

baby...maybe...

*By*

*F. J. Hartland*

## baby...maybe...

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*To my best friend Chuck*

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CAST: 6 Men

EVAN	late 20's
KNOX	late 30's
DALLAS	KNOX's date, 18
GRIFF	the host, 40's
JONAH	mid-30's
GIANCARLO	JONAH's partner, late 20's
TOBY	KNOX's date in Act Two, 18

(NOTE: DALLAS and TOBY are played by the same actor.)

TIME: The present

ACT ONE: An afternoon in spring. The present.

ACT TWO: One year later.

PLACE: GRIFF's apartment in Pittsburgh

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# **baby...maybe...**

*GRIFF's apartment in Pittsburgh. An afternoon in spring. The apartment is decorated for a baby shower. There is a table set up for a small buffet luncheon. EVAN is watching television. KNOX is in a chair, reading a book. DALLAS is at KNOX's feet, texting. From the kitchen an overdressed GRIFF enters with a crock pot he carries with pot holders.*

**GRIFF.** Hot stuff coming through...and I don't just mean the cocktail wieners! (Silence.) Okay. (Defeated, GRIFF fusses with something, then goes behind EVAN.) What are you watching?

**EVAN.** The Weather Channel. Did you know it's going to be rainy in Istanbul tomorrow?

**GRIFF.** (*Dripping with sarcasm.*) "Television. A medium. So called because it is neither rare nor well done." Ernie Kovacs. (*GRIFF exits to the kitchen. Returns with another item for the buffet.*) Or it might have been Maury Povich. Knox, what time is it? (*No response.*) I said, what time is it? (*Nothing.*) Knox!

**KNOX.** (*Glancing at his wristwatch*) Two minutes since the last time you asked. (*Goes back to his reading*)

**GRIFF.** Don't be difficult...what time is it now?

**KNOX.** (*Looks at watch*) 1:16. (*KNOX goes back to reading.*)

**GRIFF.** They're late.

**KNOX.** (*Not looking up from his book*) Yes, we know.

**GRIFF.** I hate late.

**KNOX.** (*Still not looking up*) And you've made that abundantly clear.

**GRIFF.** (*To DALLAS*) Why is he so pensive?

**DALLAS.** Dude, like if I knew what "pensive" meant, I could tell you.

**KNOX.** Pensive. Thoughtful. Reflective. Meditative. Contemplative. Wistful.

**DALLAS.** (*Like he understands*) Oh.

baby...maybe...

**GRIFF.** “Youth is a wonderful thing. What a shame to waste it on the young.”

**KNOX.** Who said that?

**DALLAS.** (*Pointing at Griff*) He did.

**KNOX.** I know. But it’s a quote from someone.

**GRIFF.** George Bernard Shaw...or it might have been Roman Polanski.

**KNOX.** I’ve been reading this biography of Alexander the Great. Did you know that by the time he was 26, he’d conquered most of the civilized world?

**GRIFF.** And the only thing you’ve done like Alexander the Great is sleep with little boys.

**DALLAS.** I am not a little boy.

**GRIFF.** Right. (*Exiting to kitchen*) Dumb twink.

**DALLAS.** Bitter queen.

**GRIFF.** (*Offstage*) I heard that.

**DALLAS.** Like, dude, what is his problem?

**KNOX.** Griff always gets like that when he hosts a party. And please don’t call me, dude. I’m too old to be a “dude.”

**DALLAS.** There you go again, bro, with that...like “age thing,” man.

**KNOX.** Just call me by my name. It’s not “dude” or “bro” or “man.” It’s Knox.

**DALLAS.** Chill, K Dawg, I like know your name. (*Griff re-enters with something else for the table.*)

**GRIFF.** What time is it?

**KNOX.** Would you please buy yourself a wristwatch?

**GRIFF.** I’ve got plenty of watches...none of them go with this outfit.

**KNOX.** Trust me. Nothing goes with that outfit.

**GRIFF.** Once I cried because I had no shoes...then I met a man who had no taste! (*EVAN finally looks up from the television.*)

**EVAN.** Talking about clothes...

**GRIFF.** It speaks!

**EVAN.** I bought a shirt yesterday, and the sales clerk—

**GRIFF.** What color?

**EVAN.** What?

**GRIFF.** What color?

baby...maybe...

**EVAN.** The shirt or the sales clerk?

**GRIFF.** I don't care about the sales clerk—what color was the shirt?

**EVAN.** Green. So anyway, this sales clerk—

**GRIFF.** Oh. (*GRIFF makes a tsk-tsk-tsk sound.*)

**EVAN.** What does that mean?

**GRIFF.** What does what mean?

**EVAN.** Oh. Tsk...tsk...tsk.

**GRIFF.** Nothing.

**EVAN.** Oh. So this sales clerk—

**GRIFF.** You bought a green shirt?

**EVAN.** Yes. Why?

**GRIFF.** It's just that green really isn't your color.

**EVAN.** Since when?

**GRIFF.** Like since when-were-you-born? But it's not hopeless. What shade of green?

**EVAN.** What do you mean?

**KNOX.** There's all kinds of green. Lime, forest, palmetto, pistachio—

**EVAN.** What does it matter? I'm trying to tell you about the man who sold me the shirt.

**GRIFF.** What does it matter? A man is like a blender. You have one, but you're not sure why...

**DALLAS.** I know why!

**GRIFF.** Enough out of you. (*To Evan.*) Now what kind of green?

**EVAN.** It's a summer shirt...so it's light green, okay?

**GRIFF.** What kind of light green?

**EVAN.** What?

**GRIFF.** Celery? Mint? Sage?

**EVAN.** I'll go with celery.

**DALLAS.** I hate celery.

**GRIFF.** Anyone who says they like it is lying.

**EVAN.** So I'm buying this celery shirt with a stripe, and the sales guy—

**GRIFF.** Horizontal or vertical?

**EVAN.** The sales guy was vertical; the stripe is horizontal.

**GRIFF.** Oh...tsk, tsk, tsk.

**EVAN.** Okay then, the stripe was vertical and the sales guy was

baby...maybe...

horizontal.

**DALLAS.** Now, dude, this is sounding like my kind of story.

**GRIFF.** It's just that horizontal stripes make you look thick across the middle, Evan, and you can't afford that.

**EVAN.** Would you forget about the shirt? I am trying to tell you that my sales clerk looked like one of the Baldwin Brothers.

**DALLAS.** The Baldwin Brothers...I'd do them.

**GRIFF.** Not me.

**KNOX.** You don't find the Baldwins attractive?

**GRIFF.** They all look a little...slow...to me.

**EVAN.** Alec? You think Alec Baldwin looks slow?

**GRIFF.** Well, no, not Alec. But the others—please! Steven, Daniel...and what about Billy?

**EVAN.** Yes, Billy does look a little “challenged.”

**DALLAS.** Who cares?

**GRIFF.** Did you know that Alec Baldwin worked as a cigarette boy at Studio 54?

**DALLAS.** Like, bro, what is that?

**KNOX.** A cigarette boy was a sort of waiter that people would send for cigarettes when they were too busy snorting cocaine or getting laid.

**DALLAS.** No, man, I mean...what's Studio 54?

**GRIFF.** Where did you find him, Knox, Boy Toys-R-Us?

**EVAN.** May I please finish my story about the sales clerk?

**GRIFF.** So who's stopping you?

**EVAN.** I think he was interested in me...we exchanged “a look.”

**KNOX.** So did you ask him out?

**EVAN.** Not yet. I need to get my courage up.

**GRIFF.** Ask him out when you return the shirt.

**EVAN.** Who says I'm returning the shirt?

**GRIFF.** Think about it. It sounds hideous.

**DALLAS.** Don't wait, man. Ask him out...

**EVAN.** I will...maybe.

**GRIFF.** That's why we never let you finish a story...there's never any climax. And I mean “climax” both in the literary sense and in the good



baby...maybe...

Las Vegas way. God, what time is it now? (*Knox removes and hands his wristwatch to Griff.*)

**KNOX.** Here. Just take my watch—it would be easier.

**GRIFF.** (*Looking at the watch.*) A Gucci. I'm impressed.

**KNOX.** Don't be. I bought it from a street vendor.

**GRIFF.** I could tell.

**EVAN.** How?

**GRIFF.** All of you, live and learn. Gucci is NOT spelled G-U-C-H-I.

**DALLAS.** It's not?

**KNOX.** It does not say that.

**GRIFF.** No, but it might as well. This watch has a sweep second hand. Real Gucci's don't.

**EVAN.** I'm impressed.

**KNOX.** Now if he could only harness his power for good and not evil, the world would be a better place.

**DALLAS.** So these dudes we're waiting for...

**KNOX.** Jonah and Giancarlo?

**GRIFF.** Dallas, wait until you see Giancarlo. He is gorgeous!

**EVAN.** Well...

**GRIFF.** Well? The man looks like a model for God's sakes. What do you mean, "Well...?"

**EVAN.** I guess he is...attractive. If you like that type.

**GRIFF.** Type? What type? He's tall, dark and handsome...what's not to like?

**DALLAS.** They're really adopting a baby?

**GRIFF.** Unfortunately.

**EVAN.** You don't like children?

**GRIFF.** "I like children...if they're properly cooked." W.C. Fields. Or was it Martha Stewart?

**KNOX.** Having children and being a father ...that's all Jonah's ever talked about since I've known him.

**EVAN.** Jonah I can understand. But Giancarlo?

**KNOX.** What do you mean?

**EVAN.** He just doesn't seem the "daddy type" to me.

**GRIFF.** Oh, Giancarlo can be my daddy any day!

baby...maybe...

**KNOX.** And as his financial advisor, I can tell you this adoption is costing Jonah a pretty penny.

**GRIFF.** Tell us...how much.

**KNOX.** You know that is confidential information.

**GRIFF.** Give us a hint...

**EVAN.** Griff!

**GRIFF.** Oh, please. You know you want to know...

**EVAN.** You're right. I do.

**KNOX.** Let's just say that for what this adoption has cost, he could have bought a car.

**GRIFF.** What kind of car?

**KNOX.** What?

**GRIFF.** I mean...are we talking a stripped down Ford Focus...or higher?

**KNOX.** Higher.

**GRIFF.** Honda Accord?

**KNOX.** Higher.

**GRIFF.** Crown Victoria?

**KNOX.** Higher.

**EVAN.** This is like watching the Game Show Network!

**GRIFF.** A Mercedes-Benz?

**KNOX.** With ALL the options. (*The men react.*)

**EVAN.** Griff, did you ever think of adopting a baby?

**GRIFF.** Not at those prices!

**EVAN.** Seriously.

**GRIFF.** "Parenthood—there's no form of penal servitude worse than this." G. K. Chesterton. Or was it Kris Jenner? (*Dallas laughs.*)

**DALLAS.** He said "penal."

**KNOX.** So no babies for you, Griff?

**GRIFF.** Please...I can't keep a philodendron alive.

**DALLAS.** Phil O'who?

**KNOX.** Philodendron is a large genus of flowering plants in the Araceae family, consisting of close to 900 or more species. Many are grown as ornamental and indoor plants. The name derives from the Greek words "philo" or "love" and "dendron" or "tree".

baby...maybe...

**EVAN.** Very Home and Garden Network.

**DALLAS,** How about you, K-dawg? Ever want to adopt?

**GRIFF.** Knox doesn't adopt babies...he dates them.

**DALLAS.** Man, you have really got BMS.

**KNOX.** Don't you mean PMS?

**DALLAS.** No. BMS. Bitchy Man Syndrome. (*Griff's cell phone rings.*)

**GRIFF.** Oh, that's me. (*He checks to see who it is*) Oh, I have to take this! (*Griff exits excitedly.*)

**EVAN.** Did you see that?

**KNOX.** I did indeed.

**EVAN.** He practically skipped out of the room.

**KNOX.** Positively giddy.

**EVAN.** And that can only mean one thing...

**DALLAS.** What? Tell me, dude.

**KNOX.** Griff is in love.

**DALLAS.** That's good.

**EVAN.** Actually, it's bad.

**DALLAS.** Like, bro, how can that be bad?

**KNOX.** Griff has a terrible habit of falling in love with straight men.

**DALLAS.** Really?

**EVAN.** As long as I've known him.

**KNOX.** Even longer than that...as long as I've known him.

**DALLAS.** But like why would he do that?

**KNOX.** Self-flagellation.

**DALLAS.** Say what?

**EVAN.** Griff enjoys whipping himself.

**DALLAS.** Kinky, dawg!

**KNOX.** I was speaking metaphorically.

**DALLAS.** Well, speak English, man. (*Griff returns. He is all aglow.*)

**KNOX.** So what's this one's name?

**GRIFF.** I'm sure I don't know what you're talking about...

**EVAN.** The straight man you've fallen for...again.

**GRIFF.** His name is Vaughn. He's a chef.

**KNOX.** And he's straight.

baby...maybe...

**GRIFF.** The jury is still out on that.

**EVAN.** He's straight.

**GRIFF.** I don't think he's straight, okay? Besides, I don't always fall in love with straight men...

**KNOX.** No? (*To EVAN*) Shall we list them chronologically or alphabetically?

**GRIFF.** Please don't do this...

**EVAN.** Chronologically hardly seems a challenge any more...

**KNOX.** I couldn't agree with you more...

**GRIFF.** Could we please change the subject?

**EVAN.** Alphabetically then it is. You first.

**KNOX.** Albert.

**EVAN.** Boyd.

**KNOX.** Brad.

**EVAN.** Edmund.

**GRIFF.** You can stop any time now.

**KNOX.** Everett.

**EVAN.** Frank

**KNOX.** Gregory.

**EVAN.** Horace.

**DALLAS.** Whoa, dawg...you dated a straight dude named Horace?

**GRIFF.** It's a perfectly fine name.

**DALLAS.** The name isn't the problem, bro. He was straight. Why would you date a straight dude?

**GRIFF.** Don't you have a paper route or something?

**EVAN.** I think Dallas has posed a perfectly reasonable question.

**DALLAS.** Thanks, man.

**KNOX.** And I can't wait to hear the answer!

**GRIFF.** Oh, like none of you have ever been with a straight man. Knox?

**KNOX.** Well...I did bring this guy home. He was gorgeous...young...

**GRIFF.** I think that goes without saying...

**KNOX.** And we had this really phenomenal sex. When it's all over, I ask if we can get together again. He said, "No, I'm getting married in the morning. This was just something I always wanted to try."

baby...maybe...

**DALLAS.** Don't feel bad, dude. Same thing happened to me. Of all my homies—Toad, Pork, Bullyboi, Weasel...

**GRIFF.** You really need to find “homies” with better names.

**DALLAS.** ...Rob was the only one who was on my “fuckit list.” So we skipped school, drank some beer his brother bought for us...and we hooked up. But it didn't go too well. When he was getting dressed, he said, “Well, I guess it's back to women for me.”

**GRIFF.** Your turn, Evan.

**EVAN.** For what?

**GRIFF.** Tell us about a straight man you've been with.

**EVAN.** I don't have a story...

**KNOX.** Really?

**EVAN.** I've never been with a straight man. What can I say? (*Griff checks his wristwatch.*)

**GRIFF.** My God, according to this knock-off Gucci watch, it's 1:44. Where are Jonah and Giancarlo?

**KNOX.** You're preaching to the choir. All of us were on time.

**GRIFF.** I've trained you all well.

**DALLAS.** Bro, did you use your whip?

**GRIFF.** I beg your pardon?

**DALLAS.** The one your beat yourself with.

**GRIFF.** What?

**DALLAS.** My man Knox here said—

**KNOX.** Griff, never mind. (*To Dallas.*) I told you I was speaking metaphorically.

**DALLAS.** And I told you, I only speak a few words of Spanish...oh, and English.

**GRIFF.** English? Don't flatter yourself. (*Griff exits to kitchen again.*)

**DALLAS.** Man, he is always like basically dissin' me.

**KNOX.** I'm sorry. I had to be here, but I shouldn't have made you come.

**DALLAS.** You didn't make me do anything, bro. I had FOMO.

**EVAN.** FOMO?

**DALLAS.** Fear Of Missing Out. Besides, I wanted to be here...with you.

baby...maybe...

**KNOX.** In the nineteen days I know you, that is the nicest thing you've ever said to me. (*They kiss.*)

**EVAN.** Oh, this has Lifetime Television written all over it! (*Griff returns with something else for the buffet table. Evan picks up a framed photograph.*) Griff, I've never seen this before. Is this your family?

**GRIFF.** Oh, I was cleaning out my desk and found that. Yes, that's the family.

**DALLAS.** You have a family?

**GRIFF.** Of course. Where else would I have come from?

**DALLAS.** Spawn of Satan?

**GRIFF.** Bitch.

**DALLAS.** Troll.

**KNOX.** In all the years I've known you, Griff, I don't think I've ever met anyone from your family.

**GRIFF.** "If Mr. Vincent Price were to be co-starred with Miss Bette Davis in a story by Mr. Edgar Allan Poe directed by Mr. Roger Corman, it could not fully express the pent-up violence and depravity of a single day in the life of the average family." Quentin Crisp. Or was it one of the "sister wives"?

**KNOX.** So why haven't I met anyone from your family?

**GRIFF.** Well, we don't talk much.

**EVAN.** And why is that?

**DALLAS.** I think I know why...

**GRIFF.** There was a bad falling out right before my sister's wedding. She asked me what song she should have played when she came down the aisle. I suggested "That's Why the Lady is a Tramp."

**KNOX.** You didn't.

**GRIFF.** I did.

**EVAN.** Griff!

**GRIFF.** What? You can never go wrong with Rodgers and Hart.

**KNOX.** Griff, there is a pool of fire in hell with your name on it.

**GRIFF.** Oh, good. I always wanted my own pool!

**EVAN.** (*Again looking at the photo*) Well, your sister is very pretty.

**GRIFF.** That's not my sister. My sister was busy that day, so my mother paid the neighbor's girl to fill in.

baby...maybe...

**KNOX.** Why would she do that?

**GRIFF.** My mother is one of those people who refuses to cancel an appointment...or be late.

**KNOX.** The crazy apple really doesn't fall too far from the crazy tree, does it?

**GRIFF.** Speaking of which...where are Jonah and Giancarlo? Did or did not the invitations clearly read "Cocktails at one. Party games at two. And supper and gifts at three?"

**DALLAS.** Shit, man, was I supposed to bring a gift?

**GRIFF.** Of course, you're supposed to bring a gift. Haven't you ever been to a baby shower before?

**KNOX.** In Dallas' defense, I've never been to a baby shower before.

**EVAN.** Me either.

**DALLAS.** But you did bring a gift, right?

**KNOX.** I brought a gift from the both of us.

**DALLAS.** Cool, bro. *(To Evan)* And, man, you brought a gift?

**EVAN.** Yes, I did.

**DALLAS.** What did you bring?

**EVAN.** Not having a clue what to bring to a baby shower, I asked my sister for a suggestion and she recommended a vaporizer.

**DALLAS.** *(To Knox)* You didn't buy a vaporizer, did you, dude?

**KNOX.** No.

**DALLAS.** *(To Evan)* Yo, what a great gift. A vaporizer.

**EVAN.** It's supposed to be helpful if the baby has colic.

**DALLAS.** Whoa, dog. Colic, that's like really bad.

**GRIFF.** You know what colic is?

**DALLAS.** Dude, it's like when your hair sticks out in all the wrong places. And not on purpose, either.

**GRIFF.** Yes, God forbid Jonah and Giancarlo's baby has hair that sticks out in all the wrong places. And where are Jonah and Giancarlo, by the way? It's 1:41! It was supposed to be cocktails at one...

**KNOX and EVAN.** Games at two. Supper and gifts at three.

**DALLAS.** Knox showed me those invites you made. They were cool, man.

**GRIFF.** And who read it to you?

baby...maybe...

**KNOX.** Griff, please.

**GRIFF.** I meant I thought he spent all his time skateboarding.

**DALLAS.** I have to, bro, I got this big...um...uh...

**KNOX.** Competition.

**DALLAS.** Right. Thanks, dude. I got this big competition coming up. Like...real soon.

**KNOX.** Dallas is one of the top-ranked skateboarders in the state, you know. He could even qualify for the Olympics.

**GRIFF.** Skateboarding is an Olympic event?

**DALLAS.** Yeah. Since...uh...

**KNOX.** 2020.

**DALLAS.** Righteous, bro.

**GRIFF.** My mother is right. Armageddon draws nigh.

**DALLAS.** Armageddon. Cool, dude.

**EVAN.** (*Changing the topic*) Didn't someone say something about cocktails?

**GRIFF.** Where are my manners?

**DALLAS.** Yeah, like where, dude? You need me to help you look for them?

**GRIFF.** "I only drink to make other people seem interesting." George Jean Nathan. Or was it Snookie on *The Jersey Shore*? Name your poison, Knox.

**KNOX.** Scotch on the rocks, please.

**GRIFF.** Evan?

**EVAN.** I'll have a beer.

**DALLAS.** Make that two, bro.

**GRIFF.** (*To Dallas*) May I see some identification please?

**DALLAS.** Man, you are riding me, right?

**GRIFF.** I do not tolerate underage drinking...in my apartment anyway. ID, please.

**DALLAS.** I don't believe this. (*Begrudgingly, Dallas produces an ID.*)

**GRIFF.** Oh my God, you really are 18.

**DALLAS.** (*Taking the ID back*) ...and a half. I get to lose my voting virginity this year!

**GRIFF.** No one over the age of four adds fractions to their age. (*Griff*



baby...maybe...

*exits to kitchen.)*

**DALLAS.** Bitter old queen.

**GRIFF.** (*Offstage*) I heard that!

**DALLAS.** For an old dude, he's got good hearing. (*Unnoticed by Knox and Evan, Dallas goes to the buffet table...eats a few finger sandwiches.*)

**EVAN.** Do you think we were too hard on Griff? About his straight man?

**KNOX.** I don't know about you, but I don't think I can go through the distraught phone calls at 4am. And the suicide attempts. Remember the suicide attempts?

**EVAN.** How could I forget? It was the first time I'd seem someone's stomach pumped. (*Pointing at the television*) Knox, check this guy out. (*KNOX does so.*)

**KNOX.** Oh my God...

**EVAN.** Isn't he amazing? (*Suddenly, both men make sounds of disgust.*)

**KNOX.** Why is it the moment I think a man is attractive, he spits. (*Knox sees what Dallas is doing.*) Oh my God, Dallas! What are you doing?

**DALLAS.** It's like food, right? I'm eating.

**EVAN.** Griff will have a stroke.

**DALLAS.** What do you mean?

**KNOX.** Stroke. Seizure. Apoplexy. Convulsion. Fit.

**DALLAS.** We're not supposed to eat?

**KNOX.** Not until three.

**DALLAS.** I ate one little sandwich and some of that "stuff" over there.

**KNOX.** That "stuff" happens to be pate de fois gras.

**DALLAS.** Yeah, well tell Patty it basically tastes like dog food. (*Knox and EVAN frantically try to fix the food display.*)

**EVAN.** This is so The Cooking Channel.

**DALLAS.** Man, like the dude is not going to notice.

**GRIFF.** That's what you think.

**EVAN.** He's coming.

**KNOX.** Act natural. (*The three race back to their original positions just as Griff enters with a tray of drinks.*)

**GRIFF.** Cocktails coming through..."An alcoholic is someone you

baby...maybe...

don't like who drinks as much as you do." Dylan Thomas. Or maybe it was David Hasselhoff. (*He delivers each drink.*) A scotch for Knox...a beer for Evan. Men are like coolers. Fill them with beer and you can take them any where. And for Dallas— (*Griff holds the tray in front of Dallas.*)

**DALLAS.** Very funny, bro.

**KNOX.** What?

**DALLAS.** A juice box. (*Griff shudders, drops the empty tray.*)

**EVAN.** Griff, what is it?

**GRIFF.** Someone has been eating from my buffet table.

**DALLAS.** Dude, you didn't even look at it!

**GRIFF.** I don't have to. I can sense it. Someone ate something.

**DALLAS.** Bro, we didn't. I swear.

**GRIFF.** I know what I'm talking about. I didn't spend the best years of my life as a cater/waiter, then professional party planner for nothing. (*Griff goes to the buffet table.*) Look at this sloppy finger sandwich fan pattern.

**DALLAS.** I'm like basically busted. (*The door buzzer sounds.*)

**GRIFF.** At last! Only... (*Checking his watch*) ...56 minutes late. (*Primping*) How's my hair?

**DALLAS.** Thinning...

**GRIFF.** "There is no fate that cannot be surmounted by scorn." Albert Camus. Or was it Joan Rivers on *Fashion Police*? (*All then men go to the door. Griff opens it. It is JONAH. He has a shopping bag.*) Where have you been?

**JONAH.** And "hello" to you, too, Griff. (*They embrace.*) Nice bottle of cologne you're wearing. (*Indicating his shopping bag.*) I had to pick up a few things for my trip. (*The men ad lib hello's to Jonah as Griff wanders into the hall to look for GIANCARLO.*)

**KNOX.** Jonah, this Dallas.

**JONAH.** Nice to meet you.

**DALLAS.** I think it's really cool, bro, that you're adopting a baby!

**JONAH.** Oh, Knox, he's beautiful. (*GRIFF returns from the hall.*)

**GRIFF.** Knox is like Menedo. Once their voices change he loses interest.

baby...maybe...

**DALLAS.** What a menuedo?

**JONAH.** Griff, what are you doing?

**GRIFF.** Where's your better half?

**JONAH.** Giancarlo's not here? He was supposed to meet me here. I'd better call him. (*JONAH takes out his cell phone.*)

**GRIFF.** Name your poison.

**JONAH.** I'll have what Dallas is having...

**GRIFF.** One juice box coming up! (*Griff exits to kitchen.*)

**DALLAS.** (*Sipping on his juice box.*) This isn't half bad.

**JONAH.** (*Turning his phone off*) That's strange...No answer

**KNOX.** I'm sure Giancarlo is fine.

**EVAN.** He's probably somewhere that he can't get any bars...

**JONAH.** He's probably *in* a bar. Giancarlo is terrified of flying.

**KNOX.** Maybe he just has his cell turned off...

**DALLAS.** Or maybe he's dead... (*A pause.*)

**KNOX.** I think you mean his phone battery might be dead....

**DALLAS.** Yeah...right. Or he could be caught in a car accident in Liberty Tubes or something. (*Griff returns with Jonah's juice box.*)

**EVAN.** Jonah, you must be so excited!

**JONAH.** I can't believe it. In a few hours I'll be on a plane to Guatemala to meet my baby girl. Oh, look... (*Jonah retrieves a picture.*) One of the nuns at the orphanage sent us a picture. This is my daughter Selena. Did you hear that? My daughter. Do you know how long I've waited to say that? (*The men "ooo" and "ahh."*)

**EVAN.** She's adorable.

**GRIFF.** What did you say her name was?

**JONAH.** Selena.

**GRIFF.** Can you change it?

**JONAH.** We can if we wanted to, I guess...but everything I've read says that if you change an adopted child's name, you should do it in the first year.

**GRIFF.** I'd think about that if I were you...all the kids on the playground will call her "Slimy Beana."

**JONAH.** I always liked the name "Grace."

**GRIFF.** The kids'll call her "Gross."

baby...maybe...

**JONAH.** Giancarlo likes “Carrie”—like Carrie Bradshaw in *Sex and the City*.

**GRIFF.** They’ll call her “Scary.” “Scary Carrie.”

**JONAH.** Then again, we like “Flora” for my late grandmother.

**GRIFF.** “Hora.”

**JONAH.** Eliza.

**GRIFF.** “Saliva.”

**JONAH.** Delores.

**GRIFF.** “Clitoris.”

**KNOX.** What child on a playground is going to know the word “clitoris”?

**DALLAS.** What’s a clitoris?

**GRIFF.** I see your point.

**EVAN.** Griff, where do you get this stuff?

**KNOX.** I’m going to go out on a limb here. You had an ugly childhood, didn’t you?

**GRIFF.** Doesn’t everybody?

**DALLAS.** I didn’t.

**GRIFF.** Too soon to call...your childhood isn’t over yet.

**DALLAS.** I’ve always liked the name Tiffany.

**GRIFF.** And eighty years from now some orderly in a nursing home will be saying, “Time for your bath, Tiffany.”

**KNOX.** I was always partial to “Sheila.”

**GRIFF.** When I was a kid, there was a girl in my kindergarten named Sheila. For a nickel, she’d eat a spider. I won’t tell you what she’d do for a dollar in junior high.

**EVAN.** “Crystal” is a pretty name.

**GRIFF.** Only if you want her to grow up to be a stripper.

**KNOX.** Obviously, naming a child is a great responsibility. I guess that’s why I never had any.

**GRIFF.** And here I thought it was because you preferred dating children instead of having them.

**DALLAS.** My parents named all of us for the city where we were born. My brother Denver and I were lucky. My sister Buffalo, not so much.

**KNOX.** How is it a group of nuns in an orphanage are allowing two gay

baby...maybe...

men adopt a baby?

**JONAH.** Technically, they're not. Officially, I am adopting Selena...

**GRIFF.** Slimy Beana.

**JONAH.** ...and once we have her here and everything is legal, then Giancarlo will petition to become her other daddy. Where is he?

*(JONAH dials his cell again.)*

**EVAN.** The things you don't know...this is like watching The Learning Channel.

**JONAH.** Still no answer...

**KNOX.** Griff, I know Giancarlo's not here—but maybe we could start the games? To keep us busy until he gets here.

**GRIFF.** Oh. Sure. But I was in charge of the food. Evan is responsible for the games. *(Evan retrieves a large shopping bag.)*

**EVAN.** I called my mother in Ohio for some suggestions.

**GRIFF.** Oh, good games from Ohio.

**EVAN.** She said these games were a big hit at my sister's baby shower.

**GRIFF.** Was that during the annual Ohio polyester harvest? *(Evan removes some large cards from the bag.)*

**EVAN.** Okay. This first game is called "Baby Word Scramble." I'll hold up a card with a scrambled baby term on it and you all have to call out the word. Ready?

**GRIFF.** Ready. *(Evan holds up a card. In a split second--)*

**DALLAS.** Diapers.

**JONAH.** That's amazing.

**KNOX.** I'm impressed.

**GRIFF.** Well, I wasn't ready.

**EVAN.** You said you were ready.

**GRIFF.** I didn't mean I was ready. I meant I was...getting ready...to be ready. Give us the next one. *(Evan holds up the next card. With lightning speech--)*

**DALLAS.** Pacifier.

**JONAH.** That's incredible, Dallas.

**EVAN.** Okay, so it's Dallas 2; everyone else zero. Next one... *(EVAN holds up the next card.)*

**DALLAS.** Lullaby.

baby...maybe...

**GRIFF.** I don't believe this. You gave him the answers.

**EVAN.** I just met him today.

**GRIFF.** Give me those. (*Griff takes the cards from Evan. He holds them up one-by-one in rapid succession. Dallas nails each one.*)

**DALLAS.** Nursery...blanket...bottle...playpen...vaccinate...formula...bassinet... stroller... (*Griff tosses the rest of the cards into the air.*)

**GRIFF.** I give up.

**EVAN.** Dallas wins. (*Everyone—except Griff—give Dallas a standing ovation.*)

**DALLAS.** Thank you. Thank you. What can I say? It's a gift.

**JONAH.** It's like he's idiot savant.

**GRIFF.** Well, you're half right.

**DALLAS.** (*To Griff*) You...you...you...

**KNOX.** Try...black hole of bitterness.

**DALLAS.** You black hole of bitterness.

**GRIFF.** "The Devil is an optimist if he thinks he can make people meaner." Karl Kraus. Or was it Caitlin Jenner on *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*?

**EVAN.** Don't you just love that show?

**GRIFF.** No. What do those girls do anyway? Do any of them have talent? Sure, the one has a big ass and a sex tape. If that's all it takes to be famous, I could do that!

**DALLAS.** All you'd need is the sex tape.

**KNOX.** Score one for the boy wonder!

**EVAN.** The way they keep making spin-offs, pretty soon those girls could have their own network. The Kardashian sisters twenty-four hours a day.

**GRIFF.** "Imitation is the sincerest form of television." Fred Allen. Or was it Simon Cowell.

**JONAH.** No one is going to watch the Kardashians twenty-four hours a day. How boring!

**EVAN.** Have you seen the Golf Channel?

**GRIFF.** This from the man who was engrossed in The Weather Channel.

**JONAH.** I can't believe I'm saying this but...what's the next game?

baby...maybe...

**EVAN.** We need spoons for this next one. (*Evan passes out spoons.*) This next game is called “Identify the Baby Food.” I have three jars, marked one, two and three. (*Evan hands Jar #1 to Dallas.*) You take a taste from each jar and you have to say what kind of baby food it is...like peas-and-carrots...or chicken and gravy...(*Unseen by the others, Dallas has voraciously eaten all the baby food in Jar #1. Hands the empty jar to Jonah.*)

**JONAH.** There’s nothing in this jar...

**EVAN.** What? (*Everyone looks at Dallas.*) Dallas!

**DALLAS.** What can I say? I like baby food. (*Griff goes to say something...*)

**KNOX.** (*A warning*) Griff.

**GRIFF.** (*A surrender*) You’re right. It’s just too easy.

**EVAN.** Okay, I guess that game is over...

**DALLAS.** I’m sorry.

**EVAN.** This last game is called “Who Sucks the Best?”

**GRIFF.** Now this sounds like my kind of game.

**KNOX.** Don’t flatter yourself. (*Evan removes filled baby bottles from the bag...gives one to each man.*)

**GRIFF.** Suddenly, this doesn’t look like as much fun as I’d hoped.

**EVAN.** Now...when I say “go,” each one of you of sucks on your bottle. The first one to finish, wins. Ready?

**GRIFF.** If we must...

**EVAN.** Go! (*The guests begin draining their bottles. Dallas finishes first.*)

**DALLAS.** Done!

**EVAN.** The winner again is Dallas.

**GRIFF.** Well, of course he won. It hasn’t been that long since he was drinking from a nipple. You got these games from your mother, huh?

**EVAN.** Yes, I did.

**GRIFF.** Next shower—Knox is in charge of games.

baby...maybe...

**KNOX.** We could play that game we played at Donnie's party...what was your worst one-night-stand?

**JONAH.** That's not fair...Griff always wins that game.

**EVAN.** Who could beat that story?

**DALLAS.** I want to hear it...

**GRIFF.** Some snowy night in front of the fire...

**DALLAS.** C'mon, bro.

**GRIFF.** I don't think so...

**KNOX.** I know it...I can tell it.

**GRIFF.** Don't you dare...I'll do it. So I'm in bed with this guy and we're doing the after-sex cuddle thing. I happen to glance down and notice that he has...oh, God, to this day I still shudder when I think about it. This perfectly handsome guy has...has...webbed feet.

**DALLAS.** Like a duck? Cool!

**GRIFF.** There was nothing cool about it...

**JONAH.** Now tell the worst part...

**DALLAS.** It gets worse? No way, dude.

**GRIFF.** Way. I actually say to him, "Do you know you have webbed feet?" God, what was I thinking? Like maybe he never noticed he was some kind of freak? I slept with...an amphibian. For weeks afterwards I kept expecting that at any moment that this alien baby would come bursting out of my chest.

**EVAN.** How Turner Movie Classics. (*The door buzzer sounds.*)

**JONAH.** Now that has to be Giancarlo. (*Griff and Jonah both go to the door. It is GIANCARLO. Very handsome.*)

**GRIFF.** You know you're over an hour late, right?

**JONAH.** (*After kissing him*) Why didn't you answer your phone? I've been worried.

**GIANCARLO.** Doesn't anyone say "hello" anymore?

**JONAH.** Hello. Now why weren't you answering your phone?



baby...maybe...

**GIANCARLO.** I had it turned off, okay? Hey, Evan.

**EVAN.** Hey, Giancarlo

**GIANCARLO.** Knox—who have we here?

**KNOX.** Giancarlo, this is Dallas.

**GIANCARLO.** Good to meet you, Dallas. Is it true what they say about everything being bigger in Texas?

**DALLAS.** Whoa, dude. They said you were handsome...but you are wicked handsome.

**GIANCARLO.** Aren't you sweet? Who said I was handsome? I'll bet it was Griff.

**GRIFF.** Guilty as charged.

**JONAH.** Giancarlo, where have you been?

**GIANCARLO.** I was walking...

**JONAH.** Walking?

**GIANCARLO.** And thinking.

**DALLAS.** Now that Giancarlo is here, does this mean we can eat?

**GRIFF.** I thought you filled up on baby food.

**KNOX.** He is a growing boy.

**GIANCARLO.** I'll take a grower over a show-er any day.

**GRIFF.** Then by all means...let's eat. (*Dallas, Knox, Griff and Evan head to the buffet. Giancarlo pulls Jonah aside.*)

**GIANCARLO.** Could we talk?

**JONAH.** What is it?

**GIANCARLO.** I can't go through with this.

**JONAH.** Oh, the worse part is over. We already played the games.

Now all we have to do is eat and open gifts.

**GIANCARLO.** It's not the shower...

**JONAH.** The flight?

**GRIFF.** We heard how you're afraid to fly...

**JONAH.** I know it's a long flight, but I'll be right beside you, holding your hand.

baby...maybe...

**GRIFF.** Big chicken... (*Griff starts making clucking sounds. Dallas, Evan, and Knox join in.*)

**GIANCARLO.** It's not the flight. It's the baby. I can't do the baby thing. (*Silence.*)

**DALLAS.** Dude, this shit just got real.

**JONAH.** I...don't believe this. What do you mean you don't want the baby?

**KNOX.** Don't want. No longer desired. Unneeded. Not required

**JONAH.** But the baby is all we've talked about the last three years.

**GIANCARLO.** It's all you've talked about the last three years.

**JONAH.** Why did you go along with it?

**GIANCARLO.** It seemed to make you so happy...and I never believed in my wildest dreams it was really going to happen.

**JONAH.** We're boarding a plane in a few hours. Why didn't you say something sooner?

**GIANCARLO.** I tried. In a thousand different ways. You wouldn't listen. Everything was "baby this" and "baby that."

**JONAH.** What do we tell the nuns at the orphanage?

**GIANCARLO.** Tell them we changed our minds.

**JONAH.** We changed our minds? This is a baby—not a pillow from the Pottery Barn that we can return because it doesn't quite match the sofa.

**GIANCARLO.** Look...our life is so good right now. A baby would just complicate things...

**JONAH.** A baby would complete us.

**GIANCARLO.** I'm not enough for you?

**JONAH.** You are. I love you. But I want to be a father, too.

**GIANCARLO.** I don't know how to be a parent.

**JONAH.** And you think I do? We'll just take things as they come along and do the best we can...

**GRIFF.** You can't do worse than my parents did...

**GIANCARLO.** The difference is...you want this. I don't. Jonah, I can't do it. I won't do it.

**JONAH.** You're making me choose? You—or our baby?

**GIANCARLO.** What choice? I'm here. The baby isn't. Come here... (*Giancarlo goes to embrace Jonah, but Jonah pulls away.*)

baby...maybe...

**JONAH.** Just because our baby isn't here doesn't mean she doesn't exist. Our baby—

**GIANCARLO.** Would you stop saying “our baby”?

**JONAH.** Our baby exists. She has a name—Selena.

**GRIFF.** You're really sticking with that, huh?

**JONAH.** Here is a picture of her.

**GIANCARLO.** Yes, I've seen the picture. Many times.

**JONAH.** And tonight I am getting on a plane to pick up our baby and bring her home.

**GIANCARLO.** If you do, I won't be there when you get back.

**JONAH.** You don't mean that.

**GIANCARLO.** I do.

**JONAH.** This isn't about the baby, is it? The baby is just the excuse you've been looking for to leave.

**GIANCARLO.** I don't know what you're talking about.

**JONAH.** In a funny way I knew. I knew last New Year's Eve...

**GIANCARLO.** What happened New Year's Eve?

**JONAH.** When you kissed me at midnight...it was different this year. We've kissed at midnight on New Year's Eve so many times, but this past year...I can't describe it. I could feel you just wanted to be somewhere else...be kissing someone else...

**GIANCARLO.** That's crazy.

**JONAH.** Is it? (*A beat.*)

**GIANCARLO.** Maybe not. But tell you what...forget about this baby, and I'll stay and try to work things out.

**JONAH.** This isn't negotiable, Giancarlo. I can't forget about our baby. I love her. And I love you, too.

**GIANCARLO.** I love you, too. Call me and let me know what you decide. (*Giancarlo kisses Jonah lightly on the cheek. Then exits.*)

**JONAH.** I want a chair, a drink and a cigarette.

**EVAN.** But you don't smoke.

**JONAH.** Just get them! (*The men leap into action, fulfilling JONAH's requests.*)

**EVAN.** Better?

**JONAH.** What just happened?

baby...maybe...

**DALLAS.** Giancarlo bailed on you. He's a bail whale.

**KNOX.** I can't believe this...

**EVAN.** Jonah, I'm so sorry.

**JONAH.** How am I supposed to choose between him and the baby?

**EVAN.** What are you going to do?

**JONAH.** I don't know. I don't want to lose Giancarlo. But I want this baby.

**GRIFF.** Which do you want more?

**JONAH.** I want them both.

**KNOX.** But that's not an option.

**JONAH.** If I choose the baby, I still need Giancarlo.

**DALLAS.** I thought you said you were the one adopting the baby, right? What do you need Giancarlo for?

**JONAH.** I can't raise Selena alone.

**GRIFF.** There's that name again.

**KNOX.** But you're not alone, Jonah. You've got us.

**EVAN.** That's right. They say it takes a village to raise a child.

**GRIFF.** Right. A village. Not the Village People.

**DALLAS.** What's a Village People?

**GRIFF.** They were really big at Studio 54.

**DALLAS.** Oh. Wait. No one ever explained that to me either.

**KNOX.** Jonah, I'm willing to help with the baby.

**GRIFF.** And I don't think he's referring to Dallas this time.

**EVAN.** So will I.

**DALLAS.** Me, too. *(There is a pause as they all look at Griff.)*

**GRIFF.** What?

**EVAN.** You're not willing to help Jonah?

**GRIFF.** Help? What do you mean, help?

**KNOX.** Help. Aid. Assist. Benefit. Bolster. Stand by. Sustain. Lend a hand.

**GRIFF.** "A soiled baby, with a neglected nose, cannot be conscientiously regarded as a thing of beauty." Mark Twain. Or maybe it was the The Duggars?

**EVAN.** Griff, come on...

**GRIFF.** Fine. I'm in. But I just want you to know that I do not wipe up

baby...maybe...

baby spit, change dirty diapers, do 4am feedings or baby-sit.

**DALLAS.** You're going to be a big help.

**JONAH.** So...we all in this together? You're all willing to do this? (*The follow lines are spoken simultaneously.*)

**KNOX.** Certainly.

**EVAN.** Of course.

**DALLAS.** You bet.

**GRIFF.** Okay...

**JONAH.** Then I guess I have a phone call to make. (*Jonah dials is cell phone.*) Hey, Giancarlo, it's me. I...I choose the baby. Okay. Good-bye. (*He closes his phone.*) Congratulations, girls. You've all just become daddies.

**GRIFF.** It looks like my gay care center will now be a day care center.

**KNOX.** This calls for a toast. (*The men raise their glasses.*)

**JONAH.** With all your help, we'll raise Selena to be a happy and healthy child. Hopefully.

**GRIFF.** "The place where optimism flourishes the most is the lunatic asylum." Ambrose Bierce. Or was it Gary Busey? (*The lights fade.*)

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