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THE HOUSE OF HORACE  
"Andrea's Little Adventure"

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THE HOUSE OF HORACE  
"ANDREA'S LITTLE ADVENTURE"

ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. SOLOMON AND SOLOMON'S GENERAL OFFICE - MORNING

ANDREA, STILL IN HER BIKE-RIDING GEAR, HAS JUST ARRIVED FOR WORK AND CANNOT FIND ANYONE.

SHE TREADS THROUGH THE DARKENED CORRIDOR, LOOKING ABOUT, SEARCHING FOR LIFE AND COURAGE.

ANDREA

Hello? Horace? Hello? Where is everyone? Spit? (BEAT) Bloody typical! Victoria doesn't come in and everyone takes a bludge day...Oh my! I'm starting to sound like Victoria.

SHE APPROACHES THE CANTEEN DOOR.

ANDREA

(AS SHE PUSHES THROUGH) Hell...

EVERYONE

Surprise!

ANDREA REACTS.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

...lo!

THE CROWD BURSTS INTO THE BIRTHDAY SONG.

EVERYONE

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday  
to you, happy birthday dear Andrea,  
happy birthday to you!

HORACE HAS ORGANISED A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR ANDREA. HORACE, SPIT AND MR SOLOMON AND EXTRA STAFF MEMBERS ARE THERE EXCEPT VICTORIA. HORACE IS IN HIS USUAL "WANNA-BE WRITER" ATTIRE; SPIT IN USUAL "DON'T GIVE A DAMN" SCUNGIES AND MR SOLOMON, AS ALWAYS, IS THE IMMACULATELY DRESSED GENTLEMAN.

SPIT AND MR SOLOMON ARE STANDING NEAR THE CAKE, WHICH HAS LIT CANDLES.

ANDREA IS FLABBERGASTED.

EVERYONE IS JOVIAL. AT THE LAST FADING STRAINED NOTES OF THE SONG, SPIT NUDGES MR SOLOMON.

MR SOLOMON JUMPS TO ACTION AND PROMPTLY BLOWS OUT THE CANDLES. SPIT SNIGGERS.

MR SOLOMON

Hooray!

SPIT

Atta boy, Mr Solomon!

GENERAL TITTERING.

ANDREA

Wow! This is way cool. How did you guys know? Oh! It's a Black Forest cake. My favourite! You guys!

SPIT

(SURREPTITIOUS) Cut the crap and cut the cake!

EVERYONE TURNS TO SPIT. HE FEIGNS INNOCENCE.

MR SOLOMON

Ooo, cherries! I love cherries. They remind me of bitumen.

ANDREA

Really? Well, then, we'll just have to cut you a nice, big slice, eh Mr Solomon?

MR SOLOMON

Tarmac. Ah, yes, dotted lines and rubber...

ANDREA

Okay... Here you go. Wow, look at all those cherries.

MR SOLOMON

Thank you...ah... Thank you.

SPIT

(TO HORACE) Tarmac? Bitumen?

HORACE

He's confused it with Rocky Road.

SPIT

Eh, Mr Solomon, it's a Black Forest, mate. No speed humps, no pedestrian crossings.

HORACE

Leave him alone, moron. You wouldn't be so glib if Victoria were here.

SPIT

Glib? What's glib? You been writing again? Looking up that megasaurus?

HORACE

Thesaurus, you vacant lot.

ANDREA

(GIVING A SLICE TO HORACE) Horace...

HORACE

Thanks, Andy. (KISSES HER CHEEK) Happy birthday, mate.

ANDREA

Thanks, mate. Spit...

SPIT TAKES THE CAKE AND KISSES HER ON THE MOUTH.

ANDREA PUSHES HIM AWAY AND SCRUBS OFF SPIT'S GERMS.

ANDREA

Arrgh! Gross! I got a mouthful of  
hair!

SPIT

Ha! Like that's unusual!

ANDREA TAKES A SLICE OF CAKE AND SETTLES IN WITH HORACE AND  
SPIT.

HORACE

(TO ANDREA) So. Big celebration  
planned for tonight?

ANDREA

(DOWN) Yeah.

SPIT

(RE: CAKE) Hey, this is all right for  
a kraut cake.

HORACE

You don't sound too happy.

ANDREA

Got a small dilemma with my  
arrangements. Don't know what to do.

SPIT

Ow! Fricken hell! There's pits in  
these cherries!

HORACE

What's the dilemma?

O.S. MR SOLOMON QUIETLY COUGHS AND SPLUTTERS. THEY TURN TO HIM.

SPIT

I got it! I did the Hell's Angels' St Johns course. I'll do the Arse Lick Manoeuvre on him.

HE RACES OFF, LEAVING HORACE AND ANDREA PUZZLED.

HORACE

(CALLING) That's the Heimlich Manoeuvre, dummy! (TO ANDREA) So why the dilemma?

ANDREA

I've arranged an intimate dinner for two at Lemon Squash.

HORACE

Sounds good.

ANDREA

At eight PM, eight-thirty and nine.

HORACE

You're having three different intimate dinners with your girlfriend?

ANDREA

No, I'm having one intimate dinner. With three different girlfriends.

HORACE

In the same restaurant?

ANDREA

Uh-ha.

HORACE

Well, at least you won't have far to travel. Do they know of this arrangement?

ANDREA

No. That's my dilemma.

HORACE

That's not a dilemma, that's a disaster! How did you manage that?

ANDREA

Last Saturday. I had just spent a really "relaxing" afternoon, if you know what I mean, with Shauna.

HORACE

Shauna. Have I met her?

ANDREA

No, but you would like her. Everyone does. She's so sweet and warm and obliging and so sexy...

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE B

INT. SHAUNA'S BEDROOM - MID AFTERNOON

A SMALL, TIDY ROOM EXCEPT FOR THE DISHEVELLED BED.

ANDREA IS ON THE BED, PUTTING ON HER BOOTS AND WHISPERING INTO HER MOBILE.

ANDREA

...Give me an hour. It shouldn't take more than that to fix this tyre.

(BEAT) Yeah, me too, can't wait.

(BEAT) Soon, you sexy love pussy,

grrr...

SHAUNA, A TWENTY-SOMETHING DOWN-TO-EARTH HOMEBODY COMES IN, DRESSED IN A ROBE AND TOWELLING HER HAIR.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Gotta go. Bye.

SHAUNA

Who was that?

ANDREA GETS UP AND WRAPS HER ARMS AROUND SHAUNA; SHE IS STILL FEELING HORNY.

ANDREA

No one. The garage. (SHE CARESSES

SHAUNA) Mmmm...you feel good.

SHAUNA

You were growling at the garage?

ANDREA

Huh? Oh, yeah. They haven't fixed my tyre yet and I need it before I get booked. I wanted them to know how angry I am.

BEAT.

SHAUNA

Andrea, we need to talk.

ANDREA

I really do have a flat tyre...

SHAUNA

I want us to have a baby.

ANDREA BREAKS FROM THE EMBRACE.



ANDREA

What?! Where did that come from?!  
You're still hung up on Melissa  
Etheridge, aren't you?

SHAUNA

We've been together now for how long?

ANDREA SHRUGS.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)

We're practically living together...

ANDREA

We're not...

SHAUNA

We have practically the same  
interests...

ANDREA

We don't...

SHAUNA

We're committed to each other...

ANDREA

We're not...

SHAUNA

We're not? What are you saying,  
Andrea? Don't you love me? That  
there's nothing there?

ANDREA

(STAMMERS) Of course! Don't get me  
wrong...we're... sure! But a baby?!  
It'll tie you down!

SHAUNA

Tie you down, you mean! I'm almost  
thirty! I don't want a child that'll  
call me grandma!

ANDREA GATHERS HER THINGS.

ANDREA

You know, having a kid's not like  
having a dog, Shauna. You can't give  
it to your mum whenever you want to go  
out.

SHAUNA

Of course you can.

ANDREA

No, no baby! Look, I've got to go.  
We'll talk about this later.

SHAUNA

When?

ANDREA

Next time I see you.

SHAUNA

When?

ANDREA

I don't know!

SHAUNA

Friday.

ANDREA

Huh?

SHAUNA

Your birthday. You do intend to  
celebrate it with me?

ANDREA

Huh?

SHAUNA

You might as well know now. I booked a  
surprise dinner for us at Lemon  
Squash. Eight o'clock.

ANDREA

Huh?

SHAUNA

I take that to mean, "Thank you,  
Shauna, for being so thoughtful."

ANDREA

Yes. Of course. Thank you. Eight  
o'clock. Lemon Squash.

BEAT.

SHAUNA

Haven't you got a date to go to?

ANDREA IS STUNNED AND SPEECHLESS.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)

With Beaurepaire? (BEAT) Your tyre?

(BEAT) Grrr?

ANDREA

Yes... Yes... Yes...

SHE LEAVES.

CUT TO:

## ACT ONE

## SCENE C

INT. SOLOMON AND SOLOMON'S GENERAL OFFICE

HORACE

How could you do that to poor Shauna?

Don't you feel guilty?

ANDREA

No. That baby business scared the shoes off me.

SPIT RUSHES BACK.

SPIT

Andy! Lend us your Stanley!

ANDREA FISHES A STANLEY KNIFE FROM HER POCKET AND HANDS IT OVER.

SPIT RACES OUT.

HORACE

So who's the eight-thirty?

ANDREA

Ah. Coco.

HORACE

Coco? Like a chocolate milkshake only crunchy?

ANDREA

No. Rococo. Like a dread-locked Goth only trendy. I went straight from Shauna's...

HORACE

Ah, to the sexy love pussy...

DISSOLVE TO:

## ACT ONE

## SCENE D

INT. A NIGHTCLUB - LATE NIGHT

THE DARK, SWEAT-FILLED CLUB IS PACKED WITH YOUNG GOTHs, PUNKS AND WEIRDOS ALL LOST TO THE EARDRUM-SHATTERING, PULSATING BEAT.

COCO, A SOMBRE, SPECTRE-LIKE RAGBAG PUSHES THROUGH THE CROWD SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE. SHE CARRIES A WATER BOTTLE THAT SHE DRAWS FROM.

COCO

Where the fuck are you?! Ree! Ree!

ANDREA

Coco! Over here!

COCO

For crissake, where'd you go?!

ANDREA

To the loo. (SHE STARTS BOUNCING TO THE BEAT) Sick place, eh?

COCO

(DOWN) Yeah. I wanna crash.

SHE LEADS ANDREA TO A COUCH AND THROWS HERSELF IN.

ANDREA CAN'T RESIST THE BEAT.

ANDREA

Hey, you got any more of those pills?  
I wanna dance all night. (BEAT) You reckon Audrey Hepburn was on them when she sang that song in My Fair Lady?

COCO

Will you stop that! You're making me want to spew.

ANDREA

What's the matter, Coco, too much of a good time this afternoon, eh, my sexy little love pussy?

COCO

Shut up and sit down!

ANDREA JUMPS INTO THE SEAT BESIDE HER.

COCO (CONT'D)

How can you be so fucking cheery all the time? The world's gone to shit, them asshole cops won't leave me alone and I've lost my job.

ANDREA

Again? No big deal, you were getting too old for those golden arches anyway. You'll get more on the dole.

COCO

And I've been evicted.

ANDREA IS STUNNED.

COCO (CONT'D)

Fucking landlord. I need a place, Ree.

ANDREA

Yeah. Right. I'll help you find one.

COCO

You live alone.

ANDREA

Nah. I only have one room, Coke, you know that.

COCO

Yeah, so? It's not I got a wardrobe or anything. I can pack what I own in a fucking Franklins' bag.

ANDREA

You wouldn't be happy living with me. I've got some filthy habits. And I really mean filthy.

COCO

What? So what are you trying to tell me? I'm good for a fuck every now and then but not good enough to live with? Thanks, Ree, thanks a heap!

ANDREA

It's not like that! But, you know, we might get in each other's way.

COCO

Like how?

ANDREA

Well, you might want to entertain someone...

COCO

"Enter...?" You think I sleep around? I might like a snort now and then but I'm not a slut. I haven't "entertained" anyone but you since I met you!

ANDREA

That's not what I meant... Like, you might want to have a party or something and I might want to have one on exactly the same night and what, with your friends and mine, in that tiny, little flat...

COCO

Yeah, I get the message, Ree. I'm not thick. You're screwing around, aren't you?

ANDREA IS STUNNED AGAIN!

BEAT.

ANDREA

Nah.

COCO

Bullshit! Look at you! It's written all over your face: "I'm a two-timing bitch."

ANDREA

I'm...not. You and I are a couple. You're my little...

COCO

Yeah, pull the other one, it's got a nipple ring!

ANDREA

I'm telling you I'm not.



COCO

Where were you when you rang this  
afternoon?

ANDREA

Ah... this afternoon? Um...tyre!  
Beaurepaire's getting it fixed.

COCO

Why were you whispering?

ANDREA

You want the world to know I'm gay?!

COCO

Okay. So, if there's no one else and  
you and I are a couple, then you'll be  
free this Friday. Your birthday.

ANDREA

This Friday?

COCO

Uh-ha. You can take me out, just like  
a dedicated partner would do on a  
special occasion especially if her  
girlfriend had just lost her job and  
her home.

BEAT.

ANDREA

Name the place.

COCO

Lemon Squash at eight.

ANDREA

Can you make it eight-thirty?

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE E

INT. SOLOMON AND SOLOMON'S GENERAL OFFICE

HORACE

You ought to be ashamed of yourself.

ANDREA

I didn't want her to feel worse than she already did.

HORACE

But leading her on like that.

ANDREA

I don't need any more guilt, thank you very much.

SPIT RACES BACK IN.

SPIT

(TO HORACE) Your tie. Give us your tie.

HORACE

What?

SPIT URGES HORACE ON AS HE REMOVES HIS TIE.

SPIT

Hurry up.

SPIT RACES OUT WITH IT.

HORACE

What the hey...?

ANDREA

And then there's Tess.

HORACE

Tess? Who's Tess.

ANDREA

Number three.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE F

EXT. A PLAYING FIELD - SUNDAY AFTERNOON

A SMALL CROWD OF ENTHUSIASTIC SPECTATORS BREAKS UP, GOING IN SEPARATE DIRECTIONS.

ANDREA HAS BEEN WATCHING TESS PLAY BUT HER HEART HAS NOT BEEN IN IT.

TESS, LARGE, STRONG AND VERY BUTCH, LOPES IN, FOOTBALL IN HAND AND A HUGE GRIN ON HER FACE.

TESS

Hey! Why so mopey? We won! See me side step that gangly old queen? Shook the glitter right off his eyelids! And then - goal!! Champion stuff, eh?

ANDREA

Yeah...great game.

TESS

Comere!

SHE PULLS ANDREA INTO HER TIGHT EMBRACE.

TESS (CONT'D)

Whose are ya?

ANDREA

Yours.

TESS

Why?

ANDREA

Because you love me.

TESS

Yeah. You're the best thing that ever happened to me, Andy. Having you around always makes me feel good, play better, you know that? Wish you could be around all the time.

ANDREA

Yeah, me too. But you know my volunteer work takes me overseas a lot.

TESS

Yeah. You know you can move into my house any time you want.

TESS BREAKS TO PULL ON HER SWEATS.

TESS (CONT'D)

Where were you last night? I dropped over your place but you weren't there. When did you get home?

ANDREA

Oh, late. I...ah...had a flat tyre. Waited forever for the NRMA.

TESS

You should have called me - I am a mechanic, remember?

ANDREA

Yeah, should have. Didn't want to wake you - it was real late.

TESS

That's what I love about you - you're always so thoughtful. I was thinking - you doing anything Friday?

ANDREA

This Friday?

TESS

Yeah. Your birthday. I'd like to take you out. Somewhere special. There's this new place I found...

ANDREA

Don't tell me...Lemon Squash?

TESS

Yeah! You know about it too?

ANDREA

Yeah, lots of people talking about it.

TESS

So, when would you like me to pick you up?

ANDREA

You name the time, I'll see if I can slot you in.

TESS

Huh? (REALISING) Ah, a joke! That's another thing I love about you, you sexy thing, your sense of humour. You make me laugh!

ANDREA

Friday, you're just going to cack yourself!

TESS

Can't wait. How about... (CONSIDERING) got TAFE... wash...nine?

ANDREA

Perfect!

TESS

(PUTTING HER ARM AROUND ANDREA AND LEADING HER OFF) How about we go to my place and we can...

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE G

INT. SOLOMON AND SOLOMON'S GENERAL OFFICE

HORACE

I don't believe this! That's so unfair!

ANDREA

Hey, don't take it so hard. You don't even know her!

HORACE

I mean, you've got three girlfriends  
and I've got none!

SPIT RACES BACK IN.

SPIT

Where can I get some oxygen and a  
bucket real quick like?

ANDREA

What's going on?

HORACE

Why do you need oxygen?

SPIT

Nothing. All under control. Mr Solomon  
got a cherry pit caught in his throat.  
The Arse Lick Manoeuvre didn't work so  
I did a tracky-dacky-mee like on ER  
but I sorta nicked one of them blood  
vessels. The tourniquet did the trick  
but now he's turned blue. I think the  
oxygen will fix that but I need a  
bucket to catch the blood spurts when  
I loosen the tie...hey! Where are  
youse going? Wait for me! He's my  
patient!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

## SCENE H

FADE IN:

EXT. A FOOTPATH OUTSIDE "LEMON SQUASH" - THAT NIGHT

ANDREA

Okay. One more time. I'll wait at the bar. When Shauna arrives, you race in and tell me my father's been taken to hospital. You offer to take her home and I'll rush to my car and drive around the block, come back and wait for Coco. Meanwhile, you come back here and wait. When Coco comes in, we do it all again except you take Coco to the YWCA. Then, when Tess turns up at nine, ditto. Then I'll call each of them tomorrow and tell them it was a false alarm and dad's fine. Easy!

HORACE

I thought your dad was dead.

ANDREA

Unnecessary details. You ready?

HORACE

Sounds like a plan.

THEY SLAP HANDS HIGH-FIVE.

SATISFIED, ANDREA WINKS AT HORACE AND GOES INTO LEMON SQUASH.

HORACE LOOKS ABOUT, WONDERING WHAT TO DO WHILE HE'S WAITING.

IT BEGINS TO RAIN - ONLY A LIGHT SHOWER.



HORACE

Bugger!

HORACE LOOKS FOR SHELTER AND FINDS A NARROW ALLEYWAY BETWEEN THE BUILDINGS AND PUSHES HIMSELF INTO IT.

A POLICE CAR WITH TWO POLICEMEN CRUISES BY AND STOPS.

HORACE LOOKS AT IT.

THE POLICEMEN LOOK AT HORACE.

HORACE BEGINS TO QUIETLY PANIC.

THE POLICEMEN BEGIN TO AGITATE.

HORACE DECIDES IT'S BETTER HE MOVES ON - HE CAN WALK AROUND THE BLOCK AND COME BACK.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE I

INT. THE BAR AT LEMON SQUASH

ANDREA IS SEATED AT THE BAR SIPPING A FANCY COCKTAIL.

TESS (O.S.)

And how's my birthday girl?

ANDREA REACTS: SHOCK! HORROR!

ANDREA

Tess?!

TESS

Yeah, surprise!

SHE PULLS ANDREA INTO HER ARMS AND GIVES HER A BEAR HUG.

ANDREA

What are you doing here?! It's...it's  
seven fifty-five!

TESS

The tutor didn't turn up at TAFE, so  
here I am! You're early. Great! Happy  
birthday, sweetheart!

ANDREA SEES HORACE COME THROUGH THE DOORWAY.

SHE GIVES DESPERATE SIGNALS FOR HORACE TO BACK OFF BUT HE  
DOES NOT COMPREHEND.

HORACE PUTS ON HIS MOST MELODRAMATIC AIR AND STRIDES IN.

HORACE

Andy! Thank God I found you! Your  
father's in hospital! You must go  
right away! I'll take Shauna home!

TESS DISENTANGLES HERSELF FROM ANDREA.

TESS

Who's Shauna?

HORACE

Who are you?

ANDREA

This is Tess.

HORACE

It's nine o'clock already?

TESS

What...?

ANDREA

This is Horace...my...my...

MY DAD! YOU SAY MY DAD'S IN HOSPITAL?!

TESS

(TO ANDREA) Who's Shauna?

ANDREA

Shauna? Ha...I've got to get to the hospital. Bye!

TESS

Which hospital?

BEAT.

ANDREA

Ah! Yes, Horace, which hospital?

HORACE

Oh! Oh! Royal Prince Alfred!

TESS

I'll take you, Andy, I live in Stanmore.

HORACE

No! Prince of Wales! Pesky royalty! Always get them mixed up! Bring on the Republic!

ANDREA

Silly boy! Almost went to the wrong one. Okay, let's go! Tess?

TESS

(HURT) If you don't need me, Andy, I'll stay here. Hope your dad's okay.

BEAT. PANIC. HORACE AND ANDREA THROW EACH OTHER CONSPIRATORIAL GLANCES.

HORACE

Tess...I find you very attractive. Let's go to the movies.

ANDREA REACTS - SHE DOESN'T BELIEVE THIS.

TESS

I'm a dyke...

HORACE IS BEFUDDLED.

TESS (CONT'D)

I don't date boys.

HORACE

Well...I'm a dyke, too. Oh! Don't let this body fool you. Deep down, I'm a frustrated tribade struggling to shuck this oppressive, burdensome shell of bloke-hood and be the real me - a lipstick lesbian. Let's go.

ANDREA

True! I've almost fallen for him myself! Go!

TESS

You're acting real strange, Andy.

HORACE

Come on, Tess. I'm sure we can find a showing of Go Fish in The Well of Loneliness.

ANDREA

Please go with Horace, I feel so bad having to rush off like this on a mission of mercy. I'd feel much better if I knew you had some company tonight. (BEAT) Please.

BEAT.

TESS

Oh, all right. (TO HORACE) Don't try nothing.

HORACE

I won't! I promise. Come on. The movie's started already.

HE PULLS HER OUT THE DOORWAY JUST AS  
SHAUNA COMES IN.

SHAUNA

Andrea! Happy birthday, lover!

ANDREA

Shauna!

SHAUNA

Yes, it's me. Why do you look so surprised to see me?

ANDREA

Oh? Do I? This is my happy face. How fast can you eat?

SHAUNA

I just got here. What's the matter with you? Can I have a drink, first?

ANDREA

Yeah! Sure! Upstairs! Let's go upstairs. More private.

SHE DRAGS SHAUNA AWAY TOWARDS THE STAIRCASE.

SHAUNA

Andrea...

## ACT TWO

## SCENE J

EXT. THE FOOTPATH OUTSIDE "LEMON SQUASH"

HORACE DRAGS TESS AWAY FROM THE ENTRANCE WITH A LOT OF DIFFICULTY.

TESS IS PREOCCUPIED.

HORACE

Come on, Tess...Ugh! You're a big girl, aren't you?

TESS

I don't feel right about this.

HORACE

I'll respect you in the morning.

TESS

Aziff! I can't leave Andy in a moment of crisis. She needs me...

HORACE

No she doesn't! I need you more!

TESS

I'm going with her to the hospital.

SHE TURNS TO GO BACK IN. HORACE GRABS HER ARM.

HORACE

Noooo!

TESS TRIES TO SHAKE HORACE OFF AS SHE FIGHTS HER WAY BACK IN. HORACE CLINGS ON, SPARKS FLYING FROM HIS SKIDDING SHOES AS TESS DRAGS HIM IN.

## ACT TWO

## SCENE K

INT. THE BAR AT LEMON SQUASH

TESS

Let go of me or I'll beat the crap out  
of you!

SHE SHUCKS HIM OFF AND LOOKS AROUND.

HORACE

(RELIEVED) She's gone! Oh, what a  
shame.

TESS

I didn't see her leave.

HORACE

Must have left by the back door. Oh,  
well, no point in hanging around. Come  
on. Want a pizza after the movie?

TESS

No. Bugger off!

HORACE

What are you going to do? You're not  
staying here?!

TESS

(SHOUTING) Yes! I'm having dinner  
here! Do you mind?

HORACE

You can't!

TESS

You're going to stop me?

HORACE

No no no...God forbid. (BEAT) Ah...may  
I join you?

TESS

Wha...? You're like a bloody mosquito.  
Piss off before I splat you!

HORACE

I...I owe you a dinner, remember?

TESS CONSIDERS.

HORACE (CONT'D)

Anything you like. The choice is  
yours. Anything.

TESS

All right. But keep your hands to  
yourself. I'm not into danglies on  
dykes of any gender, got it?

HORACE

Yeah. Yeah. Hands in my pockets except  
to eat. Over there where it's nice and  
dark.

ACT TWO

SCENE L

INT. UPSTAIRS AT LEMON SQUASH

A SMALL SOFT-LIT ROOM PACKED WITH SMALL TABLES AND CHAIRS AND  
A FEW PATRONS.

SHAUNA AND ANDREA ARE SEATED AT A TABLE WITH DRINKS AND  
MENUS.

ANDREA IS FIDGETY.



SHAUNA

Mmm, this all looks so yummy. What are you having? (NOTICING) You're behaving very strangely, Andrea. Is it because of the baby?

ANDREA

Huh? (BEAT) No... Yes! Babies make me itch.

SHAUNA

You look as if you're expecting someone.

ANDREA

Oh? Oh. Ah, I thought you might be throwing me a surprise birthday party. You know, "Surprise!"

SHAUNA

No, lover, no surprises tonight.

ANDREA LAUGHS NERVOUSLY. SHE TAKES OUT HER MOBILE PHONE.

ANDREA

Mind if I make a call?

SHE PUNCHES THE PAD.

SHAUNA

Andrea! What's going on?

ANDREA

I've got a bad feeling about my dad...

SHAUNA

Your dad? I thought your dad was dead.

ANDREA

Not yet. (TO PHONE) Hi.

## PHONE CONVERSATION

HORACE

And...!...how are you?

TESS' EARS PRICK UP.

ANDREA

Good, good, how's my dad? I have this awful feeling...

HORACE

Where are you?!

ANDREA

I'm with my girlfriend, Shauna, at Lemon Squash. Upstairs. Where are you?

HORACE

I'm about to have dinner with a lovely lady, Tess, at a place called Lemon Squash. Apparently, the place has two floors.

ANDREA

Oh shit!

TESS

Who's that?

SHAUNA

What's wrong?

HORACE

My dad.

ANDREA

My dad.

SHAUNA

Oh no, is he all right?

TESS

Your dad? Is he a dyke, too?

ANDREA

No. He's stuck with Tess downst...I mean, he's struck with Tes...tosterone...Downes ...Syndrome. Or something.

SHAUNA

Oh, poor thing. Just what is that?

ANDREA

Rare. Very rare.

COCO STALKS IN, SOLEMN AN SULLEN, LOOKING ABOUT.

HORACE SPIES HER AND KNOWS IMMEDIATELY WHO SHE IS.

HORACE

Coco...

TESS TURNS TO SEE COCO.

ANDREA

What?!

HORACE

(TO PHONE) Don't any of your girlfriends own watches?

TESS IS SUSPICIOUS.

TESS

What's your dad's girlfriend doing here?

ANDREA

Oh, shit! Double shit!

SHAUNA

Is it that bad?

ANDREA

(CLOSES HER PHONE) Worse. Got to go,  
lover. You stay here, okay? Finish  
your meal, okay? Stay here. Don't  
move. Don't go anywhere, okay? Stay.

SHE RUSHES DOWNSTAIRS.

SHAUNA

Andrea! Where are you going?

HORACE

Hello? Hello? (HE LOOKS ABOUT FRANTIC)

TESS

Bit of a cradle snatcher, isn't he?

HORACE

Huh?

TESS

The little black cloud that just blew  
in. Your dad's girlfriend? Coco?

HORACE

Where is she going?

ACT TWO

SCENE N

INT. THE BAR AT LEMON SQUASH AT THE STAIRWELL AND EXIT TO  
COURTYARD

COCO SEARCHES THE RESTAURANT FOR ANDREA. SHE WANDERS CLOSE TO  
THE STAIRWELL.

AN ARM REACHES OUT AND WRAPS ITSELF AROUND COCO'S NECK.

COCO

Arghhhh!

ANDREA JUMPS FROM BEHIND THE STAIRCASE AND WRAPS COCO IN HER  
ARMS, QUICKSTEPPING HER INTO THE COURTYARD ENTRANCE AWAY FROM  
TESS' SIGHT.

ANDREA

(WHISPER) Coco! You're early!

COCO PUSHES ANDREA AWAY.

COCO

What the hell are you doing! You almost strangled me.

ANDREA

Shhh... Why are you here so early?

COCO

Somewhere to go. It's not like I've got a lounge room to sit in.

ANDREA

Oh yeah. Give me a bit more time.

(BEAT) Hey! Why don't we have dinner out here in the courtyard? It's such a beautiful night.

COCO

It's bloody raining.

ANDREA

You can smoke out here.

COCO

You're crazy, Ree! I'm going inside.

ANDREA

Nooo. Um...look! There's a table that isn't very wet. Come on.

COCO

What are you on?

INSIDE.

TESS' ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE ALTERCATION IN THE COURTYARD.

TESS

Is that Andy?

HORACE

No. She's at the hospital.

TESS

That's Andy.

SHE GETS UP.

HORACE GRABS HER IN A BEAR HUG.

SHE HURLS HIM OFF, TURNS AROUND AND CLOCKS HIM ONE.

HORACE REELS BACK IN AGONY.

HORACE

Ow that hurt.

TESS LUMBERS OFF TOWARD THE COURTYARD.

HORACE STAGGERS AND FOLLOWS HER...

TESS

Andy?

...JUST AS SHAUNA APPEARS FROM THE STAIRWELL.

SHAUNA

Andrea?

SHAUNA AND TESS NOTICE EACH OTHER.

TESS

Who are you?

SHAUNA

Shauna.

TESS

Shauna? (SHE LOOKS AT HORACE AND THEN  
AT ANDREA)

SHAUNA

And who are you?

TESS

Tess. I'm with Andy. It's Andy's  
birthday.

SHAUNA

That's right. And Andrea's with me.

THEY LOOK AT ANDREA.

COCO

(TO ANDREA) You're here with me.

(BEAT) What's going on?

BEAT

SHAUNA

(TO ANDREA) Well?

TESS

(TO ANDREA) Well?

BEAT

HORACE

I can explain everything.

ANDREA

Thank God!

TESS

Ah, the little man speaks. Make it  
good, or you'll know what it's like to  
be a Castrato.

HORACE

(HESITANT) Well, it seems that you all  
think poor Andrea here has triple-  
timed you...

TESS SHAUNA COCO

Uh-ha...

HORACE

That's what it seems. And you are all wrong. The woman you each love and adore has been honest and true to each of you.

THEY EACH REACT. ANDREA IS TOTALLY BEWILDERED.

HORACE (CONT'D)

Your Andrea would never cheat on you.

THEY SCORN AND MOCK.

COCO

Explain to us how?

HORACE

Andrea is...triplets.

SHAUNA

What?

COCO

Bullshit!

HORACE

True. True.

TESS

Andrea is triplet sisters?

HORACE

Yep.

TESS

All called Andrea?



HORACE

Ah...yes...You see, Andrea's parents were so poor, they couldn't afford different nametags for their little girls' clothing, so they called them all Andrea. Saved them heaps. Think about it.

COCO

Crap.

SHAUNA

Where are the other two... Andreas, then?

HORACE

At the hospital visiting their dad.

COCO

I thought he was dead.

HORACE

No, no, he made a full recovery. You should be thanking Andy-One, here. She's here with you, ready to party, instead of visiting her dad in hospital with her sisters, Andy-Two and Andy-Three. She has sacrificed her duty to keep each of you happy.

ANDREA

And look how you treat me.

HORACE

Don't push it.

BEAT.

PANDEMONIUM.

TESS, SHAUNA AND COCO SPEAK TOGETHER:

TESS

What a load of garbage! You lied to me! I adored you, Andy. I believed you. Everything. How could you do this to me? All I ever wanted was for us is to be together. I would have looked after you. You wouldn't have had to work. Ever. I have a good income and I own my own house...

SHAUNA

Now I understand why you wouldn't commit yourself! You had these two on the side. Is he also on the menu? For variety? You played me for a fool Andrea. Don't think I'll forgive or forget. All I ever wanted was for you to help me find someone to father my baby...

COCO

I knew it! You think I'm so pot-hazed that I can't see straight, don't you? Well, think again, babe, I'm not a junkie I just look that way. You really left me high and dry. I thought I meant something to you but obviously you don't give a shit that I'm homeless...

COCO

(TO TESS) ...You own a house?

HORACE

(TO SHAUNA) A baby?

TESS

Double-storey terrace.

SHAUNA

The only thing I need a man for.

COCO

Do you have a spare room?

HORACE

I'm a man.

TESS LOOKS AT HORACE

HORACE

(TO TESS) I lied about being a  
lesbian, all right?

TESS

(TO COCO) Yeah. Let's talk about it  
over dinner. I'm hungry.

TESS AND COCO LEAVE.

HORACE

(TO SHAUNA) So. How do you see  
the...transaction...happening?

HORACE LEADS SHAUNA BACK INTO THE RESTAURANT.

ANDREA IS LEFT ALONE, MOUTH AGAPE.

ANDREA

Hey... It's my birthday...

BEAT.

SHE SNAPS BACK AND PULLS OUT HER MOBILE AND PUNCHES THE PAD.

ANDREA

Katie? Hi. Andrea. Seems like I don't have to work back after all. All set for dinner?

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

EPILOGUE

FADE IN:

INT. SOLOMON AND SOLOMON'S GENERAL OFFICE - DAY

A BIG CELEBRATION IS IN PROGRESS.

A DAIS IS SURROUNDED BY THE SOLOMON AND SOLOMON STAFF, COCO, SHAUNA AND TESS, AS WELL AS THE TWO CRUISING POLICEMEN.

ON THE DAIS ARE SPIT, THE MAYOR, AND MR SOLOMON WITH HIS NECK HEAVILY BANDAGED. THE MAYOR LOOKS MIDDLE-EASTERN AND IS IN FULL MAYORAL REGALIA.

MAYOR

...And it gives me great pleasure to present you, Archibald Spit Nelson, the keys to our wonderful city in grateful appreciation of your courageous, spontaneous and self-sacrificing action in saving Mr Solomon's life.

ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE FROM EVERYONE INCLUDING HORACE.

SPIT

Thanks, Mustafa-mate, you're a good bloke for a teatowel-head. And thank youse all for this. Is it solid gold? Should be worth a few bob, eh? Anyhow, saving Mr Solomon was nothing.

Course, none of youse could have done it, so I'll bet you're glad to have me around, eh Mr Solomon? Just remember that, okay? And when Vicky-chicky tries to shaft me again, I remind youse. I'll write it down for youse, okay? Anyhow, any of youse looking for a quick, cheap appy-deck-tummy, lappy-rusk-cappy or a triple by-pass remember, I'm the man! Who's the man?

CROWD

You're the man!

SPIT

Yeah! I'm the man!

RAPTUROUS APPLAUSE.

THE TWO POLICEMEN RUSH ONTO THE DAIS AND CONGRATULATE AND COMMEND SPIT.

TESS

(TO COCO) Isn't he just the best human on the planet? What a guy! I wish I had his body!

COCO

He is so unreal! I wish I had his intellect!

SHAUNA

(TO HORACE) He is so gorgeous! He would make a super sperm bank. I wish I had his baby!

ANDREA

(TO HORACE) I wish I could drive like him! Have you seen how he does perfect donuts on the roundabout?

HORACE

Yeah. I'm so glad I work with him. He is so inspiring. So awesome. I wish I could be just like him. (RESOLVE WAVING) I wish I could be... just...like...him. Just like him... Just...

SMASH CUT TO:

EPILOGUE

INT. HORACE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

HORACE SHOOTS UP INTO FRAME, FACE DRENCHED IN SWEAT, AWAKENED BY THE NIGHTMARE.

END OF EPISODE