

MOTEL
BY
Bil Sherrin
3/8/15 v.4

LOCATION: Room 213 at The Motel 12 off I-75 in Michigan

TIME: Late October, Present Day, 8:00 PM

SIN: Lust

CAST:

PENNY: female Prostitute. Dressed like a
librarian. Smart. Funny.
Playful. Doesn't give a shit.
Never left town. In her
forties. In great shape. Very
confident. Lots of regulars.
Savvy.

JOHN/ERNEST: male First-time client. Nervous.
Aroused. Married but bored.
Prominent in town, but also
never left. In his forties.

EXT: An Autumn drizzle falls on the trampled leaves from the trees circling the mom-and-pop motel off of I-75 just south of Frankenmuth, MI. Motel 12 ('cause it's twice as nice as Motel 6) is kept up just nice enough to keep the inspectors away and to be a favorite for local hookers who service your cliché truckers and occasional traveling salesmen. The neon sign works perfectly; There are no missing letters. Cute little cardboard ghosts and goblins and jack-o-lanterns are affixed to the windows of the outside of the office's façade. The structure is two stories with all the doors facing the parking lot. It's 45 degrees.

INT: Room 213. Second Floor. Neon sign lights show through the crack between to the brown drapes that are donned with a pattern of orange owls. The room is well kept, without stains; plush olive green, wall-to-wall shag carpeting consumes the room. The bathroom has new tile. The TV is a flat screen and is secured to the wall with a lock. The walls are covered with dark fake wood paneling. The bed is a double with a new mattress. The mini-fridge is for the customers to stock with their own beverages and wares.

PRODUCTION NOTE: ((TBD)) but I would love to consider to have this as a silhouetted performance. That is, have a screen or sheet between the audience and the performers with back lighting.

Penny parses the drapes and raises the window and ducks her head out and lights two cigarettes.

PENNY

I love the fall.

JOHN

Someone'll see us. Close the curtains.

Penny brings her head back in the room, closes curtains.

PENNY

(teasing / with air quotes)
what a fuckin' cliché... calling
yourself "John"... people will see ME.
Not you, "John"... ME.

Penny hands John one of the cigarettes and he takes a drag. Penny is flirtatious and sultry. Pointing out her details of the room.

PENNY (continued)

I'm always in this room. Two-one-three. Nobody wants it, but I do. I want this room like you want me, "John". I take care of this room. The lava lamp. Mine. The incense. Mine. This boom box - it's mine.

Penny turns on some music (Barry White / Jazz / etc.) and then moves over to John seductively puts each on hand his shoulders.

PENNY (continued)

you gonna to take care of me, John?

John moves away nervously.

JOHN

I don't usually smoke.

John puts his cigarette in the ash tray politely but does not put it out.

John (continued)

(with air quotes / snarky)

...well "Penny" is soooo cliché. "penny for your thoughts". Why don't you call yourself "Charity" or "Candy" or... just have a name tag on your blouse: "hello, my name is hooker"

PENNY

(flirtatious)

Now that's harsh. Penny's my real name. Promise.

JOHN

(pause)

huh. ' went to high school with a Penny.

PENNY

(flirtatious)

I know.

JOHN

(surprised/concerned)

Penelope?! Penny Malone?

PENNY

Yep.

JOHN

You don't remember me?

Penny walks over to the fridge and starts to prepare two drinks with ice.

PENNY

Why don't I pour us some drinks.
Refresh my memory.

JOHN

My last name is right behind yours in
the alphabet. I sat behind you in
homerom... all 4 years in high school.

PENNY

Mason.

JOHN

huh?

PENNY

Your last name.

JOHN

You remember?

PENNY

No.

JOHN

Oh.

PENNY

(sarcastic)

Do you know how many of my "Johns" I
went to high school with? You're
probably the last one. Finally! My
vagina can retire!

JOHN

You really don't remember me?

PENNY

No. Look. You're fucking handsome. I
don't get a lot of handsome.

JOHN

I'm no fireman on a calendar.

PENNY

You're no pizza-face-shoelaces-never-tied-obsessed with winning the Rube Goldberg contest in physics class-kid either.

JOHN

You do remember!

PENNY

(emotional)

Girls remember... boys who... don't tug on their hair... who don't pull their bra straps... You didn't goose me. You asked me about my dreams...

Long pause.

JOHN

Well?...

PENNY

Well what?

JOHN

Your dreams.

PENNY

(incensed)

You're a dick. You're looking at 'em.

(sarcastic)

I bring dreams to life... Just not mine! I'm dressed like a librarian! Support hose. Glasses. A skirt so long I might as well be inside a Jane Austin novel.

JOHN

You're striking.

PENNY

Shut up! Why is it so important that I remember you?!

JOHN

(empathetic)

Had I know you were penny precious.com, I would have asked for cheerleader.

PENNY
Ernie! That's it. Ernie Mason.

JOHN
Ernest. It's Ernest.

JOHN/PENNY (in unison)
...after Hemmingway.

JOHN
See, you do remember?

PENNY/JOHN (in unison, giggling)
"no"

JOHN
So now what?

Penny seductively walks over, drinks in hand, sits on John's lap, and hands him his drink.

PENNY
Well... We're on your dime. You have me all night. You are "George Clooney" handsome and I'm dressed up like Annie Potts in Ghostbusters...

PENNY/JOHN (in unison)
(giggling / nasally voices)
"Hello, Ghostbusters!?"

Penny moves her hand on John's thigh and squeezes.

PENNY
"Does this pole work?"

Pause.

PENNY
Come on. Ghostbusters. That was funny.

JOHN
(nervous / concerned)
I don't know. It's such a slippery slope... first, a librarian, then I ask you to be my stepmom, then you bring a donkey...

PENNY
I'm not going to poop on you.

John looks down Penny's blouse, as she is still on his lap...

PENNY

They're nice, aren't they?

JOHN

They're perfect. They were perfect in high school. They're perfect now.

John lifts Penny off his lap, pounds his drink and heads to the fridge for another.

JOHN

(in a silly fit / babbling)
Perfect. Perfect. Perfect. The perfect breasts. The perfect Penny breasts. In her cheerleading outfit, I mean librarian outfit... I mean... damnit.

PENNY

It's just sex, Ernie.

JOHN

(upset)
Ernest. It's Ernest... and it is not just sex.

PENNY

Uh... yeah it is. I promise. I have had lots of it. The quarterback. The point guard. The soccer coach.
(reminiscing)
The swim coach. The tennis coach. The hall monitor...

JOHN

I get it. I get it.

PENNY

Listen, you're nervous. It's OK, it'll be just like Doc Schaeffer taught us biology class. I promise.

PENNY/JOHN (in unison)

(giggling)
He's not even Doctor...
(long pause)
I know. Right!

JOHN
He always said Courtship and Caring
before "coitus"!

PENNY
Hate that word. Even intercourse is
better.

JOHN
(in old man teacher voice)
The Three "C's" must come in order!
(long pause)
(regular voice)
...so we pretend?

PENNY
...Yesssssss! EXACTLY. We pretend. I
care for you. You court me. Then we
consummate.

JOHN
(giggling)
Another "c"! you really are a
librarian!

Pause.

PENNY
Earnest. Penny precioius.com is not ok
cupid. But...
(pause)
"pretending" – it's always there. It
was there when I spent time with the
quarterback, the point guard...

JOHN
(interrupting)
I get it. I fuckin' get it!

PENNY
Anyway, you pretend in your job, I am
sure you pretend in your marriage and
we are going to pretend tonight...
except it's going to be so much fun!

JOHN
It's not the same.

PENNY

Does your gadget need some
pharmaceuticals?

JOHN

Oh. No. I could find water right now.
(pause)
it's just the guilt.

PENNY

Guilt!? Guilt!? I'll tell you about
guilt. I pooped on a guy once.

JOHN

I thought you said you wouldn't do that.

PENNY

Well, I did and it was Principle
Skinner. It's not something you need
to do twice.

JOHN

It's not something I need to do once.

PENNY

Well, good.

JOHN

I mean, I stopped at Donkey, and even
then I was kidding.

PENNY

I know! ...let me play some music from
high school!

Penny goes back over to boom box and pushes another button and "Adult Education" from Hall and Oates starts to play. She saunters back to John, grabs his hand and starts to Dance with him – trying her hardest to seduce him and having a great time. At first, John is reluctant, but eventually the two of them are having a grand – albeit very cheesy – grand time dancing to Hall and Oates. As the music ends/gets quiet, Penny really pushes hard

PENNY

So, Earnest. I really want to unzip
your fly.

JOHN

I just, I just, I can't.

PENNY

You know... Just get the fuck out.
Just get the fuck out! I'm busy. I got
shit to do and it ain't you.

JOHN

You mean like spit ping pong balls out
of your v-j-j. No. No, I'm staying.

PENNY

Fine. But, I wasn't lying about you
being handsome, so... um. Yeah.

JOHN

Look. We grew up with Sesame Street and
Moon Landings...

PENNY

Stirrup pants and M-TV.

They both start doing the M-TV intro song.

PENNY/JOHN (in unison)

(giggling)

Duh-Duh-Da... Da-Da Duh-Duh-Da... Da-Da

(long pause)

(still giggling singing like Hall &
Oates)

"AAAH-Dult... EducAAation"

(long pause)

PENNY

(feeling nostalgic)

The Cold War.

JOHN

(feeling nostalgic)

Yeaahhhh.

PENNY

Tonight feels like the cold war.

JOHN

(annoyed)

Come on.

Long pause.

JOHN

You know what I'd really like to do?

PENNY
Play trivia pursuit?

JOHN
No.

PENNY
T.P. Mr. Skinner's house?

JOHN
No.

PENNY
Should I sit on your face?

JOHN
No. No. No.
(long pause)
I'd want to give you a bath.

PENNY
I would love that! My back is killing
me.

They take each other's hands and slowly walk off stage
toward the bathroom.

JOHN
I bet.

PENNY
(not that mad, kidding)
Shut up!
(pause)
...You never told me why it was so
important that I remember you.

JOHN
Because in high school... I wasn't
pretending.

More music plays.

THE END.