

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 smells 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.

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?

CARRIE
I know why it smells different.

RAY
Why?

CARRIE
There's blood here.

RAY
What?

CARRIE
Look.

RAY
Holy shit Sam. Your peein' blood out your pecker.

SAM
Oh, well hell, that's not unusual is it?

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

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

SAM
Oh now, it's nothing...

RAY
Nothing? What? It's not nothing, it's blood!

SAM
Ray come here. Excuse me miss.

CARRIE
Sure thing.

RAY
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?

PATTIE

No, I dropped out.

SAM

Obviously due to your alcoholism.

PATTIE

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

SAM

Yea and I'm Richard Nixon.

PATTIE

Shut up... Dick... (barf)

RAY

You got a problem with your pecker Sam?

SAM

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

RAY

Well then what is it?

SAM

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

RAY

Oh shit Sam!

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.

RAY

Really?

SAM

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.