

TITLE: GROUP SESSION

NAME: BIL SHERRIN

DRAFT 5.1 / SEPTEMBER 26, 2013 [FINAL DRAFT FOR PERFORMANCE]

SETTING: The location is the basement recroom of the local community center.

CHARACTERS:

DR. GABBY WEINSTEIN: Psychologist, 48-year-old, sober, very proper and particular. Lives alone. These meetings are very important to her. She lives by the rules.

ZEUS*: King of Greek Gods and the god of the sky. Very angry and despondent over Venus leaving him. Still a cocky badass re: his "godness".

JESUS: The Messiah. Very patient and kind. Wants to save everyone and is here to help.

VENUS*: Roman goddess of love, beauty, sex, fertility. Knows she's fantastic. Femme fatale. Flirtatious. Has a crush on Jesus.

THOR*: Norse God of thunder, lightning, storms, and strength. Frustrated and Jealous of Zeus' power. Loves to point out Zeus' flaws. Very good looking.

EDWARD: Comcast employee, 37-year-old, first AA meeting. Embarrassed and nervous. Wants to be sober and to find success.

WEINSTEIN

(chipper / friendly)

Welcome to the greater Sandusky AA meeting. Some familiar faces and some new ones. Coffee and donuts are over on the table. First, the rules. This is a safe environment. What you say here is completely confidential. Everyone will have a chance to speak... about your week, how you're progressing on our 12 steps – whatever's on your mind. No interrupting. The person who's holding the talking stick has the focus.

Weinstein shows everyone the stick.

WEINSTEIN

So, who would like to go first?

Zeus takes the stick from Weinstein.

ZEUS

Yo. Check this out, ahhhright.

WEINSTEIN

Please say your name and how long it's been since your last drink.

ZEUS

My bad, doc, my bad. I'm Zeus.
Motherfucking King of the Gods! Oh, I'm
an alcoholic, and Yo! My last
drink? ...I shit you not – that'd be
yesterday!

Zeus pulls out a brown paper bag with a bottle in it, and takes a swig. Starts to motion toward Edward, so also looking through Thor.

ZEUS

(to Edward)

Ya know what I'm saying, bro?

THE GROUP (in unison)

Whhaaaasupp... Zeus.

ZEUS

Check it out. I fell off the wagon –
ahhhright, cause

(pointing to Venus)

Veeeenus over here decides to go all
bicurious with Aphrodite.

VENUS

Whatevs.

ZEUS

...come on, baby... I hurt, yo! I am
fuckin' hurt. I gotta look at your
Hello Kitty toothbrush and your your
hoochie-coochie feminine products in my
Mount Olympus crib ... my crib!

(starting to choke up; takes another swig)

...and your motherfuckin' Vera Wang,
sequined, silk eggshell toga from Macy's
draped all over my hand-crafted alabaster
credenza! I gotta look at that Shit? You
wore that on our first date when we got
down to Apollo spinning the ones and twos
at the Parthanon!

ZEUS (Continued)

(still really upset / crying more)
...and I may not be motherfuckin' Fred
Astair, but you are mos def Ginger
Rogers... I just hurt, baby... you're so
totally dope! I just can't believe it.
Aphrodite? For realz!?

WEINSTEIN

Ooooooh-k... why don't we pass the
talking stick to someone else.

Shaking the stick, Zeus gives it to Jesus. Takes another
swig.

ZEUS

Take it, bro. Just take the stupid
stick.

JESUS

Hello my brothers and sisters. My name
is Jesus. I have been sober since the
first Easter.

THE GROUP (in unison)

Whhaaaasupp... Jesus.

JESUS

I come seeking to save all those who are
suffering...

WEINSTEIN

(making timeout sign with hands)
Hold on, hold on... time out!
(rolls eyes / pauses / says name like swear
word, not addressing Jesus)

Jesus! ...Every session? ...Really?
Why don't we pass the stick along...

JESUS

Very well. I will just fetch a donut to
feed the whole group.

Thor takes the stick from Jesus as Jesus heads over to
table to get donut. Thor stands up and points at Zeus.

THOR

So, this douche canoe...

WEINSTEIN

Please... your name...

THOR

Thor. I'm an alcoholic. And, yo! I followed his punk-ass right off the motherfuckin' wagon – yesterday!

THE GROUP (in unison)

Whhaaaasupp... Thor.

By now, Jesus is tearing off pieces of the one donut and handing them out to group.

THOR

So, anyway, this twat waffle keeps getting all up in my grill about owning the sky. For realz? He don't got to own no motherfuckin' sky. His bros -- Poseidon and Hades -- own the oceans and the underworld of the dead... The motherfuckin' dead! What are they - Some bullshit Greek God cartel? Yo! I got the sky, ok!? Besides we all heard him tonight, the dude has got issues. Scary. Major. Issues. I'm telling you, this motherfucker's cray-cray...

Thor pulls out a brown paper bag with a bottle in it, and takes a swig. Starts to motion toward Edward

THOR

(to Edward)

FML, right, Bro? F... M... L...

WEINSTEIN

(giving nod and wink to Thor toward Edward)

I'm beginning to feel a sense of hostility inside the group. Why don't we let our newest member speak.

Thor gives it to Edward. Takes another swig.

EDWARD

I'm Edward. Obviously, I'm...

(using air hand quotes)

"new". I guess I am an alcoholic - been sober for 48 hours.

THE GROUP (in unison)
Whhaaaasupp... Edward.

EDWARD
I work for a large cable company – not
sure if I should say which one...

WEINSTEIN
(condescending)
Edward, remember, this is a safe place.

EDWARD
OK, it's Comcast.

THOR, VENUS, ZEUS (in unison)
Motherfuckin' Comcast!

EDWARD
Right. Anyway, I was a pretty sober kid.
I mean, I didn't even know what beer
tasted like until my dad let me have a
sip of his Coors (remember when cans had
a pull tab?)... anyway, we were bar-b-quiring.
I guess it doesn't matter now...

ZEUS
(tipsy / supportive)
Yo, yo, yo... listen bro, we're all just
chillaxin' here. Take your time.

EDWARD
Thanks... Well, now management has
shortened the installment windows from 4
hours to 2 hours...

THOR, VENUS, ZEUS (in unison)
Motherfuckin' Comcast!

EDWARD
(getting choked up)
I'm just under so much pressure. The
deadlines. The commission. I couldn't
control my urges.

VENUS
(sensually)
Urges! Oh, sweetie, I can relate. I...
can... relate. Rrrraarrrr.

Venus starts to touch Jesus.

WEINSTEIN

(sternly)

Please. Wait for the talking stick.

VENUS

Whatevs.

EDWARD

... it started innocent enough – right?
First, I would sip from the hard liquor.
You know, who's gonna notice? Then I
would sneak a can of beer into my
pants... I thought, why not? These
folks are rich – they can afford
Comcast.

THOR, VENUS, ZEUS (in unison)

Motherfuckin' Comcast!

EDWARD

Eventually I was clearing out liquor
cabinets. So... now... here I am.

The group claps enthusiastically.

THOR

Just stop time, Bro!

JESUS

That is what I would do, my brother.

EDWARD

Huh?

ZEUS

Make time your bitch. 2 hours. 4 hours.
It don't matter.

EDWARD

(pensive and wishful)

I just wish I could sentence my
superiors to a special place in hell.

ZEUS

(opportunistic, excited, tipsy)

Bro! I got this, Yo! I will bring my
massive wrath down upon Comcast!

Thor turns toward Zeus, so they can be in each other's faces – both a little sloppy from drinks.

THOR

Oh, you got this! The man behind motherfuckin' global warming's got this! Hurricanes... tornadoes... floods... droughts! You know, the old testament called... and they want their motherfuckin' storms back! Whacha gonna do to Comcast? Typhoon their ass!

Tipsy, Thor and Zeus start to slap each other very playfully not violently – kind of like kids in the back seat of a car. Venus grabs stick from Edward.

VENUS

(seductively)

boys... boys... Myyyyyyyyy turn.

Venus walks the room and flirts with everyone.

VENUS

I'm Venus – Goddess of sex, beauty, enticement, AND seduction. I've been sober since, um, hearing all your sorry-ass stories today.

THE GROUP (in unison – incl. wrestlers)

Whhaaaasupp... Venus.

Venus sits back down and begins to massage Jesus' back.

VENUS

So, peeps, on the real, did I go 06'n with the fiiiine Aphrodite? ...Have you seen her ankles? ...Have you seen them?! they... are... gorgeous! So, yeah, we had some alone goddess-on-goddess-time. Whatevs... Let me shed some heavenly light on the nature of "the relationship" I got with this...

(pauses / points to Zeus)

Mortal. He got no interest in introducing me to his father, ahhrright. Is that TOO much for a lady to want? ...to meet his dad!

(still messaging – now looking at Jesus)

I bet our Only Begotten Dawg of Nazareth's father would love to meet me.

JESUS
(different deeper FATHERLY GOD-LIKE voice)
"I" WOULD love to meet you.

Venus is still massaging Jesus' back.

VENUS
See! A true gentlemen. Anyway,
it's my bridge night. Me and my BFFs –
Minerva, Diana, Ceres... Every Tuesday –
bridge. So... I come home to this
shithead being a statue! A
motherfucking statue! "Oh, baby, oh
baby, Medusa means nothing to me." Bull.
Fucking. Shit. I had to chisel his sorry
ass out of stone – again! Come on!
Medusa? She ain't no Betty... You know,
just go have a bromance – why don't you
just hook up with Thor there... share
your precious sky to your hearts'
content. "Jesus!"

Venus's messaging becomes more sensual, now playing with
Jesus' hair, etc. Venus drops the talking stick. Zeus' and
Thor's eyes meet and their playful slapping turns into them
holding hands and they start to look sensually into each
other's eyes.

JESUS
What? What did I do, my sister? The
bromance is a fine idea – Thor seems
very nice.

VENUS
Trust me, baby. You ain't done nothing.

ZEUS
(to Thor / flirty)
Dude, we can totally share the sky. For
sure. Totally.

THOR
(googly-eyed)
You my boo, Zeus. You my boo.

Weinstein picks up the stick from where Venus dropped it.

WEINSTEIN

(frustrated but feeling wise and somewhat condescending)

You know, it astounds me. I mean, I can't change the weather... I only can change me. No matter what ***I*** do, each day has 24 hours. The way you retreat into those elixirs and succumb to their beastly power is really very sad. But that's why we're here... and that's why I'm here. I used to be you. All of you. I worked all the time, and Liam, my now ex-husband left me for Rachel. ***She*** was in operations. ***She*** drove a forklift. ***I'm*** a doctor! ...could she turn people into stone? – ok, no. But I got over it. I got over my Pinot Noir... and I got over Liam. You know, it reminds me of this Jewish proverb...

THOR, VENUS, ZEUS (in unison)

Ooooh Jeeez.

JESUS

(frustrated)

Whaaat?

WEINSTEIN

I have the talking stick! Anyway, the proverb says, "Don't live in a town where there are no doctors".

Edward bites into donut. (((he pauses)))

EDWARD

... Tastes like fish.

THE END.