

Only If You Say Please

by

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Cast of Characters

EDNA: 40's
BUDDY: 30's
LEN: 30's

Place

Edna & Buddy's Home

Time

Afternoon

2.

Setting: The play takes place on a patio overlooking a swimming pool.

At Rise: The play opens up with Edna readying the barbecue with Len and Buddy looking on in conversation.

LEN: Edna, I gotta say you haven't changed one bit.

EDNA (bashfully): Oh!

LEN: You look as beautiful from the day I went in the joint as the day I've come out.

EDNA: Oh, stop! ...Please, go on. Ha, ha, ha.

LEN: Ha, ha. Buddy here's struck gold.

BUDDY: Thanks champ. I'm a lucky man.

LEN: I'll say. Look at your wife, this house, you even got yourself a pool. I mean, holy shit, right?

BUDDY: You like my pool?

LEN: Gorgeous.

BUDDY: Go for a swim. I'll lend you a pair of trunks.

LEN: Maybe later, after we eat this delicious food.

EDNA: Oh, Lenny, it's only barbecue.

LEN: This is gourmet Edna! The rainbow finally shines, years after being served rotted beans and canned soup...Can I get another beer?

EDNA: I got it.

BUDDY: Grab me one too, would ya honey?

EDNA enters the house.

LEN: You look good, Buddy.

BUDDY: I gotta get the fuck outta here.

LEN: What??

BUDDY: Can't tell you how many times I've made suicide attempts in that godforsaken pool you keep going on about.

LEN: You're joking.

BUDDY: Do I look like I'm joking?

LEN: You made it man, you've got the whole works.

BUDDY: Yeah, the works.

LEN: What's eating you?

BUDDY: I gotta work man.

LEN: Yeah but, you went on a half hour about how good you got it at the warehouse, they've made you head manager of sales and shit..

BUDDY: Horseshit.

LEN: Really?

BUDDY: I gotta put on the act in front of wifey or else she'll have my ass. The sound of her voice is like an alarm bell going off and it doesn't shut up for days, sometimes weeks. I feel like a I'm in the military. One fuck up and she's on me.

LEN: When did that happen?

BUDDY: Look man, eventually you gotta give in if you want to carve out some sort of normal life but this, all this shit you see here, it's like I'm in a fucking nightmare. Tell me, what do you have on the burner? I know you got something.

LEN: There's a casino.

BUDDY: Yeah?

LEN: Underground spot. Bunch of old timers looking to score big before they croak.

BUDDY: What's the stake?

LEN: Fifty-grand. Half each.

BUDDY: No shit.

LEN: Yeah.

BUDDY: I'd do it for ten.

LEN: You that hard up?

BUDDY: I want in.

LEN: You're in. Quite frankly, I thought you, I mean you really had me going, ha ha, thought you totally turned over a new leaf.

BUDDY: Fuck outta here.

LEN: I was gonna run this by you on the sly, cause there's no better partner than you, you know that.

BUDDY: When do we leave?

LEN: Easy killer. We gotta walk through the steps. We enter---

EDNA enter carrying beers.

EDNA: Beers, beers. Nice cold beers.

LEN: Thank you Edna, you're the greatest.

EDNA: (laughs and slaps Len on the face) You're giving Buddy a good reminder on how to compliment a woman.

BUDDY: I compliment you all the time.

EDNA: Could have fooled me.

BUDDY: Just this morning I kissed you up on your neck when you were putting on that perfume I love so much. Drives me wild.

EDNA: I do smell good.

BUDDY: Yes you do baby love.

Phone rings in house.

EDNA: Shit, I can't take two seconds to sit down and eat my food.

BUDDY: Don't answer it.

EDNA: It's probably Marsha, was waiting for her to call.

EDNA enters house.

BUDDY (to Edna) I'll cover your food. (puts a paper plate over Edna's dish.) Flies. I gotta get one a those zappers, you know those fly zappers?

LEN: They work good those things.

BUDDY: How do we enter?

LEN: We get in right next door.

BUDDY: Next door?

LEN: We break in the night before, carve out a hole in the wall and the following night we enter through the basement, walk right upstairs, guns blazing.

BUDDY: Sounds good to me.

LEN: You packing heat?

BUDDY: I got some guns encased buried under ground in a nearby lot.

LEN: Great.

BUDDY: We can pick them up tonight if you want.

LEN: What time? I gotta be back cause my parole officer has a real hard on for me and likes to play pop up.

BUDDY: Yeah?

LEN: I gotta make curfew.

BUDDY: What time?

LEN: No later than eight.

BUDDY: Eight? (checks watch) That's less than two hours.

LEN: I know. I watch the clock like a hawk.

BUDDY: Shit.

LEN: One year and then I'm totally free.

BUDDY: When can we go over the plans?

LEN: Come by tomorrow?

BUDDY: Yeah, sure, how does 2PM work? My lunch hour.

LEN: Perfect.

BUDDY: Alright.

BUDDY and LEN clink beer glasses.

LEN: You sure you wanna do this?

BUDDY: Don't ask me that. Not you.

LEN: I'm only looking out.

BUDDY: I'm all in.

LEN: All in.

BUDDY: Len, you've been gone for almost seven years. Must have felt like seventy for you on the inside, for me it felt the same. I quit cold turkey. Took no scores. Marlo would show his face around here and my job for a year before he finally knew I was for real.

BUDDY (cont'd): I didn't trust nobody after you got pinched. Edna was all I had as a sure thing and I have to give her credit for taking me on and loving me, and for the first year or two I was actually fooling myself into thinking I was officially legitimate. But there's that gnawing; aching feeling, like a wound that doesn't ever heal, it throbs in your dreams, when you're awake throughout your boring ass average day and you question every second...you keep looking for something because deep down you know this ain't it, even though everything is figured out and you have the house with the pool and the fucking dog, but this ain't it man. Now you're out...I've been secretly waiting, praying for this day to finally be here and it's like for the first time I'm awake, there's an excitement in the air, I'm alive and I want the action...so, you ask me if I'm all in...Lenny, does a bear shit in the woods or what?

LEN: Time to wake up the bear!

BUDDY: Oh, I'm roaring when I ain't dying.

EDNA enters patio.

EDNA: Want another burger Len?

LEN: That's, that would be fantastic Edna, thank you.

EDNA: Sure thing. Bud, you want?

BUDDY: Can I get a hot dog sweetie pants?

EDNA: Only if you say please.

BUDDY: (rolling his eyes playfully) Please...

END OF PLAY