

TITLE: PARK {Inspired by "RALLY" draft 1 01.SEP.2013}

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SETTING: The location is Central Park, NY, modern day. There's a rally going on in support of preventing Mayor Bloomberg's law about limiting soft drinks to 16 ounces. It's a muggy sun drenched day and the gathering crowd is growing. Some have signs about freedom and responsibility. Joggers and bikers traverse the park, ignoring the rally. Kids in strollers and dogs chasing Frisbees – they're all there. In the distance, on the stage, a speaker is about to begin the rally. A granddaughter is pushing her grandfather who is holding a double big gulp in a wheelchair to find a spot to view the rally.

*NOTE: maybe an office chair with wheels can be used.

CHARACTERS:

WALTER HAWTHORN: Grandfather of Dana. Huge sweet tooth and loves his sugary large drinks Dying of cancer, but at peace with that. Raspy voice. His ratty 15-yr-old t-shirt says "World's #1 Grandpa" and he's wearing large cover over dark sunglasses. He is holding a double big gulp. Has binoculars around his neck. Curmudgeon with a soft spot. Has not told his granddaughter about his cancer.

DANA GILBERT : College newspaper reporter. Sweet tooth. Very nerdy. Bookish, semi-innocent, but open to new ideas. Studying journalism at Columbia. Lesbian who has not come out to her grandpa. Has binoculars around her neck.

SPEAKER #1: Rally coordinator. Just announces the scene.

SPEAKER #2: MLK-like

SPEAKER #3: JFK-like

[Speaker #1 taps microphone
and blows into microphone]

SPEAKER #1

Testing 1, 2, 3. Testing. Welcome to the "Let Us Drink Large Rally". We'll bringing out our first speaker, the world renown, Marvin Louis Kane soon...

[the crowd roars]

DANA

Grandpa – there's a nice comfy spot!

Right under that shady oak.

[Dana pushes the chair to be
in the shade under the tree
and unfolds a lawn chair to
sit next to him]

WALT
Looks fine, kiddo.

DANA
I love our Sundays. Just the two of us...
(teasing)
Well, three of us – with your Double Big
Gulp!

WALT
(snidely)
If Bloomberg has his way, this may be
my last one! When I was younger and
not it this stupid chair, I tell ya, I
would have punched him right in the
kisser!

DANA
(consolingly)
Well, the mayor can't take away our
Sundays. No matter your drink size...
we'll still have our time together,
grandpa... even if I need to take you to
7-11 4... 5... or 6 times!

WALT
(modestly)
Our Sundays do get me out of your
grandma's hair for the day. Of course...

WALT and DANA
(in unison / laughing)
She can be such a bitch.

DANA
I know grandpa. I know. Listen,
there's something I really need to tell
you.

WALT
Me too.

WALT and DANA
(in unison)
You first. No you go.

[Dana and Walt both pause for
a moment]

WALT and DANA
(being serious / simultaneously)
WALT: I have cancer.
DANA: I'm gay.

[Dana and Walt both pause for
a moment]

WALT and DANA
(in unison / surprised)
What ?!

SPEAKER #2
"I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation. Six score seven years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, introduced us to Coca-Cola. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of soda drinkers who had been seared in the flames of withering thirst. But one hundred and 27 years later, the soda drinker still is not free. One hundred and 27 years later, the soda drinker lives on a lonely island of 16 ounce and smaller cups in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred and 27 years later, the soda drinker is still languished in the corners of 7-11s and finds himself an exile in his own land. And so we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition..."

WALT
How gay?

DANA
Pretty gay?

WALT

So you're not experimenting?

DANA

Grandpa, I'm Gay-Gay... I would say I'm gay-plus. Here's a photo of Liz. I love her.

[Dana pulls out her cell phone and shows the photo to Walt]

WALT

OK, Kiddo. Just checking because I went through a phase, myself.

DANA

You did?

WALT

The Marines, kiddo, the marines.

[Walt takes a huge sip of his double big gulp]

DANA

(giggling)

You're so funny Grandpa.

WALT

Not Kidding.

[Walt hands his double big gulp to Dana and she takes a big sip]

SPEAKER #2

"There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as the soda drinker is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of the Bloomberg brutality. We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain big gulps in the gas stations of the highways and the 7-11s of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the soda drinker's basic mobility is from their mother's

nipple to a small unsatisfying sippy cup. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their sugar highs and robbed of their dignity by signs stating: "For small cups only"...

WALT

This guy is good. So original and inspiring! Where does he get this stuff?

DANA

Not sure how original he is, but he sure is inspiring. Could I have another sip?

[Walt hands the double big gulp back to Dana and she now takes an even bigger sip – starting to get a little loopy from all the sugar]

DANA

(giggling and light hearted)
So, cancer... tell me, grandpa how did you two meet?

WALT

(seriously)
Kiddo, the doctor says it's my lifestyle. I haven't taken good care of myself. Before your Grandma...

DANA

(giggling)
She's such a bitch.

WALT

(giggling a little / smiling)
...the booze, the cigars, the ladies... shoot, all these Sunday 7-11 visits with you since you were little – they couldn't have helped.

[Walt takes another big sip of the double big gulp]

DANA

Are you gonna be ok? Is it serious?

WALT

(teasing / not serious)

Well, it's not "gay" serious.

DANA

Grandpa!

WALT

Kidding, kiddo. Yeah, it's bad. It's my colon. I would say I have "Cancer-Cancer. Cancer-Plus". Here's my MRI image.

[Walt pulls out his cell phone and shows the image to Dana]

Tumor is five times the size of your Grandma's bunion.

DANA

She's such a bitch.

[Dana grabs the double big gulp and takes another sip and the sugar high at this point has caused her to start to bounce and dance around Walt's chair]

SPEAKER #2

"I have a dream that one day on the corner of 42nd and Broadway the sons of former 7-11 owners and the sons of former vegan diner owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day, even on the island of Manhattan, a city sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the size of their cup but by the content of their character..."

[By now Dana and Walt are passing the double big gulp back and forth as they finish their conversation; Dana is still bouncy and dancing]

WALT
Kiddo, this guy seems so familiar.

DANA
Yeeee-up. Hee suuuure does.

[Dana takes another big sip]

SPEAKER #1
"Free at last! ...Free at last! ...
Thank God Almighty, we are free at
last!"

WALT
I've got it. Dick Nixon! This guy got
his stuff from Dick Nixon!

[Dana takes another big sip
and is still bouncy]

DANA
(giggling)
You said "Dick".

WALT
I hope this second guy is as good as
the first.

SPEAKER #3
"Ask not what your large 64-ounce soda
drink can do for you, ask what you can
do for your large 64-ounce soda drink..."

WALT
Man, these guys are so inspiring and
original. I know I am gonna beat cancer.

[Dana stops bouncing and
dancing]

DANA
(serious)
Cancer is a bitch, Grandpa.

[Dana takes another sip and
starts bouncing/dancing again]