

THIS IS HOW IT BEGAN
a dramatic anecdote

by

Dan Trujillo

DIALOGUE SAMPLE

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CHARACTERS

BRIDE, and **GROOM**, a newly married couple
WAITER (*optional*), serving drinks and finger foods
PHOTOGRAPHER (*optional*), takes pictures of the couple

SETTING

The play takes place at the reception for a newly married couple. NO SET IS REQUIRED.

A NOTE ON THE EFFECTS

There are two effects called for in the script, which have inexpensive solutions. The first is a glowing hand on the Bride, which can be done using a bright green makeup. I recommend Kryolan UV-Dayglo Aqua Color, which is water-soluble. It is available at makeup stores, and on-line at <http://www.alconeco.com>.

The second effect calls for water drops to fall on the audience at the end of the play. You can use wet sponge-brushes with handles, such as those used for cleaning glasses. Shake them from the back of the house over the audience.

(GROOM & BRIDE enter or are discovered on stage. They treat the audience like guests at their wedding reception, sharing the story like a cheerful "How We Got Married" anecdote. If there is a WAITER, he/she serves them champagne and food throughout. Otherwise, a buffet table sits to one side.)

BRIDE

This is why we're here tonight

GROOM

There were cracked chicken bones, smashed pints of ice cream

BRIDE

Orange rinds, lasagna, olive pits, coffee grounds

GROOM

Garbage containers were upturned all along the street,
upturned and the contents spilled

BRIDE

Eggshells and shards of Popsicle sticks on the driveways,
and old bagel halves looked like leather dog chews, and
cans of black beans

GROOM

Cracked-apart tin cans, garbage containers, sometimes
lidless, sometimes bent, sometimes torn in half

BRIDE

Black gristle, black garbage bags, shredded black garbage
bags, flapping with these wet slaps against the walkway

GROOM

Everything was shredded

BRIDE

Shredded

GROOM

The shredded wheat was shredded, right? and you know how
quiet the neighborhood is, that's why we moved here right?
The country, where else can I do taxidermy

BRIDE

The country, with the barbecues and get-togethers

GROOM

Neighbors whose names we know, we know the guy who owns the deli, Richie, I mean how cool is that? We know Richie Who-Owns-The-Deli

BRIDE

We even know that Richie Who Owns The Deli was sleeping with Lisa -- Stu's wife

GROOM

Let me back it up a little, because it actually started three nights before the cans were found, Karen here told me she was locking up the Wendy's

BRIDE

I was locking up in back, at night alone, and I saw the dumpster lid was up, and I thought, "That's strange," and I thought, "Is there someone here?" and I thought, "I'm alone at night behind a restaurant yikes," and all around the dumpster there were green onion rings, milkshake in coagulated puddles, and you remember this was the first night of that meteor shower

GROOM

You remember

BRIDE

The big meteor shower all the scientists were all excited, Paul here was excited

GROOM

It was a big deal, we wouldn't be here tonight if it wasn't for the meteor shower

BRIDE

I saw those falling stars in the sky, and I felt something cold tap me on the head, like the drool of a Hollywood monster, I thought, "Oh God," and I turned around, but there was no Hollywood monster there, but I could've sworn...but I knew something was up

GROOM

Three nights later, the cans are ripped open

BRIDE

Everybody's got a story

GROOM

Stu -- you know Stu -- nearly fendered a broken can lying in the middle of the street, he was back from snowboarding in Vermont

BRIDE

Lisa Stu's-Wife found out when she tripped over beer cartons on the way out of the Deli, after she and Richie Who-Owns-The-Deli made love against the Boar's Head display

GROOM

Anyway Margot Up-The-Street, the old bat, she found out from her little terrier mix Algernon, all smothered in rotten chow mein

BRIDE

She told Algernon he was a very bad dog and sent him back outside like angry Jehovah evicted Adam & Eve

GROOM

Which, what was she thinking? the cans had canine, animal teeth marks, so you had to conclude maybe just a raccoon but maybe a bear or even a wildcat was out there

BRIDE

She said the meteor shower upset her better angel

GROOM

Karen here was watching CNN

BRIDE

Paul here was playing Tomb Raider

GROOM

I played a little Tomb Raider, what can I say

BRIDE

And that summed up the distance of our interests

GROOM

I heard the recycle bin thump thump thump against the birch tree and I went out and wow, and The-Man Stu called me on the phone and he was like, can you fucking believe this? and he said as he was on his way to confront his wife -- and he told me the whole story with Lisa you know and Richie Who-Owns-The-Deli, not like I didn't know

BRIDE

It was common knowledge, and it was sort of odd, because, as far as like your neighborhood infidelities go, she didn't have her heart in it

GROOM

But On-The-Case Stu was not about that anymore, he'd examined the garbage and the fang and claw marks, and he was like, "This isn't a bear, Paul, this isn't any kind of bear or bobcat," and I took his word for it because, you know, it's Take-Charge Stu

BRIDE

Shits-Gold-Bricks Stu

GROOM

Anyway he's like, "It's a monster, Paul, there's a real honest-to-God monster out there, 'cause there's this meteor shower hitting us,

BRIDE

Bringing God Knows What from the edge of the solar system, all the bits and pieces pushed out by gravity, and now they're back,

GROOM

And they're hitting us, bringing monsters that probably got eyes that glow, and claws like crescent moons," and as weird it sounds, I knew he was in some way right on

BRIDE

Paul here said, "Stu thinks there's something out there," I said, "Well what do you think?"

GROOM

We got together all the guys from the neighborhood, Of Course Stu, and me and Mike Ballamy and Mike Marches and Mike Holbrook and Mike Peterson and Richie Who-Owns-The-Deli too, if you can believe it. I was like, "What?" and Cool-Hand Stu was like, "He's a good shot," but that's Stu in a nutshell, and we met at my place

BRIDE

And when the mighty hunters came into the house, I headed out back

GROOM

There were a lot of guys interested in killing this thing