**Use/By/Date**

A Short Comedy

Written By

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FADE IN:

INT. DINING ROOM – EVENING

Two middle aged women, BARBARA and SUSAN sit on a 4 seated table facing a young man, ROB. Dinner music plays faintly in the background.

BARBARA

And whenever I’m in the chip shop they give me free salt, free vinegar and sauce.

**A FILM BY THE ROFL COPTER**

BARBARA

I end up waddling out with little cardboard forks shoved down my knickers.

SUSAN

(fake chuckle) Oh, quite.

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SUSAN (CONT’D)

When we were in Majorca, we just stole sugar from the coffee shop next to our hotel, didn’t we Rob?

ROB

(waking up) What?

**STARRING SAM PRYCE, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_**

SUSAN

Majorca, darling? Majorca?

ROB

Yep.

SUSAN

Ooh it was thrilling.

BARBARA

Do us a favour, Rob, go and check on Humphrey.

**USE/BY/DATE**

**DIRECTED BY JACK JONES & SAM PRYCE**

INT. UTILITY ROOM

ROB stands in the Utility Room knocking on the door to the toilet where HUMPHREY is.

ROB

Humphrey. Humphrey, are you done yet?

No reply.

ROB (CONT’D)

Humphrey, are you in there? I’m coming in, ok? Ok.

ROB opens the door to see HUMPHREY sat on the toilet. ROB quickly exits the toilet and shuts the door.

ROB

Aww! You could’ve answered me when I was calling you! Humphrey.

ROB slowly opens the toilet door again to see HUMPRHEY still sat on the toilet. Close up to HUMPRHEY, we see an empty “anti-depressant” bottle in his hand. ROB realises that he’s killed himself.

ROB

Humphrey. Humphrey. Humphrey!

SUSAN enters the utility room and ROB shuts the door quickly.

ROB

Mum, I need to talk to you about something.

SUSAN

Look, I know it’s boring but all you have to do is survive the rest of the night because it’s going very well already and...Where’s Humphrey?

ROB

Well, you know we had oysters for starter?

ROB and SUSAN look at the toilet door.

SUSAN

Ahhhhh.

SUSAN exits. The music changes to fast paced and brassy whilst ROB gets a bin bag to put HUMPHREY in.

INT. DINNER TABLE – EVENING

BARBARA

Where is Humphrey?

SUSAN

Oysters.

BARBARA

Ooooh! I got them because they are supposed to be an aphrodisiac.

SUSAN

(disturbed) Oh, that’s nice.

INT. UTILITY ROOM

ROB is putting the bin bag over HUMPHREY’s head.

INT. DINNER TABLE

BARBARA

So, are you a religious person, Susan?

SUSAN

Oh, yes. My husband passed a couple of years ago and I had no one else to turn to and I found God.

BARBARA

Oh...I didn’t know he was missing.

As BARBARA and SUSAN continue talking, ROB can be seen in the background pulling a bin bag containing HUMPHREY’s body.

SUSAN

Rob?

INT. HALLWAY

ROB shoves HUMPRHEY’s bin bag underneath the rug in the hallway.

SUSAN (O.S.)

Rob?

ROB

Yes?

INT. DINING ROOM

ROB enters.

SUSAN

Barbara will be leaving now.

ROB

Oh, such a shame. Would you like to stay for the after dinner coffee and mints?

BARBARA

No, no, must be shooting off. Humphrey?

BARBARA goes to exit but ROB cuts in front of her.

ROB

Look, I have to tell you something about Humphrey.

SUSAN

What’s this about, Rob?

Awkward pause.

ROB

Look, Humphrey has passed.

BARBARA

What?!

ROB

He’s dead. He died suddenly...on the toilet.

BARBARA starts screaming hysterically.

SUSAN

Look, Barbara, he was an Elvis fan and he went the same style as The King did.

HUMPHREY enters yawning.

HUMPHREY

Who died?

Everybody looks at ROB.

CREDITS ROLL OVER BLACK TO “BEYOND THE SEA” by Bobby Darin.

FADE OUT.

**THE END**