



Whinings of a Malcontent.

a play in One Act  
by Rick Ashton





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FIRST PRINTING

WHININGS OF A MALCONTENT

CAST:

<u>ASHTON</u>	the malcontent
<u>NICKI</u>	the bartender
<u>MARCEL</u>	a mime
<u>THE COUPLE</u>	people in the bar
<u>GEEZER</u>	person in the bar
AND...	
<u>ASHTON</u>	HIPPIE
<u>GEEZER</u>	MUGGER, COUNSELOR
<u>WOMAN</u> (From COUPLE)	WOMAN, WIFE
<u>MAN</u> (From COUPLE)	MAN, PEDESTRIAN
<u>NICKI</u>	SPACEGUY

Cast Size: Two women, four men

Time: Modern day

Place: A neighborhood bar in  
Venice, CA, USA

Length: A play in one act.

Eighth Draft Revision: 02/07/05

WHININGS OF A MALCONTENT

Performances:

April 3, 4, and 5, 1998

University of Denver Studio Theatre

Denver, CO

Reading:

June 29, 2004

Thistle Dew Dessert Theater

Sacramento, CA

Reading:

March 28, 2005

Shakespeare & Company

Paris, 75005

(FADE IN: on a neighborhood bar. Seated at the BAR are THE COUPLE, the GEEZER, and ASHTON. Also in the BAR are MARCEL, the mime and NICKI, the bartender. THE COUPLE does what couples do in a bar. The GEEZER coughs incessantly and mumbles a bit. MARCEL, provides a subtle annoying presence. NICKI and ASHTON are playing chess.)

(MUSIC: RUFUS: "Tell Me Something Good")

(There is a JUKEBOX in the corner. During the chorus:

"Tell me something good", FADE MUSIC to soft volume.)

ASHTON

I'll tell you something...that pisses me **off!** That song was used for a Burger King commercial. Somebody with the rights to that song sold out an entire generation-

NICKI

Stevie Wonder wrote it.

ASHTON

That Chaka Khan Song?

NICKI

Yeah. Chaka Khan did it, but Stevie Wonder wrote it.

ASHTON

OK. Stevie Wonder's a genius—but I tell you—if he's the one who sold it, he should be shot! Because he sold us out! It's not like he needed the money. He sold us out to Burger King—so they can rip into our psyche and burn their "BK" LOGO on our memories. 'AH, listen, baby—that's OUR SONG'—**not any more!!**—Just like they rip into the rainforest, tearing out the heart and lungs of Mother Earth. Why? So they can graze cattle down there for your high fat carcinogenic convenience.

GEEZER

High fat—no carbs—ATKINS FRIENDLY!

ASHTON

Hey, Atkins died fat with a history of heart disease. Doesn't sound very friendly to me.

GEEZER

Well, my buddy lost 50 pounds on Atkins!



ASHTON

Yeah? Well my buddy lost 90 pounds on Crystal Meth—but that doesn't make him healthy.

NICKI

Want another one veggie boy? There's no meat in beer.

ASHTON

Thank God! You know I've been a vegetarian for years, and I don't miss eating meat. But I do miss hunting and killing. So, I just load up the old shotgun and go out and blow the SHIT out of some guy's garden...BOOM! But I only kill what I can eat.

*(MUSIC: MORRISSEY—"Meat is Murder"  
listen to lyrics then FADE)*

NICKI

Yeah, but you're not a **real** vegetarian.

ASHTON

Sure I am, ovo-lacto, baby-

NICKI

No, you wear leather. Vegetarians don't wear leather.

ASHTON

Sure they do. It's the Vegans that don't wear leather. They're the fanatics. They don't eat cheese, milk, eggs—they don't exploit any of God's creatures. VEGANS don't wear leather—which means they're not much fun in bed. I had on a deerskin leather jacket and this vegan started hassling me: "You shouldn't wear that deerskin jacket. Somebody had to kill a deer to make that jacket." I'm like: "Look, pal, the road was dark, I tried to swerve. I didn't see the deer; I was reaching across the seat for that DOLPHIN sandwich... I don't know, maybe it was a baby-seal burger...I don't remember, I was in a hurry to go check my beaver traps. Those women make me a lot of money."

NICKI

My Brother, you are such a pig!

ASHTON

Hey, Nicki, It's like, a *joke*.

NICKI

Oh, I see. It's LIKE a joke. Except for: the funny part's missing.

ASHTON

Yeah, okay. Whatever...You know, there are lots of famous vegetarians—Hitler, Bruce Lee -both vegetarians. Kinda kills that “wimp” image, doesn’t it?

NICKI

Yeah, but so are Morrissey and Mr. Rogers-so it cancels out.

ASHTON

I’m no fanatic about what people eat. Eat and let eat, that’s what I say. I don’t give a shit. I mean, some people eat cats and dogs in this world. It’s like steak to them. Why not? It beats starving. They probably think we’re nuts for partaking of brother cow. Ya know, maybe we look at this all wrong in this country, cuz here in America there are THOUSANDS of starving people, dying of malnutrition every year. Right here in the United States. At the same time, we put MILLIONS of dogs and cats to sleep every year. I say take these starving people to the pound and let them pick out dinner!

NICKI

Just like lobster!

ASHTON

Right! You could have puppies in a little tank with little rubber bands on their paws, "um, I'll have the Schnauzer this evening, is it fresh? A little blackened Pitbull, Shitzu-tartar".

NICKI

OK-Now, you're making me sick.

ASHTON

Besides, we spend what-something like 20 BILLION dollars a year on pet food, and not ALL that goes to old folks-

NICKI

Eating dogs and cats-YOU should be shot!

ASHTON

Hey, run this idea past the chickens before you rush to judgment, ok? I'm sure given the opportunity, chickens would prefer to live a ripe old age around the barnyard, as opposed to winding up extra-crispy.

NICKI

But dogs are fun, they're your buddy.  
You can't play "fetch" with a chicken.  
That's why DOGS are "man's best  
friend". You ever hung around chickens?  
They aren't very friendly.

ASHTON

Friendly? Hey look, if you ate my  
family--I'd be a little hard to get  
along with too! I tell you what, you  
start rubbing chickens' bellies and  
giving them yummy treats and squeaky  
toys--they might fetch a Frisbee for  
you! Of course, on the other hand, you  
start filleting the family pooch with  
regularity and he just might change his  
name to: "Man's Best *ENEMY*"...You know,  
I never understood why they call a dog  
"man's best friend" anyway--they don't  
loan you money--they never spring for  
drinks, really! If you think about it--  
man is DOG'S best friend--cuz believe  
me, if I could find a guy who bought  
and served me food, cleaned up my shit  
in the yard, and let me lay on his  
couch all day licking my balls...He's  
pretty much gonna be my best friend!

NICKI

You still got your dog, right? That  
rottweiler?

ASHTON

You mean Nader? No. He ran away.

NICKI

Living with you, I'm not surprised.

ASHTON

HEY! Yeah, now, I'm in between dogs.  
You could say I'm dogless.

NICKI

I really liked Nader. He was scary  
lookin' but such a sweet dog. You could  
tell if anything got out of hand, he  
would definitely be "Large and In-  
Charge". A great watchdog.

ASHTON

Yeah, but lets face it, Nicki, Nader  
was dumb as dirt. I mean, no matter how  
hard I tried this dog would not learn  
the first trick. I rented the video and  
tried for days, NOTHIN'! So I got  
pissed off, threw the dog in the back  
of the car, went out on the freeway,  
and every time we passed a crushed  
animal I went: "THERE'S a bad dog!--  
THERE'S a bad dog!" He's in the  
backseat scared shitless. We got back  
to the house he was doing flips,  
cartwheels, those disappearing rings,  
ANYTHING!

*(MUSIC: McCartney song: "Love Song" or "Coming Up",)*

ASHTON

*(Pointing at MARCEL puzzled, to NICKI)*

What's the deal, here?

NICKI

*(shrugs)* He's here all the time. The house mime. Hey Marcel, whassup??

ASHTON

Hey wait a minute- I'm here all the time, and I've never seen him. Do we suddenly have a one-mime-minimum? And what is this shitty music? *(scans the bar)* Who played this?

*(MARCEL's grooving)*

NICKI

I think it's Paul McCartney.

ASHTON

George is dead, Lennon's dead, but McCartney's still alive...there clearly is no God! Hey, let's face it: they shot the wrong Beatle. I mean, if you're gonna shoot a Beatle--RINGO! There's your target. Put the crosshairs

ASHTON (cont)

on that beak! Hey, don't get me wrong, I wish they were still making music. But if you're going to send a moptop to an early grave--it's gotta be Ringo. I mean, my Beatles collection would be just fine without "Octopus' Garden" (pause) It's sad: we lose all the great ones. I mean: drugs, guns, and airplanes have fucked up otherwise perfectly good musicians. Meanwhile, Britney Spears is still alive and touring...I mean, where's a good plane crash when you REALLY need one, Y'know? Justin Timberlake never ate a handful of percodans and fell off the toilet naked-know what I mean? Instead we lose Lennon, Hendrix, Kurt Cobain-

NICKI

-Look, if I'd been married to Courtney Love, I might have done the same thing. Blow my brains out.

ASHTON

Aw, Courtney's great. She's the junkie America loves to hate; did you see her on "The View"?

NICKI

Oh, you watch "The View", now??



ASHTON

Yeah, I watch it everyday—I'm waiting for Starr Jones' ass to explode! No—I saw the clip on Jimmy Kimmel, she was saying she's in the best shape of her life- doesn't do drugs-rrriiiiight!!! And Navarro and Carmen Electra are celibate-

NICKI

That movie, "Kurt and Courtney" was on cable last night. Sure looked like Courtney did it. I mean this guy said she offered him like fifty grand to whack Kurt, and then the guy, like, mysteriously gets hit by a train during the film.

ASHTON

Yeah, I saw that before. Y'know what killed Kurt Cobain: Depression. You ever been to Seattle? It's a depressing town. The sun NEVER shines, man. It's always grey and depressing. Even with all that activism, cutting-edge, global awareness shit-it's depressing. That's why they have espresso on every corner—to stave off suicide. I got a speeding ticket there, cop pulls me over, "You know how fast you were-wanna latte?" espresso machine right there next to the radar...writes me a ticket, of course it was on recycled paper-and technically it wasn't for speeding-it was for being "out of harmony with the

ASHTON (cont)

planetary flow"...my point is: VERY depressing town. So what does Kurt do-double mocha lattes? No! HEROIN! The single most depressing narcotic. Hey, if Cobain had done a few more Frappaccinos and a little less smack, he'd be alive today.

GEEZER

And PERKY!

ASHTON

Exactly!

*(MUSIC: NIRVANA "All Apologies"  
listen then FADE)*

ASHTON

You know, there hasn't been a band that real, with that kind of honesty since Cobain checked out. OK- The Spice Girls. (pause) Anything new on the juke?

NICKI

*(gives him a \$5 BILL)*

Check it out...

*(MIME starts for JUKEBOX at the same time)*

ASHTON

(to MIME) STAY!!!...

(ASHTON goes to JUKEBOX)

Oh, yeah. Okay...FINALLY--some  
Coltrane!

NICKI

You've been bitching long enough.

(MUSIC: COLTRANE-"Lush Life"  
listen first phrase, then FADE to  
BG)

ASHTON

Lush Life! God Bless You, Nicki!! -  
Marry Me!

NICKI

Not likely.

ASHTON

I was listening to "A Love Supreme" at  
home and my girl sez: "That's  
beautiful, what's that?" I said  
"Coltrane". She sez: "Oh yeah, I used  
to watch that on Saturday mornings"-  
"Ah, no, baby, that's **SOUL**-train, but  
thanks for playing"...

*(ASHTON walks back to BAR)*

NICKI

You ever see that freaky skinny dude,  
that sax player you used to come in  
with?

ASHTON

Willie?

NICKI

Yeah, that guy with that cool little  
wiener dog did those tricks and shit.

ASHTON

Yeah, Willie. He just had a birthday.  
Actually, I went in to buy him a  
birthday card but I was in a big hurry.  
I got home and opened the bag and  
instead of the birthday card it was a  
sympathy card: "Deepest Sympathy on the  
Death of Your Father."

NICKI

So you missed the dude's birthday.

ASHTON

Yeah...But now I keep calling him up:  
"So how's your Dad? Oh he's okay, huh?  
Oh well, I'll try later..."

NICKI

*(laughing)* Man, you're sick. Death is NOT funny.

ASHTON

Sure it is. I read the obituaries everyday and I'm always surprised that I'm not in them. I mean, death is much more important than living. It seems like it's not how you live that matters as much as how you die. Look at Elvis. What do we remember most: died on the toilet. Not Hound Dog, not Viva Las Vegas, but the King's bare ass on the bathroom floor. That's why spiritual practitioners prepare for their last breath to utter the name of God. Do you think Gandhi would have been so fondly remembered for his great sacrifice if he'd been found dead in a porno theatre? I don't think so. That last moment says it all. That's why I could never kill myself. I haven't found the hotel room yet that I want to be found dead in.

NICKI

Don't stay at the Ritz in Paris!

ASHTON

Ok, I'd die in Paris.

NICKI

Worked for Morrison.

ASHTON

Y'know I went to the bar across the street from Morrison's old apartment in Paris and I didn't get the sense that they were proud of Jim drinking there. I didn't expect a theme park, but an homage or something might have been nice...yeah, I'd die in Paris. Nicki, if I start to checkout take me to Paris if you have the time.

NICKI

I'd rather LIVE in Paris, than DIE in Paris.

ASHTON

Yeah, but if you live right, you could do both. Y'know, I've never really been afraid of death, cause I've always known that it never means "THE END". You definitely live on. I mean all you ever have been, and all you ever will be lives on. It's like, to me, this planet is kinda like a school. And we're all being given lessons for our soul's education, and then all too soon it's graduation time.

GEEZER

I got a GED.

NICKI

What's after graduation, then, Dalai  
Lama?

ASHTON

Then we go to college, get drunk and  
fuck alot! (BEAT) What about you? How  
do you see this life?

NICKI

I don't know...(pause, like getting set  
to dig deeply) I always thought this  
life is all like a dream. We are all  
just dreamers. And then one day the  
dreamer wakes up-to find out that none  
of this ever existed--not you, not me,  
not this bar--even though it seemed so  
real when we were dreaming, so vivid  
when we were in the middle of it. The  
dreamer awakens and sees it was never  
real at all; it's nothing, just a  
dream.

ASHTON

*(mesmerized--pauses--then swipes  
away the booze)*

Wow!! No more for you!

NICKI

Seriously.

ASHTON

Yeah, I know. -When you dream, do you think the people in your dreams miss you when you wake up? Do they mourn your passing on? I mean do those naked cheerleader twins from last Tuesday's dream miss me as much as I miss them??

NICKI

I doubt it! They've been in thousands of dreams since then!

ASHTON

I always loved thinking about this stuff, most people freak-out about death. But I always realized death is the one true thing we can count on in this life. Not alot of people reach immortality, Altho, some Mahasiddhas have been around for thousands of years. And now I hear of some discovery that may increase the life span to hundreds of years—with quality of life.

NICKI

I don't know about hundreds of years, if I could look and feel young all that time, maybe.



ASHTON

That's what I read—(pause)

Yeah I remember I used to camp out in the back yard, looking up at the stars, wondering who was up there, and why I was down here. I used to send thoughts up into the stars, the Pleiades—

NICKI

In the backyard by yourself? No doubt jerkin' off!

ASHTON

That too, or sneaking out the neighbor girl and doin' it together—"Le Petit Mort"—the little death.

NICKI

I hope the French are right,. I hope dying is kinda like that. (BEAT)  
Brother, you as a little kid, that must have been a trip.

ASHTON

Hey, I had a pretty normal childhood. I mean it's normal for a clown to give you an enema, isn't it?

NICKI

*(laughing)* No!

*(MUSIC: FADE "Lush Life")*

ASHTON

No? Even though it was my birthday party? "Hey that's not a balloon animal, Mr. Clown. You're gonna twist that into what? Hey, Mom, the clown's not funny anymore!"

*(LIGHT FADES on BAR, SPOTLIGHT on ASHTON, someone hands ASHTON a MIC)*

I remember as a small boy, I had an imaginary playmate. I was the only one who knew he existed, which was okay for me, but he got depressed from the isolation and became an alcoholic...Then I grew out of it...But he still calls me in the middle of the night, drunk: "Why'd you abandon me, you son of a bitch! You were my WHOLE WORLD!" I'm pleading with him: "Look, you don't even exist. Get some help."-- And in school I remember I was always the class clown-that was cool, giving the other kids enemas. But I used to get spanked for acting up in class, and I hated that-THEN. Now I kind of like it. But now getting spanked costs me fifty bucks. But I pay it, cause I think teachers need the extra money. *(pause)* I never really fit in with the other kids. My friends would want to play war, they'd go get their guns and

ASHTON (cont)

pretend they were in the army. I'd go hide in the tree and pretend I was in Canada: "Come on down!" No, I'm a conscientious objector. "What?-Come on down!"...No, you can't extradite me.- "You don't even know what that means! Come down here!" -I don't need your war machine! (*Chanting*) Hell, no, I won't go! Hell, no, I won't go! Hell, no (*Notices he's out in front alone*) What the-?

(*LIGHTS UP on BAR, ASHTON runs back to BAR*)

(to NICKI) What time is it?

NICKI

Why, you got a date? It's-wait a minute. You tell me, Mr. New Rolex.

ASHTON

Just tell me the time.

NICKI

Oh No, No...Do NOT tell me--that brand new Rolex that not two weeks ago you sat on that very same barstool, expounding to me and everyone else in the bar, on the virtuous bullshit of owning ...how did you say it? "that father"-

ASHTON

*(sheepishly)* A watch that Father Time would sell his momma for.

NICKI

Exactly! Where's that Rolex that you paid twelve-hundred dollars for?

ASHTON

FIFTEEN-hundred dollars, thank you. Just tell me the time.

NICKI

A WOMAN! PLEASE do not tell me that you gave it away to some woman. Not the Rolex that you sat on that very same barstool not two weeks ago announcing the time every ten fucking minutes to every person in this bar for two and a half hours, until I threatened to cram it down your throat.

ASHTON

OK. Look, if you are going to depress me, give me another cerveza and I'll tell you the grim reality.

NICKI

On me...This I must hear...

(FADE OUT on BAR)

(FADE IN on DARK STREET. MUGGER is walking back and forth with hand in pocket apparently holding a gun. He is frantically looking for a victim. ASHTON walks by as MUGGER leaps at him)

MUGGER

(stuttering horribly) G-G-Give m-m-m-,  
G-G-G--Give m-m-me y-y-yo-

ASHTON

(startled but not afraid) What? I can't understand you.

MUGGER

(struggling) G-G-G-Give m-me y-yo-yo  
your wa-wa-

ASHTON

(now amused) M-M-My what? My wa-wa-water?

MUGGER

Y-Y-Y-You B-B-

*(PEDESTRIAN walks on, ASHTON flags him down)*

ASHTON

Excuse me, sir...could you help me? I can't seem to understand this man-

MUGGER

B-B-BU-BI-BITCH!

PEDESTRIAN

Sounds like: "BITCH".

ASHTON

No, there's more.

MUGGER

Yo-yo-your wa-wa-wa-

PEDESTRIAN

Our what? Our watches? You want the time? Is that it? It's 8:30.

MUGGER

*(totally frustrated)* N-N-Naw m-m-ma-man. G-G-Give m-m-me y-y-y-your wa-wa-wal-

*(WOMAN walks on and slows to help)*

ASHTON

My Wally? *(to PEDESTRIAN)* Do you think  
he means my dick?

PEDESTRIAN

*(excitedly)* Oh, I hope so.

MUGGER

*(poking "gun" furiously)* Yu-yur D-D-  
DEAD B-B-B-

WOMAN

I'm sorry. Could I help?

ASHTON

PLEASE! We can't understand this guy.

MUGGER

-BI-BITCH!

WOMAN

Sounds like: "BITCH".

PEDESTRIAN

No, there's more.

WOMAN

Oh, poor thing is having a terrible time. I am a speech therapist, perhaps I can help.

ASHTON

He wants me to give him SOMETHING...but we can't-

MUGGER

Y-y-yur wa-wa-wal-

PEDESTRIAN

*(excitedly)* and we think he's GAY!  
*(then tries to hide his excitement)* And that's okay, but...

WOMAN

*(to MUGGER)* Look, tell me what you are trying to-

MUGGER

-G-G-give-



WOMAN

Slowly- (*working with him*) SL-OW-LY.

MUGGER

(*trying to speak clearly as if  
forgetting his mugging intent*) (*slowly*)  
G-GA-GIVE! M-M-Me!

WOMAN

That's good. Slowly...

MUGGER

Y-Y-Your w-w-wal-w-w-

WOMAN

Easy, just relax and breathe deeply.

MUGGER

Wa-wa-wall-

WOMAN

Maybe if you sing it. I've had success  
with chronic stutterers much worse than  
you- by singing. Do you know any songs  
that could help you sing what you are  
trying to say to us?

PEDESTRIAN

Yes, of course, SHOWTUNES!! After all  
he is gay.

MUGGER

I-I-IM n-n-no g-g-ga-FAG!

WOMAN

Easy-SING it. "O-O-Oklahoma where the  
wind"...sing it with me-"O-O-Oklahoma,  
where the wind goes sweeping-"

MUGGER

(in unison)"kla homa, wh-where th-the  
w-wind goes sweep..."

WOMAN

That's excellent! Now sing to us what  
you are trying to say.

MUGGER

(to the tune of Oklahoma) Give-Me -your  
wallets!

PEDESTRIAN

(disappointed) Oh, WALLETS.

MUGGER

*(continuing)* or I'll kick you, in the  
fucking head!

WOMAN

Very good! *(looks in her purse for her  
wallet and hands it over as does  
everyone else)*

MUGGER

*(singing)* Your necklace, please-and  
that Rolex too-cheer up! Be glad that  
you're not dead!

*(MUSIC: "Oklahoma!")*

*(FADE OUT on STREET, FADE IN on  
BAR)*

NICKI

Brother, I'm sorry about the Rolex. But  
I must say, I am relieved that you  
didn't give it to one of your one-night  
stands. Or that you ex-wife didn't make  
you give up custody.

ASHTON

Did I tell you that my ex-wife called  
me?

NICKI

No, I thought that she wasn't talking to you anymore, because you're such a prick.

ASHTON

HEY! Well, SHE'S not. Her LAWYER is. He says: she wants more money each month for child support. I said, "Look, have her move to Africa, I saw on TV it only costs TWELVE dollars a month to raise a child there. I'll send her twenty bucks, keep the change-better yet, I'll send it directly to Sally Struthers, I trust her. She might take a bit off the top for a jumbo pizza first". Seen old Sally? She's plumping up nicely.

GEEZER

SHE's Atkins-friendly!

NICKI

No wonder your wife left you. And your dog. (BEAT) So, how's the Latina Girl?

ASHTON

She's great. Man, this relationship is going great. But as my buddy, Timmie says: "Weren't they all going great at one time"? Relationships are so difficult. They always kick my ass. But, I've always loved to be in love,

ASHTON (cont)

always loved girls, even as a little kid. My parents have this cute little picture of me kissing this girl when I was, like, ten years old. The picture's a little fuzzy cause it was taken looking thru the motel window...but it was clear enough to convict the hooker.

NICKI

That's the important thing.

ASHTON

Yeah. Relationships are so tough man. It's like David Lopan says in "Big Trouble in Little China": I seem to be a man "who realizes the difficulties between a man and a woman and how seldom it works out...but still we keep on trying, like fools!" *(pause)* Like the Maestro says: "too late to go gay, m'boy."

NICKI

Like you "Go Gay"-like it's a hair color.

GEEZER

Hate that "Gay"-wash it away.

*(MUSIC: MESHELL N'DEGEOCELLO  
"Leviticus: Faggot" listen to  
lyrics then FADE)*

ASHTON

Don't get me wrong, Big Fan of the gay community, I think the Castro in San Francisco is one of the coolest places on earth. It isn't full of hate, they don't beat you up cause you're "Hetero". They dress great; have terrific taste in music, fashion and design. They are activists, organizers, by and large.

GEEZER

That's how I like my women—Bi, and Large.

NICKI

And this bullshit "Gay Marriage Amendment", like it matters how you like to get laid.

ASHTON

Just another smokescreen of Cheney and Bush, so we don't focus on their criminal activity—"Oops!! They're askin' about 9/11—they're going after Halliburton—bring out the Queers". It's all about control, and appealing to Evangelical Extremists. I mean, if they're so concerned with morality—

ASHTON (cont)

invade the catholic churches, if you've got so much "morality"! I keep waiting for one of these pedophile priests to try to defend his actions:

"I mean c'mon—I was just teaching the lesson: 'My rod and my staff comfort thee!'—shoot the messenger!"

"I mean, c'mon you see how alter boys DRESS these days?? You know they want it..."

"I mean c'mon- Jesus, HAD to be gay, 33, never married, living at home, all those dinner parties.

"I mean, c'mon, why do you think they call it a 'Rectory', OK???"

NICKI

The Church won't allow "gay priests"—the irony kills me. Did you see "The PASSION of the CHRIST"?

ASHTON

Missed it. Read the book.

NICKI

You know the biggest miracle of that movie?

ASHTON

What's that?

NICKI

It was 2000 years ago in Jerusalem, and everybody's WHITE!

ASHTON

Well the pope says that's how it happened. I guess he was there. By the way—where's the Pope's leadership on these pedophile priests? He's the CEO of the Company—give HIM a reality show—bring in these priests one by one—“Yer fired—yer fired” vote 'em off the Island.

NICKI

*(BEAT) (points to couple, nuzzling...)*  
They look happy.

WOMAN (IN COUPLE)

Of course we're happy--why shouldn't we be? We're allowed to get married, whenever we want, and as many times as we want, but by contrast: a loving, happy gay or lesbian couple can't. It is **against the law**, in both Church and State. And that's wrong. Lovers need to have freedom, for the pursuit of happiness—however they see fit to pursue it, in the privacy of their own



WOMAN (cont)

homes. It is MY choice- NOT the choice of the government- it's MY choice to make love to whomever I want, whenever I want in any way that I want-as many times as I want! And If I find a beautiful, sexy woman to whom I'm attracted, and thru mutual consent we wind up acting on our lust by making sweet passionate love with each other, in every position we choose, in the private sanctuary of my own bedroom, till we both are satiated and drenched in pleasure-why does the government have a right to challenge our pursuit of happiness?

MAN

*(drooling)* Right On.

*(MAN jumps all over WOMAN)*

ASHTON

Come to think of it--you never hear those macho trailer-park rednecks bitching about two WOMEN getting married, do you? They're like: "Yeah, two women getting it on--that's HOTT!!" Like THEY'VE got a shot! I learned that the hard way man, I was a teenager at an Aerosmith concert, and these two girls were makin' out in the back-I started cutting in, and "BAM!" one of 'em started kickin' my ass!!

NICKI

You deserved it.

ASHTON

No doubt.

GEEZER

*(Singing)* "I'm just a girl in the world-"

ASHTON

You want to REALLY mess with their lives, let Gay and Lesbian couples get married-just don't let them get divorced! Jeezus, you'd need Janet Reno's tanks for those domestic fights! I mean, it's just gotta be the single hardest thing in the world to make a relationship work. This one time I thought I had the perfect relationship. Everything was going great and then all of a sudden--my hour was up and I had to get dressed. Y'know, even as a kid I never got it right. I remember when I first learned what the "F-word" meant. A friend of mine wrote it out on a piece of paper. He wrote "F-U-C-K" and then drew a stick figure of a boy, stick figure of a girl and a line going from the boy's thing to the girl...for years I thought it meant to PEE on somebody. Needless to say my first few dates were a disaster.

NICKI

Needless to say-It's tuff to get a second date -word gets out you peed on a girl.

ASHTON

Yeah, but of course when you do, you pretty much know where it's headed -no need for dinner and a movie!

*(COUPLE progressively extremely passionate)*

NICKI

I think the odds of finding that perfect relationship are about as good as *(searching)* Minister Farrakhan on "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy".

ASHTON

"Oh, My Gawd-lose the bowtie, Louie!"

NICKI

(BEAT) I really like your new girlfriend-

ASHTON

-and she still has that new girlfriend smell, which is nice.

NICKI

I must say of all of the women you have brought in here- and let me just say there have been way too many, and many WAY too young-

ASHTON

I don't date young girls anymore-I only date girls who can name all four Beatles in five seconds-"let's see there's Paul McCartney, uh, the one who died..."

NICKI

Glad to hear it. That one girl was old enough to be your daughter.

ASHTON

Wait a minute, my daughter's seventeen- she wasn't old enough!

NICKI

I'll pretend I didn't hear that. Of them all, tho, that new girl-the Latina Girl- is by far the best. She improved your rep around here.

ASHTON

Couldn't agree with you more. Reminds me of that hot high school romance. I remember we did it everywhere in high school: Her parent's house, my parent's house, outside, at school, everywhere. We were insatiable. We got caught once. My dad caught us making love in the back seat. I remember he said: "Now, if I have to stop this car-I'm going to spank you". I said: "Dad, I'm too old to spank." He said: "I wasn't talking to you." *(pause)* My dad tried to be strict. One time he caught me smoking-made me sit down and smoke ten cigarettes right in a row. I got sick. He caught me drinking-made me sit down and drink ten beers right in a row. I threw up. Caught me masturbating--Man, by the sixth time I was EXHAUSTED! I needed a beer AND a cigarette...and a nap...a sandwich -a plate of oysters, something, Dad, help me out...

*(By now COUPLE are into full-blown sex: clothes ripped off, on the table)*

*(LIGHTS FADE as COUPLE goes through a dance of positions to):*

*(MUSIC: "Do It Till Your Satisfied")*

*(NICKI and ASHTON are oblivious)*

*(LIGHTS FADE-UP slowly)*

NICKI

Why did you ever get married anyway?  
And don't tell me you two were young  
and stupid.

ASHTON

No, I was young-SHE was stupid. Big  
mismatch. We fought constantly. Each  
year was like 365 days of PMS. Except  
once every month it got worse. And I  
know alot of people talk about the  
horrors of PMS-but I've got SCARS! See  
this one? I got it for--apparently  
having an opinion. But as pissed off as  
I got with her, I never smacked her-  
never laid a hand on her. Well, I HIRED  
a couple guys to ruff her up once.

NICKI

Hey, trust me, you're no day at the  
beach.

ASHTON

I realize that. But at least when I'm a  
dick to somebody you don't have to  
search too far to find the reason.

NICKI

It must have been great sex.

ASHTON

Yeah, at first, maybe, but then as time went on we didn't make "love". We made-"d disdain".

NICKI

Why didn't you ever go to counseling?

ASHTON

We DID! That was MY idea. But like every other idea I had--she HATED it. I mean the counselor was PERFECT!

*(FADE OUT on BAR, FADE IN on COUNSELOR'S OFFICE)*

COUNSELOR

*(to INTERCOM on DESK)*

Cathy, send in my ten o'clock please...

*(In walk ASHTON and WIFE)*

Please, sit down. Now before we begin, I want to let you know I've had extensive training in counseling techniques and if I may pat myself on the back, I've helped thousands of couples just like you to air grievances and come to an understanding.

WIFE

Really?? Where did you go to school?

COUNSELOR

Well-Uh-It's more on the job training.  
You see I was an umpire in the major  
leagues for eighteen years. I called  
balls and strikes at the eighty-seven  
World Series.

WIFE

An umpire-

COUNSELOR

Yes, but I assure you that I have an  
astounding success rate as you can see  
from my numerous awards. My technique  
is a little different than you may be  
used to, but again I assure you that  
the results are quite successful.

WIFE

An umpire...This was YOUR idea.  
Perfect. An umpire-

ASHTON

Who knew? I just heard that he was  
good. He's had some big clients: Bruce  
and Demi, Brad and Jennifer, Bobby and  
Whitney-

WIFE

Terrific...



COUNSELOR

*(Reaching for and putting on an  
UMPIRE UNIFORM)*

Okay, resume time's over. Let's get  
started. PLAY BALL!

*(Crouches behind ASHTON)*

BATTER UP!!

ASHTON

C'mon! Give him your best pitch, Baby.  
Really zing 'em in there!

WIFE

Well...Okay...He-He never includes me  
in his activities. He-He always hangs  
out at the bar with his friends.

COUNSELOR

Ball.

WIFE

*(trying harder)* Um-Okay...He never  
spends enough time with our child. I  
work a full day and come home and still  
have to put her to bed while he watches  
ESPN or "Frasier"-or

COUNSELOR

Ball two.

WIFE

*(Frustrated-finally thinking of a good one)* I caught him making out with the babysitter!!

COUNSELOR

ST-EEEEEEEE-RR-RIKE!!!

WIFE

And-And he never takes out the garbage and never helps with the housework, and he-

COUNSELOR

-Ball three. Take your base.

WIFE

Wait a minute. There are four balls. A walk is: four balls, not three.

COUNSELOR

Okay, BALK. Whatever. Take your base.

WIFE

Wait a minute. How can there be a Balk?  
I never lifted my leg. There's no one  
on base to watch. I have more pitches-

COUNSELOR

Look, take your base. I'm the umpire.  
Take your base.

*(ASHTON and WIFE exchange places)*

WIFE

But it's not fair! I KNOW baseball and-

COUNSELOR

Don't argue balls and strikes or you're  
headed for the showers!

WIFE

This is ridiculous.

COUNSELOR

BATTER UP!!!

ASHTON

Okay...Um, sometimes I do spend a  
little bit too much time at the bar.  
But I work, too and when I get home  
from a busy day she nags me to do  
stuff.

COUNSELOR

ST-EEE-RIKE!!

WIFE

Oh, come on..."Strike"... Come on...

ASHTON

And weekends, I want to watch college sports but she insists on dragging me to see her mother all day Saturday.

COUNSELOR

ST-EEE-RIKE TWO!!

WIFE

NO WAY! That was WAY outside...You BLIND ump?? NO WAY that was a strike...

COUNSELOR

I'm warning you...

WIFE

YOU SUCK!

ASHTON

And last year during the playoffs she kept talking to me during the ninth inning about-

COUNSELOR

ST-EEEE-RIKE THREE! You're outta there!!

WIFE

Wait a minute!! You didn't even hear what I was talking to him about!!!

COUNSELOR

Batter, you're outta there!!!

WIFE

Your MOTHER's a...

*(WIFE and COUNSELOR get in each other's face as COUNSELOR throws off his MASK and both scream obscenities at each other, as COUNSELOR throws WIFE out of the game.)*

*(FADE OUT on COUNSELOR'S OFFICE, FADE IN on BAR)*

*(MUSIC: HENDRIX: "Foxy Lady"- vamp on chorus)*

*(COUPLE is smoking after sex)*

NICKI

*(reading PAPER while ASHTON makes a chess move)*

*(NICKI reads HEADLINES out loud and ASHTON comments)*

ASHTON

*(OUTCUE after HEADLINES):*

I love that song.

NICKI

Y'know that Hendrix song's been on that jukebox over there since it first came out. Hendrix, hands down-is the best cat ever played guitar. The best time for music HAD to be Woodstock. Of course the fifties in Harlem had to be the coolest of the cool and all that. But Woodstock was a once in a lifetime thing that for a hot second was its own nation. Woodstock--with Hendrix and all those great bands...

GEEZER

SHA-NA-NA!

ASHTON

You go to Woodstock?

NICKI

No.

ASHTON

See the movie "Woodstock"?

NICKI

No.

ASHTON

Seen that bird in the Peanuts cartoon  
"Woodstock"?

NICKI

*(laughing)* THAT I've seen. The little  
bird with Snoopy-that I've seen.

ASHTON

I see what you mean about Woodstock,  
though. I mean, they never named a  
cartoon bird: "Lollapalooza".

NICKI

Exactly.

ASHTON

I would have loved to go to Woodstock, man. Not so much for the music, I just would've loved to smoke a bong naked with some chick named "Rainbow". She'd be firing up a big bud and trippin: "WOW! What if the whole world, OK-was like this little dot-on some big giant's fingernail-" I'd be like: "I don't know, Rainbow-I hope he doesn't pick his ass!"

NICKI

Maybe he does and that explains Detroit!

*(MUSIC: "Foxy Lady" FADES to M.DAVIS/DOO BOP- "Mystery")*

ASHTON

Yeah, great...This is Miles' last album, he was just getting into Hip-Hop-

NICKI

Yeah, Miles called Russell Simmons to send him some talented MC's-hey THERE'S a rich guy who does a lot of good with his money-Russell Simmons-that KFC boycott, New York City schools, Pepsi, the Hip-Hop Institute-



ASHTON

They keep trying to kill Hip-Hop, ya know? Tupac, Biggie, murdered. Too many dead musicians-too many living politicians. I'm glad they made peace in this east-coast/west-coast thing before it crossed over to other styles of music. I mean do you want to see John Tesh bust a cap in Kenny G's ass?

NICKI

YES!

ASHTON

Okay, bad example...

NICKI

Besides my white bread brother-what the fuck do you know about Tupac Shakur and Biggie Smalls?

ASHTON

Uh, ONE-They're dead-except maybe Tupac, TWO-they mysteriously never solved their murders and all that LAPD Ramparts division corruption, THREE-Tupac and that Makaveli shit, FOUR-

NICKI

You WOULD know the conspiracy theories  
—but name one song...

*(ASHTON glances over)*

...Huh uh...Don't be looking at that  
jukebox...ONE SONG...thought so.

ASHTON

Hey, I'm a little out of touch with the  
hood.

NICKI

Out of touch? Last week you sat there  
watching that gang thing on TV.  
Everybody was flashing signs—

ASHTON

Yeah, I thought it was a special about  
deaf kids.

NICKI

Thank you.

ASHTON

*(Listening deeply to Miles' music)* All  
I listen to is jazz—not that smooth  
jazz elevator music—Mainstream Jazz—  
Latin Jazz—Miles, Monk, Coltrane—all  
those cats. College got me hooked on  
all that—College was such a time of

ASHTON (cont)

freedom. Back in the day I was into free love-then later I got political: "Free South Africa"! Now I'm just into like: "Free Cable"! HBO to the people, man...Showtime-"by any means necessary".

NICKI

Where did you go to school?

ASHTON

Kent State.

GEEZER

Read about it in "Guns and Ammo".

NICKI

Yeah, that's right, "Four Dead in O-HI-O."

ASHTON

That's the place. I was there long after the Nixon Invasion. And I did smoke my share of pot in college. Okay, I smoked four or five people's share of pot in college. Okay, I smoked a small village in JAMAICA'S share of pot in college...I remember one night we smoked so much pot that we...uh...we ATE alot that night-chocolate

ASHTON (cont)

sandwiches-Hershey bar, white bread...ummmm. *(pause)* I had a cool job in college. I worked on the drug hotline.

NICKI

That was kind of like the blind leading the blind.

ASHTON

Exactly...I remember, I'm working the drug hotline late at night--the night they changed the clocks back to standard time. Y'know, after daylight savings time? Two o'clock in the morning they changed the clocks back to one o'clock, fifteen minutes later the phone rings...

*(FADE OUT on BAR, FADE IN on HIPPIE at the DRUG HOTLINE)*

HIPPIE

*(Answers ringing PHONE)*

Hello, Drug Hotline.

VOICE (off)

Yeah--uh, Drug Hotline?

HIPPIE

Yes, Drug Hotline...

VOICE (off)

You gotta help me man. It's a quarter  
after one again.

HIPPIE

Okay, It's cool...Just relax, man...

VOICE (off)

I can't relax, man...It's a quarter  
after one again...That means that--  
fifteen minutes ago--- it was forty-  
five minutes from now...

HIPPIE

WOW...That's some pretty good shit.

*(looking around to see who's  
listening)*

Where are you...I'll be right over...

*(covers PHONE looking for  
something on DESK)*

How do you trace this call?

VOICE (off)

I'm melting...My face is melting!!

HIPPIE

Okay, look, everything's groovy. I can  
help you man...I'm here to bring you  
back.

VOICE (off)

-would someone PLEASE hand me my face??

HIPPIE

Just relax. BREATHE!! First you gotta tell me: how many hours ago did you take the LSD?

VOICE (off)

Uhh...Okay...We ate the acid at One-Thirty...

HIPPIE

R-R-Right...

VOICE (off)

Uh-I'll call you later, we haven't taken it yet.

*(FX:CLICK!)*

*(FADE OUT on DRUG HOTLINE, FADE IN on BAR)*

NICKI

You still get high, right?

ASHTON

Sometimes. I smoke hash, when we go to Amsterdam-you can buy it in bars just like this-just like you buy a drink-outrageous Hash for like 11 Euros a gram. You smoke enough hash and suddenly wooden shoes and windmills start to make sense.

NICKI

Legalize it! "Medical Marijuana" should be available-without a prescription, at popular prices.

ASHTON

Absolutely! Legalize ALL drugs, and you would see violent crime drop faster than- Bill Clinton's zipper. The US has the highest per-capita prison population in the world. And HALF of the people in prison are there because of drugs--directly, or indirectly.

NICKI

The War on Drugs-what a joke! We just keep arresting people and filling up the jails, and drugs aren't going away. Just people-and mostly people of color. Much smaller percentage of white people in jail than everyone else. We're supposed to believe that white people aren't buying and selling drugs? There aren't any coca fields in South Central and Compton.

ASHTON

They're just getting rid of the independent supply lines. Every country we target on the War On Drugs continues production--US starts "Plan Columbia"--that was John Kerry's baby, by the way- and cocaine production increases 11 per cent. We invade Afghanistan and poppy cultivation hits record numbers. C'mon, it's old news--we're the biggest drug dealers in the World!! And that's not counting the AMA! Drug Companies spend millions of dollars lobbying in Washington, and it's paid-off-Big Time--billions of dollars, with the Medicare Bill alone. Fifty years ago we bought what-Bufferin and Geritol --now the US spends 163 BILLION dollars a year on medication, more than the rest of the world combined --

GEEZER

*(explaining)* Most of that is Ozzy.

ASHTON

Everything normal is considered a disease or a syndrome that needs medication--depression, acid-stomach, kids that won't sit still. Last year, 10 million kids took prescriptions for 3 months or more, and pre-schoolers--PRE-SCHOOLERS--are the fastest growing group of children receiving antidepressants. Shit, why don't they



ASHTON (cont)

just let the doctors dispense from the schoolyard? "Line-up children, time for your mandatory medication."

NICKI

*(makes a move on the CHESSBOARD)*

Hey, step off your soapbox and make a move, Mister "Conspiracy Theory."

ASHTON

You can't negate the truth by calling it: "Conspiracy Theory". Like the bastion of truth is TV News! I mean-c'mon. Look around at our neighborhoods and see "The Truth"-entire families on the street because they can't afford housing, medical bills, and day care on minimum wage...Minimum wage that doesn't have one-half the buying power it did ten years ago, that's if they could find a job! Grandma's in the dumpster with dog food cause the cost of her medication-and the medication she takes for the side effects from her OTHER medication-steals away her tiny-ass pension. MEANWHILE...the richest five percent have raped the treasury, thanks to Bush/Cheney. And they aren't about to stop until we're bankrupt. Man these guys are such crooks they make Nixon look like Gandhi! We've gone from Clinton's budget surplus-to the Bush Regime's spending-bringing us to the

ASHTON (cont)

brink of international default, by creating the greatest DEFICIT in History! And Congress just bends over for more since both Houses are almost totally bought and sold --a few Barbara Boxers and Dennis Kuciniches aside. We need to build a Bastille -and then fuckin' storm it! No wonder Bush is so tight with that Enron crook Ken Lay--I mean, let's invite them all down to a good old-fashioned Dallas Motorcade near a "grassy knoll"...

NICKI

Kenny Boy's good buddies with Governor Schwarzenegger too.

ASHTON

Of course. Who do you think got rid of Davis and got Arnold the gig?? After Davis went after Enron for the Billions they stole from Californians. You watch, they'll make Schwarzenegger president.

NICKI

He wasn't born in the US, he can't run for president.

ASHTON

Congress will change all that.  
"President Schwarzenegger". Hey, It'd  
be great! He'd be the first president  
to ever publicly admit to a gangbang.  
Jeezus, Arnold's such a womanizer, he  
makes Clinton look gay-and he's  
supposed to be much better hung-

WOMAN

Oh, He IS! (*then realizing she's  
busted*)-well, that's what I read.

ASHTON

There's your reality show: "Affairs of  
State", brought to you by "Hummer". You  
think *Trumps* ratings for "The  
Apprentice" were high! "I create jobs-  
blow jobs-You're Hired!"

(*FEW BEATS*)

NICKI

Not ALL rich guys are evil. Bill Gates  
does a lot of good with his money: The  
Gates Foundation. He gave millions for  
AIDS. Last year he gave away half of  
his money-like 22 **billion** dollars.

## ASHTON

Yeah, and by comparison the second richest guy, Warren Buffet gives away nothing—and Buffet backed John Kerry, by the way. Buffet has, what, 42 billion dollars? He could provide nationwide low-income housing with his dresser change! He could fund child-care for single moms with his hooker money! I'm not saying he should live like Mother Theresa, but each year his wealth INCREASES by millions of dollars A WEEK! And the total wealth of the Wal-Mart Walton Family, that's diabolical! Together, that family has more money than Gates and Buffet COMBINED--like a hundred billion dollars--that's a hundred-thousand-million-dollars! The documented horror of Wal-Mart's illegal violations is legendary! There's a special kind of hell for people like that. They should be skewered for a fukin' biker pig roast--using barb-b-ques from Wal-Mart. Y'know? I mean it is beyond sad--because there is enough wealth on the planet that **everyone** could be a millionaire, but the rich keep getting more greedy and the poor are getting more needy. The gap between the rich and poor is spreading wider than- Paris Hilton's legs. It's slowly becoming a third-world country around here. Look to Argentina for your model. I mean, how far in debt do you think these guys can take us before the IMF shows up and starts foreclosing?? You want to see what will happen here? Look at

ASHTON (cont)

Argentina. Our middle class is disappearing. It's becoming the "Haves" versus the "Have-Nots"-

GEEZER

-and I "have not" a beer.

ASHTON

I shall purchase one for you, sir! See how easy it is??

NICKI

I've told you before-you've got to believe in the Greater Good that has to be in most people's hearts. That's the point you and I always go round on. You've got to have SOME faith in humanity that righteousness CAN and WILL prevail. You've got to believe that MOST people in the world want the same thing -to be happy and be left alone to pursue that happiness. You've got to believe that peace and happiness will win out. The Light in people's souls will blind the darkness.

ASHTON

Yeah, PEOPLE may want those things but it'll never happen--not until the White-Male Elite is ripped from power. And that, inevitable as it is, my

ASHTON (cont)

friend, is no easy task. Every time people organize and some potential greatness might come of it, some great leader dies: Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Bob Marley, John Lennon, the Kennedy's—even John Jr.—Paul Wellstone—Hey, if I were Boxer or Kucinich, I'd stay the fuck out of small planes, man! And now Bobby Kennedy Jr. is speaking out on Corporate Corruption, beginning to run for office. God Bless him for his courage—but he better have somebody knit him a Kevlar body suit!

NICKI

PLEASE! You are so WHACKED-OUT! How can you believe this paranoid shit?! I mean, how can you walk around your world with this much distrust and cynicism? I WORRY about you, man! Every week you get deeper into this shit and one of these times I'm not going to be there to pull your ass out, you know what I mean? And I'm afraid you're not coming back, you know what I'm saying? I've seen it happen before. A brother just doesn't come back. You'll start shuffling 'round the streets talking to yourself about "Shape-shifting Lizard Demons" controlling the world— and people will think you're nuts.

ASHTON

TOO LATE!

NICKI

EXACTLY! How can you believe all this shit and still FUNCTION? Me, I'd go postal, killing people right and left, if I let myself believe this shit. You've got to relax, brother-let it go!! Sometimes things are just the way they are. No reason. Sometimes people just get killed--no reason. They just get killed.

ASHTON

No, NICKI, don't be naive-there's a reason. They kill everybody who gets in the way of corporate power and profit--just let a country try to tell America to go fuck itself, like-uh-I don't know-like Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Panama, Chile, Haiti, Grenada, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Yugoslavia, East Timor-STOP ME! Just let another country stand up and proclaim that it's not gonna let the US control and exploit its people and resources- America will label them: "Terrorists" and "Axis-of-Evil" faster than you can say: "New World Order", baby - and then bring in the troops or pay off the local ones-to become thugs and death squads for our Imperialism. "War on Terror", my ass--more like "War OF Terror" on opposition to US Aggression. I don't even have the time to tell you the horrors that have been unleashed on people around the world by US Corporations: Coca Cola's torture of

ASHTON (cont)

Union organizers in Columbia, the 6000 people that Dow Chemical/Union Carbide killed instantly in India-no star-studded fundraiser for that atrocity, Shell in Nigeria-turning our backs on genocide in Rwanda, Sudan-not to mention what the US has done in Iraq since the first Gulf War-the sanctions which killed hundreds of thousands-mostly children. And now the hundred thousand and counting dead from the Bush Administration's illegal invasion of Iraq-war crimes-plain and simple! Now we say North Korea should disarm cause they're a nuclear threat, and Iran is a nuclear threat. What about the US? What about **Israel**, they've got nukes-and Sharon is trigger-happy! And you think they aren't the silent partner in Iraq and Iran? They want to make sure nobody can shoot back! Besides, last I looked, there's only ONE country on the planet who has ever used nuclear weapons--and the White House actually said we would use them again--hell, technically, we already use them- with depleted uranium-search those two words on Google and look at the deformed and dying if you want to get seriously depressed. No wonder most of the world thinks America is the greatest threat to world peace--no wonder so many people hate us-which is sad, cause didn't everybody love us after 9/11? Remember?



## NICKI

Nations have always perpetrated terror. And who gets called: "a terrorist" always depends on whose side you're on, and how popular your side is with the rest of the world. Hitler is always the Poster Child for Holocausts. But you never hear about the ten million Africans killed in the Congo by Belgium's King Leopold. Ten Million! And that was less than a hundred years ago. And how often do you hear of the terrorism against people of color-on US soil alone! How many people have ever heard of "Black Wallstreet" in Tulsa, Oklahoma? It was a wealthy "Beverly Hills" type community of successful black business families. On June 1, 1921-in less than twelve hours it was burned to the ground. Six hundred businesses- 21 restaurants, 30 grocery stores, libraries, schools-21 churches-burned to the ground. Three thousand African American citizens perished in the carnage, and behind it-who else? The Ku Klux Klan. But you didn't see the President calling for a "War on Terror" against the KKK! Terrorism is always selective.

ASHTON

You're right; terrorism is in the eye of the power holder. How many members of the KKK are behind the PNAC-The Project for the New American Century, who hijacked the US in 2000? Worldwide, the PNAC has a clear agenda of terror. I mean the US continues to bitch-slap the World, in the name of freedom and liberty--it's like the whole world is Whitney, and we're Bobby Brown.

GEEZER

It's like: You have to break a few eggs to make a democracy.

ASHTON

What are you, Ross Perot? We keep saying were a great democracy, and we want to spread democracy--BULLSHIT! We're at best: a "Plutocracy"-- by definition. A government ruled by the wealthy!! "The Corporation Formerly Known as the United States." We'll spend hundreds of billions of dollars on the military budget this year--It's insane! Check this out: We still have twenty-one commissioned Trident nuclear submarines, which are first-strike weapons. OK, any one of these submarines can launch twenty-four missiles simultaneously. Now each of these missiles can contain as many as seventeen independently targeted maneuverable nuclear warheads

ASHTON (cont)

and each one of those warheads can travel seven thousand nautical miles and supposedly hit within three hundred feet of its predetermined target. If we fire them in opposite directions we can span fourteen thousand nautical miles--halfway around the fucking world at the equator. This means that we can take out 408 centers of human population hitting each with a nuclear warhead ten times as powerful as the bomb that incinerated Nagasaki--all with one fucking submarine--and we've got twenty-one of them!! Can you believe it?--

GEEZER

*(singing to "Yellow Submarine")* We all live in a Trident Submarine, Trident Sub-

ASHTON

And then Bush derails the Global Anti-War Movement by calling the end of the War--playing dress-up with that Top Gun stunt "Mission Accomplished"--in a flight suit with a cod piece--on the fight deck of a carrier--which, at the time, was off the coast of Santa Barbara, California. Was I the only one thinking: "Dukakis in a Tank??"

NICKI

That is why it's always so critical to register & get out to vote—get familiar with the issues, and the candidates, become an activist—get involved—do something constructive to change the government, if you don't think the representatives represent you—vote them out of office!

ASHTON

Both parties are owned by the same company—what's the difference? Both of them sold us out along time ago— “oh we need the Democrats now, those Republicans have messed it up! Now we need the Republicans cause of those darned Democrats.” BULLSHIT! What we NEED is a fucking revolution in this country—a massive people's strike to end this corporate rule, and put in a representative government OF the people, BY the people, FOR the people—sound familiar??

NICKI

That's what grass-roots organizations like “Move On Dot Org” are doing, hooking up millions of people online, and they are making an impact—they're getting something done.

ASHTON

Well they better do it before these Neo-Con fascists pull another "Operation Northwoods" so-called "terrorist attack"-this time resulting in Martial Law and the **complete** suspension of civil rights-all in the name of fighting terror. You've read 1984, haven't you?

NICKI

Yeah, and I read about those two books about 9/11. That one from France, and the German one: "The CIA and September 11".

ASHTON

Yeah, by that former German Defense Minister. I read the French one: L'Effroyable Imposture-"The Horrifying Fraud". Loved it.

NICKI

SHOCK!

ASHTON

These fascists aren't fucking playing, man! They aren't going to stop until the "Project for the New American Century"-the PNAC, succeeds. Or until China and it's new alliances blows them out of the water, I mean China wont lay

ASHTON (cont)

down for this US World Domination, they have a third of the world's population, they could loose a million soldiers and not even blink! And as far as warring goes—they've been at it for centuries.

NICKI

That's true, the Chinese are no punks—I just read that a China-Russia-India alignment is becoming a reality, and I'm sorry, but if those three get together to stand up to the US - the Vegas spread doesn't look good for the home team.

ASHTON

Yep—that would lock things down around here—and the shit can come down overnight—look at the history of any fascist regime, and watch it unfolding right here—by the time we see it coming it will be too late.

NICKI

Exactly why we need to get those people out of office before they start a World War. At least we still have a country with relatively free elections.

ASHTON

Free elections, my ass, didn't 2000 teach us anything—and the 2004 election fraud? Especially in Ohio. This time they didn't have to use Bush's Supreme Court. "The Fix" came down long before it got out of hand. I'm not suggesting that the voting machines are fixed—wait a minute—that is **exactly** what I'm suggesting!!

NICKI

Are you kidding me? How could EVERYBODY be in on it?

ASHTON

Ever been to VEGAS?? And just to be sure "The Fix" worked—no matter what—John Kerry surfaces as the Democratic primary frontrunner taking out Howard Dean—the Anti-war candidate—at the last minute. John Kerry was never an alternative to BUSH. Kerry was just another Skull and Bones man, bent on World Domination—another corporate puppet. The election was like "Good Cop/Bad Cop". Or "Bad Cop—REALLY Bad Cop with a plunger handle"—

NICKI

Yeah, but given that, I like the "Good Cop".

GEEZER

I like "The Bad Lieutenant".

ASHTON

No difference. Either way, the bought and sold Corporate Fascists win.

NICKI

What do you expect? It's all prophecy anyway, man! It's the darkest of dark times, my brother: "The End of Days", "The Kali Yuga", "Eschaton", "Qiyamah", "Armageddon", "The Apocalypse", "Doomsday", "The Fifth and Final Sun". (*like Porky Pig*) "a ba-dee, a ba-dee-a -that's all folks". As we speak, a new Golden Age-The Aquarian Age-is opening up on this planet—more beautiful than any this World has ever experienced, and the dimensions are shifting to a higher vibration, look around you! You always talk about demons walking the earth—what about Brothers and Sisters of the Light?? Look at the kindness and love you see in some people's eyes each and every day, at the market, the bookstore, on the street. A wonderful time of peace and prosperity is opening up on Mother Earth and people's hearts are beginning to open up too. Some call it: "Heaven on Earth". And all this will come, sooner than you think. Some prophecies see it by 2012. All things must pass, my Brother--all this evil will soon disappear.



ASHTON

You know, the irony is that these fanatical Evangelical Christian extremists who helped put Bush in office think that the Demons in the Bush Administration ARE the Glorious Angels of God- and that the coming "Golden Age" is for them and them alone. To them, Bush is on Earth to bring about "the Rapture". So to them, polluted air and water, disease, global warming, and war destroying the planet- is a GOOD thing! The worst things get, the happier they are!

"My Jesus is gonna come down and My Glorious Savior is gonna take me up to Heaven with Him! And all of you "Non-Believers" are going to stay on Earth and be covered in boils in rivers of fire!"

Hey, I'd gladly be covered in boils if it means these nut jobs get whisked away and I don't have to hear one more word of this psychobabble. Besides, even as fast as the Bushiban is moving towards Armageddon, by the time they bring on "The Rapture", most of us "Non-believers" will be in dissident concentration camps or "disappeared" under the Patriot Act. Like if they heard this conversation and thought for one second it could bring about real change- if these words could be a catalyst to opening people's hearts-you and I would be vapor, my friend.

NICKI

Pul-eeze! Like they could hear you.  
Like they give a shit. Like these  
Demons even exist in the first place!!

ASHTON

They CAN hear whatever they want  
—domestic surveillance is at an all  
time high. The technology at their  
disposal is mind-blowing—for example:  
“Smart Dust”—the size of a grain of  
sand, floating around this room,  
digitally recording EVERYTHING, I’ve  
seen it! And you think they don’t have  
psychics scanning for information—these  
are FUCKING DEMONS were dealing with!  
Didn’t you learn ANYTHING in Sunday  
School? (*taking a deep breath*)

But, you know what? The bottom line is:  
You’re right, NICKI, They DON’T give a  
shit! Why should they? These aren’t  
—“Giant Rays of Light Illuminating the  
Darkness”—these are just disjointed  
ramblings of a drunk on a barstool...

NICKI

THANK YOU!! Nobody wants to hear it!

ASHTON

Yeah, shit-you're right. Nobody wants to hear it. Nobody wants to wake up, cause then you have to actually take responsibility and admit that you're being completely betrayed.

NICKI

Will you PLEASE put a sock in it—and make a move???

ASHTON

-Maybe we should all just take a lesson from him.

*(ASHTON points to MARCEL)*

Paint our faces white and SHUT THE FUCK UP!! *(moving chess piece)*

By the way, you're in check. Watch my stuff, I'll be White-Black...

*(ASHTON places a BAG containing a LAPTOP and PAPERS on the bar and EXITS to the restroom)*

*(NICKI checks CHESSBOARD, wipes the bar, gets drinks for patrons, realizes she's out of ice and heads for the bar back.)*

NICKI

Marcel Marseau, watch the bar, I'll be back in a minute. I'm out of ice.

(NICKI EXITS out back)

MARCEL

NOW!!!

*(Immediately, MARCEL, GEEZER, and THE COUPLE snap into intelligence operation with military precision)*

We have forty-eight seconds! Move your asses...forty-five...

*(MARCEL continues countdown as GEEZER opens up LAPTOP, slips in DISK and begins to attempt to break code..."ACCESS DENIED" continues to be the result. THE COUPLE scans PAPERS one by one with hand held COPIER as GEEZER continues to type and sweat)*

GEEZER

Damn it!! ACCESS DENIED! ACCESS DENIED!! SHIT!!!

MARCEL

*(continues with countdown) ...thirty-six...thirty-five...thirty-four. BUST IN! I thought you were the best!*

GEEZER

PISS OFF!!! You have no idea-YES!! We're IN!!!

MARCEL

Then download the file while we're all  
still young and clear this shit up!  
nineteen..eighteen...seventeen-

(to *COUPLE*) Clean those papers up  
precisely as before--DO IT! NOW!-  
thirteen (*continues countdown*)

*(The COUPLE quickly repositions  
all PAPERS exactly, even reaching  
out to re-adjust some of them)*

GEEZER

GOT IT!! I deserve a fucking medal!

*(In one motion pulls out DISK,  
closes LAPTOP, while handing DISK  
to MARCEL and places LAPTOP in bag  
as before)*

MARCEL

HIT MARKS! FOUR ...THREE...

*(Everything is exactly in place)*

ASHTON

*(ENTERS from restroom)*

Alright, NICKI...NICKI?

*(MARCEL motions towards bar back)*

ASHTON (cont)

Okay, NICKI-UNCLE, I GIVE UP!! No more Googling subversive shit online instead of reading Time and Newsweek like everybody else. No more "Nation" and "ZNET", AlterNet- THAT'S IT!! I'm getting with the program-I'm tuning out "Air America" and "Pacifica". From now on it's "Fox News" for me, baby -"Fair-AND Balanced". No, just give me beer, burgers, and porn and leave me the fuck alone-just point me in the direction of the Madman du Jour-who is it now? Communism, Castro, Ortega, Ghadaffi, the Ayatollah, Noriega, Terrorism, Saddam Hussein, Bin Laden-who the fuck is it NOW pushing me up to Orange Alert-just point me to the bad guy I'm supposed to hate, so I can sleep tight knowing that our government's "gottem' on the run, gonna get 'em dead or alive" or whatever-no matter how far they drive us into debt, no matter how many innocent people's lives they destroy-and how many of our freedoms we have to sacrifice in the process. And while you're at it PLEASE give me more cute TV commercials with little dogs and funny lizards and Hendrix and Zeppelin songs selling cars-and Dylan selling lingerie-give it to me, baby!! Damn it I'm in! I'm a changed man, where do I sign?... C'mon, Marcel, Teach me to do that "Mime in a Box" thing-

*(MARCEL teaches as ASHTON mimics drunkenly)*

ASHTON (cont)

-I guess I am just whacked out and  
paranoid-

*(SPACE LIGHTS and SOUNDS indicate  
arrival of SPACEGUY)*

But then again -MAYBE **NOT!!**

*(ASHTON suddenly draws a CELLPHONE  
from his pocket, punches in  
numbers-everyone freezes, he  
reaches into MARCEL's pocket to  
retrieve DISK)*

I'll take this back, thank you! I  
didn't work that hard for you to steal  
it all away. Oh, and don't worry you'll  
be all right in a few minutes. You're  
not dead. You know what they say: "A  
mime is a terrible thing to waste".

*(SPACEGUY ENTERS through the DOOR)*

Jeezus! Took you long enough. I about  
got-

SPACEGUY

*(stumbling in, dusting off)*  
*(interrupting)* Traffic was MURDER! The  
Plutonians have their licenses now.  
They'll let ANYONE drive in the Cosmos  
these days. Oh, Yeah? A left turn? A  
signal would be nice!

ASHTON

*(Handing disk to SPACEGUY)*I think this is everything you requested. Look out, it's got a little mime juice on it.

SPACEGUY

I'm sure it'll be fine. Thank you.

ASHTON

Je vous en prie. I just hope it helps. I just hope you can do something about life here-make it like it's supposed to be.

SPACEGUY

**Patience**, kiddo! Always remember:

"Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble, it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.



### SPACEGUY (cont)

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; Many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself.

Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is perennial as the grass. Take kindly the council of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.

But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars, you have a right to be here. and whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding exactly as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful - Strive to be happy."

ASHTON

Wow. That's beautiful. You write that?

SPACEGUY

No, I got it off a Leonard Nimoy album. You earth people-so much potential, but sometimes you are like spoiled children fighting over a toy.

ASHTON

Maybe we should have to stand in the corner of the universe.

SPACEGUY

Exactly. Love to stay and chat-got to go. The Mother Ship is double-parked.

ASHTON

Really? Say "Hello" to George Clinton. Listen, keep in touch, anything more I can do, you know where to reach me-and be careful-have a safe trip home.

SPACEGUY

Oh, Riiiiight!! Good luck to that! You want to know "The Key To The Universe"? DEFENSIVE DRIVING! (pause) Oh, yeah, one last thing...do me a favor?

ASHTON

What's that?

SPACEGUY

Lighten up for Chrissakes!!

*(SPACEGUY starts to exit through  
the DOOR)*

ASHTON

Hey, wait a minute-You're leaving  
through the door?? Aren't you supposed  
to beam up or something??

SPACEGUY

On this budget? What are we, Spielberg?

*(FADE TO BLACK)*

THE END



### About the Author

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Rick Ashton was vice-president of his ninth grade class. Still, he wanted more. Searching for Truth, he performed stand-up comedy in all but four states (skipping the un-funny ones), and a few times on National TV. Ashton landed an award-winning morning radio gig in Boulder, CO. Unable to resolve assigned parking issues, he moved on. Catch him at: [www.chezashton.com](http://www.chezashton.com)



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