

The beginning of

A TOUCHING STORY (from **COME AGAIN**)

a comedy in one act

by Rich Orloff

Place: A hotel room

Time: Saturday night

Characters: DENNIS, passing through town, 30's-40's

NIKI, lives nearby, 30's-40's

JEFF, Niki's husband, 30's-40's

The hotel room shows signs of a short-term stay: an opened overnight bag or two, and perhaps an empty beer bottle or two. As the play begins, JEFF, NIKI and DENNIS enter. Jeff and Niki are dressed up, but look like they shop at Wal-Mart, K-Mart, or any other store which ends in "mart". Dennis is dressed more nicely. He's excited and a bit overwhelmed.

NIKI

(to Dennis:)

Make yourself at home.

JEFF

Your room like this?

DENNIS

Pretty – pretty much. Mine - mine faces the uh the other way.

NIKI

Relax, honey.

DENNIS

That might not be that easy.

NIKI

You'll do fine.

DENNIS

I I hope so.

NIKI

I'll make sure of it.

DENNIS

I'm I'm really honored that you two –

JEFF

You should be. There were a lot of good-looking guys in the bar.

NIKI

You noticed?

JEFF

Yeah, right.

NIKI

(to Dennis:)

Well... make yourself comfortable.

Niki and Jeff start taking off their clothes. Dennis slowly follows their lead.

DENNIS

So the the two of you do this a lot?

JEFF

When the mood hits.

NIKI

I like when the mood hits.

DENNIS

You just go to a hotel bar and –

NIKI

It's kind of like going to one of those seafood restaurants where I choose my own lobster, except that in this case, you're getting laid instead of boiled.

DENNIS

I know this may sound weird, but just and don't take this the wrong way, because I'm really really complimented, but but... why me?

JEFF

Well, for one thing, you don't smoke. Niki hates smokers.

NIKI

Their tongues taste like used condoms,
you know like when they're been
on the floor overnight and you p—

DENNIS

Yeah yeah, I get the —... But, but I mean —

NIKI

Spit it out, honey.

DENNIS

I'm just, I mean, nothing like this
has ever happened —

NIKI

You won't be able to say that in an hour.
Or less.

DENNIS

So is there like a particular like you know
a particular kind of guy —

JEFF

You ask a lot of questions, Dennis.

DENNIS

I'm fascinated by the human psyche.

JEFF

I'm a tit-man myself.

NIKI

(complimented)

You were attracted to me for my tits?

JEFF

I was attracted to you 'cause after
our first date every time I thought
of you my dick got so hard I had
to switch from briefs to boxers.

NIKI

That was some first date.

DENNIS

I was reading this this psychology book
on the plane —

NIKI

Are you a shrink?

DENNIS

No, I was just reading it for pleasure.

JEFF

Now *that's* kinky.

DENNIS

I've gained a lot from those books. I think they've made me more aware and – sensitive.

JEFF

You're not bisexual, are you?

DENNIS

No.

JEFF

'Cause I hope I made it clear downstairs –

DENNIS

Oh you did.

JEFF

I have no interest in guys.

DENNIS

Me neither.

JEFF

I just like making my wife happy, and she likes being fucked by two guys.

NIKI

I figure if the Lord gave me a mouth and a pussy, why not use them both?

DENNIS

(not knowing what to say:)

Well that's very um um um efficient.

JEFF

Waste not, want not.

NIKI

Well, I'm going to go freshen up.

Niki exits into the bathroom. By now both guys are wearing only shorts.

DENNIS

So.

JEFF

You don't have to suck in your gut.
She'll be awhile.

DENNIS

So, Jeff, um, how long have you two been married?

JEFF

Eight years.

DENNIS

And how long have you two been, uh –

JEFF

About three, three-and-a-half years.

DENNIS

I, uh, Jeff, can I ask something personal?

JEFF

Go right ahead.

DENNIS

You sure?

JEFF

Hey, it's not like we're using our real names.

DENNIS

Oh, well then, I, I can see why a woman might have this fantasy, a desire to overload her sensory capacity, or perhaps it even makes her feel empowered.

JEFF

She says it makes her pussy so juicy you could squeeze it and have a refreshing beverage.

DENNIS

That's nice, but, but what fascinates me is, it's it's really okay with you?

JEFF

Sure.

DENNIS

But don't you –

JEFF

You've read a lot of those self-help books, right?

DENNIS

Uh-huh.

JEFF

Then you know: A healthy marriage is about making your partner happy.

DENNIS

Yes, but –

JEFF

One time I was fucking her in the ass, and she was sucking another guy and jerking a third guy off, and she had the sweetest smile on her face –

DENNIS

If you were behind her –

JEFF

There were a lot of mirrors.

DENNIS

Oh.

JEFF

It's not like we're cheating on each other or anything. This is something we do together.

DENNIS

I know but –

JEFF

We tried golf. We hated it.

DENNIS

But what if, for example, one of these nights you two pick up a guy and she really –

JEFF

I'm not worried.

DENNIS

You're not?

JEFF

Marriage is about trust.

Niki enters, carrying a toothbrush. She's livid.

NIKI

Did you use my toothbrush?!

JEFF

Sorry, honey.

NIKI

Use your own toothbrush, you fuckin' asshole!

Niki returns to the bathroom.

JEFF

Trust and resilience.

DENNIS

I'll remember that.

JEFF

You ever been married?

DENNIS

Yep.

JEFF

Then you know.

DENNIS

If I knew, I might still be married.

JEFF

How long you been divorced?

DENNIS

Actually, I'm separated.

JEFF

Really? Getting a lot of fresh pussy?

DENNIS

Mainly I'm watching a lot of bad TV.

JEFF

When I got divorced, I had time for both.

Niki returns.

NIKI

Sorry for yelling.

DENNIS

That's okay.

NIKI

I mean, I don't have many rules, but I just think a woman's toiletries are her own, you know what I mean?

JEFF

Guess what? Dennis is separated.

NIKI

Really? Getting a lot of fresh pussy?

DENNIS

I'm mostly catching up on my reading.

NIKI

So did like one of you cheat on the other?

DENNIS

Oh, no, no, it was nothing like that. We just we just we just had irreconcilable differences.

JEFF

What does that mean?

NIKI

It means she was a cunt.

DENNIS

She wasn't a, she just, we, I don't know, we just couldn't -, we went to three different marriage counselors, and workshops, and we read all the books, and we both did a lot of individual therapy.

JEFF

She give good blow jobs?

DENNIS

Oh yeah.

JEFF

(tries to figure it out, then:)

Life. It's a fuckin' mystery.

NIKI

Well, shall we get started?

JEFF

Fine by me.

Dennis looks at Niki and then at Jeff.

DENNIS

What do we do now: rock, paper, scissors?

Niki walks up to Dennis and kisses him hard. While kissing him, she pushes him to the bed and bends him back until he falls backward onto it. She goes with him, continuing to kiss him, as she straddles his torso. She presses him hard onto the mattress. Finally, she lets go.

NIKI

Your fuckin' therapist ever do that?

DENNIS

If she did, I'd see her twice a week.