WHAT HAPPENS BEHIND THE BAR…

A Ten-Minute Comedy by NICK ZAGONE

CHARACTERS
SAM
RAY
CARRIE
PATTIE

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WHAT HAPPENS BEHIND THE BAR...

(Back door of a Texas Tavern. SAM and RAY enter drunk and happy and loud. They turn upstage and take a leak.)

SAM
Whew wee! I love a good bar fight!

RAY
Yee haw! Me too! It sure has been a while…

SAM
When that dude hit that other dude over the head with that beer bottle? It was like a damn boxing bell. Ding ding ding Round One! I just went off! Know what I’m sayin’? It was like that Burt Reynolds movie…

RAY
Smokey and the Bandit?

SAM
No.

RAY
White Lightning? Gator?!

SAM
No, no, no… the one with the bar fight!

RAY
Well they all got a bar fight don’t they Sam?

SAM
Hooper! That’s it. Where he plays a stunt man? I felt just like Burt Reynolds in Hooper. Man I love Burt Reynolds.

RAY
Sam. Did you eat some asparagus tonight?

SAM
No. Why?
RAY
Your pee stinks!

SAM
What are you talkin’ about? It smells fine.

RAY
No man I swear your pee smells like asparagus.

SAM
Well, I didn’t eat any asparagus.

RAY
Could swear it smells like asparagus.

SAM
What the hell you talkin’ about- asparagus. What are you like a pee aficionado? I worry about you.

RAY
You ever eat asparagus? Right after you eat asparagus your pee has this like distinctive smell. You’ll know it if you eat asparagus.

SAM
Well I don’t eat asparagus.

RAY
You don’t eat asparagus? Asparagus is good.

SAM
Well I wouldn’t know now would I?

RAY
With a little mayonnaise? Man, I could eat a whole bushel.

SAM
You’re an idiot.

RAY
I’m an idiot ‘cause I eat asparagus?

SAM
Well obviously, it makes your pee stink that sure can’t be good for ya.
RAY
You should eat more vegetables. I worry about you.

SAM
Why?

RAY
Vegetables are good for ya, gives ya nice soft dirties.

SAM
Dirties?

RAY
That’s what my mama used to say.

SAM
She said that? Dirties?

RAY
Nice soft dirties. My mama was a lady.

SAM
Well your mom’s an idiot too.

RAY
You callin’ my mama an idiot?

SAM
Well now I shouldn’t say that, I didn’t know your mama, however I know you, and you’re an idiot, and you come from your mama’s loins, so I guess logic would dictate that your mother falls into the same category.

RAY
So… are you callin’ my mama an idiot or not?

(Two women burst in. CARRIE and PATTIE. CARRIE’s pregnant.)

CARRIE
Gangway we got a puker!

PATTIE
I’m gonna barf! (she stands center holding her mouth)
SAM
Well we ain’t stoppin’ ya honey.

CARRIE
Over here. Over here!

(Pattie runs to a trash can, barfs)

SAM
Well, it’s a party now ain’t it!

RAY
Oh man. Here, let me hold your hair back miss.

CARRIE
There you go, let it all out.

RAY
That’s right you just get all them bad toxins out of yer… (sniffs) Say, did you have Chinese food tonight?

PATTIE
Yea.

RAY
(to Sam) See? See I told ya, I know what I smell.

SAM
What are you talkin’ about?

RAY
That chick’s barf smalls like Egg Foo Young and your piss smells like asparagus.

SAM
What are you some kind of excretion expert?

RAY
I called it. You gotta admit I’m right.

SAM
Look you idiot, that Chinese food hasn’t been processed yet. It smells like Chinese Food because it’s regurgitated Chinese Food! And that piss is just piss! Anything can make piss smell funny, and besides I didn’t have any god damned asparagus!
CARRIE
What’s going on?

RAY
Miss, my name’s Ray and this is Sam, and we’re having a bit of a discrepancy, maybe you can help us.

SAM
Oh for Christ’s sake. Whatever you do, don’t listen to him.

CARRIE
Well, I’m Carrie and this is Pattie. She’s sick…

PATTIE
Food poisoning.

CARRIE
But I’d be willing to help ya if I can.

RAY
Well thank you ma’am. Tell me. You ever eaten asparagus?

CARRIE
Yea. It makes your pee smell funny.

RAY
Yes. That’s right. (to Sam) See?

SAM
Congratulations. You met your soul mate. Why don’t you two go make beautiful piss together.

RAY
Can you do me a favor? Can you come over here and smell my buddy’s piss.

CARRIE
Well, that’s a pick-up line you don’t hear every day.

RAY
I really would appreciate it. I just need a second opinion to see if it smells like asparagus.
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CARRIE
What? Come on.

RAY
He says he hasn’t eaten any asparagus, but I think he’s wrong. I think he has. He’s got to!

SAM
Like I don’t know what I’ve eaten. Like just go around eatin’ stuff without lookin’ at it first.

RAY
Please? I know it’s weird.

CARRIE
Well… As you can see I have a tough time sayin’ no. Why not! (to Pattie) You okay honey?

PATTIE
Yea. I’m fine. (barf)

RAY
It’s over here.

CARRIE
You just stay there Pattie.

SAM
Now wait a minute Ray. (takes him aside) You can’t make her do that. She’s in a fambly way!

RAY
What?

SAM
She’s pregnant for God’s sake…

CARRIE
What do you mean?

SAM
Why you could smell that piss and have a reaction, why you could miscarriage on the spot, drop your water or whatever and have a baby behind a bar and well, I’m not gonna take responsibility for it.
CARRIE
Oh that’s ridiculous.

SAM
The hell it is! Why you so much as look at a cat piss in a cat box? Why you’ll have a baby with flippers just like that!

RAY
Did you eat a cat today? Did you eat a cat Sam? Is that what you’re sayin’?

SAM
No, I didn’t eat no damned cat!

RAY
Well you said somethin’ about cat piss, are you a cat then?

SAM
I’m sayin’ piss is toxic for a woman in a fambily way.

CARRIE
I’m just gonna sniff it, it’s not like I’m gonna get down and lap it up.

SAM
Fine. You be my guest. But it’s a proven fact.

CARRIE
Look, we’re takin’ this pregnant woman thing a little to far these days aren’t we? Some pregnant dumb ass decided to eat her pizza after she dumped it upside down in the cat box-- she had a miscarriage and now every pregnant woman in the world so much as sees a cat and she begins screaming bloody murder. I mean come on.

RAY
I don’t get it, is human piss kinda like cat piss Sam? Is that what you’re saying?

SAM
Hey, the human embryo is a delicate thing. There’s a miracle goin’ on inside her belly and I just don’t think she should take any chances.

CARRIE
Look, I’m due any day anyway, if sniffin’ your piss gets this thing out of my belly I’ll name him after you, now let’s do this.
RAY
Great.

SAM
Fine.

CARRIE
But before I do, I want you two to promise me this moment don’t go beyond this back door area.

RAY
What happens behind the bar stays behind the bar.

SAM
That’s right. He’s right there.

CARRIE
All righty then. *(She sniffs, head snaps back)* Hmmm…

RAY
It’s asparagus pee isn’t it.

CARRIE
Well… *(sniffs)* on first sniff I’d have to say yes.

RAY
See?

CARRIE
But upon further inspection there’s a tangy hint that I cannot put a finger on.

RAY
Artichoke?

SAM
Nope, now I didn’t have artichoke either.

CARRIE
No, no artichoke. It’s hard to tell but… Oh my.

RAY
What?
I know why it smells different.

Why?

There’s blood here.

What?

Look.

Holy shit Sam. Your peein’ blood out your pecker.

Oh, well hell, that’s not unusual is it?

I’d say it’s highly unusual I suggest you go to the doctor ASAP.

Sam we better go down to the emergency room right now.

Oh now, it’s nothing…

Nothing? What? It’s not nothing, it’s blood!

Ray come here. Excuse me miss.

Sure thing.

Sam? What’s goin’ on?
SAM
Well, I uh, didn’t want to tell you this because, well it’s kind of embarrassing.

RAY
What is it Sam?

SAM
Well, I been to the doctor already.

RAY
Sam are you gonna die? Sam, don’t die. Don’t say you gonna die, Sam if you die I’ll friggin’ kill you.

SAM
Now Ray, I ain’t gonna die.

RAY
You ain’t? You sure? Well then what’s wrong?

SAM
You ever heard of a prostate?

RAY
Prostate? What’s a prostate?

PATTIE
It’s a gland.

SAM
Excuse me.

PATTIE
Sorry. It’s a gland near your anus and your urethra that makes sperm.

SAM
Excuse me!

PATTIE
I went to nursing school.

RAY
You a nurse?
No, I dropped out.

Obviously due to your alcoholism.

I’m not an alcoholic. I got food poisoning.

Yea and I’m Richard Nixon.

Shut up… Dick… (barf)

You got a problem with your pecker Sam?

No I don’t have no problem with my pecker.

Well then what is it?

Well it’s just a little Cancer thingy, but I’ll be all right.

Oh shit Sam!

Now calm down will ya? It’s fine. I’m goin’ for an operation next week, they think it’s treatable. I’ll be fine. (beat) But I have to tell you though it’s kind of changed me.

Really?

Well I don’t know, I guess I just don’t think too much about things anymore. I just do ‘em. Like tonight, I wouldn’t have jumped into this bar fight a year ago, but tonight? Bing bing bing! I was in there. And I felt alive doin’ it. Alive! Just throwin’ some punches, hurling some chairs. Why I felt like… like…
RAY
Burt Reynolds?

SAM
Yea? Like Burt Reynolds in The Longest Yard. Fightin’ cause I got nothin’ to lose. You ladies gonna be all right?

PATTIE
Yea. I don’t think I got’s nothin’ left to puke.

SAM
We gonna get goin’. Come on Ray. See ya.

RAY
You sure you gonna be all right?

SAM
Tell you what. I’ll let you drive the truck.

CARRIE
Hey! (beat) What happens behind the bar stays behind the bar.

SAM
G’night ladies. (They exit.)

PATTIE
That was weird huh?

CARRIE
Yea. (beat) Uh oh. (feels her tummy) Uh-oh.

PATTIE
Oh no. Is it…?
  (Carrie sits down.)

CARRIE
By god that’s dude’s piss did it. She’s comin’.

Blackout.