

BEN Mary—

MARY So that our guests aren't required to get stitches just for daring to come into our backyard.

SHARON It's okay, really—

KENNY I don't need stitches. I've had stitches before.

BEN Where's the tag? I'm calling the manufacturer. In fact, I should call them right now. (SHARON and KENNY are like, *no no no no don't worry, really*) Kenny, we can take you to the hospital. (SHARON and KENNY are even more like *no no no really*)

BEN Where is that tag—

BEN *realizes something about the situation. He slips outside of his tizzy and returns to calm host mode.*

BEN Okay. Okay, look at us. Look at us. Kenny, you're fine? KENNY Totally. I'm just going to keep the pressure on for a bit.

BEN All right, then.

SHARON (*in a bad British accent*) Alrighty, then, Ben.

BEN What?

SHARON I said, "Alrighty, ole chap, cup a tea!" You're British! Admit it! Admit it!

KENNY Sharon—

BEN So. How 'bout some steak?

SHARON Let's do it!

BEN *starts taking steaks off the grill.*

BEN Kenny, you get the first one in honor of your concussion.

20

KENNY SIDE 1

KENNY Ha-ha.

MARY Potatoes.

SHARON Do you all ever have "twice-baked" potatoes?

BEN Oh yeah, with all that cream in them.

SHARON Yes!

MARY Sometimes, but they are so much work.

SHARON My mom used to make those all the time.

A few moments of sitting down and settling in. BEN is sitting down, and they are all taking their first bites.

KENNY Aw yeah. (*he gives BEN the thumbs-up*)

MARY Delicious, honey.

Does one of them get a piece of gristle and do that weird chewing thing where you have to get it out of your mouth and spit it in your napkin? BEN glances over into KENNY and SHARON's yard.

SHARON I can't believe I cried.

MARY Oh, now—

BEN Cried?

SHARON A few minutes ago. When I was talking about neighbors.

BEN God, did I miss that? Did I forget?

start SHARON They say it's part of the process, feeling things, letting your emotions just happen in real time rather than running away from them on that glossy motorcade of substances.

~~KENNY Delicious!~~
KENNY (*under his breath*) Baby, we were going to keep that to ourselves—

21

BEN It's the principle. I've got to stick by my principles. *(they both take a sip of beer)* It's not a lot of money.

KENNY Let's see, we'll see. I've got a court case I'm waiting on in Arkansas. It's gonna save us, if it comes through.

BEN In Arkansas?

KENNY I slipped and fell in a supermarket a few years ago. That's how I hurt my back. That's why I have to wear the weight-lifting belt. The belt that cost me my job.

BEN Right.

KENNY When I get that settlement, I'll give you your twenty-five dollars and you can give me more "advice."

BEN All right. *(a few seconds)* Are you supposed to be drinking that?

KENNY One is okay.

They sip.

start

KENNY So are you ready to start taking "real" clients?

BEN I better. I have one more month of severance pay.

KENNY One more month and you'll be just like me.

BEN I guess so, yeah.

KENNY Bruh-thaaaz. *(BEN and KENNY clink beer cans)*

KENNY How much you want to bet they're gonna call us any minute. Ah! There's snakes! There's roaches!

BEN I don't know that their cell phones work out there.

KENNY "Come out here! It's dark!" And you know what, we're not gonna go.

BEN Well—

KENNY No really, they're out there in nature, sitting in the

KENNY SIDE 2

menstrual hut, eating crickets, whatever, that's what they want, and we have to honor that. We have to let the women be women.

BEN They better not come back wanting to burn that . . . that . . .

KENNY Sage stick.

BEN Yeah! I went to a wedding once where they did that. So weird.

KENNY That stuff stinks.

BEN Wearing feathers and a deerskin skirt. *(they both laugh)*

KENNY So whaddaya say, brothah? Boys' night out. There's Dan's Place and Déjà Vu and Temptations and Barely Legal.

BEN I don't know—really?

KENNY I've only been to Dan's Place and Déjà Vu. Déjà Vu is upscale, but Dan's Place is traaa-sheel!

BEN I mean really, I should work.

KENNY Work? It's Saturday. Our wives are away—

BEN I know, but maybe—

KENNY We're just embracing our human nature, man—

BEN But Kenny, those clubs are expensive.

KENNY We're just relaxing after a hard week's work.

BEN The drinks alone are like nine bucks. And it's usually a three-drink minimum. It adds up, and then what?

KENNY Aw, man. Aw, man is that what this is about? You think it's irresponsible? For us to have a night out? For *me* to have a night out?

BEN No, I didn't say that. It's just . . . it's just one night . . . if we take a step back for a second—

KENNY Oh god, that fucking book!

BEN I have . . . I have a vision for my life, Kenny.

KENNY So do I, douche bag.

BEN Hey, hey, hey. This is coming out wrong. I mean I don't even know how . . . can we . . . can we just drink, please?

KENNY Hmph. (*both men take a sip*) You're a good man, Ben.

BEN I don't know.

KENNY No really, you are.

BEN In a parallel universe I'm a good man.

KENNY I'm an asshole.

BEN No you're not.

KENNY I'm like, "You too good for yellow mustard!?" right in the middle of the store.

BEN You're under a lot of stress.

KENNY I'm an asshole, and it's too late for me.

~~BEN doesn't know what to say. The two men sip their beer.~~

BEN I think this might be against the law.

KENNY What?

BEN Drinking beers in the front yard.

KENNY You own your house, right?

BEN Of course. Well, I mean the bank owns it—

KENNY Shit then, private property. You gotta hang on to that house, Ben.

BEN Of course.

KENNY Don't let anyone take it from you.

~~BEN No, no, we're fine. I mean we haven't even dipped into our savings and I don't think we'll have to. We're not . . . we're not anywhere near that yet.~~

~~always used to say to my dad.~~

~~BEN And did he hang on to it?~~

~~KENNY doesn't say anything. It is obvious his dad did NOT hang on to the house.~~

~~Silence. Sound of the suburbs. Kids in the distance on bikes. A plane overhead. The compressors for several central air-conditioning units. Hearing a little closer than usual, pressing in.~~

~~BEN contemplates boys' night out.~~

BEN I mean I've got this leg.

KENNY I bet it could get you a sympathy lap dance.

BEN I don't know.

KENNY I'll drive.

BEN It's just such a hassle to go anywhere.

KENNY We deserve it, Ben.

end

A few moments of silence, where they sit and watch and sip. Then BEN finishes his beer and crushes his can.

BEN All right, let's do it.

KENNY Serious!

BEN Yeah, you decide where we're going and you have to drive. Except I've been to Dan's too, and it really is too skankified, so not there.

KENNY You've been?

BEN Sure for an um bachelor party.

KENNY Yeah right.

BEN So maybe one rung up the ladder. (*he looks down the street*)

KENNY SIDE 3

KENNY Temptations, then. Let's try Temptations.

BEN Should we get dinner first?

KENNY Nah, man, let's just eat something here.

BEN We've got nothing in the house.

KENNY Fuck it, let's scrounge. I've got a can of Manwich.

BEN I think we have hot dogs.

KENNY Yeah, we'll chop 'em up, mix 'em around.

BEN Spaghetti? Over spaghetti?

KENNY Oh man, no. I think maybe no—

BEN All right, we might have some white bread.

KENNY My brotah, we're good to go! Chow down and get there in time for happy hour.

BEN I think it's two for one navel shots.

start
Kenny kind of dances and sings that line from the song "Hey Ya" by Outkast.

KENNY Awright, awright, awright—

KENNY (*this next speech cracks BEN up*) Seel! For two brotahs on a budget! For two MEN whose wives are out playing survivor. For two men in need of a little R and R after a tough couple of weeks. For two men in search of a little good, clean fun. For two men in need of a boys' night out. For two men who appreciate God's gift to this green earth. Who appreciate that special titty talent of the special titty dancer. For two men who want to feel more connected to their bodies and to the world. Who want to get out of the house and live a little. For two men who aren't afraid to

have a good time even though their financial lives are swirling around in some kind of homemade toilet bowl—

~~BEN Come on~~

KENNY For two men who are men. For two men who are going to have a great fucking night. For two men who are going to have a fucking great fucking night on the town, not far from their house. For two men who can take one night to not worry so much, to go out on the town and engage with the nightlife, with the life of the night, who want to see what kind of good, clean fun is out there and if in the process they get their hands a little dirty, well, hey, it was in the name of good, clean fun. For two men who, oh shit . . . oh shit . . . oh shit . . . (KENNY sees some-

thing down the street. BEN looks)

BEN Oh shit.

KENNY Oh shit.

BEN *takes the beer cans and tosses them behind the bushes.*

KENNY Oh shit. Shit.

SHARON and MARY *wake up. They carry pretty big backpacks, like camping backpacks, on their backs.*

MARY Hi!

SHARON Hello! We didn't make it!

MARY We didn't make it!

BEN I guess not.