

A Very Bad Day for Brandon Butterworth

by
Scott Haan

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DEDICATION

*For Xander and Susan,
brother and sister extraordinaire.*

STORY OF THE PLAY

Brandon Butterworth has apparently been playing the field. On one fateful night, his multiple girlfriends -- grouchy Lucy, ditzy Rebecca, and shy Constance -- accidentally discover each other. The three ladies realize their boyfriends, all named Brandon, are actually the same guy. Instead of fighting and bickering amongst themselves, they hatch a plan for revenge, teaming up to teach the three-timer a lesson. Brandon is about to have a very bad day, indeed ... unless his *own* plan works! A sarcastic bartender and a biker-type customer round out the cast.

PREMIERE PRODUCTION

"A Very Bad Day for Brandon Butterworth" was first presented on April 8, 2008 in Lafayette, IN, as part of the inaugural Staged Reading series at the Civic Theatre of Greater Lafayette. It was directed by Julia Colby and produced by Steve Koehler. The roles were originated by the following cast (in order of appearance):

BARTENDER Alan Hertz
LUCY Bethany Grimes
REBECCA Erin O'Connor
CONSTANCE Windi Hornsby
BRANDON Kyle Bushre
KENNY Dave Stoike

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 m, 3 w)

BRANDON BUTTERWORTH: Handsome and charming; seems like a nice enough guy, but his philandering ways are about to make his life miserable.

LUCY: Girlfriend #1. Obnoxious and sullen, maybe even a bit unstable; being around her can be an intense experience.

REBECCA: Girlfriend #2. Pretty and good-natured, but not exactly the sharpest crayon in the box.

CONSTANCE: Girlfriend #3. Intelligent and kind-hearted, but soft-spoken; her glasses make her look homelier than she actually is.

BARTENDER: A sarcastic male bartender, who derives a little too much joy from watching Brandon suffer and get his comeuppance.

KENNY: A burly and gruff biker type.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: The bar. Friday night.

Scene 2: The bar. Friday night, a few minutes later.

Scene 3: The bar. The next evening, Saturday.

SETTING

Our story takes place at the Safe Haven, a quaint little bar. There are three doors. The first door (SR) with an exit sign above it, leads directly outside. The second door (CS) leads into a separate pool room. The third door (SL) leads to the restrooms and a lounge area.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: The Safe Haven Bar. LUCY and REBECCA, total strangers, sit on barstools, facing the audience, with an empty stool between them. Both are nursing beers. The BARTENDER approaches the ladies.)

BARTENDER: *(To LUCY, whose bottle is nearly empty.)*

Can I get you another beer?

LUCY: *(Pause. SHE glares at HIM, seething.)* Are you saying I'm fat?

BARTENDER: *(Stops dead in his tracks, taken aback by this extreme non-sequitur.)* What? No, I—

LUCY: *(Cutting him off quickly.)* I'm already fat, so I might as well just chug beer like there's no tomorrow, 'cause it doesn't matter anymore. Is that it?

BARTENDER: *(Defensive.)* You're NOT fat. I was just offering you another drink. That's ALL.

LUCY: *(Apologetic and rational.)* I'm sorry. It's not you, I'm just upset. I'm starting to think my boyfriend stood me up here.

BARTENDER: *(Sympathetic.)* It's okay. I understand.

LUCY: *(Turning on him again.)* You understand what? Why he would stand me up?

BARTENDER: NO! No, that is a TOTAL mystery. Baffling. *(HE scurries away.)*

REBECCA: Men.

LUCY: Yeah. Can't live with 'em, can't strangle 'em without legal repercussions.

REBECCA: I'm Rebecca, by the way.

(REBECCA holds out her hand. LUCY stares at it like it's a dead animal, then overcomes her distaste and shakes.)

LUCY: Lucy.

REBECCA: Nice to meet you, Lucy.

(LUCY merely grunts and turns her body away from REBECCA even more. She clearly has no interest in being drawn into a conversation, but Rebecca misses the cues and soldiers onward.)

REBECCA: I have a boyfriend, too. *(Pause; no response from LUCY.)* Tonight he's over at his friend John's house...AGAIN. *(Pause.)* I don't know WHAT they do over there. I think they must eat a lot of Mexican, because EVERY time I call over there to talk to him, John tells me he's in the bathroom.

LUCY: *(Looking at REBECCA with disdain.)* You're a moron. He's cheating on you.

REBECCA: With JOHN? No way. I'm sure he's straight. I catch him staring at women's chests all the time.

LUCY: Sounds like a keeper.

REBECCA: Does YOUR boyfriend have any good buddies he hangs out with?

LUCY: Brandon's not very social. Hardly ever leaves his apartment.

REBECCA: Oh my God! MY boyfriend's name is Brandon too!

LUCY: *(Indifferent.)* Really. Wow.

REBECCA: I met him at work. I'm a waitress at the Dog 'N Suds downtown.

LUCY: Sounds intellectually stimulating.

REBECCA: If that means "hard," it is. Believe me. I have to make change for people a lot ... and I have to do all the math in my HEAD. And I do it all on roller skates. *(Pause.)* What do YOU do for a living, Lucy?

LUCY: I'm a social worker. I've always been good with people. *(Yelling off.)* Yo! Nozzle Jockey! I'm empty over here! Do you want me to die of dehydration?

(The BARTENDER appears and gives HER another beer.)

BARTENDER: Of course not. *(LUCY sets money on the counter and HE scoops it up. He mutters the rest under his breath as he walks away.)* I'm not picky on the "how."

End of Freeview

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