

AUGUST

by Chris Van Strander

chrisvanstrander@gmail.com
484-995-0483
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CHARACTERS

LIL' CAL 16, any race

BIG DEREK 21, his cousin, any race

SENATOR EVELYN COOTER 47 give or take, a senator in the state legislature,
any race

SETTING

August of this year.

Big Derek's apartment, and a press conference at the state capitol.

BIG DEREK's apartment.

LIL' CAL, wearing a birthday hat, sits at BIG DEREK's computer. The screen faces the audience; a webcam sits on top. BIG DEREK is changing out of his work duds—an Applebee's uniform (polo, nametag, etc). He takes the shirt off, gets two more birthday hats, straps them around his chest like a cone bra.

LIL' CAL

(reading screen) "Welcome to RealestReality.com! If you wish to keep living in a fantasy world of kitties and puppies, click the bunny below to hop yourself outta here. But if you are ready to witness true life as it really is, in all its shocking, disturbing, hilarious glory, then click Fat Bastard and Get In My Belly! Disclaimer: by clicking Fat Bastard you affirm you are at least 18 years of age and legally consent to view simply the most shocking, disturbing, hilarious videos gathered from the furthest reaches of the Internets."

BIG DEREK

(fanning himself; re: the heat) Damn.

LIL' CAL

Wanna turn on your AC?

BIG DEREK

Like I can afford to run that. Ya logged in?

LIL' CAL

(stares at screen, wavering) ...Let's eat. When we get back maybe.

BIG DEREK

Fine, where we goin'?

LIL' CAL

'Ever you want.

BIG DEREK

Your night, dude, whatcha in the mood for?

LIL' CAL

Whatever.

BIG DEREK

Applebee's?

LIL' CAL

Serious?

BIG DEREK

Eatin' good in the neighborhood.

LIL' CAL

You just got off.

BIG DEREK

Yeah but my discount. Plus I'll get 'em to score ya a free one. Plus Sadie's comin' on.

LIL' CAL

She your girlfriend?

BIG DEREK

Nah, tends bar.

LIL' CAL

Why don't you ask her out?

BIG DEREK

Why date when you can stare? Whatcha gonna have?

LIL' CAL

What I always: buffalo wings with the blue cheese.

BIG DEREK

(smacks LIL' CAL) Dude! *That's* your gift to yourself? 132 grams of fat?!, freakin' heart attack?!

LIL' CAL

You read the nutrition?

BIG DEREK

I monitor *everything* that goes into this body, dude. *As should you need to start doing also.*

LIL' CAL

What're you having?

BIG DEREK

Tonight I expect I'll enjoy the grilled shrimp skewer salad. *(takes off "bra")* Ya ain't no kid no more, Cal. Gotta concern yourself with these things. You take vitamins?

LIL' CAL

Ritalin.

BIG DEREK

(*moves to computer*) Just lemme shut down—

LIL' CAL

Wait. (*stares at computer*) ...I can watch anything?

BIG DEREK

What's with you?, have you never been on here?

LIL' CAL

Naww, this stuff's all blocked on ours.

BIG DEREK

Serious?

LIL' CAL

She filters everything, dude. Anyplace you gotta log in, over 18...

BIG DEREK

Aww you can get around that...

LIL' CAL

Not ours. I don't know what she's runnin'?, but it's packin' power. Kid I can't even *stream*.

BIG DEREK

Damn.

LIL' CAL

What I'm tellin' you.

BIG DEREK

Hell's her deal?

LIL' CAL

"Because." 'Cause why? "Because I say." 'Cause you say why? "Because you're not prepared to process those things so it's not appropriate."

BIG DEREK

'Cause it's *bullcrap*...

LIL' CAL

And then!, and then!, she wants to "have a broader conversation. What exactly are you curious about about those sites? What *feelings* you have?" How'm I supposed to know?! I never seen 'em! Damn!

BIG DEREK

Got a word for what you're livin' under, dude: a *junta*. You know she's only doin' this 'cause Grandma wouldn't let her look at, whatever, *LIFE* magazine when she was your age. That's how it works.

LIL' CAL

What?

BIG DEREK

Families. Can'tcha watch it at your buddy's? (*LIL' CAL's blank.*) That guy you were hangin' with Memorial Day.

LIL' CAL

Evan? We... I don't hang out with him anymore. Rephrase: he doesn't hang out with *me*. (*little beat*) I asked for a laptop. You know? "You need to grant me my own autonomy!" Yeah she was onto that like stink on skunk. Why you think she got me the Corolla? Friggin' just to pacify me!

BIG DEREK

Shove that sucky in baby's mouth so he shuts ass and obeys. Blindly. Like a lamb. With no eyes. And a... tit in its lips. (*beat*) Look: if there's one thing I learned from summer college? Is you can't keep folks from knowledge. Know who censors knowledge, dude? Little fella?, mighta heard a' him?, called *The Taliban*? She ain't treatin' you like an adult, kid. You have every right to be on here! You're 18, ain'tcha?

LIL' CAL

No.

BIG DEREK

Fine, 17.

LIL' CAL

Five hours... (*stares at computer*) Could we really do the webcam?

BIG DEREK

'Ever you want.

LIL' CAL

And like, who'll see?, who watches?

BIG DEREK

Everyone on the forum. I'm up to like 5,000 views.

LIL' CAL

You just post it?, just like that?

BIG DEREK

If you want. You want?

LIL' CAL thinks... smiles. Mischievous. Hits Enter. Fat Bastard: "Get in my belly!"

BIG DEREK

My nigga.

BIG DEREK fiddles with the webcam. LIL' CAL drinks in the Web site, eyes wide.

LIL' CAL

"Mongolian Lap Dance Caught On Camera... Wet Midget Secretary... Oiled Up Poolside Nuns... Wife Home Alone Stocking Tease Party... Vintage Cartoon Amputees... Extreme Mother Daughter Pigtail Abuse... Flexible Geezers Abducted, Drugged, And Violated... Gore, Humor, Scat, And Everything In Between." Scat? Like, shoo-bee-doo-bee-doo-bee?

BIG DEREK's all set up.

BIG DEREK

Glare's total ass on this, but hafta do. We're good—start talkin'.

LIL' CAL

(to webcam) BLAM! Comin' atcha! What's good?, it's your boy Lil' Cal here, Lil' Cal for president, know what I'm sayin', Washington County Vo Tech High School represent. Cousin Derek in back, Big Derek—

BIG DEREK

(to webcam) Jefferson County Community College—what-what!

LIL' CAL

—shootin' these movies, shootin' these videos. Welcome to—what we callin' this?

BIG DEREK

Extreme Video Reactions!

LIL' CAL

Birthday Edition! D, why don'tcha tell 'em what we're gonna do.

BIG DEREK

'Sup guys it's D, thanks everybody for sendin' me that link, gonna check it out, sorry I ain't posted nothin' this week, had to drive all the way down the Valley like every single night after work, help my Grandma sort through all these goddamn boxes she got in her garage—Anyway check it out, here's what's goin' down: it's officially about 7:33 in the PM, Friday August twenty—?

LIL' CAL
—first.

BIG DEREK
'Bout four hours from now's gonna be Lil' Cal's big day so we havin' a party—

LIL' CAL
Woooo!

BIG DEREK
—Gonna ring it in, make some memories, you know how we do. And 'cause Aunt Lil apparently keeps Cal here chained in the basement—

LIL' CAL
Attic, get it right.

BIG DEREK
—We gonna do a marathon a' some crazy movies well not movies some videos, 'cause y'all know Big D, he always come through with the craziness, I'm a' be showin' Lil' Calvin some a' that craziness on this here screen. *(pans webcam to computer)* This box, Cal? Make you see stuff you never even knew existed. *(to webcam)* And tape our reactions so y'all can laugh at us. So Cal—how 'bout it man?, what's first?, what we seein'?, where we startin'?! , WHAT ARE WE ABOUT TO WATCH?! *(Dead stop. LIL' CAL's at a loss.)* Tab at the top, try.

LIL' CAL
(browses) "Breakdance Baby Kick"?

BIG DEREK
(gives the thumbs up) 'Kay this's "Breakdance Baby Kick." *(indicates LIL' CAL's face)* Cal's reaction. *(to LIL' CAL)* That glare bug you?

LIL' CAL
Naww.

LIL' CAL hits Enter. We all watch the video: a subway station breakdancer does his routine. A toddler wanders into the way; he accidentally kicks it into the air.

BOTH
(burst out laughing)

LIL' CAL
Again again!

LIL' CAL replays the video.

BOTH

(laugh even louder and longer)

LIL' CAL

Backflip! She okay?

BIG DEREK

'Course. There'da been a lawsuit. *(to webcam)* Yo if y'all ain't seen this, type "Breakdance Baby Kick"—you'll thank me. *(to LIL' CAL)* Sorry dude, I can't stand this glare.

BIG DEREK adjusts the screen and webcam, turning them away from the audience.

LIL' CAL

Hey D. Have you seen that one...?

BIG DEREK

Better. What one? *(beat)* Which one, dude?

LIL' CAL

Uh... think it's called "Cooter"?

BIG DEREK

Oh sure, I seen that.

LIL' CAL

So it really exists? How bad is it?

BIG DEREK

Know what's on it?

LIL' CAL

What?

BIG DEREK

What'd you hear?

LIL' CAL

Just I should see it.

BIG DEREK

Yeah it does... cry out to be witnessed.

LIL' CAL

Is it super awful?

BIG DEREK
Wanna know?

LIL' CAL thinks... nods. BIG DEREK navigates to the video.

LIL' CAL
Is this gonna scar me for life?

BIG DEREK
Just gotta see.

**To read the rest of this play, please contact me at:
chrisvanstrander@gmail.com.**