CANDY RUN

A Play in Three-Four Acts

by

Vanita Thompson
Cast of Characters

Patricia Hall: A woman in her early to mid 40s
John Hall: An overweight man in his early to mid 40s
Connie: A woman in her early to mid 40s
Linda: A woman in her early to mid 40s
Reporter: A male reporter heard through the tv
Aunt Clara: A woman in her late 60s
Aunt Lula: A woman in her mid 60s
Cousin Larry: A cheesy drinking man in his late 30s who keep a drink in his hand the entire time
Shamicka: A rough and tough female in her early 20s
Colonial Penn Cousin: An overweight man in his 30s
Cousin Dewey: A fairly-handsome muscular man in his 30s
Cousin 1: A man in his late teens
Cousin 2: A man in his late teens
Cousin 3: A man in his late teens
Delivery Guy: A package delivery man in his 20s
Officer: A goofy, thick eyeglass wearing officer in his 50s
Model 1: A large handsome man in his 30s
Model 2: A large handsome man in his 30s

Scene

Could be anywhere where in a city where prisoners escape and residents still leave their come just to get some candy.

Time

No time like the 90s but, can easily be adapted to the present
ACT I

Scene 1

SETTING:

We are in the kitchen living room area of married couple John and Patricia Hall, they’ve just finished breakfast and are not discussing family celebration while taking the time out to rag on each other’s family with John doing most of the ragging on both Patricia’s friends and family. Patricia is chastising John for the usual things that wives chastise men for.

PATRICIA is just getting up from the breakfast table to put breakfast dishes in the sink; JOHN is reading a newspaper. They discuss an upcoming graduation that, JOHN feels he’s already attended.
PATRICIA
John don’t forget we’re attending Peanut’s graduation next week.

JOHN
Wait a minute. Didn’t we do his graduation with your family last year?

PATRICIA
No, that was his brother Cashew.

JOHN
Cashew?

PATRICIA
Yes, Cashew. That’s Aunt Lula’s oldest son. You know the one that helped you pick up and organize all those auto parts that are once again all over the yard.

JOHN
Oh yeah that one. And that wasn’t help that was more like hurt.

PATRICIA
So, you messed it all up again? And you know what, I don’t know how you could confuse the two? They’re nothing alike.

JOHN
Oh well. Cashews, Peanuts and Almonds. I knew it was some nut from your family.

PATRICIA
How can you talk about my family? You’re talking about my family with that mess that you call a family?

JOHN
My family’s a mess? Your family’s a mess. Your family travels in messy herds like elephants.

PATRICIA
Really John?

JOHN
Yes, like elephants. And the minute something goes wrong with one elephant, here comes the herd to really mess things up. And the biggest elephant leading the drama is your Aunt Clara. I can’t stand that woman. She should get paid for her opinions. I tell you she’d be a billionaire.
PATRICIA
As much as I hate to agree with you, you might actually have a valid point this time.

JOHN
Well, let me take a stab at another valid point. Babe, I’ve heard of Peanut. Everybody either has a friend, a cousin or an uncle named peanut. But don’t you think it’s a little weird to name someone Cashew? Cashew is even bad for your family.

PATRICIA
It’s not so bad but, I tell you what is.

JOHN
What? And then I must get going.

PATRICIA
Your feet John. Look at your feet. John this is the umpteenth time that you’ve walked out here with two different shoes on. And while you’re finding the right shoe, please get your cellphone. I find your cellphone in the most-strangest places. I can’t believe you can’t see that those are two different shoes.

JOHN
Honest mistake it could happen to anyone.

PATRICIA
John, honest mistake? Or is it John needs glasses kind of mistake.

JOHN
You sound like that old bat aunt of yours.

PATRICIA
Who, Aunt Clara?

JOHN
Yes, Aunt Clara, the one that said I should be in a convalescent home.

PATRICIA
That’s because you came out here yet again wearing two different shoes and one of them was hers. You did that.
JOHN
She meddles and she’s messy. Honey, I got to go. You need anything while I’m out?

PATRICIA
No not that I can think of. Of course, I could really use some

JOHN
Let me stop you right there. I don’t buy feminine products for no woman.

PATRICIA
What’s with you guys? A real man wouldn’t care about things like that.

JOHN
Well when I see a real man, I’ll give him your number. Let me ask you this, when have I ever asked you to buy products (gesturing towards his crotch with circular motions) for this area?

PATRICIA
That time when you were (John interrupts)

Oh, that time and you ain’t got to tell them all my business

PATRICIA
You asked.

JOHN
But baby, men just don’t like carrying that junk through the store. You know Leroy don’t you?

PATRICIA
Yeah

JOHN
Well, his wife must have hypnotized him into buying those products and Tyrone saw him and the fellas ribbed him till him was near bout in tears.

PATRICIA
That’s ridiculous and it’s childish. Wait a minute, you told me that you had to pick them up for your mother.

JOHN
Yeah, I did. And you know what that big purple box with the
white flower did for my social life? Girls wouldn’t even look my way.

PATRICIA
Well, did you explain that to your mother?

JOHN
Explain? I protested.

PATRICIA
So she let you off the hook?

JOHN
Let me off the hook? Are you kiddin?. Momma gave me a right hook to the top of my head. You know that scar where hair won’t grow?

Yes.

JOHN
That was the result of my protest.

PATRICIA
I don’t see what the problem is. Besides women do it all the time.

JOHN
That’s because you women need those products all the time

PATRICIA
No, that’s not what I mean. I mean women buy men’s underwear, men’s funky foot spray and men’s jock itch cream all the time and no problem. Who cares what anyone thinks?

JOHN
Yeah because you women want to be a man’s everything all the time, our doctor, our lawyer, our dentist, our urologist, our proctologist, dermatologist, our cardiologist our

PATRICIA
Okay Okay I get your point.

JOHN
I don’t think you do Trish, see you creatures

PATRICIA
Creatures?
JOHN
Yes, you creatures are just some busy thinking all day and thinking all night creatures. Why ya’ll think all the time?

PATRICIA
I’m not sure why one of us needs to do that but, I think you’re busy making no sense all day and like I said a real man wouldn’t mind one bit

JOHN
Well and like I said while I’m out I’ll find a real man for you you know that guy with the glasses resting on the tip of his nose oh and I believe his name is Mr. Pecked, first name Hen

PATRICIA
I’m done talking. And don’t forget your cellphone. I swear it there’s ever a real emergency, you’d be in real trouble.

JOHN
I got it, I got it. Well then, I’ll see you in about an hour or so

PATRICIA
Oh, I meant to tell you that the girls are stopping by today and I want you to be nice to my friends for a change.

JOHN
Exactly

PATRICIA
Exactly what?

JOHN
Your friends

PATRICIA
You’ve been warned. The last time they were here you scared them with that stupid rat of yours

JOHN
They aren’t my friends and besides I was just kidding

PATRICIA
Kidding with a live rat John?
JOHN
Okay fair enough so while I’m out, I’ll try to find em some road kill

PATRICIA
I’m warning you.

JOHN
I promise to be on my best behavior

PATRICIA
Thank-you

JOHN
For approximately one hour. And I have one good reason why I don’t like those no-man having cackling hens cackling all up and through here

PATRICIA
I’m listening

JOHN
Your friends usually stay way too long, they’re way way too loud and they wear way way way too much perfume. And the worst part is that one wears that Egyptian junk and the other one wears that stinkin gardenia.

PATRICIA
That is the truth but that was way more than one reason.

JOHN
Then I rest my case

PATRICIA
Don’t you have some place to be?

JOHN
Oh yeah, are you sure you don’t need anything?

PATRICIA
I’m sure.

John leaves

JOHN
Oh no she won’t get me this time. (running back in the house) Babe, hide my liquor please.
PATRICIA
Hide your liquor? Why?

JOHN
Cause every time your friends come, my liquor goes, every single time.

PATRICIA
It’s not Connie you have to worry about it’s Linda

JOHN
Yeah, liquor-lovin-Linda. What’s up with her. she’s always got a drink in her hand. She’s a lush just like that cousin of yours, hide my liquor from him too.

PATRICIA
Your doctor says that I should hide it from you

JOHN
My doctor? What are you doin talking to my doctor, that’s a hippo violation

PATRICIA
You mean HIPPA?

JOHN
Trish, them doctors take a hypocryptic oath to do no harm and I’m hurt that he’s talking to you. And I’m not supposed to be running all these errands anyway on the count of my water retention

PATRICIA
So many errands? You go to five different stores to save thirty cents but, you’ll use ten dollars worth of gas. And speaking of hiding things, I need to hide the salt from you; that’s the reason you have water retention. Oh, and speaking of Aunt Clara, she told me to hide our checkbook and just give you an allowance. What are you buying now? Not another part for that truck I hope.

JOHN
That messy meddler said what? Well, somebody need to snatch her checkbook to keep her from buying them cheap wigs that she never seems to wear straight or forward. That woman has something to say about everybody. I bet when she walks by a mirror, she even talks about herself. Messy.
PATRICIA
Don’t try to avoid my question. What’s this errand for?

JOHN
It’s about my truck, my second wife.

PATRICIA
Are you still buying parts for that thing you call a truck?

JOHN
A few parts.

PATRICIA
There’s more than a few parts in the yard, all over the yard and I’m tired of it John. I’m tired of people coming up here with your junk in their hand talking bout, ma’am how much do you want for this part. And you know, how much I hate the word ma’am. They think our yard is a salvage yard.

JOHN
Right that’s what you keep saying

PATRICIA
So, what are you buying now?

JOHN
It’s a man thing you wouldn’t understand. But do you need anything

PATRICIA
No

JOHN
You sure?

PATRICIA
I’m sure

JOHN
Okay then (looking at his watch) it’s eleven now, I’ll see you around one

PATRICIA
Okay how bout I fix you a late lunch. So, don’t eat while you’re out.

JOHN
Okay
PATRICIA
Really?

JOHN
You bet really. Your cooking Babe it’s all right here (patting his belly) and here (hand over heart) Bye sweetie.

John leaves and Patricia yells out the front door.

PATRICIA
And pick up a few of them parts on your way out.

JOHN
Love you too honey!

Patricia is drawn to the TV she grabs the remote and turns the TV up and sits on the couch.

PATRICIA
Shoot, I better start lunch. Where’s my cookbook? (retrieves cookbook) Let’s see oh Chicken Cacciatore sounds yummy

JOHN
I sure hope she doesn’t cook chicken, I’m sick of chicken.

PATRICIA
Oh, he complains way way too much. Maybe I do cook too much chicken. (continues looking through cookbook) Let me see let me see aha I’ll do something different. How about this Indian dish right here Amritsari Murgh Makhani (has difficulty pronouncing the dish)?

JOHN
And don’t cook anything that you can’t pronounce or spell.

PATRICIA
I’d better not try that one. I know how he feels about foreign dishes (imitating John) if I can’t pronounce it or spell it, then I can’t eat it. (she laughs and continues looking through the cookbook) Here’s something simple just like him, meatloaf. It’s just like John to crave a loaf of meat. (looking over at the TV)
REPORTER
Please stay tuned for more details on this late breaking news.

PATRICIA
What on earth is going on now? (puts pots on the stove and is drawn back to the television) A prison escape? Oh, my Lord not again. I better phone Linda (still looking at the TV while dialing Linda) Hey Linda are you watching the news? A cocktail? Get channel six, some nut just escaped again. No, it’s not my cousin Peanut, Cashew was never in jail. I get it I get it they’re both nuts I heard that joke already this morning. If you want to cancel for today, I can understand. Anyway, they’re advising people to stay indoors; alright it’s your choice. See you later (hangs up the phone) she’s already drunk.

REPORTER
The escapee is serving four life sentences for killing four members of his own gang and at this time could be anywhere in the community. Lock your doors and be advised that law enforcement is asking residents to avoid unnecessary errands until the escapee has been apprehended. We’ve seen time where prisoners will hide in sheds or vacant automobiles If you have either one of these on your property stay clear of them until they’ve been searched and declared safe by law enforcement.

PATRICIA
With all that mess in the front yard he could build him a car and be off to Elcigundo. I guess I’m pretty safe; we don’t have a shed or vacant car just vacant parts.

REPORTER
As I stated, the escapee could be anywhere at this time.

PATRICIA
(throws up her hands) There goes my security. (frantically looking around while talking loudly) I’m not scared though. What are the chances that he’ll pick this house?

Just then there’s three loud knocks on the door. Patricia is startled and she grabs a spoon.
ACT II

SCENE 2

SETTING: CONNIE AND LINDA ARRIVE. LINDA walks in with drink in hand and continues to drink the entire time. The three are wrapped into the tv and doesn’t notice when JOHN returns yet not to the food that PATRICIA told him that she’d make. JOHN pretends to eat imaginary food while the PATRICIA, CONNIE and LINDA still don’t notice him until he pretends that the prisoner is at their door.

AT RISE LINDA is knocking at the door which startles PATRICIA. And in an attempt to protect herself PATRICIA grabs a wooden spoon. She’s then relieved to know that it’s only her girlfriends. LINDA walks in a little tipsy with drink in hand as usual. The three are engulfed in the tv to learn more about the prison escapee Egbert Stump. PATRICIA is so distracted that, she neglects to prepare JOHN his promised late lunch. JOHN returns in disappointment just to have to return to get something to eat only this time that he leaves PATRICIA, CONNIE and LINDA gives JOHN a candy list and asked that he buy them something sweet to eat. JOHN leaves but, stays too long which worries PATRICIA. PATRICIA knows that he’ll answer his phone and assure her that he’s okay. The only problem is that, despite PATRICIA repeatedly reminding him, JOHN has left his cellphone home which is realized when PATRICIA calls it and a drunken LINDA answers it. PATRICIA knows that is a prisoner on the loose and what’s supposed to be a short trips turns out to be a where’s JOHN trip. PATRICIA fears that JOHN has been captured by the prisoner which prompts her to call in reinforcement, her family the
dysfunctional Jenkins and they bring a lot of chaos and mayhem with them all in the name of family support and their quest to learn more about JOHN’S insurance policy.

**LINDA**
(yelling from the other side of the door) Girl, let us in before the escapee kills us.

**PATRICIA**
(drops the spoon) Oh just a minute

**CONNIE**
No, she didn’t say just a minute (Patricia opens the door)

**LINDA**
(with drink in hand) What took you so long? You scared aren’t you.

**PATRICIA**
No. Girl, I was just fixing lunch and had to turn the stove off, didn’t want no fire, safety first (Linda looks over at the stove, sniffs and pokes Connie in the side.

**CONNIE**
Turned the stove off? Looks like you turned the food off too. (turning the pot upside-down) Between turning the stove off and answering the door, did you also eat the food?

**LINDA**
And ya’ll think I drink too much

**PATRICIA and CONNIE**
You do!

**PATRICIA**
Alright alright, so I have been a little distracted by the news, you know my house is one mile from the prison

**LINDA**
Who’s making the decisions around here? I live in a gated community, I was safe at home. And you think I’m drunk?

**PATRICIA**
Connie, I thought you were coming later.

**LINDA**
Oh, she had to drive cause I’m drunk but, that’s not the point.

**PATRICIA**
And about your gated community being safe, that’s an illusion. What about all those robberies on your street last year?

**CONNIE**
Oh, about that that was one of her boyfriends

**PATRICIA**
So, it was you that tore down that illusion of being safe. Let’s see what’s going on now.

**CONNIE**
(turning to Linda) It’s probably one of her boyfriends.

**PATRICIA**
I sure hope not, that nut killed four people.

**LINDA**
Oh, and speaking of nuts (holding out her hand) where’s my invitation to Peanut’s graduation?

**CONNIE**
Yeah, I’d like one too.

**LINDA**
And where’s your nut? Did he hide that liquor again?

**PATRICIA**
He had a few errands to run (looks at her watch) he should be back any minute now. And your invitation is in the mail. (turning towards the TV) Turn up the volume.

**REPORTER**
It’s been four hours since prison officials noticed forty-three year old Egbert Stump missing from the prison yard.

**PATRICIA**
Egbert Stump? What kind of name is that? Linda, that sounds like one of your boyfriends. They always had them funny names.

**LINDA**
Here we go again. It’s dump on Linda Day, Linda the drinking scapegoat.
PATRICIA
Well, your boyfriends did have interesting names.

CONNIE
Yeah, like Delroy, couldn’t be named Elroy like the rest of us. Delroy. Come to find out his momma’s name was Delores and his daddy’s name was Leroy.

PATRICIA
Couldn’t dare name him Leroy Jr. though. Delroy?

LINDA
Excuse me, Delroy’s ex-girlfriend is in the room. But do I look like someone that would go out with someone by the name of El Debarge.

CONNIE and PATRICIA
No!

CONNIE
But Egbert Stump yeah!

LINDA
Whatever.

PATRICIA
Alright, but remember that guy from Chicago that you introduced us to?

LINDA
Nope, I don’t even go to Chi-town anymore.

CONNIE
I remember. We had to do a quick background check cause he looked like he was from America’s Most Wanted. Had us runnin round looking for weapons.

CONNIE and PATRICIA
And an escape route.

PATRICIA
Oh, what was that guy’s name?

CONNIE
G-Money, that’s the name

**PATRICIA**
Yeah and the G didn’t stand for good looking either

**CONNIE**
That G stood for gonna stab you and take all yo money fool.

**LINDA**
See that’s why I don’t introduce you to none of my dates.

**CONNIE**
Good, cause we wanna live.

**LINDA**
Oh, it don’t get no better than that old stingy-hidin-all-the liquor John? Ain’t he a beauty just was that doctor ordered, an enema.

**PATRICIA**
I think we need to worry about hiding from Egbert.

**LINDA**
Who?

**PATRICIA**
El Debarge

**LINDA**
Oh yeah him.

**CONNIE**
Let’s see if another station is covering it. (takes the remote to change the channel.

**PATRICIA**
I better start this meatloaf. (walks to the kitchen and grabs a bowl while Linda and Connie are on the couch) Try CNN

**REPORTER**
Forty-three year-old Egbert Stump is described as six feet four inches tall and weighs one hundred and twenty pounds.

**PATRICIA**
(attention is taken away from cooking) six foot four inches and one hundred and twenty pounds. What does that look like?
LINDA
I don’t know but, you better plug your keyholes

PATRICIA
Why?

LINDA
Cause that skinny fool is gonna walk up to your door and slide his narrow behind right through that keyhole.

PATRICIA
Yup, that’s probably how your boyfriend escaped.

LINDA
Here we go again. I’m the posterchild for scapegoating. (pointing at the TV) They got helicopters and everything.

PATRICIA
Have they shown a mug shot yet? I got to see this.

CONNIE
I’m looking (pointing the remote at the TV) I know somebody has to have a mug shot.

REPORTER
We’re working with our producers right now to obtain a mug shot. What’s that, you said you have one? It appears that we’ve obtained a mug shot.

PATRICIA
They have one? (puts the bowl down and joins Connie and Linda on the couch) Linda do you know him?

LINDA
Ignore the ignor-ance. (takes a sip from her glass)

REPORTER
This is the mug shot of forty-three year-old prison escapee and convicted murderer Egbert Stump

CONNIE, LINDA and PATRICIA
Eww! (they all jump back on the couch as if to be frightened and then gestures like the three monkeys see, hear and speak no evil)

LINDA
(with hand covering both eyes) I can’t bare looking at that. Wow! I’m drunk and he still looks bad. And you think I’d date that?

PATRICIA
(cover her ears) I don’t want to hear another word about that fool.

CONNIE
(covering her mouth) I ain’t even gonna say what I’m really thinking right now. Well yeah, I am. (turns to Linda) Girl, I sure hope you didn’t date that.

JOHN
(offstage and humming as he walks up to the front door) I sure don’t smell no food but, I do smell a trail of cheap perfume. (JOHN enters the house and sees the three of them on the couch, they don’t notice him) Yep, I was right it’s the garden of weeden.

Linda, Patricia and Connie still don’t notice that John is home and they continue to look at the TV screen. (John looks over at the stove)

JOHN
Guess, I’ll have me some lunch. (looks in the pot) What the hell? (looks over at the couch) Now she told me not to eat so there must be something cooked.

(John takes the pot and turns it upside down, he looks in the cabinet and then decides to be sarcastic and takes a plate out of the cabinet, he opens the drawer and takes out a fork.

JOHN
Aha, I get it imaginary food. Guess it won’t add to this already bit ol gut of mine.

(John pretends to talk to someone)

JOHN
Why don’t mind if I do. Do you come here often? No, first time trying the imaginary-food movement. What’s that? Imaginary pot roast. Yes, nice piece of roast right there. Ouch! Imaginary heat. imaginary burn. (heads to the table but, turns back) Ooh oh, can’t forget my veggies carrots, potatoes, celery and let me get a piece of that onion right
there. Now that’s what I call a healthy plate. Imaginary, no calories. Good for what ails you. Oh, I see you got a whole family with you, didn’t see em. Imagine that.

John sits at the table and pretends to eat and continuously looks back at the couch and finally decides to jump up in a hurry.

JOHN
I know what will get their attention.

John walks over to the door and talks loudly

JOHN
Oh hi. You said your name is what? Egbert Stump? (just then the three ladies look over at the door and jump off the couch and hide when the husband turns towards them) You can come out now, three scared mice.

PATRICIA
Hey why are you scaring us? Wait and minute, how do you know about Egbert Stump?

JOHN
I’ve been listening to the radio. Baby, where’s my lunch? I’m hungry.

PATRICIA
I’ve been a little distracted with the news and all.

JOHN
And all of what? Honey, you all are sitting here, glued to the TV and that fool could have walked up to the door and slide his narrow behind right through the keyhole and killed all three of ya’ll. Man, that dude is one skinny mess.

PATRICIA
Yeah, we heard. Wait til you see the mug shot.

JOHN
I’ll pass on that. I bet it’s one of Linda’s boyfriends.

PATRICIA
I’m sorry about lunch, but, I can still make something real fast. How bout grilled cheese and a bowl of tomato soup?

JOHN
Naw. I’m going out for something a lil more hearty. (looks over at the couch) Ladies

LINDA

Hey John.

CONNIE

Oh yeah, hey John. Sorry we didn’t even know you were here.

JOHN

But I knew you two were here. (wife looks at him sternly) As a matter of fact I knew you were here before I came in. That’s some interesting perfumigation that you two continue to wear.

CONNIE

Thanks. Do you like it?

JOHN

I said interesting and let’s just leave it at that. I’ve gotta run, I’m starving. You ladies want anything from the store.

CONNIE

I sure could stand something sweet.

LINDA

Yeah me too. I’m way too nervous to eat real food right now.

PATRICIA

I’ll take something sweet too. Let me make a list. (Patricia grabs a notepad and pen while John sits and waits impatiently) What do you two want? (the three women get in a huddle and discuss the candy list while Patricia writes) Okay, I think I got it all. (Patricia hands John the list) Here, this is all we want.

JOHN

(looking over the list) Who is all this for?

PATRICIA

The three of us

JOHN

The three of who? (looking around) Three first graders?

PATRICIA

Us, just go. (hurrying JOHN out the door) And be careful you know Egbert is still out there.
JOHN
Egbert better be careful as hungry as I am. I’ll be fine, you better worry about Egbert’s skinny butt.

PATRICIA
Just be careful

JOHN
That’s right my girl’s still in love.

PATRICIA
Well be in love with me and get that mess out my yard.

joining Connie and Linda on the couch

PATRICIA
What are they saying now? Did they catch him?

CONNIE
They haven’t caught him.

LINDA
Damn El Debarge. What happened to that dude?

PATRICIA
Guess we just wait this out. Oh boy

(two hours later)

PATRICIA
We’ve been sitting here watching this for the past two hours and we forgot about John. (looks at watch) The store is less than five minutes away.

LINDA
Well shoot, does he normally take this long?

CONNIE
Maybe he couldn’t find what was on the list.

LINDA
Yeah, that’s because of ya’ll (pouring a drink) ya’ll asking for candy that’s extinct. Whoever heard of Boston baked beans and a darn zip-zam and bam-bams? Knowing him he probably went to Boston. But wouldn’t he come back and tell us or call or something. Call his cell phone.
CONNIE
You know to be drunk this whole time, you sure are coming through.

PATRICIA
That’s a good idea.

The cell turns out to be near Linda

LINDA
Hello

PATRICIA
Girl, hang up the phone. He left his cell phone here again.

CONNIE
He said he was going to get something to eat. Where would he go?

PATRICIA
That’s right, I bet he went to Big Burgers and Buns.

LINDA
Goodness he still eats at that place?

CONNIE
Call them and see if he’s been there.

PATRICIA
Can you call? This is starting to get to me (walks away and starts pacing) If something happened to him, I don’t know what I’ll do.

CONNIE
Don’t think the worse yet (walks away) Where’s your phonebook?

PATRICIA
Oh, he has them on speed dial (continues to pace back and forth)

LINDA
Would you please sit down? You’re making me nervous. They still haven’t found El Debarge?

CONNIE
And would you please stop saying El Debarge? He’s an R&B singer not a murderer.

LINDA
Who’s an R&B singer? Now you drunk. I need another drink.

CONNIE
No, you need to take a walk up them twelve steps.

LINDA
Like I tell everybody else, I took a walk up them twelve steps and stumbled back down them very same twelve steps. I call it Linda’s twenty-four steps to self-acceptance.

PATRICIA
How can I sit at a time like this?

LINDA
Dang they still haven’t caught him.

PATRICIA
I know and that’s why I’m worried, what if Egbert kidnapped John?

LINDA
But what are the chances of that happening? You said he was an R&B singer. What’s his weapon, a microphone and a strobe light? Who’s Egbert?

PATRICIA
Goodness. What are you drinking? Connie what’d they say?

CONNIE
They did see John but, that was over two hours ago. I spoke to the lady that waited on him and she said she saw him leave and she didn’t notice anyone else with him.

LINDA
Relax, maybe he had a flat tire or had gas (both Connie and Patricia look at her she hiccups) I mean got gas (she hiccups twice) I mean stopped to get gas. (both Patricia and Connie shake their heads and sit at the kitchen table) Good, I thought they’d never get up. (Linda lies down)

ACT III

CONNIE and PATRICIA are still sitting at the kitchen table while Linda is asleep on the couch and snoring. PATRICIA grows so weary that she calls 911 and they send over one of their finest and most offbeat officers. Still
weary, PATRICIA contacts her family, the Jenkins to great dismay on the part of CONNIE AND LINDA. Things will not be the same as PATRICIA home becomes the setting for funeral-planning for the dearly-departed JOHN.

PATRICIA
(looking at her watch) I tell you something just isn’t right

CONNIE
I agree with you.

PATRICIA
You think so too.

CONNIE
Yeah because I thought it was three women in here.

PATRICIA
You feel it too? That something isn’t quite right?

CONNIE
Something’s quite wrong with the fact that I thought it was three women in here.

PATRICIA
What are you talking about?

CONNIE
Who let a bear in here? You hear that? She sounds like a bear a Poppa bear riding a jalopy. She’s growling and shifting gears. That’s self-acceptance right there.

PATRICIA
I think I’m going to call 911, it’s been over six hours and no sign of my husband. Did you call the store yet?

CONNIE
I did. Same thing as before, they remember seeing him in the store and leaving.

PATRICIA
I’m calling 911. This just isn’t like him. I’m at 6211 Greenway Circle. I think something terrible has happened to my husband. He left for the store over six hours ago and the store is less than five minutes away. Okay thank-you.
CONNIE
What’d they say?

PATRICIA
They’re sending someone right over.

CONNIE
Dang you then put an Amber Alert out on John. I wonder if they even come with that Egbert Stump mess going on.

PATRICIA
Well it shouldn’t take long seeing how this neighborhood is crawling with cops right now (sobbing) I think he has John.

LINDA
How long was I asleep? Where’s my candy?

CONNIE
You done gone and woke the bear up and it’s hungry.

LINDA
Where’s John with that candy?

CONNIE
We don’t know and we don’t know where John is either.

LINDA
What do you mean we don’t know where John is? Shoot after a drink, I crave sweets.

CONNIE
But what do you crave, when you’ve wiped out all of John’s hidden liquor?

PATRICIA
Look, this is my husband. Today, when he left I kissed him goodbye but, I didn’t say I love you. I’m too busy worried about the yard looking like a salvage yard. That’s what’s wrong with us, we focus on what we find wrong with those we love and then in an attempt to fix em we criticize them into changing just to suit us. Now that’s wrong. How do we function in a world like this? Cause we can’t change people just for our comfort. Leave people alone let em be. Now I admit, John has let himself go and he’s a bit messy but, when I need this man he’s always there always. Just why can’t we accept people weaknesses and all.
Linda is rummaging through the cabinets looking for more liquor

**CONNIE**
Yeah, we’ve had to deal with her weakness all day.

**PATRICIA**
I don’t think you understand, I just can’t imagine life without him. I certainly wouldn’t be the same. That man’s the reason I cherish candy so much.

**LINDA**
(walking over to the couch with drink in hand) Well, I can look at him and tell he likes candy but, come to think of it, you do enjoy your sweets.

**CONNIE**
I have to admit Trish, the candy that you sent John for was from another world. You like candy that nobody can find.

**PATRICIA**
Yeah and I feel pretty guilty about sending him out there. But did I tell you how I met John?

**CONNIE AND LINDA**
Yes

**PATRICIA**
Let me tell you, it just might take my mind off of this.

**CONNIE**
Go right ahead. (plops down on the couch) I’m sure we missed something in the hundreds of times you’ve told us.

**LINDA**
Yes, please one more time (start stuffing something in her ears)

**PATRICIA**
Well, I was the cashier at Bump and Grind candy shop on Main Street and John was the delivery guy Brach’s candy. No one swallowed butterscotch quite the way John did

**LINDA**
I don’t think that’s a candy that you swallow but, go right ahead.

**PATRICIA**
He was just so strong and muscular and was quite handsome back then too. He would always be a little late with the candy delivery. I always thought he timed it just when he knew I was on my lunch break. And he’d always leave me with bags of candy and a note that said sweets for my sweets. I was so in love and have been ever since. And I don’t tell him enough. So, candy brought me my life partner.

**CONNIE**
That was beautiful Trish for the one hundredth time

**LINDA**
Here’s the part you left out. The candy that he left was the half-eaten bags that were uneaten bags before hitching a ride with him. (knock at the door)

**PATRICIA**
Oh, that must be them.

**LINDA**
I’ll get it. Five minutes earlier and he could have spared us from a walk down candy lane. (at the door) Who is it?

**OFFICER**
Police department responding to a missing person. We received a call from a Patricia Hall.

**LINDA**
(opens the door) Come right in, she’s right over there.

**OFFICER**
(walks over to Patricia with notepad in hand) You called about a missing husband, a John Hall?

**PATRICIA**
Yes, he’s been gone (interrupted by officer radio)

**OFFICER**
Excuse me, I need to take this there’s a prisoner loose.

**PATRICIA**
Yeah, we know.

**OFFICER**
(talking into his hand radio) That will be six glazed and six wally-wops with Bavarian. (walks back over to Patricia) Sorry about that, we still haven’t caught him.
LINDA
Still catching those donuts though. (Connie gives Linda a mean look)

PATRICIA
As I was saying officer, my husband’s been gone for over six hours and he was just going up the street to get us some candy.

OFFICER
You ladies do know that there’s a prisoner on the loose, don’t you?

PATRICIA
Yeah, we know.

OFFICER
And yet you still sent him out for candy

PATRICIA
He was also going to get something to eat.

OFFICER
Ladies, I’ve seen this a million times in missing person cases. The spouse is the first suspect but, to have two accomplices (writes on his notepad) this is good. (both Connie and Linda are annoyed by what the officer said)

LINDA
You deal with it, I might get arrested.

CONNIE
No problem. (walks over to the officer and PATRICIA) Excuse me officer but, do you think we had something to do with this. And I know you got your mind on those six glazed and six wally-wops with Bavarian but, think again.

OFFICER
Ladies, you messed up when you said he went to get something to eat. (walks towards the stove) There’s pots on this stove, looks like he already ate (pointing and waving his finger at the three of them) And when we find the body, you best believe we’re pumping that stomach.

CONNIE
(laughs sarcastically) Can’t get one over on ol Deputy Barney Fife. What you need to do is pump your brakes cause
you suspicions are moving just a little too fast than your brain right now. (crosses her arms)

LINDA
Look in those pots officer. And while you’re over there clueless have yourself something to eat.

OFFICER
That’s next, I had the training. (looks in pots) They’re empty.

CONNIE
That’s right, they’re empty and now you can get back to some real detective work. My friend over here is distraught and she thinks the escapee has her husband.

OFFICER
Anyway (rolling his eyes at Connie and looks towards Patricia) What was he wearing?

PATRICIA
Let me think, blue jeans, a white tee shirt, and a navy blue jacket.

OFFICER
Sort of a mechanic, is he? Does he run the salvage yard out front? ...saw a part that I’d like to have. Oh, was he walking or driving?

PATRICIA
He was driving a (abruptly interrupted by officer)

OFFICER
Would you happen to know the license plate and VIN numbers?

CONNIE
Officer so what happens next?

OFFICER
Easy we’ll get the bloodhounds to sniff around for a body and drag the pond. That’s the usual dumping site. But if the body is in the landfill, we ask the family to just hold the funeral right there. I’ve seen it a million times.

PATRICIA
I can’t listen to this (goes to the couch)
OFFICER
You’re gonna need your strength Pam

CONNIE
It’s PATRICIA

OFFICER
(writing on notepad) Huh?

CONNIE
Her name is PATRICIA

OFFICER
Oh yeah, well we’re gonna need Pateeshia to ID the body and they usually don’t clear away the bugs. I’ve seen it a million times.

CONNIE
You know, I bet you’ve seen oh let’s say “it” a lot in your years.

OFFICER
Oh, I’ve seen it a million times.

CONNIE
No doubt. Look here Officer, and I’m sure the strength of your glasses (Linda jumps up from the couch to interrupt Connie)

LINDA
Connie, do you have a question for the officer?

CONNIE
Yeah, I have one question for Deputy Barney Fife see we heard you order your six glazed and wally-wops

LINDA
Connie

CONNIE
No let me finish. (clears her throat) In the million times that you’ve seen it, have you ever seen it right?

OFFICER
Just what are you implying?

CONNIE
I don’t think I’m trying to say anything that isn’t crystal clear. It’s just that you come up in here sounding like a bad episode and I mean a bad episode of Columbo. You’re upsetting my friend and you’re bringing the mood in this place way down.

**OFFICER**

(flipping through his notepad) If I remember correctly you three sent this poor man out for candy when you knew there was a murderer on the loose and now you’re attacking me. You three sound like a bad episode and I mean a very bad episode of selfish hungry housewives.

**CONNIE**

Well Officer you can take that wally-wop with Bavarian and shove (Linda jumps up from the couch and gets in between the officer and Connie).

**LINDA**

This is getting way out of hand (turning to Connie) What’s gotten into you? May I speak some real truth infused with a little crown royal? If John is missing is not our fault it’s El Debarge’s fault. I just want to find the body before it starts to stink.

**CONNIE**

(shoves Linda out of the way) Now you’re starting to sound like him.

**LINDA**

You’re right but, I’m drunk (turns to the officer) What’s your excuse, you low on glazed? Officer we just want to find John alive and well.

**Officer**

And I would like nothing more than to do just that but, I’ve see it a million times (Linda, Connie and Patricia say “a million times) Look, I’ll put this information into our database, we’ll check vehicles and in the meantime, you call around maybe he went to a friend’s house. Good day.

**LINDA**

Okay thanks Officer

**CONNIE**

Yeah thanks for all your help. Don’t let Egbert get you on your way out.
LINDA
Girl you crazy. I thought that was my role.

CONNIE
No, he’s crazy. That fool talking bout “I’ve seen it a million times”. What he needs to see a million times is some new training.

LINDA
Well, it takes all kinds Connie. He must be Trish’s distant cousin.

CONNIE
He was different just like her family. What’s she doing anyway?

LINDA
I don’t know but, she’s been on the phone for quite a while.

CONNIE
She’s probably calling a real officer.

PATRICIA
Okay, I’ll see you in a little bit. (hangs up the phone)

CONNIE
Who was that?

PATRICIA
I called my family.

CONNIE and LINDA
You did what?

PATRICIA
Why not?

CONNIE
Now you know your family is a little extreme, a lot of ghetto, over the top and under the bottom, scary and strange

LINDA
CONNIE, we get it they a hot mess.

ACT
AUNT CLARA
Okay, now when we get inside, don’t even say the word insurance

COUSIN 1
Yeah, don’t even think about saying anything that starts with the letter n

COUSIN 2
The letter n, fool what are you talking about

COUSIN 3
You know he can’t spell

COUSIN 1
Aunt Clara said don’t say insurance, the n-word or anything that would suggest we’re here looking for insurance money.

COUSIN LARRY
Fool, how do you spell insurance?

COUSIN 1
You testin me? All I gotta do is sound it out that’s elementary sound it out

COUSIN LARRY
Okay then sound it out

COUSIN 1
It’s nsure you know you should try soundin it out you might be more smarter

COUSIN 3
Spell it here we go

what smarter

COUSIN 3:
No insurance

COUSIN 1
I will for you insurance in- N; sure, S-H-O-R-E rance- R-I-N-S-E insurance

Cousin Larry
What? Just what I thought. You just ensured us that you’re a fool. Please don’t say any word when we get inside and I’m sure of that

Cousin 1
Ah man go head with dat

Aunt Clara:
Cut it out! The word insurance is out! Don’t say it! And please God don’t try to spell it and don’t even ask Trish about it.

Cousin 1
Why not? Did I miss something?

Aunt Lula
Yeah, about 12 years of school you big dummy.

Aunt Clara
Why is Trish having a yard sale at a time like this?

Cousin Larry
Yeah, she’s selling John’s stuff and he ain’t even in the ground yet

Aunt Clara
That’s nonsense. This is John’s mess strewn all over the yard. Give him one truck and he’s got more parts in the yard than Pontiac. I don’t know how Patricia puts up with him.

Aunt Lula
She loves him leave her alone. Poor-thing is probably fallin apart right now. Remember that two-bit loser that you called a husband? You bout lost it when he died didn’t you?

Aunt Clara
Two bit? I’ll have you to know that Peter was a good man.
AUNT LULA
Yeah but, Peter didn’t know what to do with little Peter. He was quite the rollin stone wasn’t he?

AUNT CLARA
You just mad cause ain’t nobody looked in your lovely face and wanted to see it for the rest of their life

AUNT LULA
Peter didn’t ask you first he asked me but, I turned him down.

AUNT CLARA
Take it back! You take it back or I’ll throw one of John’s tires right upside that old lopsided wig of yours.

AUNT LULA
Yeah and what happened the last time you tried that. Your eye ain’t been right since.

COUSIN LARRY
Ladies, have you forgotten John is dead and we’ve come to collect I mean show support to his widow.

AUNT CLARA
You right cause Lula don’t want none of this.

AUNT LULA
Just like Peter didn’t really want none of that.

COUSIN LARRY
Gentlemen stop it.

AUNT CLARA and AUNT LULA
Gentlemen

COUSIN LARRY
Works every time. We’re here to offer moral support.
COLONIAL PENN COUSIN
Ain’t nothin moral bout this. I told ya’l’l about the insurance policy that we can’t mention and that one of us can’t spell and everybody and I do mean each and every one of ya’l’l went from being too busy to experiencing the stages of grief. I bet her friends are there and have no interest in money.

COUSIN LARRY
Well, I sure hope that Linda is there cause I need a drink and she’s always drunk which means she either has liquor or know where some is.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN
You better not drink a thing when we get inside cause liquor is your truth serum (turns to the others) he’ll be in there singing like a canary. So, if he has some dirt on you grab a broom and find a rug and get ready to sweep cause he’s gonna keep your secrets like a sieve holds water.

COUSIN LARRY
Well look I ain’t no snitch

AUNT CLARA
No you’re worse a drunk that won’t stop talking

AUNT LULA
Yeah that’s right. You got drunk at the last family reunion and that was the last family reunion. We got family members that still ain’t talkin on account of your drinking.

COUSIN LARRY
Yeah and ya’l’l don’t and won’t let me live that down.

AUNT CLARA
I don’t know why Trisha would have a lush for a friend. None of my friends were alcoholics.

AUNT LULA
My, my my how we forget. None of your friends were alcoholics because you were the alcoholic friend. You done cleaned up your life and now you lookin down on somebody. Why people do that?
AUNT CLARA
Who asked for your two cents? I drank a glass of wine with my dinner something you don’t know nothing about.

AUNT LULA
Yeah and the three meals that you had each day must of all been dinner.

AUNT CLARA
Take it back! You know what Lucifer, you have always been jealous of me.

AUNT LULA
I will not take it back! But I must admit, I am jealous of you cause you the only person in the family that can see both sides of the street at the same time. Yeah, I envy one eye looking east while the other one is looking west.

COUSIN LARRY
Fellas, let’s not forget why we came. Can we be a lil less dysfunctional for a few hours I mean is that too much to ask?

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN
Well, it kinda is but we can see the bigger picture like a 100 thousand dollar bigger picture. All agree?

ALL
Agree

SHAMIKARed’s all agree on this, the first person that even hints insurance I get to take my Fendi bag right to they face.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN
(pointing at cousin Larry) You goin down this time. You know she got a Fendi bag and a bad attitude.

AUNT LULA
Alright alright we’re here to offer support and love and while we distract Trisha we’ll have someone find that damn policy. I’m not staying here all night!

AUNT CLARA

Be quiet before they hear us. No one mention anything about insurance!

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

That’s why I won’t talk about my one hundred thousand dollar insurance policy.

SHAMIKA

Didn’t we just agree that I would pop whoever said insurance in the face with my Fendi bag.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Yeah but, I’m not talking about John’s policy I’m talking about mine. And why can’t we discuss insurance.

SHAMIKA

Are you serious? Can I pop him just for being stupid?

AUNT CLARA

Stop it you two. And I thought we fully developed this idea but, for you and the one that ain’t even close to spelling the word, no one wants to have their family discuss money while they’re grieving. It don’t look right. Would you want someone to do that to your grieving spouse?

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

If you’re smart you would.

AUNT LULA

Smart ain’t got nothing to do with it and we know that’s a stretch for at least one of us.

COUSIN LARRY

We’d be lucky to find money with his name on it let alone a spouse.
Oh, I got a policy

Where?

I got to hear this.

Hidden right in the Folger’s ...and you know the best part of waking up is that policy in (quickly changes subjects) now wait a minute, I’m not telling ya’ll but, I’ll have you to know oh ya’ll of little faith. I have a policy with a whopping one hundred thousand dollar payout for just seven ninety-five a month.

Ha, with what company?

Probably something he ordered from QVC.

Yeah who on God’s green earth would give your broke down butt a huge policy like that.

That you almost cashed in as we were walking to get here. All that huffing and puffing sounding like a clogged chimney.

So tell us who insured you

Colonial Penn

Colonial Penn? They’ll insure a corpse.
COUSIN LARRY

Cousin, you better read that policy.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

I read the policy and the fine print.

And?

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

And I just need to figure out a few things.

Figure out what? The beneficiary?

AUNT CLARA

No thank you. I’ve known you since you were a drunken twinkle in your parent’s eyes. And everything you own came with no receipt, no manual and a felony charge.

Cousin Larry

Don’t look at me, I’m busy.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

No No No,. The policy has a clause.

Cousin Larry

Here we go. Everybody, the big payout just turned out to be the big catch 22.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Here we go nothing. I just have to die on a Friday before midnight be no more than five miles from my home and have no more than 10% body fat.

SHAMIKA
Are you serious?

Cousin Larry

I don’t know if you know this, but runners have 10% body fat. And you making laps around an all you can eat buffet doesn’t qualify you as a runner. So, you can kiss that money goodbye.

Colonial Penn Cousin

And why is that?

Cousin Larry

Anybody here know why this man won’t see a dime of this money. You done had two asthma attacks just walking here.

Cousin 1

Oh, I got one. Last year, you sneezed, fell and sprained your ankle.

Cousin 2

And you the same cousin that got hit in the eye playing a video game, detached retina.

Cousin 3

And on top of all that you the only brother I know that breaks out from the sun.

Colonial Penn Cousin

I’m photosensitive.

Aunt Lula

You sound like dead man walking without a policy. You don’t get that weak mess from us Jenkins. You get that from your daddy’s side them Johnsons, they’re always sick.

Colonial Penn Cousin

Aunt Lula, no they’re not.

Aunt Lula

Well they make me sick all the time.
Cousin Larry

But getting back to your sickly self. I really hate to be the bearer of bad news.

Colonial Penn Cousin

What?

Cousin Larry

Drive-by or suicide might be your only hope.

Colonial Penn Cousin

Whatever, I’ll be fine, you’ll see when I collect that easy one hundred thousand dollars.

Shamika

See I should use my Fendi bag to his empty head just for that statement. News fa-lash. You ain’t collecting nothing you need to be dead and on a Friday no less. Do you understand dead or is there a new dead that I don’t know about?

Colonial Penn Cousin

I’ll have you to know

Aunt Clara

I mean really these conversations get dumber by the minute. Have ya’ll forgotten why we’re here? We’re here to show my niece Patricia some support.

Colonial Penn Cousin

Oh I thought we were here for that word that we can’t say and most of us can’t spell.

Aunt Clara

You ought to be glad it ain’t Friday or else I’d help you cash in on that policy.
ACT III

LINDA
Trish, I can’t believe you called your family.

PATRICIA
They would want to know.

CONNIE
If I remember correctly, a few years back when John was having surgery, they were hovering over you like buzzards.

PATRICIA
That’s just how they show their love when it comes to me.

LINDA
I know some families with that kind of love, the kind of love that sniffs out a potential money opportunity

PATRICIA
Well, I hope not. I mean Aunt Clara says things here and there but, nothing too bad.

LINDA
Well, honestly Trish, I don’t like being here when your family’s here.

PATRICIA
Why not?

LINDA
Cause your cousin Larry runs behind me all night asking me for a drink.

CONNIE
And I know you didn’t ask me but, they just create such chaos. And they seem a little on the greedy side but, not in a hungry kind of way. Plus, this is a family affair.
LINDA
Yeah, I didn’t think of that excuse, it’s a family affair and me and Connie would be in the way. So, if you don’t mind, we’ll head out.

PATRICIA
Have you two forgotten that there’s a prisoner on the loose.

CONNIE
Yeah, we remember.

LINDA
But, there’s something worse than being kidnapped and waking up in Mexico missing a kidney.

PATRICIA
Really you two? They’re John’s in-laws. What was I supposed to do? They needed to know.

CONNIE
Oh, sure and we need to go.

PATRICIA
Really you two?

LINDA
I don’t think you get it. I just told you that I’d rather wake up in Mexico missing a kidney than be here when your family gets here. Now that’s pretty bad.

CONNIE
It does get a bit chaotic and loud when they arrive.

PATRICIA
Loud? This isn’t a super bowl party my husband is missing. They’ll want to find John just as bad as me.

LINDA
Well.

CONNIE
Trish, we want to be here for you but, your family blows things out of proportion and drags everybody down with em.

PATRICIA
Tell me how you really feel. What was I supposed to do?

CONNIE
I’ve been through enough for one night with that officer and his seen it a million times theory. Come on Linda, let’s go. Keep us posted Trish.

COUSIN 1
I think the door is locked.

AUNT CLARA
Well, you didn’t think it would be unlocked with that fool on the loose, did you?

COUSIN 2
Break it down, you know John is missing.

COUSIN 3
Hurry up fool break that door down. You know Egbert is somewhere out here.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN
Come on if you want to Egbert. I wish he would bring his skinny butt up here.

AUNT LULA
You better be quiet this ain’t a Friday.

COUSIN LARRY
Plus, you too far from home to die.

**COLONIAL PENN COUSIN**

Oh, we still on that?

**AUNT CLARA**

Trish, let us in it’s your Aunt Clara.

**CONNIE**

I’ll let em in.

**LINDA**

And I’ll hide.

**PATRICIA**

Linda.

(with so much commotion outside the door Connie opens it and the family falls in)

**LINDA**

They’re here.

**CONNIE**

Hi, how’s everybody?

**COUSIN 1**

Who is that? She’s kinda cute.

**CONNIE**

I’m Connie and this is Linda, we’re Patricia’s friends.

**AUNT CLARA**

Well friends no disrespect but, this is a family matter. Where’s the grieving widow?
PATRICIA
Hi Aunt Clara. I’m not grieving. I’m just worried. And I didn’t mean for you to drop (knock at the door) Who else could that be?

COUSIN DEWEY
I hope it’s Egbert. Unlike ol Colonial Penn over there, I can die any day. And I haven’t had a fight in six weeks. Come on in if you want to skinny butt.

LINDA
Heel boy, I’ll get the door. Who is it?

DELIVERY GUY
UST delivery I have a delivery for Patricia Jenkins.

COUSIN 1
She changed her name already, now that was fast.

PATRICIA
I’m Patricia but, I don’t remember ordering anything. And I certainly wouldn’t order under the name Jenkins; that’s my maiden name.

AUNT CLARA
Oh, I placed the order. I had obituaries printed and delivered express shipping under Jenkins. Besides, keeping John’s last name is just a painful reminder of your loss.

PATRICIA
Obituaries? Reminder of my loss. With all due respect, have you lost your mind Aunt Clara? John isn’t dead.

AUNT CLARA
Suga, we want to take care of everything You just relax, that’s what family’s for. You’ve been through enough.

PATRICIA
I appreciate your concern, everybody’s concern but, I think it’s way too early to be talking about obituaries and loss.

**AUNT CLARA**

There’s no time like the present.

**AUNT LULA**

Yeah baby, you don’t want to be like your cousin Paul on your daddy’s side. When his wife died, nobody was prepared, and everybody was broke. Everything his poor wife had on was borrowed. And just like family, they wanted their stuff back, it was awful how they left that poor woman.

**PATRICIA**

Aunt Lula, that is an awful story don’t tell it anymore cause you seem to share it at every family function.

**AUNT LULA**

Well it’s true baby, just like the truth we have before us. I’m so sorry for your loss.

**AUNT CLARA**

Patricia, why are you friends here? I mean I know Connie is capable of helping but, isn’t the other one a lush?

**PATRICIA**

That’s my friend Linda and she does like a taste here and there.

**LINDA**

Yes, I like it here or there, I drink just about everywhere. In the rain or on a train to and fro down the hatch it goes.

**AUNT LULA**

Sounds more like a liquored-up Dr. Suess.

**LINDA**
In the dark would you could you in the dark?

PATRICIA

Connie can you please?

LINDA

This is just my coping strategy to dealing with your family.

AUNT CLARA

Dealing with us, Patricia friends don’t have a say here.

PATRICIA

Aunt Clara, my friends are here for support.

AUNT CLARA

Well, like your friend, your Cousin Larry over there looks drunk as hell and as usual. Maybe your friends can help support him, cause, we got this.

CONNIE

I will gladly, and I mean gladly with the most enthusiasm known to man go.

PATRICIA

Don’t go anywhere, I’m getting them out of here.

DELIVERY GUY

I need someone to sign for this.

COUSIN 1

I’ll sign

AUNT LULA

Oh no you won’t. I heard how you botch the word insurance talking sure s-h-o-r-e. Who knows how you’d spell Patricia.

COUSIN LARRY
Yo brother you better leave that alone. You know we both graduated Magna cum lousy.

**Cousin 1**

Speak for yourself, I was just warming up out there.

**Cousin Larry**

Brother, do you realize that you spelled insurance with the letter N? Let me school you. There are three syllables in the word insurance and let’s just say you ain’t get none of em right.

**Colonial Penn Cousin**

Aunt Lula, yeah you sign.

**Linda**

Are you listening to this?

**Connie**

Oh, it’s just beginning just sit back and enjoy the show.

**Linda**

I’m ready to enjoy getting the hell out of here for they start looking for an insurance policy. Come to think of it, why were they even spelling the word insurance. Wait a minute, that’s what those fools came here for. You know greedy people travel in packs.

**Linda**

Yeah, like a pack of wolves.

**Aunt Clara**

I’ll sign.

**Delivery Guy**

Thanks, here’s your package.
AUNT CLARA
And Patricia, I heard what you little friends said about us coming here like a pack of wolves.

PATRICIA
Aunt Clara, I’m sure you misunderstood them, they wouldn’t say that about you.

AUNT CLARA
Baby, I know they better not. I don’t know karate but, I know ca-razy. I was about to give Lula a beat down earlier. Besides, I retired from the government and if anybody’s looking for money it’s your cousin over there with that Colonial Penn insurance talkin bout 10% body fat.

AUNT LULA
He got that much fat on each ankle.

PATRICIA
What? What is going on here?

LINDA
Told you.

Cousin 1
Is this the casket?

Cousin 2
Yeah.

SHAMICKA
That’s nice. That color is real nice.

Cousin 1
Yeah, it looks like Grand Daddy’s casket but, way smaller.
Grand Daddy was a big ol dude. So big that we had to tear down one side of the casket and build on an extension.

DELIVERY GUY

You did what?

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Well Grand Daddy was a big man. Wise but, big. Who are you?

DELIVERY GUY

I’m the delivery guy.

COLONIAL PENN COUSIN

Oh.

COUSIN 1

What about the food?

COUSIN 2

Who has the sign-up sheet?

SHAMICKA

I do.

COUSIN 1

What do we have so far?

SHAMICKA

Okay. Audrey is bringing three-bean casserole, June Bug is bringing two hams, Toni four baked chickens, Clara two cakes four pies, Tiny two beef briskets, Cashew’s bringing sweet rolls and don’t forget Peanut’s graduation and Sister Marie called and she’s donating two cases of Top Ramen.

COUSIN 1

Top Ramen. Who on earth brings Top Ramen to a funeral?

SHAMICKA
It’ll be fine. We’ll add some fresh ingredients and some meat, and you won’t even know it’s Top Ramen.

Cousin 2
Okay fine but, let Sister Marie shop for it, buy it and take it to the church but, don’t let her cook it.

Delivery Guy
And why is that?

Cousin 1
Because last year, she dang near wiped out three generations of Jenkins with her Salmonella Salad.

Cousin 2
Word.

Delivery Guy
What else is on the menu?

Shamicka
Rachel’s bringing six gallons of fruit punch and three deep-fried turkeys.

Aunt Clara
Wait just a minute. What in the hell is up with these fried turkeys? We didn’t do no mess like that. The only thing Nina’s fried turkeys can do for me is show me where three baked turkeys are.

Colonial Penn Cousin
Fried turkey is actually very juicy. And if I remember correctly your baked turkey is a bit dry, like on the Sahara Desert level dry.

Cousin 1
I agree with Aunt Clara. Fried turkey is just plain wrong. We’ve been baking turkeys since the Pilgrims.

Cousin Larry
Hold up wait a minute. Turkeys and ovens and Pilgrims oh my. What history book you reading? I dropped out of daycare and even I know that’s a dog that won’t hunt.

**Cousin 1**

The point is there’s just some things in life the you just don’t tamper with.

**Delivery Guy**

Like what?

**Shamicka**

Who are you?

**Delivery Guy**

I’m the delivery guy.

**Shamicka**

Oh.

**Cousin 1**

Like you can’t talk about Fred Astaire without mentioning Ginger Rogers or you can’t think about peanut butter without thinking about jelly or jam or you can’t

**Connie**

Do you mind with your trip down pairing memory lane? What does Ginger Rogers and jelly have to do with what’s going on here?

**Delivery Guy**

Well, turkey and baking should go together not turkey and frying.

**Linda**

I’m sorry but, who are you again?

**Delivery Guy**

I’m the delivery guy.
LINDA
But, you made you delivery over twenty minutes ago

CONNIE
So why are you still here?

DELIVERY GUY
This was my last stop and besides Egbert is still out there somewhere.

LINDA
Well Mr. delivery guy please don’t add to the drama; this needs no extra help.

COUSIN LARRY
You do look familiar. You from around here?

DELIVERY GUY
Yelp, born and raised.

COUSIN LARRY
I bet you some kin to the Jenkins

LINDA
Oh Lord.

COUSIN LARRY
But like I was saying, I think you’re family. You know your cousin’s husband on Grand Daddy’s side was killed by the Egghead Stump.

DELIVERY GUY
So that’s what this is all about?

COUSIN LARRY
Yeah, and we’re planning his funeral.

**PATRICIA**

Larry, weren’t not planning his funeral. We don’t even know what happened to John.

**AUNT LULA**

Poor baby is going through the stages of grief right before our eyes. She’s in denial.

**PATRICIA**

Aunt Lula, I’m not in denial. But you guys are in the stage of hysteria right now.

**AUNT LULA**

How so?

**PATRICIA**

I called you guys to let you know what was happening. And now you’re planning a funeral. Aunt Clara already got obituaries printed.

**AUNT CLARA**

We’re just planning a few things. How dare you think this is over the top.

Two males walk in as if to be modeling suits. Turns out they’re modeling the suits for John to wear for his memorial service.

**MODEL ONE**

Here’s the suits that you asked for.

**MODEL TWO**

Which one do you like? Check out the line on this suit. Brother John should wear this one.
PATRICIA
Aunt Clara, you’re having them model suits for John to wear at a funeral that is years away?

AUNT CLARA
Well, what do you think? Wait, before you answer that question, fellas can you pretend to be the decedent?

PATRICIA
I’m not gonna do this. I don’t want to do this Aunt Clara. None of it.

AUNT CLARA
Well, if I must. Lula! Come look at these two suits.

AUNT LULA
Look at two suits? Why don’t you look at both of em at the same time with them eyes that I’m so jealous of.

AUNT CLARA
Can we continue this foolish sibling rivalry when we get home? But right now, we have business to take care of.

AUNT LULA
What do you want now? Suits? What about suits? I’m no expert on suits. Why not ask one of the men? Told you I was smarter than you.

AUNT CLARA
Well, if you want to know the truth. I was thinking that, since you’ve been through so many relationships. I figured you were the expert on things that are dead.

AUNT LULA
I tell you what’s not dead is this live fist. And Clara you can get a live beatdown and then we can have a double funeral.
Cousin Larry
Are you two at it again? I’ve had enough you two.

Linda and Connie
You’ve had enough? We’ve heard enough.

Aunt Lula
And just who are you two again?

Linda
We’re Trish’s friends.

Aunt Lula
Friends?

Connie
Yes, we’ve known her since grade school.

Aunt Clara
Well friends since grade school. Schools been long out and let’s just say that your input is on Spring break while family is here. We’ll decide later.

Patricia
Aunt Clara and Aunt Lula, no we won’t decide later. Now I’ve had enough of the circus comes to town to plan a funeral. I know it’s been eight hours since John went on a candy run and I know there’s a murderer on the loose but, to come up in here and turn my home into a ghetto funeral planning session is pure wrong. And I’d like to say that this is unusual for you guys but, unfortunately, I can’t. I called you for support not for this fiasco.

Cousin 1
She got a fiancé already?

Cousin Larry
Dude you can’t spell and can’t hear. She said fiasco.

Cousin 1
What I gotta spell filasco?

ALL

NO!

AUNT CLARA
Well, I’m so sorry you feel we’ve made things worse. But, where’s your husband?

CONNIE
With all the commotion, we lost track.

PATRICIA
There’s an update, turn it up.

REPORTER
Forty-three year old Stump has still not been apprehended, however. He’s been sighted in a vehicle described as a 1993 lime green impala.

COUSIN LARRY
No way, dude got a ride just like yours man.

COUSIN DEWEY
No way, I designed it myself. It’s a one of a kind custom and there’s nothing else like it.

REPORTER
The lime green impala is said to be customized with gold spinners, lime green neon lights and is also a low-rider.

SHAMICKA
Wow, it’s just like your car.

COUSIN DEWEY
Yeah, I know. (counting on his fingers) lime green, gold spinners, neon lights and low-rider. He has good taste I must say.
REPORTER
The license plate of the car being driven by Stump is said to be the word “boxer”.

LINDA
What’s your license plate number?

COUSIN DEWEY
Huh?

LINDA
Your license plate, what’s the number?

COUSIN DEWEY
Oh that. I got mine personalized.

LINDA
Let me guess, boxer right?

COUSIN DEWEY
Yeah, how’d you guess?

REPORTER
As we mentioned earlier, the license plate of the getaway car is boxer, b-o-x-e-r, boxer.

It’s on, oh it’s on now.

COUSIN LARRY
Hey, don’t look at me. I didn’t take your car. I’m way too happy to drive.

LINDA
Yeah, I’m too drunk to drive too but, I can show you the door. Egbert’s this way Holyfield. One down, many more to go.

CONNIE
Well at least we know he didn’t take John’s truck.
Cousin Larry
You’re right but, don’t criminals change vehicles every chance they get?

Connie
All this time you’ve not made much sense and the one time we need to hear your senselessness, you go and state a fact.

Aunt Clara
That’s why we should keep planning.

Aunt Lula
I think we should pray instead. Larry.

Aunt Clara
Larry?

Patricia
Yes Larry. Larry would you mind leading us in prayer?

Aunt Clara
He ain’t saved. He was drinking all the way up here and he still drinking.

Patricia
Aunt Clara. Wait a minute.

Aunt Lula
Don’t listen to Lucifer’s sidekick.

Aunt Clara
We’ve been trying to dry him out for years. And he ain’t saved.

Cousin Larry
Yeah but, I’m washed in the blood of the lamb. Let us pray. Heavenly father, we come to you in a time of need, a need
to know that our brother John will come home in one piece but, if not one piece then two. We need to know that he’s not somewhere in a dark place and that one day we’ll get to see our brother John again. We’re gonna miss brother John, why he was a good man, a patient man, the type of man that would make a simple candy run knowing that a murderous fiend by the name of Egghead was on the loose. And he was the type of man that didn’t like a lot of fuss but, judging from his yard he liked a lot of useless auto parts that Aunt Clara seemed to have a lot to say about but, if brother John was still in his earthly body right now he would say.

John walks while looking down into the bag that’s in his hand. Everyone freezes and slowly turns their heads in his direction. John has his head down as he’s pulling out multiple bags of candy.

JOHN

Boy, the next time ya’ll send me on a candy run be sure the candy is not on the endangered species list. I got your zip-zams, I got your bam-bams. I got your wally-wops I got your hip-hops. I got your now-laters I got your playa-haters I got your mean greens and your baked beans. (John looks up) Who died?

THE END

This play was written after I graduated with honors from Washburn University in 2006 and could not seem to find employment. This play is also based on a real candy run with excessive embellishments.