

CANDY RUN

A Play in Three-Four Acts

by

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Cast of Characters

<u>Patricia Hall:</u>	A woman in her early to mid 40s
<u>John Hall:</u>	An overweight man in his early to mid 40s
<u>Connie:</u>	A woman in her early to mid 40s
<u>Linda:</u>	A woman in her early to mid 40s
<u>Reporter:</u>	A male reporter heard through the tv
<u>Aunt Clara:</u>	A woman in her late 60s
<u>Aunt Lula:</u>	A woman in her mid 60s
<u>Cousin Larry:</u>	A cheesy drinking man in his late 30s who keep a drink in his hand the entire time
<u>Shamicka:</u>	A rough and tough female in her early 20s
<u>Colonial Penn Cousin:</u>	An overweight man in his 30s
<u>Cousin Dewey:</u>	A fairly-handsome muscular man in his 30s
<u>Cousin 1:</u>	A man in his late teens
<u>Cousin 2:</u>	A man in his late teens
<u>Cousin 3:</u>	A man in his late teens
<u>Delivery Guy:</u>	A package delivery man in his 20s
<u>Officer:</u>	A goofy, thick eyeglass wearing officer in his 50s
<u>Model 1:</u>	A large handsome man in his 30s
<u>Model 2:</u>	A large handsome man in his 30s

Scene

Could be anywhere where in a city where prisoners escape and residents still leave their come just to get some candy.

Time

No time like the 90s but can easily be adapted to the present

ACT IScene 1

SETTING:

We are in the kitchen living room area of married couple John and Patricia Hall, they've just finished breakfast and are not discussing family celebration while taking the time out to rag on each other's family with John doing most of the ragging on both Patricia's friends and family. Patricia is chastising John for the usual things that wives chastise men for.

AT RISE:

PATRICIA is just getting up from the breakfast table to put breakfast dishes in the sink; JOHN is reading a newspaper. They discuss an upcoming graduation that, JOHN feels he's already attended.

PATRICIA

John don't forget we're attending Peanut's graduation next week.

JOHN

Wait a minute. Didn't we do his graduation with your family last year?

PATRICIA

No, that was his brother Cashew.

JOHN

Cashew?

PATRICIA

Yes, Cashew. That's Aunt Lula's oldest son. You know the one that helped you pick up and organize all those auto parts that are once again all over the yard.

JOHN

Oh yeah that one. And that wasn't help that was more like hurt.

PATRICIA

So, you messed it all up again? And you know what, I don't know how you could confuse the two? They're nothing alike.

JOHN

Oh well. Cashews, Peanuts and Almonds. I knew it was some nut from your family.

PATRICIA

How can you talk about my family? You're talking about my family with that mess that you call a family?

JOHN

My family's a mess? Your family's a mess. Your family travels in messy herds like elephants.

PATRICIA

Really John?

JOHN

Yes, like elephants. And the minute something goes wrong with one elephant, here comes the herd to really mess things up. And the biggest elephant leading the drama is your Aunt Clara. I can't stand that woman. She should get paid for her opinions. I tell you she'd be a billionaire.

PATRICIA

As much as I hate to agree with you, you might actually have a valid point this time.

JOHN

Well, let me take a stab at another valid point. Babe, I've heard of Peanut. Everybody either has a friend, a cousin or an uncle named peanut. But don't you think it's a little weird to name someone Cashew? Cashew is even bad for your family.

PATRICIA

It's not so bad but, I tell you what is.

JOHN

What? And then I must get going.

PATRICIA

Your feet John. Look at your feet. John this is the umpteenth time that you've walked out here with two different shoes on. And while you're finding the right shoe, please get your cellphone. I find your cellphone in the most-strangest places. I can't believe you can't see that those are two different shoes.

JOHN

Honest mistake it could happen to anyone.

PATRICIA

John, honest mistake? Or is it John needs glasses kind of mistake.

JOHN

You sound like that old bat aunt of yours.

PATRICIA

Who, Aunt Clara?

JOHN

Yes, Aunt Clara, the one that said I should be in a convalescent home.

PATRICIA

That's because you came out here yet again wearing two different shoes and one of them was hers. You did that.

JOHN

She meddles and she's messy. Honey, I got to go. You need anything while I'm out?

PATRICIA

No not that I can think of. Of course, I could really use some

JOHN

Let me stop you right there. I don't buy feminine products for no woman.

PATRICIA

What's with you guys? A real man wouldn't care about things like that.

JOHN

Well when I see a real man, I'll give him your number. Let me ask you this, when have I ever asked you to buy products (gesturing towards his crotch with circular motions) for this area?

PATRICIA

That time when you were (John interrupts)

Oh, that time and you ain't got to tell them all my business

PATRICIA

You asked.

JOHN

But baby, men just don't like carrying that junk through the store. You know Leroy don't you?

PATRICIA

Yeah

JOHN

Well, his wife must have hypnotized him into buying those products and Tyrone saw him and the fellas ribbed him till him was near bout in tears.

PATRICIA

That's ridiculous and it's childish. Wait a minute, you told me that you had to pick them up for your mother.

JOHN

Yeah, I did. And you know what that big purple box with the

white flower did for my social life? Girls wouldn't even look my way.

PATRICIA

Well, did you explain that to your mother?

JOHN

Explain? I protested.

PATRICIA

So she let you off the hook?

JOHN

Let me off the hook? Are you kiddin'?. Momma gave me a right hook to the top of my head. You know that scar where hair won't grow?

Yes.

JOHN

That was the result of my protest.

PATRICIA

I don't see what the problem is. Besides women do it all the time.

JOHN

That's because you women need those products all the time

PATRICIA

No, that's not what I mean. I mean women buy men's underwear, men's funky foot spray and men's jock itch cream all the time and no problem. Who cares what anyone thinks?

JOHN

Yeah because you women want to be a man's everything all the time, our doctor, our lawyer, our dentist, our urologist, our proctologist, dermatologist, our cardiologist our

PATRICIA

Okay Okay I get your point.

JOHN

I don't think you do Trish, see you creatures

PATRICIA

Creatures?

JOHN

Yes, you creatures are just some busy thinking all day and thinking all night creatures. Why ya'll think all the time?

PATRICIA

I'm not sure why one of us needs to do that but, I think you're busy making no sense all day and like I said a real man wouldn't mind one bit

JOHN

Well and like I said while I'm out I'll find a real man for you you know that guy with the glasses resting on the tip of his nose oh and I believe his name is Mr. Pecked, first name Hen

PATRICIA

I'm done talking. And don't forget your cellphone. I swear it there's ever a real emergency, you'd be in real trouble.

JOHN

I got it, I got it. Well then, I'll see you in about an hour or so

PATRICIA

Oh, I meant to tell you that the girls are stopping by today and I want you to be nice to my friends for a change.

JOHN

Exactly

PATRICIA

Exactly what?

JOHN

Your friends

PATRICIA

You've been warned. The last time they were here you scared them with that stupid rat of yours

JOHN

They aren't my friends and besides I was just kidding

PATRICIA

Kidding with a live rat John?

JOHN

Okay fair enough so while I'm out, I'll try to find em some road kill

PATRICIA

I'm warning you.

JOHN

I promise to be on my best behavior

PATRICIA

Thank-you

JOHN

For approximately one hour. And I have one good reason why I don't like those no-man having cackling hens cackling all up and through here

PATRICIA

I'm listening

JOHN

Your friends usually stay way too long, they're way way too loud and they wear way way way too much perfume. And the worst part is that one wears that Egyptian junk and the other one wears that stinkin gardenia.

PATRICIA

That is the truth but that was way more than one reason.

JOHN

Then I rest my case

PATRICIA

Don't you have some place to be?

JOHN

Oh yeah, are you sure you don't need anything?

PATRICIA

I'm sure.

John leaves

JOHN

Oh no she won't get me this time. (running back in the house) Babe, hide my liquor please.

PATRICIA

Hide your liquor? Why?

JOHN

Cause every time your friends come, my liquor goes, every single time.

PATRICIA

It's not Connie you have to worry about it's Linda

JOHN

Yeah, liquor-lovin-Linda. What's up with her. she's always got a drink in her hand. She's a lush just like that cousin of yours, hide my liquor from him too.

PATRICIA

Your doctor says that I should hide it from you

JOHN

My doctor? What are you doin talking to my doctor, that's a hippo violation

PATRICIA

You mean HIPPA?

JOHN

Trish, them doctors take a hippocryptic oath to do no harm and I'm hurt that he's talking to you. And I'm not supposed to be running all these errands anyway on the count of my water retention

PATRICIA

So many errands? You go to five different stores to save thirty cents but, you'll use ten dollars worth of gas. And speaking of hiding things, I need to hide the salt from you; that's the reason you have water retention. Oh, and speaking of Aunt Clara, she told me to hide our checkbook and just give you an allowance. What are you buying now? Not another part for that truck I hope.

JOHN

That messy meddler said what? Well, somebody need to snatch her checkbook to keep her from buying them cheap wigs that she never seems to wear straight or forward. That woman has something to say about everybody. I bet when she walks by a mirror, she even talks about herself. Messy.

PATRICIA

Don't try to avoid my question. What's this errand for?

JOHN

It's about my truck, my second wife.

PATRICIA

Are you still buying parts for that thing you call a truck?

JOHN

A few parts.

PATRICIA

There's more than a few parts in the yard, all over the yard and I'm tired of it John. I'm tired of people coming up here with your junk in their hand talking bout, ma'am how much do you want for this part. And you know, how much I hate the word ma'am. They think our yard is a salvage yard.

JOHN

Right that's what you keep saying

PATRICIA

So, what are you buying now?

JOHN

It's a man thing you wouldn't understand. But do you need anything

PATRICIA

No

JOHN

You sure?

PATRICIA

I'm sure

JOHN

Okay then (looking at his watch) it's eleven now, I'll see you around one

PATRICIA

Okay how bout I fix you a late lunch. So, don't eat while you're out.

JOHN

Okay

PATRICIA

Really?

JOHN

You bet really. Your cooking Babe it's all right here (patting his belly) and here (hand over heart) Bye sweetie.

John leaves and Patricia yells out the front door.

PATRICIA

And pick up a few of them parts on your way out.

JOHN

Love you too honey!

Patricia is drawn to the TV she grabs the remote and turns the TV up and sits on the couch.

PATRICIA

Shoot, I better start lunch. Where's my cookbook? (retrieves cookbook) Let's see oh Chicken Cacciatore sounds yummy

JOHN

I sure hope she doesn't cook chicken, I'm sick of chicken.

PATRICIA

Oh, he complains way way way too much. Maybe I do cook too much chicken. (continues looking through cookbook) Let me see let me see aha I'll do something different. How about this Indian dish right here Amritsari Murgh Makhani (has difficulty pronouncing the dish)?

JOHN

And don't cook anything that you can't pronounce or spell.

PATRICIA

I'd better not try that one. I know how he feels about foreign dishes (imitating John) if I can't pronounce it or spell it, then I can't eat it. (she laughs and continues looking through the cookbook) Here's something simple just like him, meatloaf. It's just like John to crave a loaf of meat. (looking over at the TV)

REPORTER

Please stay tuned for more details on this late breaking news

PATRICIA

What on earth is going on now? (puts pots on the stove and is drawn back to the television) A prison escape? Oh, my Lord not again. I better phone Linda (still looking at the TV while dialing Linda) Hey Linda are you watching the news? A cocktail? Get channel six, some nut just escaped again. No, it's not my cousin Peanut, Cashew was never in jail. I get it I get it they're both nuts I heard that joke already this morning. If you want to cancel for today, I can understand. Anyway, they're advising people to stay indoors; alright it's your choice. See you later (hangs up the phone) she's already drunk.

REPORTER

The escapee is serving four life sentences for killing four members of his own gang and at this time could be anywhere in the community. Lock your doors and be advised that law enforcement is asking residents to avoid unnecessary errands until the escapee has been apprehended. We've seen time where prisoners will hide in sheds or vacant automobiles If you have either one of these on your property stay clear of them until they've been searched and declared safe by law enforcement.

PATRICIA

With all that mess in the front yard he could build him a car and be off to Elcigundo. I guess I'm pretty safe; we don't have a shed or vacant car just vacant parts.

REPORTER

As I stated, the escapee could be anywhere at this time.

PATRICIA

(throws up her hands) There goes my security. (frantically looking around while talking loudly) I'm not scared though. What are the chances that he'll pick this house?

Just then there's three loud knocks on the door. Patricia is startled and she grabs a spoon.

ACT IISCENE 2SETTING:

CONNIE AND LINDA ARRIVE. LINDA walks in with drink in hand and continues to drink the entire time. The three are wrapped into the tv and doesn't notice when JOHN returns yet not to the food that PATRICIA told him that she'd make. JOHN pretends to eat imaginary food while the PATRICIA, CONNIE and LINDA still don't notice him until he pretends that the prisoner is at their door.

AT RISE

LINDA is knocking at the door which startles PATRICIA. And in an attempt to protect herself PATRICIA grabs a wooden spoon. She's then relieved to know that it's only her girlfriends. LINDA walks in a little tipsy with drink in hand as usual. The three are engulfed in the tv to learn more about the prison escapee Egbert Stump. PATRICIA is so distracted that, she neglects to prepare JOHN his promised late lunch. JOHN returns in disappointment just to have to return to get something to eat only this time that he leaves PATRICIA, CONNIE and LINDA gives JOHN a candy list and asked that he buy them something sweet to eat. JOHN leaves but, stays too long which worries PATRICIA. PATRICIA knows that he'll answer his phone and assure her that he's okay. The only problem is that, despite PATRICIA repeatedly reminding him, JOHN has left his cellphone home which is realized when PATRICIA calls it and a drunken LINDA answers it. PATRICIA knows that is a prisoner on the loose and what's supposed to be a short trips turns out to be a where's JOHN trip. PATRICIA fears that JOHN has been captured by the prisoner which prompts her to call in reinforcement, her family the

dysfunctional Jenkins and they bring a lot of chaos and mayhem with them all in the name of family support and their quest to learn more about JOHN'S insurance policy.

LINDA

(yelling from the other side of the door) Girl, let us in before the escapee kills us.

PATRICIA

(drops the spoon) Oh just a minute

CONNIE

No, she didn't say just a minute (Patricia opens the door)

LINDA

(with drink in hand) What took you so long? You scared aren't you.

PATRICIA

No. Girl, I was just fixing lunch and had to turn the stove off, didn't want no fire, safety first (Linda looks over at the stove, sniffs and pokes Connie in the side.

CONNIE

Turned the stove off? Looks like you turned the food off too. (turning the pot upside-down) Between turning the stove off and answering the door, did you also eat the food?

LINDA

And ya'll think I drink too much

PATRICIA and CONNIE

You do!

PATRICIA

Alright alright, so I have been a little distracted by the news, you know my house is one mile from the prison

LINDA

Who's making the decisions around here? I live in a gated community, I was safe at home. And you think I'm drunk?

PATRICIA

Connie, I thought you were coming later.

LINDA

Oh, she had to drive cause I'm drunk but, that's not the point.

PATRICIA

And about your gated community being safe, that's an illusion. What about all those robberies on your street last year?

CONNIE

Oh, about that that was one of her boyfriends

PATRICIA

So, it was you that tore down that illusion of being safe. Let's see what's going on now.

CONNIE

(turning to Linda) It's probably one of her boyfriends.

PATRICIA

I sure hope not, that nut killed four people.

LINDA

Oh, and speaking of nuts (holding out her hand) where's my invitation to Peanut's graduation?

CONNIE

Yeah, I'd like one too.

LINDA

And where's your nut? Did he hide that liquor again?

PATRICIA

He had a few errands to run (looks at her watch) he should be back any minute now. And your invitation is in the mail. (turning towards the TV) Turn up the volume.

REPORTER

It's been four hours since prison officials noticed forty-three year old Egbert Stump missing from the prison yard.

PATRICIA

Egbert Stump? What kind of name is that? Linda, that sounds like one of your boyfriends. They always had them funny names.

LINDA

Here we go again. It's dump on Linda Day, Linda the drinking scapegoat.

PATRICIA

Well, your boyfriends did have interesting names.

CONNIE

Yeah, like Delroy, couldn't be named Elroy like the rest of us. Delroy. Come to find out his momma's name was Delores and his daddy's name was Leroy.

PATRICIA

Couldn't dare name him Leroy Jr. though. Delroy?

LINDA

Excuse me, Delroy's ex-girlfriend is in the room. But do I look like someone that would go out with someone by the name of El Debarge.

CONNIE and PATRICIA

No!

CONNIE

But Egbert Stump yeah!

LINDA

Whatever.

PATRICIA

Alright, but remember that guy from Chicago that you introduced us to?

LINDA

Nope, I don't even go to Chi-town anymore.

CONNIE

I remember. We had to do a quick background check cause he looked like he was from America's Most Wanted. Had us runnin round looking for weapons.

CONNIE and PATRICIA

And an escape route.

PATRICIA

Oh, what was that guy's name?

CONNIE

G-Money, that's the name

PATRICIA

Yeah and the G didn't stand for good looking either

CONNIE

That G stood for gonna stab you and take all yo money fool.

LINDA

See that's why I don't introduce you to none of my dates.

CONNIE

Good, cause we wanna live.

LINDA

Oh, it don't get no better than that old stingy-hidin-all-the liquor John? Ain't he a beauty just was that doctor ordered, an enema.

PATRICIA

I think we need to worry about hiding from Egbert.

LINDA

Who?

PATRICIA

El Debarge

LINDA

Oh yeah him.

CONNIE

Let's see if another station is covering it. (takes the remote to change the channel.

PATRICIA

I better start this meatloaf. (walks to the kitchen and grabs a bowl while Linda and Connie are on the couch) Try CNN

REPORTER

Forty-three year-old Egbert Stump is described as six feet four inches tall and weighs one hundred and twenty pounds.

PATRICIA

(attention is taken away from cooking) six foot four inches and one hundred and twenty pounds. What does that look like?

LINDA

I don't know but, you better plug your keyholes

PATRICIA

Why?

LINDA

Cause that skinny fool is gonna walk up to your door and slide his narrow behind right through that keyhole.

PATRICIA

Yup, that's probably how your boyfriend escaped.

LINDA

Here we go again. I'm the posterchild for scapegoating. (pointing at the TV) They got helicopters and everything.

PATRICIA

Have they shown a mug shot yet? I got to see this.

CONNIE

I'm looking (pointing the remote at the TV) I know somebody has to have a mug shot.

REPORTER

We're working with our producers right now to obtain a mug shot. What's that, you said you have one? It appears that we've obtained a mug shot.

PATRICIA

They have one? (puts the bowl down and joins Connie and Linda on the couch) Linda do you know him?

LINDA

Ignore the ignor---ance. (takes a sip from her glass)

REPORTER

This is the mug shot of forty-three year-old prison escapee and convicted murderer Egbert Stump

CONNIE, LINDA and PATRICIA

Eww! (they all jump back on the couch as if to be frightened and then gestures like the three monkeys see, hear and speak no evil)

LINDA

(with hand covering both eyes) I can't bare looking at that. Wow! I'm drunk and he still looks bad. And you think I'd date that?

PATRICIA

(cover her ears) I don't want to hear another word about that fool.

CONNIE

(covering her mouth) I ain't even gonna say what I'm really thinking right now. Well yeah, I am. (turns to Linda) Girl, I sure hope you didn't date that.

JOHN

(offstage and humming as he walks up to the front door) I sure don't smell no food but, I do smell a trail of cheap perfume. (JOHN enters the house and sees the three of them on the couch, they don't notice him) Yep, I was right it's the garden of weeden.

Linda, Patricia and Connie still don't notice that John is home and they continue to look at the TV screen. (John looks over at the stove)

JOHN

Guess, I'll have me some lunch. (looks in the pot) What the hell? (looks over at the couch) Now she told me not to eat so there must be something cooked.

(John takes the pot and turns it upside down, he looks in the cabinet and then decides to be sarcastic and takes a plate out of the cabinet, he opens the drawer and takes out a fork.

JOHN

Aha, I get it imaginary food. Guess it won't add to this already bit ol gut of mine.

(John pretends to talk to someone)

JOHN

Why don't mind if I do. Do you come here often? No, first time trying the imaginary-food movement. What's that? Imaginary pot roast. Yes, nice piece of roast right there. Ouch! Imaginary heat. imaginary burn. (heads to the table but, turns back) Oh oh, can't forget my veggies carrots, potatoes, celery and let me get a piece of that onion right

there. Now that's what I call a healthy plate. Imaginary, no calories. Good for what ails you. Oh, I see you got a whole family with you, didn't see em. Imagine that.

John sits at the table and pretends to eat and continuously looks back at the couch and finally decides to jump up in a hurry.

JOHN

I know what will get their attention.

John walks over to the door and talks loudly

JOHN

Oh hi. You said your name is what? Egbert Stump? (just then the three ladies look over at the door and jump off the couch and hide when the husband turns towards them) You can come out now, three scared mice.

PATRICIA

Hey why are you scaring us? Wait a minute, how do you know about Egbert Stump?

JOHN

I've been listening to the radio. Baby, where's my lunch? I'm hungry.

PATRICIA

I've been a little distracted with the news and all.

JOHN

And all of what? Honey, you all are sitting here, glued to the TV and that fool could have walked up to the door and slide his narrow behind right through the keyhole and killed all three of ya'll. Man, that dude is one skinny mess.

PATRICIA

Yeah, we heard. Wait til you see the mug shot.

JOHN

I'll pass on that. I bet it's one of Linda's boyfriends.

PATRICIA

I'm sorry about lunch, but, I can still make something real fast. How bout grilled cheese and a bowl of tomato soup?

JOHN

Naw. I'm going out for something a lil more hearty. (looks over at the couch) Ladies

LINDA

Hey John.

CONNIE

Oh yeah, hey John. Sorry we didn't even know you were here.

JOHN

But I knew you two were here. (wife looks at him sternly)
As a matter of fact I knew you were here before I came in.
That's some interesting perfumigation that you two continue to wear.

CONNIE

Thanks. Do you like it?

JOHN

I said interesting and let's just leave it at that. I've gotta run, I'm starving. You ladies want anything from the store.

CONNIE

I sure could stand something sweet.

LINDA

Yeah me too. I'm way too nervous to eat real food right now.

PATRICIA

I'll take something sweet too. Let me make a list.
(Patricia grabs a notepad and pen while John sits and waits impatiently) What do you two want? (the three women get in a huddle and discuss the candy list while Patricia writes)
Okay, I think I got it all. (Patricia hands John the list)
Here, this is all we want.

JOHN

(looking over the list) Who is all this for?

PATRICIA

The three of us

JOHN

The three of who? (looking around) Three first graders?

PATRICIA

Us, just go. (hurrying JOHN out the door) And be careful you know Egbert is still out there.

JOHN

Egbert better be careful as hungry as I am. I'll be fine, you better worry about Egbert's skinny butt.

PATRICIA

Just be careful

JOHN

That's right my girl's still in love.

PATRICIA

Well be in love with me and get that mess out my yard.

joining Connie and Linda on the couch

PATRICIA

What are they saying now? Did they catch him?

CONNIE

They haven't caught him.

LINDA

Damn El Debarge. What happened to that dude?

PATRICIA

Guess we just wait this out. Oh boy

(two hours later)

PATRICIA

We've been sitting here watching this for the past two hours and we forgot about John. (looks at watch) The store is less than five minutes away.

LINDA

Well shoot, does he normally take this long?

CONNIE

Maybe he couldn't find what was on the list.

LINDA

Yeah, that's because of ya'll (pouring a drink) ya'll asking for candy that's extinct. Whoever heard of Boston baked beans and a darn zip-zam and bam-bams? Knowing him he probably went to Boston. But wouldn't he come back and tell us or call or something. Call his cell phone.

CONNIE

You know to be drunk this whole time, you sure are coming through.

PATRICIA

That's a good idea.

The cell turns out to be near Linda

LINDA

Hello

PATRICIA

Girl, hang up the phone. He left his cell phone here again.

CONNIE

He said he was going to get something to eat. Where would he go?

PATRICIA

That's right, I bet he went to Big Burgers and Buns.

LINDA

Goodness he still eats at that place?

CONNIE

Call them and see if he's been there.

PATRICIA

Can you call? This is starting to get to me (walks away and starts pacing) If something happened to him, I don't know what I'll do.

CONNIE

Don't think the worse yet (walks away) Where's your phonebook?

PATRICIA

Oh, he has them on speed dial (continues to pace back and forth)

LINDA

Would you please sit down? You're making me nervous. They still haven't found El Debarge?

CONNIE

And would you please stop saying El Debarge? He's an R&B singer not a murderer.

LINDA

Who's an R&B singer? Now you drunk. I need another drink.

CONNIE

No, you need to take a walk up them twelve steps.

LINDA

Like I tell everybody else, I took a walk up them twelve steps and stumbled back down them very same twelve steps. I call it Linda's twenty-four steps to self-acceptance.

PATRICIA

How can I sit at a time like this?

LINDA

Dang they still haven't caught him.

PATRICIA

I know and that's why I'm worried, what if Egbert kidnapped John?

LINDA

But what are the chances of that happening? You said he was an R&B singer. What's his weapon, a microphone and a strobe light? Who's Egbert?

PATRICIA

Goodness. What are you drinking? Connie what'd they say?

CONNIE

They did see John but, that was over two hours ago. I spoke to the lady that waited on him and she said she saw him leave and she didn't notice anyone else with him.

LINDA

Relax, maybe he had a flat tire or had gas (both Connie and Patricia look at her she hiccups) I mean got gas (she hiccups twice) I mean stopped to get gas. (both Patricia and Connie shake their heads and sit at the kitchen table) Good, I thought they'd never get up. (Linda lies down)

ACT III

CONNIE and PATRICIA are still sitting at the kitchen table while Linda is asleep on the couch and snoring.

PATRICIA grows so weary that she calls 911 and they send over one of their finest and most offbeat officers. Still

weary, PATRICIA contacts her family, the Jenkins to great dismay on the part of CONNIE AND LINDA. Things will not be the same as PATRICIA home becomes the setting for funeral-planning for the dearly-departed JOHN.

PATRICIA

(looking at her watch) I tell you something just isn't right

CONNIE

I agree with you.

PATRICIA

You think so too.

CONNIE

Yeah because I thought it was three women in here.

PATRICIA

You feel it too? That something isn't quite right?

CONNIE

Something's quite wrong with the fact that I thought it was three women in here.

PATRICIA

What are you talking about?

CONNIE

Who let a bear in here? You hear that? She sounds like a bear a Poppa bear riding a jalopy. She's growling and shifting gears. That's self-acceptance right there.

PATRICIA

I think I'm going to call 911, it's been over six hours and no sign of my husband. Did you call the store yet?

CONNIE

I did. Same thing as before, they remember seeing him in the store and leaving.

PATRICIA

I'm calling 911. This just isn't like him. I'm at 6211 Greenway Circle. I think something terrible has happened to my husband. He left for the store over six hours ago and the store is less than five minutes away. Okay thank-you.

CONNIE

What'd they say?

PATRICIA

They're sending someone right over.

CONNIE

Dang you then put an Amber Alert out on John. I wonder if they even come with that Egbert Stump mess going on.

PATRICIA

Well it shouldn't take long seeing how this neighborhood is crawling with cops right now (sobbing) I think he has John.

LINDA

How long was I asleep? Where's my candy?

CONNIE

You done gone and woke the bear up and it's hungry.

LINDA

Where's John with that candy?

CONNIE

We don't know and we don't know where John is either.

LINDA

What do you mean we don't know where John is? Shoot after a drink, I crave sweets.

CONNIE

But what do you crave, when you've wiped out all of John's hidden liquor?

PATRICIA

Look, this is my husband. Today, when he left I kissed him goodbye but, I didn't say I love you. I'm too busy worried about the yard looking like a salvage yard. That's what's wrong with us, we focus on what we find wrong with those we love and then in an attempt to fix em we criticize them into changing just to suit us. Now that's wrong. How do we function in a world like this? Cause we can't change people just for our comfort. Leave people alone let em be. Now I admit, John has let himself go and he's a bit messy but, when I need this man he's always there always. Just why can't we accept people weaknesses and all.

Linda is rummaging through the cabinets looking for more liquor

CONNIE

Yeah, we've had to deal with her weakness all day.

PATRICIA

I don't think you understand, I just can't imagine life without him. I certainly wouldn't be the same. That man's the reason I cherish candy so much.

LINDA

(walking over to the couch with drink in hand) Well, I can look at him and tell he likes candy but, come to think of it, you do enjoy your sweets.

CONNIE

I have to admit Trish, the candy that you sent John for was from another world. You like candy that nobody can find.

PATRICIA

Yeah and I feel pretty guilty about sending him out there. But did I tell you how I met John?

CONNIE AND LINDA

Yes

PATRICIA

Let me tell you, it just might take my mind off of this.

CONNIE

Go right ahead. (plops down on the couch) I'm sure we missed something in the hundreds of times you've told us.

LINDA

Yes, please one more time (start stuffing something in her ears)

PATRICIA

Well, I was the cashier at Bump and Grind candy shop on Main Street and John was the delivery guy Brach's candy. No one swallowed butterscotch quite the way John did

LINDA

I don't think that's a candy that you swallow but, go right ahead.

PATRICIA

He was just so strong and muscular and was quite handsome back then too. He would always be a little late with the candy delivery. I always thought he timed it just when he knew I was on my lunch break. And he'd always leave me with bags of candy and a note that said sweets for my sweets. I was so in love and have been ever since. And I don't tell him enough. So, candy brought me my life partner.

CONNIE

That was beautiful Trish for the one hundredth time

LINDA

Here's the part you left out. The candy that he left was the half-eaten bags that were uneaten bags before hitching a ride with him. (knock at the door)

PATRICIA

Oh, that must be them.

LINDA

I'll get it. Five minutes earlier and he could have spared us from a walk down candy lane. (at the door) Who is it?

OFFICER

Police department responding to a missing person. We received a call from a Patricia Hall.

LINDA

(opens the door) Come right in, she's right over there.

OFFICER

(walks over to Patricia with notepad in hand) You called about a missing husband, a John Hall?

PATRICIA

Yes, he's been gone (interrupted by officer radio)

OFFICER

Excuse me, I need to take this there's a prisoner loose.

PATRICIA

Yeah, we know.

OFFICER

(talking into his hand radio) That will be six glazed and six wally-wops with Bavarian. (walks back over to Patricia) Sorry about that, we still haven't caught him.

LINDA

Still catching those donuts though. (Connie gives Linda a mean look)

PATRICIA

As I was saying officer, my husband's been gone for over six hours and he was just going up the street to get us some candy.

OFFICER

You ladies do know that there's a prisoner on the loose, don't you?

PATRICIA

Yeah, we know.

OFFICER

And yet you still sent him out for candy

PATRICIA

He was also going to get something to eat.

OFFICER

Ladies, I've seen this a million times in missing person cases. The spouse is the first suspect but, to have two accomplices (writes on his notepad) this is good. (both Connie and Linda are annoyed by what the officer said)

LINDA

You deal with it, I might get arrested.

CONNIE

No problem. (walks over to the officer and **PATRICIA**) Excuse me officer but, do you think we had something to do with this. And I know you got your mind on those six glazed and six wally-wops with Bavarian but, think again.

OFFICER

Ladies, you messed up when you said he went to get something to eat. (walks towards the stove) There's pots on this stove, looks like he already ate (pointing and waving his finger at the three of them) And when we find the body, you best believe we're pumping that stomach.

CONNIE

(laughs sarcastically) Can't get one over on ol Deputy Barney Fife. What you need to do is pump your brakes cause

you suspicions are moving just a little too fast than your brain right now. (crosses her arms)

LINDA

Look in those pots officer. And while you're over there clueless have yourself something to eat.

OFFICER

That's next, I had the training. (looks in pots) They're empty.

CONNIE

That's right, they're empty and now you can get back to some real detective work. My friend over here is distraught and she thinks the escapee has her husband.

OFFICER

Anyway (rolling his eyes at Connie and looks towards Patricia) What was he wearing?

PATRICIA

Let me think, blue jeans, a white tee shirt, and a navy blue jacket.

OFFICER

Sort of a mechanic, is he? Does he run the salvage yard out front? ...saw a part that I'd like to have. Oh, was he walking or driving?

PATRICIA

He was driving a (abruptly interrupted by officer)

Officer

Would you happen to know the license plate and VIN numbers?

CONNIE

Officer so what happens next?

OFFICER

Easy we'll get the bloodhounds to sniff around for a body and drag the pond. That's the usual dumping site. But if the body is in the landfill, we ask the family to just hold the funeral right there. I've seen it a million times.

PATRICIA

I can't listen to this (goes to the couch)

OFFICER

You're gonna need your strength Pam

CONNIE

It's **PATRICIA**

OFFICER

(writing on notepad) Huh?

CONNIE

Her name is **PATRICIA**

OFFICER

Oh yeah, well we're gonna need Pateeshia to ID the body and they usually don't clear away the bugs. I've seen it a million times.

CONNIE

You know, I bet you've seen oh let's say "it" a lot in your years.

OFFICER

Oh, I've seen it a million times.

CONNIE

No doubt. Look here Officer, and I'm sure the strength of your glasses (Linda jumps up from the couch to interrupt Connie)

LINDA

Connie, do you have a question for the officer?

CONNIE

Yeah, I have one question for Deputy Barney Fife see we heard you order your six glazed and wally-wops

LINDA

Connie

CONNIE

No let me finish. (clears her throat) In the million times that you've seen it, have you ever seen it right?

OFFICER

Just what are you implying?

CONNIE

I don't think I'm trying to say anything that isn't crystal clear. It's just that you come up in here sounding like a bad episode and I mean a bad episode of Columbo. You're upsetting my friend and you're bringing the mood in this place way down.

OFFICER

(flipping through his notepad) If I remember correctly you three sent this poor man out for candy when you knew there was a murderer on the loose and now you're attacking me. You three sound like a bad episode and I mean a very bad episode of selfish hungry housewives.

CONNIE

Well Officer you can take that wally-wop with Bavarian and shove (Linda jumps up from the couch and gets in between the officer and Connie.

LINDA

This is getting way out of hand (turning to Connie) What's gotten into you? May I speak some real truth infused with a little crown royal? If John is missing is not our fault it's El Debarge's fault. I just want to find the body before it starts to stink.

CONNIE

(shoves Linda out of the way) Now you're starting to sound like him.

LINDA

You're right but, I'm drunk (turns to the officer) What's your excuse, you low on glazed? Officer we just want to find John alive and well.

Officer

And I would like nothing more than to do just that but, I've see it a million times (Linda, Connie and Patricia say "a million times) Look, I'll put this information into our database, we'll check vehicles and in the meantime, you call around maybe he went to a friend's house. Good day.

LINDA

Okay thanks Officer

CONNIE

Yeah thanks for all your help. Don't let Egbert get you on your way out.

LINDA

Girl you crazy. I thought that was my role.

CONNIE

No, he's crazy. That fool talking bout "I've seen it a million times". What he needs to see a million times is some new training.

LINDA

Well, it takes all kinds Connie. He must be Trish's distant cousin.

CONNIE

He was different just like her family. What's she doing anyway?

LINDA

I don't know but, she's been on the phone for quite a while.

CONNIE

She's probably calling a real officer.

PATRICIA

Okay, I'll see you in a little bit. (hangs up the phone)

CONNIE

Who was that?

PATRICIA

I called my family.

CONNIE and **LINDA**

You did what?

PATRICIA

Why not?

CONNIE

Now you know your family is a little extreme, a lot of ghetto, over the top and under the bottom, scary and strange

LINDA

CONNIE, we get it they a hot mess.

ACT

AUNT CLARA

Okay, now when we get inside, don't even say the word insurance

COUSIN 1

Yeah, don't even think about saying anything that starts with the letter n

COUSIN 2

The letter n, fool what are you talking about

COUSIN 3

You know he can't spell

COUSIN 1

Aunt Clara said don't say insurance, the n-word or anything that would suggest we're here looking for insurance money.

COUSIN LARRY

Fool, how do you spell insurance?

COUSIN 1

You testin me? All I gotta do is sound it out that's elementary sound it out

COUSIN LARRY

Okay then sound it out

COUSIN 1

It's nsure you know you should try soundin it out you might be more smarter

COUSIN 3

Spell it here we go

COUSIN 1

what smarter

COUSIN 3:

No insurance

COUSIN 1

I will for you insurance in- N; sure, S-H-O-R-E rance- R-I-N-S-E insurance

COUSIN LARRY

What? Just what I thought. You just ensured us that you're a fool. Please don't say any word when we get inside and I'm sure of that

COUSIN 1

Ah man go head with dat

AUNT CLARA:

Cut it out! The word insurance is out! Don't say it! And please God don't try to spell it and don't even ask Trish about it.

COUSIN 1

Why not? Did I miss something?

AUNT LULA

Yeah, about 12 years of school you big dummy.

AUNT CLARA

Why is Trish having a yard sale at a time like this?

COUSIN LARRY

Yeah, she's selling John's stuff and he ain't even in the ground yet

AUNT CLARA

That's nonsense. This is John's mess strewn all over the yard. Give him one truck and he's got more parts in the yard than Pontiac. I don't know how Patricia puts up with him.

AUNT LULA

She loves him leave her alone. Poor-thing is probably fallin apart right now. Remember that two-bit loser that you called a husband? You bout lost it when he died didn't you?

AUNT CLARA

Two bit? I'll have you to know that Peter was a good man.

AUNT LULA

Yeah but, Peter didn't know what to do with little Peter.
He was quite the rollin stone wasn't he?

AUNT CLARA

You just mad cause ain't nobody looked in your lovely face
and wanted to see it for the rest of their life

AUNT LULA

Peter didn't ask you first he asked me but, I turned him
down.

AUNT CLARA

Take it back! You take it back or I'll throw one of John's
tires right upside that old lopsided wig of yours

AUNT LULA

Yeah and what happened the last time you tried that. Your
eye ain't been right since.

COUSIN LARRY

Ladies, have you forgotten John is dead and we've come to
collect I mean show support to his widow

AUNT CLARA

You right cause Lula don't want none of this

AUNT LULA

Just like Peter didn't really want none of that

COUSIN LARRY

Gentlemen stop it

AUNT CLARA and AUNT LULA

Gentlemen

COUSIN LARRY

Works every time. We're here to offer moral support.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Ain't nothin moral bout this. I told ya'll about the insurance policy that we can't mention and that one of us can't spell and everybody and I do mean each and every one of ya'll went from being too busy to experiencing the stages of grief. I bet her friends are there and have no interest in money.

COUSIN LARRY

Well, I sure hope that Linda is there cause I need a drink and she's always drunk which means she either has liquor or know where some is.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

You better not drink a thing when we get inside cause liquor is your truth serum (turns to the others) he'll be in there singing like a canary. So, if he has some dirt on you grab a broom and find a rug and get ready to sweep cause he's gonna keep your secrets like a sieve holds water.

COUSIN LARRY

Well look I ain't no snitch

AUNT CLARA

No you're worse a drunk that won't stop talking

AUNT LULA

Yeah that's right. You got drunk at the last family reunion and that was the last family reunion. We got family members that still ain't talkin on account of your drinking.

COUSIN LARRY

Yeah and ya'll don't and won't let me live that down.

AUNT CLARA

I don't know why Trisha would have a lush for a friend. None of my friends were alcoholics.

AUNT LULA

My, my my how we forget. None of your friends were alcoholics because you were the alcoholic friend. You done cleaned up your life and now you lookin down on somebody. Why people do that?

AUNT CLARA

Who asked for your two cents? I drank a glass of wine with my dinner something you don't know nothing about.

AUNT LULA

Yeah and the three meals that you had each day must of all been dinner.

AUNT CLARA

Take it back! You know what Lucifer, you have always been jealous of me.

AUNT LULA

I will not take it back! But I must admit, I am jealous of you cause you the only person in the family that can see both sides of the street at the same time. Yeah, I envy one eye looking east while the other one is looking west.

COUSIN LARRY

Fellas, let's not forget why we came. Can we be a lil less dysfunctional for a few hours I mean is that too much to ask?

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Well, it kinda is but we can see the bigger picture like a 100 thousand dollar bigger picture. All agree?

ALL

Agree

SHAMIKA

Let's all agree on this, the first person that even hints insurance I get to take my Fendi bag right to they face.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

(pointing at cousin Larry) You goin down this time. You know she got a Fendi bag and a bad attitude.

AUNT LULA

Alright alright we're here to offer support and love and while we distract Trisha we'll have someone find that damn policy. I'm not staying here all night!

AUNT CLARA

Be quiet before they hear us. No one mention anything about insurance!

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

That's why I won't talk about my one hundred thousand dollar insurance policy.

SHAMIKA

Didn't we just agree that I would pop whoever said insurance in the face with my Fendi bag.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Yeah but, I'm not talking about John's policy I'm talking about mine. And why can't we discuss insurance.

SHAMIKA

Are you serious? Can I pop him just for being stupid?

AUNT CLARA

Stop it you two. And I thought we fully developed this idea but, for you and the one that ain't even close to spelling the word, no one wants to have their family discuss money while they're grieving. It don't look right. Would you want someone to do that to your grieving spouse?

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

If you're smart you would.

AUNT LULA

Smart ain't got nothing to do with it and we know that's a stretch for at least one of us.

COUSIN LARRY

We'd be lucky to find money with his name on it let alone a spouse.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Oh, I got a policy

AUNT CLARA

Where?

AUNT LULA

I got to hear this.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Hidden right in the Folger's ...and you know the best part of waking up is that policy in (quickly changes subjects) now wait a minute, I'm not telling ya'll but, I'll have you to know oh ya'll of little faith. I have a policy with a whopping one hundred thousand dollar payout for just seven ninety-five a month.

AUNT LULA

Ha, with what company?

AUNT CLARA

Probably something he ordered from QVC.

SHAMIKA

Yeah who on God's green earth would give your broke down butt a huge policy like that.

AUNT CLARA

That you almost cashed in as we were walking to get here. All that huffing and puffing sounding like a clogged chimney.

COUSIN LARRY

So tell us who insured you

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Colonial Penn

AUNT CLARA

Colonial Penn? They'll insure a corpse.

COUSIN LARRY

Cousin, you better read that policy.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

I read the policy and the fine print.

COUSIN LARRY

And?

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

And I just need to figure out a few things.

COUSIN LARRY

Figure out what? The beneficiary?

AUNT CLARA

No thank you. I've known you since you were a drunken twinkle in your parent's eyes. And everything you own came with no receipt, no manual and a felony charge.

COUSIN LARRY

Don't look at me, I'm busy.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

No No No,. The policy has a clause.

COUSIN LARRY

Here we go. Everybody, the big payout just turned out to be the big catch 22.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Here we go nothing. I just have to die on a Friday before midnight be no more than five miles from my home and have no more than 10% body fat.

SHAMIKA

Are you serious?

COUSIN LARRY

I don't know if you know this, but runners have 10% body fat. And you making laps around an all you can eat buffet doesn't qualify you as a runner. So, you can kiss that money goodbye.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

And why is that?

COUSIN LARRY

Anybody here know why this man won't see a dime of this money. You done had two asthma attacks just walking here.

COUSIN 1

Oh, I got one. Last year, you sneezed, fell and sprained your ankle.

COUSIN 2

And you the same cousin that got hit in the eye playing a video game, detached retina.

COUSIN 3

And on top of all that you the only brother I know that breaks out from the sun.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

I'm photosensitive.

AUNT LULA

You sound like dead man walking without a policy. You don't get that weak mess from us Jenkins. You get that from your daddy's side them Johnsons, they're always sick.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Aunt Lula, no they're not.

AUNT LULA

Well they make me sick all the time.

COUSIN LARRY

But getting back to your sickly self. I really hate to be the bearer of bad news.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

What?

COUSIN LARRY

Drive-by or suicide might be your only hope.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Whatever, I'll be fine, you'll see when I collect that easy one hundred thousand dollars.

SHAMIKA

See I should use my Fendi bag to his empty head just for that statement. News fa-lash. You ain't collecting nothing you need to be dead and on a Friday no less. Do you understand dead or is there a new dead that I don't know about?

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

I'll have you to know

AUNT CLARA

I mean really these conversations get dumber by the minute. Have ya'll forgotten why we're here? We're here to show my niece Patricia some support.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Oh I thought we were here for that word that we can't say and most of us can't spell.

AUNT CLARA

You ought to be glad it ain't Friday or else I'd help you cash in on that policy.

ACT III**LINDA**

Trish, I can't believe you called your family.

PATRICIA

They would want to know.

CONNIE

If I remember correctly, a few years back when John was having surgery, they were hovering over you like buzzards.

PATRICIA

That's just how they show their love when it comes to me.

LINDA

I know some families with that kind of love, the kind of love that sniffs out a potential money opportunity

PATRICIA

Well, I hope not. I mean Aunt Clara says things here and there but, nothing too bad.

LINDA

Well, honestly Trish, I don't like being here when your family's here.

PATRICIA

Why not?

LINDA

Cause your cousin Larry runs behind me all night asking me for a drink.

CONNIE

And I know you didn't ask me but, they just create such chaos. And they seem a little on the greedy side but, not in a hungry kind of way. Plus, this is a family affair.

LINDA

Yeah, I didn't think of that excuse, it's a family affair and me and Connie would be in the way. So, if you don't mind, we'll head out.

PATRICIA

Have you two forgotten that there's a prisoner on the loose.

CONNIE

Yeah, we remember.

LINDA

But, there's something worse than being kidnapped and waking up in Mexico missing a kidney.

PATRICIA

Really you two? They're John's in-laws. What was I supposed to do? They needed to know.

CONNIE

Oh, sure and we need to go.

PATRICIA

Really you two?

LINDA

I don't think you get it. I just told you that I'd rather wake up in Mexico missing a kidney than be here when your family gets here. Now that's pretty bad.

CONNIE

It does get a bit chaotic and loud when they arrive.

PATRICIA

Loud? This isn't a super bowl party my husband is missing. They'll want to find John just as bad as me.

LINDA

Well.

CONNIE

Trish, we want to be here for you but, your family blows things out of proportion and drags everybody down with em.

PATRICIA

Tell me how you really feel. What was I supposed to do?

CONNIE

I've been through enough for one night with that officer and his seen it a million times theory. Come on Linda, let's go. Keep us posted Trish.

COUSIN 1

I think the door is locked.

AUNT CLARA

Well, you didn't think it would be unlocked with that fool on the loose, did you?

COUSIN 2

Break it down, you know John is missing.

COUSIN 3

Hurry up fool break that door down. You know Egbert is somewhere out here.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Come on if you want to Egbert. I wish he would bring his skinny butt up here.

AUNT LULA

You better be quiet this ain't a Friday.

COUSIN LARRY

Plus, you too far from home to die.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Oh, we still on that?

AUNT CLARA

Trish, let us in it's your Aunt Clara.

CONNIE

I'll let em in.

LINDA

And I'll hide.

PATRICIA

Linda.

(with so much commotion outside the door Connie opens it and the family falls in)

LINDA

They're here.

CONNIE

Hi, how's everybody?

COUSIN 1

Who is that? She's kinda cute.

CONNIE

I'm Connie and this is Linda, we're Patricia's friends.

AUNT CLARA

Well friends no disrespect but, this is a family matter. Where's the grieving widow?

PATRICIA

Hi Aunt Clara. I'm not grieving. I'm just worried. And I didn't mean for you to drop (knock at the door) Who else could that be?

COUSIN DEWEY

I hope it's Egbert. Unlike ol Colonial Penn over there, I can die any day. And I haven't had a fight in six weeks. Come on in if you want to skinny butt.

LINDA

Heel boy, I'll get the door. Who is it?

DELIVERY GUY

UST delivery I have a delivery for Patricia Jenkins.

COUSIN 1

She changed her name already, now that was fast.

PATRICIA

I'm Patricia but, I don't remember ordering anything. And I certainly wouldn't order under the name Jenkins; that's my maiden name.

AUNT CLARA

Oh, I placed the order. I had obituaries printed and delivered express shipping under Jenkins. Besides, keeping John's last name is just a painful reminder of your loss.

PATRICIA

Obituaries? Reminder of my loss. With all due respect, have you lost your mind Aunt Clara? John isn't dead.

AUNT CLARA

Suga, we want to take care of everything You just relax, that's what family's for. You've been through enough.

PATRICIA

I appreciate your concern, everybody's concern but, I think it's way too early to be talking about obituaries and loss.

AUNT CLARA

There's no time like the present.

AUNT LULA

Yeah baby, you don't want to be like your cousin Paul on your daddy's side. When his wife died, nobody was prepared, and everybody was broke. Everything his poor wife had on was borrowed. And just like family, they wanted their stuff back, it was awful how they left that poor woman.

PATRICIA

Aunt Lula, that is an awful story don't tell it anymore cause you seem to share it at every family function.

AUNT LULA

Well it's true baby, just like the truth we have before us. I'm so sorry for your loss.

AUNT CLARA

Patricia, why are you friends here? I mean I know Connie is capable of helping but, isn't the other one a lush?

PATRICIA

That's my friend Linda and she does like a taste here and there.

LINDA

Yes, I like it here or there, I drink just about everywhere. In the rain or on a train to and fro down the hatch it goes.

AUNT LULA

Sounds more like a liquored-up Dr. Suess.

LINDA

In the dark would you could you in the dark?

PATRICIA

Connie can you please?

LINDA

This is just my coping strategy to dealing with your family.

AUNT CLARA

Dealing with us, Patricia friends don't have a say here.

PATRICIA

Aunt Clara, my friends are here for support.

AUNT CLARA

Well, like your friend, your Cousin Larry over there looks drunk as hell and as usual. Maybe your friends can help support him, cause, we got this.

CONNIE

I will gladly, and I mean gladly with the most enthusiasm known to man go.

PATRICIA

Don't go anywhere, I'm getting them out of here.

DELIVERY GUY

I need someone to sign for this.

COUSIN 1

I'll sign

AUNT LULA

Oh no you won't. I heard how you botch the word insurance talking sure s-h-o-r-e. Who knows how you'd spell Patricia.

COUSIN LARRY

Yo brother you better leave that alone. You know we both graduated Magna cum lousy.

COUSIN 1

Speak for yourself, I was just warming up out there.

COUSIN LARRY

Brother, do you realize that you spelled insurance with the letter N? Let me school you. There are three syllables in the word insurance and let's just say you ain't get none of em right.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Aunt Lula, yeah you sign.

LINDA

Are you listening to this?

CONNIE

Oh, it's just beginning just sit back and enjoy the show.

LINDA

I'm ready to enjoy getting the hell out of here for they start looking for an insurance policy. Come to think of it, why were they even spelling the word insurance. Wait a minute, that's what those fools came here for. You know greedy people travel in packs.

LINDA

Yeah, like a pack of wolves.

AUNT CLARA

I'll sign.

DELIVERY GUY

Thanks, here's your package.

AUNT CLARA

And Patricia, I heard what you little friends said about us coming here like a pack of wolves.

PATRICIA

Aunt Clara, I'm sure you misunderstood them, they wouldn't say that about you.

AUNT CLARA

Baby, I know they better not. I don't know karate but, I know ca-razy. I was about to give Lula a beat down earlier. Besides, I retired from the government and if anybody's looking for money it's your cousin over there with that Colonial Penn insurance talkin bout 10% body fat.

AUNT LULA

He got that much fat on each ankle.

PATRICIA

What? What is going on here?

LINDA

Told you.

COUSIN 1

Is this the casket?

COUSIN 2

Yeah.

SHAMICKA

That's nice. That color is real nice.

COUSIN 1

Yeah, it looks like Grand Daddy's casket but, way smaller.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Grand Daddy was a big ol dude. So big that we had to tear down one side of the casket and build on an extension.

DELIVERY GUY

You did what?

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Well Grand Daddy was a big man. Wise but, big. Who are you?

DELIVERY GUY

I'm the delivery guy.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Oh.

COUSIN 1

What about the food?

COUSIN 2

Who has the sign-up sheet?

SHAMICKA

I do.

COUSIN 1

What do we have so far?

SHAMICKA

Okay. Audrey is bringing three-bean casserole, June Bug is bringing two hams, Toni four baked chickens, Clara two cakes four pies, Tiny two beef briskets, Cashew's bringing sweet rolls and don't forget Peanut's graduation and Sister Marie called and she's donating two cases of Top Ramen.

COUSIN 1

Top Ramen. Who on earth brings Top Ramen to a funeral?

SHAMICKA

It'll be fine. We'll add some fresh ingredients and some meat, and you won't even know it's Top Ramen.

COUSIN 2

Okay fine but, let Sister Marie shop for it, buy it and take it to the church but, don't let her cook it.

DELIVERY GUY

And why is that?

COUSIN 1

Because last year, she dang near wiped out three generations of Jenkins with her Salmonella Salad.

COUSIN 2

Word.

DELIVERY GUY

What else is on the menu?

SHAMICKA

Rachel's bringing six gallons of fruit punch and three deep-fried turkeys.

AUNT CLARA

Wait just a minute. What in the hell is up with these fried turkeys? We didn't do no mess like that. The only thing Nina's fried turkeys can do for me is show me where three baked turkeys are.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Fried turkey is actually very juicy. And if I remember correctly your baked turkey is a bit dry, like on the Sahara Desert level dry.

COUSIN 1

I agree with Aunt Clara. Fried turkey is just plain wrong. We've been baking turkeys since the Pilgrims.

COUSIN LARRY

Hold up wait a minute. Turkeys and ovens and Pilgrims oh my. What history book you reading? I dropped out of daycare and even I know that's a dog that won't hunt.

COUSIN 1

The point is there's just some things in life the you just don't tamper with.

DELIVERY GUY

Like what?

SHAMICKA

Who are you?

DELIVERY GUY

I'm the delivery guy.

SHAMICKA

Oh.

COUSIN 1

Like you can't talk about Fred Astaire without mentioning Ginger Rogers or you can't think about peanut butter without thinking about jelly or jam or you can't

CONNIE

Do you mind with your trip down pairing memory lane? What does Ginger Rogers and jelly have to do with what's going on here?

DELIVERY GUY

Well, turkey and baking should go together not turkey and frying.

LINDA

I'm sorry but, who are you again?

DELIVERY GUY

I'm the delivery guy.

LINDA

But, you made you delivery over twenty minutes ago

CONNIE

So why are you still here?

DELIVERY GUY

This was my last stop and besides Egbert is still out there somewhere.

LINDA

Well Mr. delivery guy please don't add to the drama; this needs no extra help.

COUSIN LARRY

You do look familiar. You from around here?

DELIVERY GUY

Yelp, born and raised.

COUSIN LARRY

I bet you some kin to the Jenkins

LINDA

Oh Lord.

COUSIN LARRY

But like I was saying, I think you're family. You know your cousin's husband on Grand Daddy's side was killed by the Egghead Stump.

DELIVERY GUY

So that's what this is all about?

COUSIN LARRY

Yeah, and we're planning his funeral.

PATRICIA

Larry, weren't not planning his funeral. We don't even know what happened to John.

AUNT LULA

Poor baby is going through the stages of grief right before our eyes. She's in denial.

PATRICIA

Aunt Lula, I'm not in denial. But you guys are in the stage of hysteria right now.

AUNT LULA

How so?

PATRICIA

I called you guys to let you know what was happening. And now you're planning a funeral. Aunt Clara already got obituaries printed.

AUNT CLARA

We're just planning a few things. How dare you think this is over the top.

Two males walk in as if to be modeling suits. Turns out they're modeling the suits for John to wear for his memorial service.

MODEL ONE

Here's the suits that you asked for.

MODEL TWO

Which one do you like? Check out the line on this suit. Brother John should wear this one.

PATRICIA

Aunt Clara, you're having them model suits for John to wear at a funeral that is years away?

AUNT CLARA

Well, what do you think? Wait, before you answer that question, fellas can you pretend to be the decedent?

PATRICIA

I'm not gonna do this. I don't want to do this Aunt Clara. None of it.

AUNT CLARA

Well, if I must. Lula! Come look at these two suits.

AUNT LULA

Look at two suits? Why don't you look at both of em at the same time with them eyes that I'm so jealous of.

AUNT CLARA

Can we continue this foolish sibling rivalry when we get home? But right now, we have business to take care of.

AUNT LULA

What do you want now? Suits? What about suits? I'm no expert on suits. Why not ask one of the men? Told you I was smarter than you.

AUNT CLARA

Well, if you want to know the truth. I was thinking that, since you've been through so many relationships. I figured you were the expert on things that are dead.

AUNT LULA

I tell you what's not dead is this live fist. And Clara you can get a live beatdown and then we can have a double funeral.

COUSIN LARRY

Are you two at it again? I've had enough you two.

LINDA AND CONNIE

You've had enough? We've heard enough.

AUNT LULA

And just who are you two again?

LINDA

We're Trish's friends.

AUNT LULA

Friends?

CONNIE

Yes, we've known her since grade school.

AUNT CLARA

Well friends since grade school. Schools been long out and let's just say that your input is on Spring break while family is here. We'll decide later.

PATRICIA

Aunt Clara and Aunt Lula, no we won't decide later. Now I've had enough of the circus comes to town to plan a funeral. I know it's been eight hours since John went on a candy run and I know there's a murderer on the loose but, to come up in here and turn my home into a ghetto funeral planning session is pure wrong. And I'd like to say that this is unusual for you guys but, unfortunately, I can't. I called you for support not for this fiasco.

COUSIN 1

She got a fiancé already?

COUSIN LARRY

Dude you can't spell and can't hear. She said fiasco.

COUSIN 1

What I gotta spell filasco?

ALL

NO!

AUNT CLARA

Well, I'm so sorry you feel we've made things worse. But, where's your husband?

CONNIE

With all the commotion, we lost track.

PATRICIA

There's an update, turn it up.

REPORTER

Forty-three year old Stump has still not been apprehended, however. He's been sighted in a vehicle described as a 1993 lime green impala.

COUSIN LARRY

No way, dude got a ride just like yours man.

COUSIN DEWEY

No way, I designed it myself. It's a one of a kind custom and there's nothing else like it.

REPORTER

The lime green impala is said to be customized with gold spinners, lime green neon lights and is also a low-rider.

SHAMICKA

Wow, it's just like your car.

COUSIN DEWEY

Yeah, I know. (counting on his fingers) lime green, gold spinners, neon lights and low-rider. He has good taste I must say.

REPORTER

The license plate of the car being driven by Stump is said to be the word "boxer".

LINDA

What's your license plate number?

COUSIN DEWEY

Huh?

LINDA

Your license plate, what's the number?

COUSIN DEWEY

Oh that. I got mine personalized.

LINDA

Let me guess, boxer right?

COUSIN DEWEY

Yeah, how'd you guess?

REPORTER

As we mentioned earlier, the license plate of the getaway car is boxer, b-o-x-e-r, boxer.

It's on, oh it's on now.

COUSIN LARRY

Hey, don't look at me. I didn't take your car. I'm way too happy to drive.

LINDA

Yeah, I'm too drunk to drive too but, I can show you the door. Egbert's this way Holyfield. One down, many more to go.

CONNIE

Well at least we know he didn't take John's truck.

COUSIN LARRY

You're right but, don't criminals change vehicles every chance they get?

CONNIE

All this time you've not made much sense and the one time we need to hear your senselessness, you go and state a fact.

AUNT CLARA

That's why we should keep planning.

AUNT LULA

I think we should pray instead. Larry.

AUNT CLARA

Larry?

PATRICIA

Yes Larry. Larry would you mind leading us in prayer?

AUNT CLARA

He ain't saved. He was drinking all the way up here and he still drinking.

PATRICIA

Aunt Clara. Wait a minute.

AUNT LULA

Don't listen to Lucifer's sidekick.

AUNT CLARA

We've been trying to dry him out for years. And he ain't saved.

COUSIN LARRY

Yeah but, I'm washed in the blood of the lamb. Let us pray. Heavenly father, we come to you in a time of need, a need

to know that our brother John will come home in one piece but, if not one piece then two. We need to know that he's not somewhere in a dark place and that one day we'll get to see our brother John again. We're gonna miss brother John, why he was a good man, a patient man, the type of man that would make a simple candy run knowing that a murderous fiend by the name of Egghead was on the loose. And he was the type of man that didn't like a lot of fuss but, judging from his yard he liked a lot of useless auto parts that Aunt Clara seemed to have a lot to say about but, if brother John was still in his earthly body right now he would say.

John walks while looking down into the bag that's in his hand. Everyone freezes and slowly turns their heads in his direction. John has his head down as he's pulling out multiple bags of candy.

JOHN

Boy, the next time ya'll send me on a candy run be sure the candy is not on the endangered species list. I got your zip-zams, I got your bam-bams. I got your wally-wops I got your hip-hops. I got your now-laters I got your playa-haters I got your mean greens and your baked beans. (John looks up) Who died?

THE END

This play was written after I graduated with honors from Washburn University in 2006 and could not seem to find employment. This play is also based on a real candy run with excessive embellishments.

