

the beginning of

IS LUST KOSHER? (from **OY!**)

a short comedy by Rich Orloff

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Place: A living room.

Time: The present.

Characters: WENDY and ISIDORE, two Kosher vegetarians

In the center of the living room is a couch, facing away from the audience. As the scene begins, WENDY and ISIDORE enter from the dining room.

ISIDORE

Another great meal, Wendy.

WENDY

Thanks, Isidore.

ISIDORE

You make the best asparagus kugel of anyone I know.

WENDY

And thanks for making dessert. That was the best oat bran rugelleh I've ever had.

ISIDORE

You know, when I was younger, I'd eat anything. And I paid for it. But ever since I became a strictly kosher holistic organic vegetarian, I've never felt better.

WENDY

I feel the same way. And when I met you at the synagogue singles dinner, and you told me you made that delicious tofu kreplach, I knew I had finally met my soulmate.

ISIDORE

Why didn't more people eat that?

WENDY

I loved it. With that whole wheat crust.

ISIDORE

You think people would appreciate
a high-fiber kreplach.

WENDY

Let's face it, Isidore. You just live
on a higher plain than most people.

ISIDORE

You sure look beautiful tonight, Wendy.

WENDY

You look beautiful every night, Isidore.

She leans over and kisses him. For a moment, they kiss passionately.
Then, abruptly, Isidore pulls away.

WENDY (cont'd)

What is it?

ISIDORE

Nothing.

WENDY

Am I too forward?

ISIDORE

No, no. I'm just feeling a little shy tonight.

WENDY

Don't you find me attractive?

ISIDORE

Of course, I find you attractive.

WENDY

Then what is it, Isidore?

ISIDORE

It's nothing, Wendy.

WENDY

Isidore, we've been going together
three months now, and we never
get past that first kiss.

ISIDORE

I'm just going through a – I don't know what it is. It's not you. You're very attractive. I – Maybe I should just go.

WENDY

I don't want you to go.

ISIDORE

Look, I'm sorry.

WENDY

It's okay.

ISIDORE

No, it's not. I've had this problem for awhile, even before I met you. For some reason, ever since I started this diet...

WENDY

Relax. We don't have to do anything.

ISIDORE

Thanks. I appreciate that.

For a moment, they just sit with each other.

WENDY

You want to rent a dirty movie?

ISIDORE

No.

WENDY

Would you like me to whisper dirty words in your ear? I know several.

ISIDORE

No.

WENDY

If you want, I could change into my Bathsheba costume.... You've slain Goliath; I'm overcome with gratitude...

ISIDORE

Look, it's, it's just a phase I'm going through. It'll pass... eventually... I hope.

WENDY
(getting an idea)
Maybe... Maybe you need some meat.

ISIDORE
No! If I ate any meat, I could
never look a cow in the face again.

WENDY
Maybe if you had like just one
itty-bitty taste of junk food...

ISIDORE
(smiles, then stops)
No, No, I can't allow myself to even think –

WENDY
Maybe you'd like some traif.

ISIDORE
I couldn't.

WENDY
We could just mix a little milk and meat.

ISIDORE
Stop it, you, you – Delilah.

WENDY
Everybody cheats occasionally, Isidore.
I was raised in a strictly Kosher home,
except for Sunday night when we'd
go out and eat pork chow mein.

ISIDORE
Look, I made a commitment,
and I'm sticking to it.

WENDY
(seductively)
C'mon. Maybe just one little cheeseburger,
with a thick slice of American cheese –

ISIDORE
No. I promised myself I'd never –

WENDY
How about beef Stroganoff, with big
chunks of meat swimming in sour cream?

ISIDORE

I couldn't...

WENDY

Maybe a Reuben, with corned beef and
Swiss cheese rubbing up against each other?

ISIDORE

(weakening)

Stop it.

WENDY

Or better yet, a ham and Swiss on white bread.

ISIDORE

Please stop...

WENDY

I know what you want: a cheddardog!

ISIDORE

Oh, God, yes!