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SF PERUSALS

The Big Meal

Dan LeFranc

A Samuel French Acting Edition



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THE BIG MEAL had its New York premeire produced by Playwrights Horizons at the Peter Jay Sharp Theater on March 21, 2012. The performance was directed by Sam Gold, with scenic and costume design by David Zinn and lights by Mark Barton. The Production Stage Manager was Alaina Taylor. The cast was as follows:

WOMAN #1ANITA GILLETTE
MAN #1 . . . . . TOM BLOOM
WOMAN #2. . . . . JENNIFER MUDGE
MAN #2 . . . . . DAVID WILSON BARNES
WOMAN #3. . . . . PHOEBE STROLE
MAN #3 . . . . . CAMERON SCOGGINS
GIRL . . . . . RACHEL RESHEFF
BOY. . . . . GRIFFIN BIRNEY
SERVER . . . . . MOLLY WARD

THE BIG MEAL was produced by the Studio Theatre in Washington, D.C on May 1, 2012. The performance was directed by Johanna Gruenhut, with assistance from Brian Crane, sets by Tim Mackabee, costumes by Addy Diaz, sound by Elisheba Ittoop, and lights by John Burkland. The cast was as follows:

WOMAN #1. . . . . ANNIE HOUSTON
MAN #1 . . . . . MATT DOUGHERTY
WOMAN #2. . . . . HYLA MATTHEWS
MAN #2 . . . . . CHRIS GENEBACH
WOMAN #3. . . . . ASHLEY DILLARD
MAN #3 . . . . . JOSH ADAMS
GIRL . . . . . MAYA BRETTELL
BOY. . . . . SAM O' BRIEN

THE BIG MEAL had its world premeire produced by the American Theatre company in Chicago on March 3, 2011. The performance was directed by Dexter Bullard, and the Associate Director was Jason W. Gerace. Scenic and lighting design was by Brian Sidney Bembridge. Costume design was Tif Bullard, with sound design by Kevin O'donnel. The Production Stage Manager was Dana M. Nestrick. The cast was as follows:

WOMAN #1. . . . . Peggy Roeder
MAN #1 . . . . . Will Zahrn
WOMAN #2. . . . . Lia D. Mortensen
MAN #2 . . . . . Philip Earl Johnson
WOMAN #3. . . . . Lindsay Leopold
MAN #3 . . . . . Andrew Goetten
GIRL . . . . . Emily Leahy
BOY. . . . . Noah Jerome Schwartz

CAST OF CHARACTERS

WOMAN #1 (Older Woman)
NICOLE (Older Woman)
ALICE, Sam's mother

WOMAN #2 (Woman)
NICOLE (Woman)
MADDIE, Sam & Nicole's daughter (Woman)
JACKIE, Robbie & Stephanie's daughter (Woman)

WOMAN #3 (Young Woman)
NICOLE (Young Woman)
JESSICA, a gentle soul
MADDIE, Sam & Nicole's daughter (Young Woman)
STEPHANIE, Robbie's wife (Young Woman)
JACKIE, Robbie & Stephanie's daughter (Young Woman)

GIRL
PESKY LITTLE GIRL
MADDIE, Sam & Nicole's daughter (Girl)
JACKIE, Robbie & Stephanie's daughter (Girl)

MAN #1 (Older Man)
SAM (Older Man)
ROBERT, Sam's father
JACK, Stephanie's father

MAN #2 (Man)
SAM (Man)
ROBBIE, Sam & Nicole's son (Man)

MAN #3 (Young Man)
SAM (Young Man)
ROBBIE, Sam & Nicole's son (Young Man)
MADDIE'S ADOLESCENT BOYFRIENDS,
Steven, Marcus, Jeremy, Patrick, Michael
SAMMY, Maddie's son (Young Man)

BOY
PESKY LITTLE BOY
ROBBIE, Sam & Nicole's son (Boy)
SAMMY, Maddie's son (Boy)
MATTHEW, Jackie's son

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES

The setting is a restaurant in the Midwestern United States, or rather, every restaurant in the Midwestern United States. Some are popular chains, others are more homely; very few are fancy.

There are tables ready to be sat. They may be brought together or apart depending on the size of the party at any given moment.

Eight actors total. Three men. Three women. A boy and a girl. The server is probably a stagehand.

The actors play the multiple generations of one family as they glide through time (and the guests they pick up along the way). As the characters age, their "essences" pass from younger to older actors. These "passes" ought to be performed as simply as possible. They are designated in the script by the character's name sliding into a new column.

Shifts in time are designated by (SHIFT). These can be indicated as subtly or conspicuously as the moment demands, but please try not to overdo the theatrics. These are placed in the script primarily to help the actors, not the audience. We don't want the audience to get lost, of course, but it's okay if they're occasionally a little behind the play.

The food probably doesn't look very appetizing. Colorful. Glistening. Grotesque.

Except for a few key moments (and one long stretch towards the end), the play moves very quickly. Pretend the cast is an orchestra tasked to play a piece of music for a conductor whose pace is brisk and unrelenting. Or pretend they're sitting together at a player piano. Or getting their cues from a rapidly-scrolling teleprompter. Regardless of which metaphor serves you best, play the action on the line. At performance speed, the play ought to run roughly eighty minutes.

Do your best to cast an ensemble who feels like a family, but don't break your back to make everyone look related.

Let the language carry us through time and space. Don't worry about representing the various restaurants literally. The scenography should probably be a little abstract, allowing our imaginations to leave the confines of a restaurant from time to time. Big scenic gestures should be kept to a minimum (or preferably, completely avoided). As a rule, there should be as few objects flying around the set as possible. The only plates in the play should be the ones that land in the script. The only consumables should be the ones on those plates. Feel free to rearrange the furniture when necessary, but let our imaginations do the heavy lifting.

Don't worry about having the server bring out the drinks. Use minimal glassware and let the audience imagine whatever it is the characters might be drinking at any given moment. This is another way of saying you don't need to fill them up. It's probably best to use "neutral" glasses, with maybe a wine or margarita glass thrown in as the play progresses. The same small collection of glasses can be used throughout the entire play, and actors can hang onto them throughout the various (SHIFTS). A shift in time does not necessarily mean a shift in glassware.

Lines in ( ) are meant to be spoken to another character more privately than publicly.

A large generational gap between the actors is important to understanding the story. In other words, if possible cast children in the youngest roles; not teenagers.

The duration of the meals can vary depending on the needs of the production. The first and last meals should probably be the longest. The dialogue might begin over some of the later meals

in order to break up the rhythm of the device. But see what works best given the circumstances.

There's a lot of cross-talk in this play and some parts of the conversations are more important than others. Make sure to highlight the parts that are most crucial to the story. It might be helpful to identify the "A conversations" and "B conversations" throughout.

Sound and light cues should be kept to an absolute minimum. There's a moment of dancing that might require a song but that's about it for sound. Lighting may be used more often but see how little you can get away with and take it from there.

This is key: all of the actors should be on stage for the entire play. When not in a scene, they are probably sitting in an area where they are removed from the action but can also observe it—actively waiting for their moment to jump in.

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
				(she is setting a table. not interested in him.)	(*he is sitting at a table by himself with a drink.)*		
				NICOLE.	**SAM**.		
				(she cleans his table, ignoring him.)	…		
					…		
					am I in your way?		
				pretty much			
					(he drinks)		
					so what's up?		
				um			
				side work			
					side work huh?		
				yeah cuz I work here			
					okay		
				and I don't want to			
				waste any more of my			
				life than I have to			
					(he drinks.)		
					then don't		
				what?			
					uh		
					if you don't want to		
					waster your life		
					then…don't		
					it's pretty simple		
				is it?			
					yeah		
					I mean no		
					it's really hard		
					but it's uh…doable		
					I think		
				doable			
					yeah		
				(smiles)			

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
					(…smiles back uncertainly)		
					is there like		
					something on my face?		
				(SHIFT)	**(SHIFT)**		
				hey			
					hi		
				sorry I'm late			
					it's okay		
					you wanna sit down?		
				oh yeah thanks			
					here let me get your		
					chair		
				oh you don't have to	*(he does)*		
				okay			
				wow			
				chivalry			
				that's intense			
					okay–		
				what's your name			
				again?			
					my?		
					Sam		
					my name's Sam		
				I thought it was			
				something else			
					I'm pretty sure it's Sam		
				I'm Nicky			
					oh yeah I know		
				my parents named me			
				Nicole but just look at			
				what your mouth does			
				when you say it			
				Nicole			
				it's weird			
					I think it's pretty		
				yeah			
				you would			
				you totally would			
					okay		
				well not uh			
				alright			
				so not to be upfront			

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
				but I uh I'm not really looking for anything serious right now			
					oh yeah did it seem like I–?		
				no no no no I just wanna be clear cuz I just got out of this long term thing with this total um clingy narcissistic asshole and I'm			
				looking for you know someone to pass the time with or whatever but not like a "relationship"	no I get it it's cool		
					oh yeah "relationships" they're so		
				you know what I mean?			
					yeah it's like I look at my parents and they're I don't know intense I guess and uh hopefully you'll never meet them so		
				yeah I don't anticipate meeting your parents			
					yeah		
				this is totally casual			
					yeah		
				so that means if this goes anywhere beyond tonight which I'm not saying it will we should keep this as			

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
				uh as anonymous as possible you know? like I don't really wanna know about your life and I really REALLY don't want you to know about mine			
					sure oh okay cool that's cool		
				(pause)	*(pause)*		
				oh oh yeah sorry yeah	but I can ask you what you like to drink? cuz I really wanna buy you a drink *(smiles)*		
				(smiles) yeah okay let's have a drink			
				(drinks)	cool *(drinks)* how is it?		
				good	yeah I really like this one		
				(pause) you wanna get out of here?	*(pause)* should we order–?		
				you wanna mess around?	what?		
				like right now? cuz no offense but this date is kinda painful	uh…I am a male uh		
				then let's go **(SHIFT)**	yeah yeah **(SHIFT)** hey Nicky		

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
				Sam			
					sorry I'm		
				it's okay			
					I'm glad you called		
				yeah well I was pretty bored so…			
					did you order?		
				just a drink you want one?			
					sure		
				(drinks)	*(drinks)*		
					this is good		
				it's kinda weak			
					yeah you know my mom claims to have invented the Cadillac Margarita		
				oh yeah?			
					yeah		
				is that a margarita you order at a drive-in or–?			
					no haha that's funny but uh no it's just like a normal margarita but with uh a splash of Gran Marnier		
				cool cool			
					yeah she's really proud of it for some reason		
				so is your mom like an alcoholic inventor?			
					(smiles) uh well maybe like casually alcoholic but no she's just she works in restaurants		

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
				yeah so's my sister			
					you have a sister?		
				yeah actually the place where I work where you um picked me up			
				she's the manager and pretty much the only reason I	is that what you'd call it? a pick up?		
				haha yeah kinda yeah	like I just dragged you out of the bar by your hair back to your apartment?		
				well except I was the one doing the dragging			
					(smiles) yeah yeah hey do you think your roommate woke up?		
				I hope so I hate that bitch			
					(laughs) why?		
				she's very you know *(gesture)* very *(gesture)* like this one time my sister came over to cook and she was uh wow okay			
					what?		
				I am telling you stuff about my life I don't know why I am telling you stuff about my life cuz this thing this thing is not–	oh it's okay		
					totally		
				(SHIFT)	**(SHIFT)** Nicky		
				hey Sam *(they kiss passionately)*			
					how's your sister?		

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
				she's good			
				she left this morning			
					that was fun hanging out		
					she's cool		
				yeah she liked you too			
					you want a–*(drink gesture)?*		
				what do you think?			
					haha		
				(drinks)	*(drinks)*		
				this is good			
					I know		
				your mom's a genius			
					you think so?		
				this drink's awesome			
					yeah she can definitely make a drink		
				you're kind of awesome too			
					what?		
				(she makes a face)			
					(laughs)		
				(SHIFT)	**(SHIFT)**	**(SHIFT)**	
						(the sound of a child crying in the restaurant)	
						eeeeee	
					whoa	eeee	
						ee	
						eeeeee	
				is that a kid?		eeee	
						ee	
						eeeeeee	
					sounds like some kind of freakish animal	eeee	
				have you ever heard a gibbon?			
						ee	
					what's a gibbon?	eeeee	
						e	
				you've never been to the zoo?			

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
					yeah but	eeee	
						ee	
				well they're like		e	
				monkeys but they're			
				apes		ee	
						e	
					what's the difference?	e	
				apes don't have tails			
						ee	
					really?		
						e	
				listen to that			
						eee	
					wow		
						ee	
				do you like kids?		e	
						e	
					they're okay	ee	
						eee	
				I hate kids		e	
				they're nothing but			
				like snot and shit		eeeeeeeeee	
				seriously	*(laughs)*		
				I think thier bodies are		eeee	
				literally powered by			
				mucus		eeeee	
					(as if by accident)	ee	
					I love you		
				what?		eeeee	
						e	
					what?	eee	
						eeee	
				(SHIFT)	**(SHIFT)**	**(SHIFT)**	
				yeah so I don't know			
				what to do			
					she still won't move		
				no	out?		
				she's a freak	did you call the		
				(drinks)	landlord?		
				yeah I called the			
				landlord			

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
				but the thing is she's on the lease and she hasn't technically done anything so there's not much I can–	okay do you think you can wait it out?		
				wait it? no Sam this is ruining my life it is ruining my life I hate her I really? you'd talk to her?	okay okay so do you want me to talk to her? yeah I mean it's worth a shot right?		
				okay …but I think she's kind of obsessed with you so don't let her touch your hair or anything yeah a little …I mean can you blame her? *(makes a face)* **(SHIFT)**	she's? whoa seriously? *(smiles)* **(SHIFT)**		
					so what do you think? nice right?		
				are you sure we can afford this? it's pretty fancy no you can't pay for this the glasses are like	 yeah I got it I mean my credit card's got it		

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
				actual glass	but whatever it's our anniversary		
				(jokingly) anniversary? is that what this is?			
					uh huh		
				of what? the first time we like coupled?			
					um no of our uh *(conspiratorial playfulness)* relationship		
				(conspires back) relationship? we're in a relationship?			
					(keeps it up) yeah		
				(so does she) holy shit			
					I know		
				how the hell did that happen?			
					that's classified information		
				I have clearance			
					lemme see it		
				(she lowers a shoulder strap)			
					good enough		
				now tell me			
					well first we met		
				then what?			
					then we liked each other		
				interesting			
					then we…coupled		
				I liked that part			
					me too		
				and then?			
					we fell in love		
				oh yeah			

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
				that was awesome what happens next?			
					I can tell you but I'm gonna need to see some more clear- ance		
				(SHIFT)	**(SHIFT)**		
				you want a drink?			
					that's cool		
				…	…		
				so what's up?			
					nothing		
				nothing's up? we haven't talked in a week			
					yeah?		
				so is there something we need to talk about? now?			
					like what?		
				like I don't know anything everything			
					uh…		
				(pause)	*(pause)*		
				what the fuck Sam?			
					what?		
				say it			
					say what?		
				(she starts to cry) oh my god say it say it just say it!			
				(SHIFT)	**(SHIFT)**		

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
					you want another *(gestures)*?		
				(shrugs)			
					so then do you wanna get outta here or–?		
				look I can't keep doing this			
					okay		
				we're not involved but then I see you and then we are and it gets confusing			
					yeah		
					well		
					my dad says this thing about healing		
				I don't wanna hear about your dad	how it's like		
					he's a smart guy		
				you don't even like him			
					yeah I do		
				since when?			
					he's my dad		
				you don't have to like your dad			
					I didn't say I had to		
				right			
					you're drunk		
				well you're a waste of my fucking time			
					okay then		
					…forget it		
				forget it?			
					yeah		
				…	…		
				is that what you want?			
					sounds like it's what you want		
				…			
				…asshole			

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2 (SHIFT)	MAN #2 (SHIFT)	WOMAN #3 (SHIFT)	MAN #3 (SHIFT)	GIRL	BOY
		NICOLE	**SAM**				
		hey Sam					
			Nicky				
			wow				
			what are you doing				
			here?				
		can I sit down?					
			uh sure				
		sorry if I'm					
			no it's okay				
			you uh				
			…you look great				
		thanks					
		you look					
		pretty much exactly like					
		yourself					
		which is a good thing	oh				
		it's totally a good thing					
			really?				
			cuz I mean it's been a				
			while				
		a little while yeah					
			how are you?				
		good I'm good					
		I'm uh					
		here with this guy					
			oh yeah				
			me too				
			I mean I'm not here				
			with a guy I'm uh				
		she cool?					
			yeah				
			she's great				
			she's very um				
			peeing				
			she's peeing				
			what about your uh				
		he's very um peeing					
		too					
			good				

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
			that's uh great				
			I'm really happy for you				
			(smiles)				
		(smiles)					
		(pause)	*(pause)*				
		you wanna get out of here?	well it was great to–				
			what?				
		this guy sucks					
			whoa				
			Nicky				
			hey				
			look				
			this woman				
			she's–				
		oh					
			no Nicky				
			she's				
		it's okay					
		I get it					
			she sucks okay?				
			she sucks				
			but she's nice so I feel				
			like I should prob-				
			ably…				
			not be an asshole				
		chivalry	which I believe is the				
			last thing you called me				
		yeah something like that					
			…but um				
			maybe				
			later tonight				
			you and I can uh				
		(SHIFT)	**(SHIFT)**				
		hey					
			did you order?				
		no I just got here					
			you look um				
			awesome as always				

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
		thanks					
			so I didn't really have time to ask the other night–				
		no there wasn't much time to do anything but uh *(smiles)*					
			(smiles) yeah				
		you got better					
			really?				
		uh huh					
			well I have been practicing				
		oh really?					
			sure but not like a lot I mean I did keep busy but uh forget it reset ha ha …um				
		so					
			how's your sister?				
		she's good					
			is she still working in um restaurants or?				
		basically she's more like behind the scenes now …purchasing					
			cool cool …is she like…married?				
		uh no no way I mean why would anyone do that to themselves? like marriage is so *(gestures)*	oh yeah yeah				
		you know?					

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
			I…fully agree				
		(SHIFT)	**(SHIFT)**				
		Sam					
			hey				
		sorry I'm					
			it's okay				
		(they kiss across the table)					
			oh hold on Nic				
		what?	you've got something				
			in your hair				
		I do?					
			yeah				
			huh				
			what is?				
			gee where did this				
			come from?				
			(he removes a small shiny				
			ring)				
		what uh?					
		what is that?					
		Sam?					
		what the hell is that?					
			so I know it might seem				
			a little um fast				
		what are you doing?	I mean kinda fast but				
			not really fast cuz				
			well we have known				
			each other for quite a				
		Sam	while				
			and I know we both				
			have like				
			issues with the				
		are you really fucking	institution or whatever				
		doing this?	but I figure some things				
			are worth the risk				
		oh my god Sam					
		seriously?					
			yeah				
		I'm not wearing under-					
		wear					
			you're not?				

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
		no this dress isn't– don't you think I should be wearing underwear for this?					
			uh should we order you some? haha				
		don't don't say things like that					
			right				
		would we have to have a "wedding"? cuz I really…I really hate weddings they're so *(makes a face)* you know?	uh well				
			does that mean you're gonna say yes?				
		I don't know now there are people watching I used to work here this isn't exactly anonymous like that waiter over there? I think I maybe made out with that waiter once oh god I can't believe he still works here	I know that's why I'm doing this here it's where we met				
			really? *(he laughs)*				
		yeah					
			Nicky				
		at least don't do the knee thing					
			what are you talking about? I have to do the knee thing				

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
		yeah but then you're gonna be kinda looking up my dress and that doesn't seem like the most uh–	yeah okay				
		plus I always thought you might if you did this which I never expected you to cuz that's *(crazy gesture)* and I'm not *(crazy gesture)* if you did pop the the thing in my mind I thought you'd maybe					
			what?				
		just take my hand and… pop the thing but not the thing thing you'd say something like the thing but better than the thing way more interesting than the thing cuz it shouldn't be like a movie thing it should be like					
			like what?				
		like something real um beautiful? different I don't know					
			so um how about this? *(he takes her hand. maybe* *cautiously slips the ring* *onto her finger.)*				

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
			how's that?				
		oh jesus christ					
		yes!					
		yes!					
		FUCKING YES!					
		(they kiss across the table like maniacs)					
		(SHIFT)	**(SHIFT)**				
		(they curl into each other. sigh.)					
			you think we're being like obnoxious?				
		a little					
			like maybe we shouldn't be making out in public like this?				
		probably not					
			(smiles) if I were in this place I'd hate us but we're us so I'm into it				
		definitely *(bites his ear)*					
			so what do you wanna do now?				
		mmm everything					
			everything?				
		yeah …well except for kids					
			right				
		cuz who would do that to themselves?					
			crazy people our parents				
		I mean just think about it					

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
		a whole life with just each other think about how fucking rad that sounds					
			sounds pretty fucking rad				
		yeah we could like go places together					
			you mean like Dayton or–?				
		no dumbass					
			hey				
		(she takes his hand) like places that are really places like like Barcelona *(she pronounces it in a fakey-funny-Castillian accent)*					
			Barcelona *(so does he. they keep this up)* wow that is…exotic				
		it is					
			what does one do in Barcelona?				
		in Barcelona one can do everything					
			everything? that sounds like a lot				
		yes but in Barcelona it is not so much					
			(laughs)				
						LITTLE GIRL	**LITTLE BOY**
						(far away) eeeeeee eeeee	*(far away)* eeeeeee eeee
			what was that?				
		must be someone's kids					eeeeeeee eeee
			it sounds like some			eeeeeee	

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
			kind of animal			eeee	e
						eeeeeeee	eeeee
						eeeee	ee
		I think they're kinda					eee
		cute				eeee	e
						e	ee
			you hate kids			ee	
							eeeeeeee
		me?					eee
		you're the one who				eeeee	eeeeeeeee
		hates kids					
			when did I say that?				
							eeeeeeeee
		you know					eee
		(gestures)					eeeeeeeeee
						(closer) eeeeeee	
						eeeee	
						eeeeeeee	
						eeeee	
						eeeeeeee	*(closer)* eeeeeeeee
						eeeee	eee
						eeeeeeeee	eeeeeeeeee
			okay			eeeeee	
			my body is literally			eeeeeeeeee	
			shaking			eee	
						eeeeeeeeeee	
		yeah				eeeeeeeee	eeeeeeee
						eeeee	eee
			you wanna get out of			eee	eeeeeeeeeeee
			here?			eeeeeeeeee	eeeeeeeeee
						eeeeeeeeeeeeee	eeeeeeeeee
						EEEEEEE	EEEEEEEEEE
						EEEEEE!	EEEEEE!
		(SHIFT)	**(SHIFT)**			**(SHIFT)**	**(SHIFT)**
						*(***GIRL** *runs on. she leaps*	*(***BOY** *runs on. he leaps*
						into **NICOLE'***s lap.)*	*into* **SAM***'s lap.)*
		oh my god	whoa				
		who is this?					
		whose child is this?					
		hello?					
		did someone lose a	hello?				
		child?	did someone lose a				
			child?				

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
			I've got a parentless child here! hello? anyone?				
		hello? anyone?					
			anyone?				
						MADDIE. mom	
		has someone lost a little booger monster?					
		I've got a booger monster here	I've got a Tazmanian devil who likes to get tickled				**ROBBIE**. *(laughs)* dad dad no
		look at all those boogers				*(laughs)* I don't have boogers *(laughs)*	no dad *(laughs)*
		(she tickles **GIRL** *some more.)*	*(he tickles* **BOY** *some more)* you guys hungry?				
			yesssss? yessss?			yeah	yessss
			what are you a python?				yessss
		tamarin very good Maddie and what's a tamarin got that a gibbon doesn't?	what's a python sound like?			I'm a tamarin	yesssss
		alright kiddo you've won the grand prize				a tail is the grand prize crayons?	yeeesssss

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
							yeeessss
		you don't like crayons?	okay that's enough python, buddy				
						that's what the grand prize was last time	yeeesssss
		well there's a limited selection of grand prizes these days	come here sit here next to your dad				
						why?	
		well because of Congress					
						why? what'd the contest do?	
							can I get a corndog?
		the contest passed a bill				what's a bill?	
		a bill's like a band-aid	no				why not?
						okay	
			cuz you had a corndog last night				
		he wants a corndog? no corndogs					so?
							why?
		you know what they're made out of?					
							hot dogs
		no they're made out of pigs and not the nice parts of pigs					
							but I don't like anything else
						Jennifer's mom has a pet pig	
		you like tostadas					
						dad	
							they're alright
			I heard you, honey			Jennifer's mom has a pet pig	

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
			what do you want to eat?				I'd rather have a corndog
						Jennifer says her mom likes to go outside and smoke and talk to her pet pig	
		sorry kiddo you're getting something else					
							there's nothing else to get
		I'm sure you'll find something					
			well that's what happens when you do what Jennifer's mom did when she was young you end up talking to your pet pig				
						I want a pet pig	
						can I have a pet pig?	
			we don't have room for a pet pig				
			now come on honey				
			what do you want?				
		hey Sam					
			yeah?				
		can I ask you something?					
			yup				
						pigs make bacon?	
							yeah they poo it out
		you think you can maybe take off work on Wednesday?					
						no they don't	
							uh huh bacon poo
			Wednesday? uh maybe …hold on Maddie				
						dad …daddy do pigs poo bacon?	
							say yes
			(smiles) hey mom? do pigs poo bacon?				
		(smiles. laughs a little.) Robbie					

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
		that is very funny but very gross stop taunting your sister and figure out your order					
							you're no fun
			what's on Wednesday?				
		it's just this wine tasting thing a promo for this new restaurant some of my girlfriends were talking about				told you	
			okay				
							she didn't say no it's still possible
		it sounds fun					
			you can't do it Thursday?				
		I work on Thursday					
			yeah I know and I work Wednesday			*(she colors. makes sounds)*	
			why can't you take off Thursday?				
		because a temp's coming in Thursday amd I need to make sure he doesn't blow up the office				wah	
						wah	
			so you want me to ditch work so you can get buzzed with your friends in the middle of the afternoon?			wah	
		it's a wine tasting …Maddie honey enough with the *(gestures)*				wah	
						sorry	
		it's fine just don't do it anymore okay? not all sounds are fun sounds					
			can't your sister watch the kids?				

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
		how many times are we gonna make her do that, Sam?					
		seriously she's my sister not our babysitter	make her?				
			she loves the kids and who wouldn't? who wouldn't love you little rascals? huh?				
			(makes a pig sound back at him)				*(makes a pig sound)*
		well I think she's beginning to feel a little put out					*(pig sound)*
			okay okay I'll take off Wednesday				*(pig sound)*
		great I appreciate it				*(pig sound!)*	
			you know why? because you deserve it you really do				that's wrong
		thank you					we weren't doing pigs
		just don't make me nag I hate feeling like a nag	I'm sorry for arguing			you were so doing pigs! dad! dad! dad! daddy! dad! weren't you doing pigs?	
			yeah honey we were doing pigs				
			I love you			see?	
		I love you too					I'm reading my menu
		(they kiss the air but not each other)				fine *(she reads hers too)*	*(he does)*
		mwah! **(SHIFT)**	mwah! **(SHIFT)** you guys hungry?			**(SHIFT)**	**(SHIFT)**
						(monkey sounds)	

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
		what are you a tamarin?					
							mom
		what is it Robbie?					
							what's an enchilada?
		hey you know what an enchilada is? it's a Mexican corndog					
							it is?
		yep! *(they secretly high five each other)*					
							but I thought Mexicans only ate real dogs
		Robbie!					
							what? they do! Mexicans eat dogs! it's a fact!
		well that's a bunch of crap					
			Nicky–				
		what?	hey				
		no listen to this	watch your mouth around him okay?				
		where'd you hear that?					
							it's top secret
		Robbie					
							it is! I swore!
		you wanna be grounded?					
							…grandpa
		of course of course you did son of a bitch					
			Nicky				
						grandpa told me something too you wanna hear?	
		what?					
			not now honey				
		he's polluting thier minds, Sam your father is polluting their minds with this this (bullshit)					

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
			I'll talk to him				
							what's the big deal?
		Robbie what your grandfather told you is a lie a mean nasty terrible lie and you can never ever say it again is that clear?					
							okay I'll have an enchilada
(SHIFT) *(enters)*	**(SHIFT)** *(enters)*	**(SHIFT)**	**(SHIFT)**			**(SHIFT)**	**(SHIFT)**
	ROBERT don't listen to her, Robbie the enchiladas are ter- rible						
			dad come on we're just trying to get through this meal				
	well you're gonna want his meal to get through his asshole						
							(laughs)
			dad				
ALICE Robert jesus						what'd he say? what's so funny?	
						mom	
	what?						
						what'd he say?	
there are children at the table		he said apple					
	it's true I had an enchilada here last time we came to visit and I was clogged up for a week an entire friggin week!	yes he did				why's he laughing about apples?	no he didn't

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
good god no one wants to hear about your clog		if you keep talking like that I'm gonna make you sit in the car					apples of the butt
		yes huh					nuh uh
it's so nice to see you again		oh you too					
you know what you need Nicky? a Cadillac Margarita!		thanks Alice but I've got wine				I'm gonna have a hamburger mom	
	I remember there being somewhere in the area better than this		well we wanted to take you			I'm gonna have a hamburger	
		good just tell that to the server when she gets here	to that place in the city but with the kids it's not so easy				
maybe you can take us there tomorrow? you talk about it so much		(we work tomorrow)					
			we have to work I told you that				
		what do you say when we order?					
		and?				please	
		Robbie!					butthole
	maybe you could get off?						
			we can't you guys know this				what? grandpa said it
		Maddie sit up					

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
	it's not every day we come to visit						
						but my socks itch	
		then pull them down					
			guys come on				
okay sorry							
(she peruses the menu)	*(he peruses the menu)*						
(long pause)	*(long pause)*	*(long pause)*	*(long pause)*			*(long pause)*	*(long pause)*
							can I go to the game store?
						yeah! can I go too?	
							I wanna go by myself
		I don't know					
							come on it's just right there
			you're not buying any more games				
						can I go?	
							I know I just wanna look
		you just wanna look?					
						can I go?	
							I just wanna see what's new
			you can go if you bring Maddie				
oh let him go							
							I wanna go by myself!
			well that's the deal				
		do you wanna go or not?					
							that's so lame
							fine let's go
	hey Robbie						
							what?
	you forgot something						
							I did?
	yeah you dropped something under your chair						

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
							no I didn't
	why don't you look?						
							(he looks under his chair. he finds a simply wrapped box.)
							whoa
							what's this?
	open it when you get home						
						what is it?	
						do I have one?	
						how come there's nothing under my chair?	why can't I open it now?
		great				why didn't I forget	
you know Maddie's asking a very good question, Robert how come there's nothing for your granddaughter?		just great look at her				something, Grandpa?	
							(he opens the box. it's an old watch.)
	I don't have anything for her just yet this one's for the boy Maddie		dad				cool
							(he puts it on his wrist.)
	no offense darling but I don't have anything for you		dad				
		(hey you think maybe your dad could consider Maddie sometimes?)				but will you next time?	
	maybe						
Robert							
			dad				
	I mean yes yes I will, Maddie and it'll heal the world it'll abolish prejudice are you happy?						
			hey				
the sarcasm always the sarcasm							
			don't screw around				

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
							wow it's got a watch
							inside the watch
	oh lay off	Maddie why don't you and Robbie go to the game store okay?	these are my children				
…	…	…	…			*(***MADDIE** *cries. the others take in this sad sight.)*	
	christ						
see what you did?							
you see?							
	Alice–	oh Maddie					
		honey come here					
						no one ever has	
			dad			anything for me	
			apologize				
		that's not true					
	why?						
Robert							
	(sighs)						
	darling						
	…I…I'm sorry I didn't mean anything by it I just–						
						I HOPE YOU DIE!	
			Maddie!				
			take that back–!				
			Maddie!				
		(laughs)	come back here!			*(she becomes embarrassed by what she has said and runs off.)*	hey wait for me
young lady!			*(he turns to* **NICOLE***)*				*(he runs off with her.)*
			this isn't a joke				
		I'm sorry but					
		(laughs)					
Sam							
I hate to say it but we didn't drive nine hours for this kind of behavior			I know mom I know				
you've gotta get that girl under control	let's just figure out what we want to eat						
oh Robert hold on you	so we can order						

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
just ate a whole thing of chips!	can we order? ah		*(back to* **NICOLE***)* what is wrong with you?				
		where…where did you people come from? *(laughs)*					
(SHIFT)	**(SHIFT)**	**(SHIFT)**	**(SHIFT)**	**(SHIFT)**			
(she continues to peruse the menu)	*(he continues to peruse the menu)*		*(at a separate table that is the same table)*				
				(enters) **JESSICA** hey Sam			
			oh hey Jess				
				where are the uh bambinos?			
			with Nicky's sister				
				oh yeah? what's Nicky up to?			
			my parents are in town so she's taken it upon herself to vanish *(drinks)*				
				(smiles) yeah parents are intense I mean I'm sure your parents are great but um you know what I mean			
			(smiles)				
				(smiles)			

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
				but does she uh does she know we're all hanging out?			
			who?				
				Nicky			
			uh it's a work party				
				okay			
			(smiles, matter of fact) I'm allowed to have friends				
(SHIFT)	**(SHIFT)**	**(SHIFT)**	**(SHIFT)**	**(SHIFT)**	**(SHIFT)**	**(SHIFT)**	**(SHIFT)**
	and so they guy says "el barrio? lo siento señor! I thought you meant el baño!" *(laughs)*						
huh		that is funny very funny Sam? what do you wanna get?	*(laughs a little)*				
			I don't know				
		you wanna split some- thing?					
			like what?				
you think the mole sauce has trans fats?							
	you've got to stop watching television						
		I kinda want shrimp					
			okay				
it's not make believe, Robert trans fats are a killer							
	well then let em kill you already						

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