

THE NAKED TRUTH

An original short play for audio podcast
written by Michael Alberstadt

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CHARACTERS:

JASON -- The groom (late 20s), tense and on-edge

STEWIE -- A groomsman (20s), easy-going, a bit out there, and open for anything.

BRENT -- A groomsman (mid 30s), married and over it; a gossip

PLUMBER -- A lesbian who has seen it all

AT RISE:

The SOUND of men's dress shoes pacing on a hardwood floor.

JASON

Hey! We're on a schedule here!

SOUND: A hammer against a pipe. The pacing continues.

STEWIE

Oh, man, there's a line? I gotta take a leak.

JASON

Good Lord, Stewie – what did you do?

STEWIE

Green tea, man. Goes right through me.

JASON

Your tuxedo pants are covered with mud! What the...
(he takes a calming breath)

Look, I don't want to start anything or, you know, get our relationship off on the wrong foot.

STEWIE

Not possible, brah.

JASON

Walk me through the events of the last hour. First, why did Billy – my best friend since grade school – give you the wedding ring?

STEWIE

He's still baked from the bachelor party, man. Damn lightweight was afraid he'd lose it and whatnot.

JASON

And second: you gave it to little Eddie – why..?

STEWIE

He's Frodo, dude. The ring bearer.

JASON

He's not carrying it to Mordor — though it's beginning to feel that way. So little Eddie had the ring, and..?

STEWIE

So, funny story: little Eddie and I were in the parking lot having a toke, right? He takes a hit like no eight-year-old I've ever seen. Anyhoo, he wanted to look at the ring so he took it outta the box -- and dropped it in a mud puddle! Holy guacamole, y'know?! We fished around in the goop and *found it*, but it was all black and nasty so he ran back in here to wash it off.

SOUND: A toilet flushing.

STEWIE

Oh, man, seriously? You call a plumber?

JASON

I did. Two Hearts Plumbing --

STEWIE

-- Because "A Good Flush Beats a Full House." Awesome tag line.

JASON

So, finally: the wedding dress --

STEWIE

-- Weekend rates, man. That can't be cheap --

JASON

-- THE DRESS! Tell me about Carly's dress!

STEWIE

So, funny story: Carly rolls up in the limo with her bevy of bridesmaids, right? I light another doobie, and she goes all granola-chick-without-her-wheat-germ on me and shoves her dress in my face.

JASON

Okay...

STEWIE

And I think: you know, I'll be the awesome brother and carry it in for her. Dude — I stepped into that SAME MUD PUDDLE! Dropped the dress. Dropped the doobie onto the dress. The frigging thing went up like the Hindenburg.

JASON

The idea of mixing my DNA into your family gene pool fills me with so much dread right now.

STEWIE

I bet there's an arborvitae outside I could pee on...

JASON

-- I was sitting at Starbucks last week, right? Morning cappuccino, Wall Street Journal.

STEWIE

Coffee and capitalism. I'm down.

JASON

Imagining life with Carly, y'know? Farmhouse. Range Rover. Heirloom tomatoes growing on the patio. One of those dogs --

STEWIE

-- A corgi.

JASON

NOT a corgi. A retriever. A black lab.

STEWIE

Bucolic American domesticity.

JASON

Exactly.

STEWIE

A complete fantasy. But you paint a tasty picture, brah.

JASON

Then this coven of gossips plops down beside me. Missy and Buffy and Samantha -- pert little soccer moms with their Lululemon pants and skinny lattes. You know the type?

STEWIE

Whoo, I know it well, brother.

JASON

They spent the entire time trashing their husbands! This one doesn't pick up the kids, that one never buys flowers. To hear them talk, their husbands were all work-obsessed drones.

STEWIE

Leave early, come home late.

JASON

One admitted that she just wanted a stud to give her kids.

(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)

And the others agreed with her! None of them wanted cuddling or companionship or even sex – they wanted kids and a gravy train.

STEWIE

Oh, they want sex, dude. Trust me.

JASON

Well, I am more than just a sperm bank.

STEWIE

You're a sperm bank with attitude.

JASON

I am. Am I? Seriously, I don't have a clue what they want.

STEWIE

Dude, that astronomer had it right. Mars and Venus.

JASON

I don't think he was --

STEWIE

-- We are totally from different planets, man. Chicks dig wine, chocolate and spa packages. They wanna nurture kids and corgis and friends and stuff. Dudes wanna drink beer, eat pizza and get off. And a lotta times – beer and pizza lead to number three.

JASON

Seriously?

STEWIE

Married sex is a business negotiation.

JASON

But, will Carly feel the same way about me?

STEWIE

Men and women have no business being together. Doesn't mean chicks don't want hot sex. Take the bridesmaids.

JASON

Sure, the – bridesmaids..?

STEWIE

I've boned all seven of them, brah.

JASON

You *what*?

STEWIE

Two at your engagement party. Whoa, that was a crazy night.

JASON
Four of the bridesmaids are married!

STEWIE
My point exactly, man. My. Point. Exactly.

SOUND of dress shoes running
toward them.

BRENT
Jason! They've all gone crazy!

JASON
STOP! I don't wanna hear it. We can fix this.

BRENT
Carly's gonna walk down the aisle without a dress.

JASON
I will find her a dress --

BRENT
-- Naked! She's walking down the aisle naked!

STEWIE
Dude, for real? My sister rocks!

BRENT
They're debating if the bouquet will be, you know -- large enough.

JASON
This is awful! My mom -- good Lord, my priest!

BRENT
Get this: then my wife -- bless her heart -- thrusts this Kermit
green bridesmaid dress into my hands and says, "Count me in!"

STEWIE
Soooo -- which one is your wife?

BRENT
Short, blond, aggressively fashionable, really bossy --

STEWIE
-- And really needs a bush-wacking, brah.

BRENT
Pardon..?

JASON
-- So, you kids have been married a while, right, Brent? You still
feel the spark?

BRENT

What spark? I'm gone all day working like a dog while she has these epic lunches with her girlfriends.

JASON

But the sex is still great, right? I mean, a guy like you.

BRENT

Who are you kidding? Sex with the baby-momma? I'd rather shake hands with Mr. Kowalski if you get my drift. Less negotiation.

JASON

Then why the heck are you still married?

BRENT

We share a mortgage. Look, she can have her Chardonnay-soaked girl parties. It's okay. I get together with the guys. Beer, pizza, shots and, you know, whatever from there.

STEWIE

I've been there, brother.

JASON

This is a disaster.

BRENT

That's what I said! And the drama? AMAZING! The bride started crying. Her mother smacked the priest --

JASON

-- Wait --

BRENT

-- I bounced to smoke pot with the organist -- do you know he swims a mile a day? That chest: woof -- um, so anyway, then everyone decided to, you know, let it all hang out.

JASON

Back up. Carly was crying?

BRENT

She said you should have eloped. Got married on a rock somewhere.

STEWIE

True that.

BRENT

She said her family talked her into this farce.

STEWIE

Very true, that.

JASON

We talked about that rock.

SOUND of clothes rustling
as Jason undresses.

BRENT

Jason, what the heck are you doing?

JASON

There must be husbands out there who still sweep their wives off their feet – and I plan to be one of them.

STEWIE

Dude, wait, you seriously want us to strut through the cathedral in the raw? Brah, I'm in!

SOUND: a door opens.

PLUMBER

And "with this ring, I thee wed" – or some crap like that.

JASON

You found the ring! Well, at least I'll be wearing something.

PLUMBER

No tux? What, you got cold feet?

JASON

Nope. Just a reality check. You married?

PLUMBER

My wife and I are together twenty years. Got married officially when it was legal. Never looked back.

JASON

That's very heartwarming.

PLUMBER

Just love the old girl, find her g-spot on a regular basis, and it will all work out. Oh – smile!

SOUND: a flash bulb.

PLUMBER

Three naked guys in a cathedral? I've seen stranger things. So, where's the bar?

FADE OUT: