

BLOOD PUDDING

A Comic Short
By D. Richard Tucker

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BLOOD PUDDING

A Comedy in One Act

By

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

BARRY (M, 20's)

LUCINDA, Barry's Girlfriend (F, 20's)

WAITER (M, 25 or older)

ELEANOR, Lucinda's Mother (F, 40+)

SEBASTIAN, Lucinda's Father (M, 40+)

SETTING: Restaurant Interior represented by a table with four chairs

TIME: The present.

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Restaurant interior. BARRY and LUCINDA are seated reading menus.

BARRY

I wish they'd get here soon.

LUCINDA

Calm down. You're so nervous.

BARRY

I can't help it.

LUCINDA

There's nothing to be worried about. They're just my parents.

BARRY

No, but I've never met parents quite like yours.

LUCINDA

You don't need to worry – they're just like everybody else.

BARRY

(sarcastically)
Right!

LUCINDA

Okay, so they're a little different. But they're still my parents and they're just looking out for their little girl.

BARRY

That's what worries me.

LUCINDA

Relax. You'll like them.

BARRY

But will they like me? I want to make the right impression. I'm just nervous, okay?

LUCINDA

They will love you. So stop worrying.

Enter WAITER with drinks.

WAITER

Cabernet for the lady. And for you sir, tonic water with a twist. Are you ready to order?

BARRY

Not yet, thanks. We're waiting on another couple.

LUCINDA

He's meeting my parents for the first time.

WAITER

Oh, you'll love them. They are so nice. And her dad is such a joker. Really funny.

WAITER exits.

BARRY

This is a nice place.

LUCINDA

It's Daddy's favorite. They have an incredible menu.

BARRY

I just wish they'd get here.

LUCINDA

Calm down. Daddy never was very punctual. It comes from having so much free time – never in a hurry, you know.

Enter SEBASTIAN, dressed in a black suit with a black shirt. His complexion is quite pale. With him is ELEANOR who wears a black dress and also has a very fair complexion.

SEBASTIAN

There's our baby.

BARRY rises and greetings are exchanged.

ELEANOR

You must be Barry.

BARRY

Yes. It's a pleasure to meet you, Mrs. –

ELEANOR

Call me Eleanor.

LUCINDA

And this is my father, Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN

Hi, Barry.

SEBASTIAN and BARRY shake hands.

BARRY

It's nice to meet you.

SEBASTIAN

Please – sit down. Let's have a drink. I need to wash some of this dust down my throat.

ELEANOR

Lucinda has told us so much about you, Barry. We've been very anxious to meet you.

BARRY

Thank you. It's my pleasure.

SEBASTIAN

Oh, he's a polite one isn't he? Loosen up, Barry, don't be nervous. We're just a couple of ordinary folks.

SEBASTIAN and ELEANOR exchange looks
and laugh.

LUCINDA

(slightly embarrassed)
I told you he was a joker.

Enter WAITER with drinks.

WAITER

Two Bloody Marys.

SEBASTIAN

Darling, we've become "predictable." Randy knows what we're going to order before we ask.

ELEANOR

It's the mark of a true professional.

WAITER

It's always a pleasure serving you two. Are you ready to order?

ELEANOR

I believe so. I'd like the Carpaccio.

WAITER

And for you, Miss?

LUCINDA

Do you still have those cute little blood puddings? With the raisins and figs?

WAITER

You're in luck. The chef just made a fresh batch. He's also prepared a Southern style black pudding with pecans and dates.

LUCINDA

Oh, that sounds good. I'll have that.

WAITER

I'm sure you'll like it.

SEBASTIAN

I would like the Steak Tartare.

WAITER

Yes, sir.

SEBASTIAN

And I would like that prepared "well done."

WAITER

But, sir, the Steak Tartare is –

WAITER and SEBASTIAN exchange looks and then both burst out laughing.

WAITER (cont'd)

Sir, you catch me with that joke every time.

SEBASTIAN

I'm sorry. I just can't help it. You're such a good sport.

WAITER

(to BARRY)

And for you, sir?

BARRY

I would like the um grilled chicken breast with creamy garlic sauce –

SEBASTIAN and ELEANOR give BARRY annoyed looks. LUCINDA clears her throat. BARRY looks up from his menu, realizes the mistake and quickly corrects himself.

BARRY (cont'd)

Make that the grilled chicken breast with the uh...smoked peppers and salsa.

WAITER

Excellent choice.

WAITER collects menus and exits.

ELEANOR

Well, Barry, tell me how you two met. Lucinda mentioned it, but I always like to hear the male side of the story.

BARRY

Well, I met Lucy at the Red Cross Blood Drive. She was volunteering and I work there.

SEBASTIAN

You run the blood drives?

BARRY

No, I work in Disaster Relief. I went down to pick up some files and saw Lucy serving orange juice to the donors. Our eyes met....and then I couldn't keep from staring at her.

ELEANOR

That is so sweet. You two make an adorable couple.

BARRY

Thank you.

SEBASTIAN

Have you ever thought about working for the Blood Drives? Or a Blood Bank?

LUCINDA

Daddy!

BARRY

No, actually I really like my job with Humanitarian Services. I manage logistics for relief operations.

LUCINDA

Barry is responsible for supply procurement for Pan-American operations.

ELEANOR

Very impressive.

SEBASTIAN

Well, as long as you enjoy it. That's what's important.

ELEANOR

Well, Barry, I know this is a little awkward, so we thought it would be best if we met to discuss it. I know you two think very highly of each other.

BARRY

I assure you that Lucy is very special to me.

ELEANOR

We just want to be certain you're emotionally prepared for the future.

LUCINDA

Now don't be too pushy, Mother.

SEBASTIAN

The question, however, is quite simple: What are your intentions?

Well....

BARRY

Do you want to marry my daughter?

SEBASTIAN

Well...

BARRY

I suppose our life style makes you uncomfortable.

ELEANOR

Yes. It does. A little.

BARRY

But I'm sure you understand, Barry, that you would have to adopt our lifestyle if you marry Lucinda.

SEBASTIAN

I'm sure it must be a difficult decision.

ELEANOR

Well...

BARRY

But all the same, there is no middle ground.

SEBASTIAN

I realize that. It's just that....

BARRY

Daddy. Mother. Give Barry a break. This is very new to him.

LUCINDA

What about it bothers you the most, Barry?

ELEANOR

Well, I'm not so sure thatuh ... well....

BARRY

What, Barry?

SEBASTIAN

I'm just not so sure I want to become a Vampire.

BARRY

Here we go again.

SEBASTIAN

Tell me, Barry, what is it about being Vampire that bothers you most?

ELEANOR

BARRY

Well,

ELEANOR

Please – it’s best to discuss these things openly.

BARRY

Well,...um.....I guess it’s that whole “undead” thing.

SEBASTIAN

You don’t like the idea of being undead?

BARRY

It’s kind of scary, you know.

SEBASTIAN

You know what’s really scary? Dying. Now that’s scary. The thought of going to sleep and never waking up again. Pretty frightening. Do you want to die?

BARRY

Well, no.

SEBASTIAN

You wouldn’t have to. You live forever. That’s hard to beat.

BARRY

Yes. But what about quality of life?

ELEANOR

Oh, you can’t compare that at all. There is no quality of life like a Vampire’s.

LUCINDA

If you consider that as a human, you get older and your body starts to break down.

SEBASTIAN

Rheumatism, arthritis, congenital heart disease.

ELEANOR

But we never have those issues. No health problems at all.

SEBASTIAN

And there’s fast healing. Injuries are repaired almost immediately. Look.

SEBASTIAN takes knife from table and runs it across the palm of his hand. A line of blood appears, which he shows to BARRY.

SEBASTIAN (cont’d)

A simple cut.

SEBASTIAN wipes off palm with napkin and cut is gone.

SEBASTIAN (cont'd)

All gone.

SEBASTIAN shows hand to BARRY who examines it thoroughly.

BARRY

Wow!

LUCINDA

Daddy, quit showing off.

ELEANOR

I'm sure your medical insurance plan can't compare to that.

BARRY

No.

SEBASTIAN

You see, Barry, there are distinct advantages to being a Vampire.

BARRY

But what about the other things? Like having to bite some one on the neck and drink their blood to stay alive?

SEBASTIAN

Oh, those damn movies!

ELEANOR

Please realize that the public perception of Vampires has been greatly distorted by Hollywood.

LUCINDA

Many of the things you've heard are only myths.

BARRY

Really?

SEBASTIAN

We don't run around biting people on the neck for dinner. Granted, that was an option once, but now we've found more sophisticated means to feed. We don't go about pouncing on innocent victims in the dark.

ELEANOR

Much of our blood intake is through the foods we eat.

SEBASTIAN

And that crap about needing a daily dose of blood is totally ridiculous. If I ever meet that Anne Rice bitch, I'm going to slap her silly. I suppose you're concerned about being able to change into a bat and fly away.

BARRY

Can you do that?

SEBASTIAN

No. That's science fiction.

BARRY

Then how do you get around?

SEBASTIAN

I drive a Lexus.

BARRY

You don't fly?

SEBASTIAN

Sure I fly. I go to the airport and buy a ticket. And then I fly away. In a plane.

BARRY

What about seeing your reflection in a mirror?

ELEANOR

Now that is true. Let me tell you, it's a real bitch to put on makeup when you can't see what you look like.

LUCINDA

Mother!

BARRY

Well, you've done a lovely job.

ELEANOR

Why, thank you. Of course, your complexion is always a little pale, but some people look good with very fair skin. Lucinda here is one of them.

SEBASTIAN

And Barry, that thing about changing appearances when Vampires get angry. That's true, too.

BARRY

You mean you get hideous faces?

SEBASTIAN

No, but our eyes glow bright red.

(aside to Barry)

Actually, sometimes I say things purposely just to piss off Eleanor. When her eyes glow, she looks so incredibly beautiful. I tell you, she can be a real hottie.

ELEANOR

Sebastian!

BARRY

What about fangs?

LUCINDA

They're retractable. We only use them for special occasions.

BARRY

What about not being able to come out in daylight?

LUCINDA

Honey, you've gone out with me during the day, haven't you?

SEBASTIAN

Another myth. Granted, we are sensitive to sunlight.

ELEANOR

I tend to freckle easily.

SEBASTIAN

But there's no reason for us to avoid daylight. Though, we do get a little sluggish in the sun -

LUCINDA

It's a metabolism thing.

ELEANOR

But we like the beach as much as the rest of the undead.

LUCINDA

You see, being a Vampire isn't quite what you think it is.

BARRY

So what I've heard isn't really true – What about mind control. Isn't it possible that Vampires can put people in trances and then control them mentally?

SEBASTIAN

(speaking like a hypnotist)

Barry, look into my eyes.

BARRY looks.

SEBASTIAN (cont'd)

Look closer. What do you see? Look deeper. Deeper. You are now in my power. I have you in full control. You will obey everything I say. You will do my bidding.

BARRY looks like he's in a trance.

SEBASTIAN (cont'd)

I want you to jump up on the table, drop your pants and quack like a duck.

BARRY

What?

SEBASTIAN

Barry, you under my control! You must do as I tell you!

BARRY

I don't think it's working...

SEBASTIAN

(in his normal voice)

Of course it's not working. It's a stupid myth. What kind of fairy tale do you think this is? Damn, I hate that Buffy show.

BARRY

I thought you were trying to –

SEBASTIAN

No, that's crazy. Nobody can do that.

LUCINDA

Sorry. I told you he was quite the kidder.

SEBASTIAN

Trust me, Barry, being a Vampire is actually a lot better than being a human.

ELEANOR

And some of the biggest celebrities are Vampires.

BARRY

Like who?

LUCINDA

Christopher Walken.

BARRY

Really? You know, that doesn't surprise me. Who else?

LUCINDA

Elvis Presley.

BARRY

But he's dead.

ELEANOR, SEBASTIAN, and LUCINDA
exchange looks and then break into laughter.

BARRY (cont'd)

He's not? Oh. What about Cher? Is Cher a Vampire? I always wondered about her.

SEBASTIAN

Cher? No, she's just a freak.

LUCINDA

You see, Honey, it's not what you thought it was. And you don't need to worry about having children either. That's just a myth, too.

BARRY

Children?

ELEANOR

Many people claim that Vampires can't procreate, but that's simply not the case. I mean, look at our lovely Lucinda.

SEBASTIAN

I warn you, conception is a little more difficult than for humans – from a biochemistry perspective - but it really just means that you'll be having sex more frequently. And who can complain about that, huh?

BARRY

I'd never thought about children.

ELEANOR

So Barry, have you changed your mind? Don't you want to marry Lucinda?

BARRY

Um....I ... uh....

SEBASTIAN

Won't you join us in our lifestyle?

BARRY

Well.....

LUCINDA

Honey, we could be together forever and have our own little family.

BARRY

Look, you have all been really nice and I appreciate you explaining all this to me. Lucy, I really love you, but I just... well, I'm not sure that..... I'm sorry, I just can't do it!

BARRY rises and runs out.

SEBASTIAN

Damn it, another one.

LUCINDA

Oh, Mother, waaaaaaaaaaaaah!

LUCINDA bursts into tears and hugs
ELEANOR.

ELEANOR

It's okay, sweetheart, I guess he just isn't ready yet.

LUCINDA

It's not fair!

ELEANOR

What are we going to do?

SEBASTIAN

What can we do? These damn human males. Every one of them. Afraid of commitment.

Blackout.

END