

S-c-a-t- JULIUS

Slow down, man. MATT

Hurry up, Matt! SAVANNAH

S-c-a-t... MATT

...i-c. JULIUS

It's loadin'. MATT

They wait. The baby wails.

SAVANNAH
Oh, god! Just shoot the baby! Shoot it! Shoot it! Shoot the goddamn thing!

Boom! Got it. MATT

MATT reads the results.

MATT (cont'd)
"Sciatica symptoms and causes."

SAVANNAH
For fuck's sake!

ETHAN
Your grandfather probably made up the word.

SAVANNAH
We're gonna make the scatic ourselves! Brittney, you go "drop, drop, drop."

Huh? BRITTNEY

Ding-dong, Brittney. SAVANNAH

Ding-dong, ding-dong- BRITTNEY

SAVANNAH
No, not ding-dong. Do what I say. Go "drop, drop, drop."

BRITTNEY
Drop, drop, drop.

SAVANNAH
Keep doin' it.

BRITTNEY
Drop, drop, drop...

She keeps going.

SAVANNAH
Matt, you go "dink, dink, dink."

MATT
Dink, dink, dink...

SAVANNAH
Softly.

He softens up.

SAVANNAH (cont'd)
Keep doin' it.

They do.

SAVANNAH (cont'd)
Julius...

JULIUS
Yes?

SAVANNAH
(thrusting her hips)
Try "uh, uh, uh."

JULIUS
I think I'll go with bee, bee, bee...

Their sounds are harmonious. Touching.
Calming.

SAVANNAH
Ethan, go "la, la, la."

ETHAN
La, la, la...

SAVANNAH
Nice. Now I will go...

She makes a "whoosh, whoosh, whoosh" sound. They do it for 15 seconds. It's all-encompassing, serene, musical. The baby slowly stops crying.

ETHAN

(whispering)

It's working!

SAVANNAH signals for them to keep going. Just then, outside, the dog goes berserk, barking.

SAVANNAH

(whispering)

He thinks it's rainin'!

MATT grabs another cupcake and opens the front door.

MATT

Damn, he's goin' for my truck! Dale! Those're new rims, you stupid dog! Incomin'!

MATT hurls the cupcake outside. The dog mauls it and quiets. MATT closes the door. The baby doesn't cry.

ETHAN

We're good.

Everyone stops making sounds. They all crowd around the baby.

MATT

You did it, Momma.

SAVANNAH

We all did.

ETHAN

She's so lovely.

BRITTNEY

I know.

JULIUS

You know, she's not totally white-white.

MATT

Yeah, she is.

JULIUS

I see some definite shading.

BRITTNEY

That's just a little makeup.

ETHAN

You put makeup on the baby?

BRITTNEY

She's a princess, ain't she?

JULIUS

Well, you can't deny the curls.

MATT

No.

BRITTNEY

I love her curls.

ETHAN

I see a dimple. On her right cheek.

MATT

Sorry, Jules. That's my dimple.

They stare at the baby, all of them.
It's sweet.

ETHAN

She definitely has your eyes, Julius.

Beat.

JULIUS

Now what?

SAVANNAH

Now she sleeps.

JULIUS

No. I mean about us. Our situation.

SAVANNAH

Like I gotta solve everything?

JULIUS

Matt? Brittney?

MATT

You thinkin' we should be one, big happy family?

ETHAN

No.

JULIUS

What about just one, big family?

ETHAN

Maybe.

BRITTNEY

Maybe.

The parrot makes the sound of puking.
Everyone smiles.

SAVANNAH

We could all move into your place, Julius, Ethan.

JULIUS

Yeah, I don't think so, Savannah.

SAVANNAH

I stumble into the bathroom late one night to tinkle and
you're steppin' outta the tub-

JULIUS

I don't think so, Savannah!

SAVANNAH

It'll be great. Come on. Sittin' around the TV eatin'
crackers and Cheez Whiz. I like porn, by the way. Is that
gonna be a problem?

MATT

Fuckin' A, Momma.

ETHAN

Let's keep it at two households, OK?

SAVANNAH

Can we swap keys, at least?

JULIUS

I'll think about it. The important thing is that we take
this one day at a time.

ETHAN

From now on, no *Animal Planet*.

BRITTNEY

No fightin' in front of the babies.

ETHAN

No drinking beer until you're done breastfeeding.

BRITTNEY

No nannies. Family *only*.

MATT

No male nipples.

ETHAN

And everyone stays out of jail.

ETHAN, MATT, and BRITTNEY look at
JULIUS.

JULIUS

Fingers crossed.

SAVANNAH

What'd I miss? You on the wrong side of the law, Julius?
Sweet. Gimme all the details.

JULIUS

No.

SAVANNAH

You know, instead of everybody sayin' "no" to everything, why
not say "yes" to somethin'?

ETHAN

Like what?

BRITTNEY

What about love?

SAVANNAH

I was gonna say three-ways, but love is OK, I guess.

BRITTNEY

So, then, "yes" to love.

ETHAN smiles.

ETHAN

Yes to love.

The parrot makes the sound of puking.

SAVANNAH

When is Uncle Tiny takin' back his fuckin' parrot?

BRITTNEY

Never, I hope. Ricky's taught me so much about the true
meanin' of love. And tenderness. And compassion.

The parrot makes the sound of puking
again.

BRITTNEY (cont'd)

Maybe someday I could teach Eric somethin'. Maybe I could teach him about Jesus.

ETHAN

I could teach Princess how to dance.

MATT

I could teach Eric about huntin' and how to tell assholes to fuck off and die.

JULIUS

I could teach Princess about the importance of an education.

SAVANNAH

And I could teach both of 'em about gettin' lucky.

ETHAN

You hold the baby, Brittney.

ETHAN gives the baby to BRITTNEY.

BRITTNEY

No, Ethan, *you* hold the baby.

BRITTNEY gives the baby to ETHAN.

ETHAN

No, Brittney, *you* hold the baby.

ETHAN gives the baby to BRITTNEY.

BRITTNEY

No, Ethan, *you* hold the baby.

BRITTNEY gives the baby to ETHAN.

SAVANNAH

Would someone please hold the fuckin' baby!?

MATT

Wow, look at us. What a crew. We got the gays and the straights, the whites, a black guy, a foreigner, and a cripple.

SAVANNAH

Who's a cripple? I ain't a cripple! I can honk a schlong just as good as the next gal!

JULIUS

Matt, let's not be offensive. Not now.

MATT

Fine, you're not a cripple, Momma.

BRITTNEY

We don't say cripple anymore, Mattie. We say deformed. Or gimp. Or mutant.

ETHAN

We say disabled. *Jesus*.

MATT

You know, I was thinkin', what're y'all doin' for Thanksgivin'? Already got a bird.

ETHAN

I'm vegan.

MATT

OK, so don't have the bird. Have a PB&J. Who cares?

JULIUS

I was thinking of taking a trip up to Detroit. You, me, and the baby, Ethan. What do you think?

ETHAN

Really?

JULIUS

Really.

MATT

Why don't you put off the comin' out party until Christmas. Let's not kill our momentum here.

JULIUS

OK.

ETHAN

I guess we can wait one more month.

JULIUS

Everyone can come to our house for Thanksgiving.

BRITTNEY

What about the surrogate?

JULIUS

Maggie?

ETHAN

She's our nanny. Although we don't technically call her that.

BRITTNEY

She ever get jealous? Or extra clingy?

ETHAN

No. She's reasonably well adjusted. We will definitely invite her.

MATT

I'll cook the bird.

SAVANNAH

(leering at Julius)

I'll cook the yams. I got nice yams.

JULIUS

No guns, Matt.

MATT

FYI, I wouldn't've shot you, Julius. But I had to try and make you think I was.

JULIUS

You were just trying to save your family.

MATT

No hard feelings?

JULIUS

None that won't go away.

MATT

Pretty brave of you, what you did. Guess you ain't a dickless pussy after all.

JULIUS

(smiling)

No.

MATT

I'm sorry I said some of the things I've said. I really don't care about you dudes bein' gay. Or, you know, that you're doin' the ebony and ivory thing. I swear. I just don't know the right vocabulary to express how I feel. I get weirded out, I guess. I don't even know why. And when I get weirded out I get mad. And when I get mad, I say stupid shit.

JULIUS

I think you opened our eyes to a couple things, too, Matt.

ETHAN

I'm sorry, Brittney, for trying to steal Princess. I've had a real rough go of it.

BRITTNEY

Yeah. Me, too.

ETHAN

I'm not going to be able to live without her. Or Eric.

BRITTNEY

I shouldn't be afraid.

ETHAN

You know, Eric smiles just like you do.

BRITTNEY smiles. It's warm and lovely.
MATT notices the large jug of empty
water on the bookshelf.

MATT

Where's Princess's afterbirth?

ETHAN

I'm sorry?

MATT

We kept the afterbirth in this jug.

JULIUS

You kept the what in that jug?

MATT

The baby's afterbirth. But it's missin'.

BRITTNEY

I put it in the cupcakes.

They all moan.

JULIUS

Oh, no! Hell no!

MATT

Our mystery ingredient.

ETHAN starts gagging.

ETHAN

I'm going to...

SAVANNAH

No more pukin'!

ETHAN

Oh, God...

JULIUS

What the hell is wrong with you people?

Oh, you people?

MATT

I'm vegan!!

ETHAN

Why would you put the placenta into the goddamn cupcakes?

JULIUS

The Kardashians did it.

BRITTNEY

You get the cord, too?

SAVANNAH

Slices up like sausage.

BRITTNEY

ETHAN and JULIUS moan again.

JULIUS

Hell no! Hell no!

ETHAN

I'm poisoned!

BRITTNEY

Did I do wrong, Matt?

MATT

Of course not, Britt. You been through a lot. We're all gonna be here for whenever you need it. Me especially.

He kisses her on the cheek.

ETHAN

This family is too forgiving.

MATT

Forgiveness makes the world go 'round.

JULIUS

It does?

MATT kisses BRITTNEY on the cheek again.

MATT

It does.

BRITTNEY

I feel like everything's gonna be OK. What a world.

MATT

That's the awesome thing about life. It always works out.

SAVANNAH snickers. Everyone turns to her. The hopeful mood changes.

MATT (cont'd)

(defensive)

Why're you snickerin'?

SAVANNAH

Because you're young and you don't gotta fuckin' clue.

MATT

I might not have a fuckin' clue, but I do got both my legs.

SAVANNAH gasps.

SAVANNAH

I grew up on a farm!

MATT

Well, no wonder you wanna ride everything in sight.

SAVANNAH gasps.

ETHAN

No, no fighting! This story was wrapping up nicely!

SAVANNAH

You don't know how lucky you had it with me, son!

MATT

Lucky? I love you, Momma, and you'd never hurt me on purpose, but when I was growin' up, I always came in third behind happy hour and the backseat of a Pinto!

The parrot laughs.

THE PARROT

You two're funny.

SAVANNAH

That Pinto is a classic car!

MATT

Face the facts, Momma. You weren't a good mother.

SAVANNAH gasps.

SAVANNAH

That's so...mean! Mean, mean, me-

SAVANNAH clutches her chest.

My valve!

SAVANNAH (cont'd)

SAVANNAH staggers and falls onto the couch.

Momma?

MATT

She gurgles.

Momma?

MATT (cont'd)

What're we gonna do?!

BRITTNEY

Who knows CPR?

MATT

Julius does.

ETHAN

This is all an act, right? She's just pretending, right?

JULIUS

I'm callin' 9-1-1!

MATT

MATT whips out his iphone, hits 9-1-1.

JULIUS

She's not really having a heart attack, right?

MATT

You said you were a doctor, Julius, do somethin'!

JULIUS

I study geography, Matt, not cardiology!

MATT

Do somethin'!

SAVANNAH
(gasping)

Pump my chest.

She pulls open her shirt for him.

Oh, come on!

JULIUS

Help her, Julius!

BRITTNEY

ETHAN

Time is of the essence, Julius!

JULIUS

OK!

(pointing a finger at Savannah)

If you are faking this...!

JULIUS leans over SAVANNAH and pumps.
She grabs his hands and puts them on
her breasts.

JULIUS (cont'd)

Goddammit, Savannah!

ETHAN

Why are you fondling her breasts?

JULIUS

(pulling away)

I'm not!

ETHAN

Dr. Carlson would say a lot more than "line cross" on that
one!

JULIUS

She's doing it!

MATT

(into phone)

My mother is havin' a heart attack! (beat) 380 Big Woods
Road! Trailer 16!

BRITTNEY

You gotta do mouth-to-mouth!

JULIUS

No, I don't!

ETHAN

No, he doesn't!

MATT

She's gonna die, Julius!

JULIUS

She's just pretending, Matt!

BRITTNEY

Her eyes're rollin' back in her head!

They are.

JULIUS
 (looking)
 Oh, *Christ*.

BRITTNEY
 She's bitin' her tongue!

She is.

JULIUS
 This is your fault, Matt!

MATT
 So?!

JULIUS
 Fuck!

MATT
 (into phone)
 Yeah, Trailer 16!

BRITTNEY
 Jesus will guide you, Julius!

Reluctantly, JULIUS performs mouth-to-mouth. As he does it, SAVANNAH'S hands come up and cup his ass.

ETHAN
 Is this the American version of CPR?

SAVANNAH is making out with JULIUS.

ETHAN (cont'd)
 Hey! That's my husband you're snogging, you daft cunt!

A cell phone rings. It's the sound of a tango. It plays quite a bit, as JULIUS is all over SAVANNAH, before...

ETHAN (cont'd)
 Oh, that's my phone.

ETHAN digs in his pocket, looks at the phone.

ETHAN (cont'd)
 It's Maggie.
 (into phone)
 Hi, Maggie? Everything non-ambulatory at home?

BRITTNEY'S phone rings. It's the sound of a car burning rubber. She looks at it.

BRITTNEY

It's the hospital.

(answering)

Hello?

MATT

(into phone)

Trailer 16, you fuckin' morons!

JULIUS ends the mouth-to-mouth and goes back to pumping her chest.

JULIUS

(to Samantha)

Don't you die on me, you backwoods skank!

THE PARROT

Don't you die on me, you backwoods skank!

ETHAN

(into phone)

Eric stopped crying and he fell asleep on his own?

(to Julius)

Julius, Eric stopped crying and fell asleep on his own!

JULIUS stops CPR and looks up at ETHAN.

JULIUS

He did? Really?

BRITTNEY

(into phone)

What do you mean there's been another mix-up with the babies!?

JULIUS and ETHAN turn to look at BRITTNEY.

JULIUS/ETHAN

What?!

ETHAN

This is going to end badly! *This is going to end badly!!*

MATT

I still smell gas.

MATT rushes and slams hard the oven door. Too hard.

A closet bursts open and a thousand
dildos pour into the room.

MATT (cont'd)

Can it get any worse?!

SAVANNAH sits up, as if post-coital,
cigarette in her mouth.

SAVANNAH

I'm gonna light me a cigarette.

Everyone turns to her as she produces a
lighter.

MATT/BRITTNEY/JULIUS/ETHAN

NO!

SAVANNAH lights up. BOOM!

BLACKOUT, as the mobile home explodes.

The sound of debris and the crackling
of fire.

Some dildos bounce in the direction of
the audience.

The parrot squawks.

THE PARROT

*Dust, dust in the wind
All we are is dust in the wind
Oh, oh, ohhhhhhhhhhh*

The dog barks. A baby cries.

Just then, in a small pool of light,
the python lands in a huge thump at the
edge of the stage, as if from the sky.

BABY

Momma?

The parrot squawks.

THE PARROT

Momma?

Blackout.

THE END