

An excerpt from

**MARS NEEDS WOMEN,  
BUT NOT AS MUCH AS ARNOLD SCHECTER**  
(from **INCREDIBLE SEX**)

a comedy in one act

by Rich Orloff

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*Place:* A coffee shop in Passaic, New Jersey.  
*Time:* The present.  
*Characters:* ARNOLD, a guy in early adulthood  
SALLY, his girlfriend  
J.D., his best friend  
LAURIE, a waitress  
BALTHAZAR, from the planet Mars, single  
VELICHANTRA, from Mars, his female cousin

*(ARNOLD SCHECTER is distraught that his girlfriend SALLY has dumped him for BALTHAZAR, prince of Mars. In this excerpt, Arnold has tricked Balthazar into meeting him at the local coffee shop.)*

ARNOLD: So, Balthazar, let's talk.

BALTHAZAR: I have no need to talk to a lying, disreputable earthling.

ARNOLD: I know about you and Sally Zimmerman. I know you want to take her to Mars to create a race of Super-Martians.

BALTHAZAR: How'd you find out?

ARNOLD: I have my ways.

BALTHAZAR: Are you from *60 Minutes*?

ARNOLD: No.

BALTHAZAR: *20/20*?

ARNOLD: No.

BALTHAZAR: *Dateline NBC*?

ARNOLD: No.

BALTHAZAR: That CNN newsmagazine nobody watches?

ARNOLD: No! To be honest, I'm just... I'm Sally's brother.

BALTHAZAR: How come you have different last names?

ARNOLD: I'm her half-brother.

BALTHAZAR: She's never mentioned you.

ARNOLD: She's mentioned you. And I thought, as her closest living relative—

BALTHAZAR: What about her parents?

ARNOLD: *(After a thought:)* They're dead.

BALTHAZAR: I've heard her talk to them on the telephone.

ARNOLD: She lives in a great deal of denial.

BALTHAZAR: No wonder she wouldn't put me on the phone when I asked to talk to them.

ARNOLD: So I do feel I have a right to ask you some questions.

BALTHAZAR: And what exactly do you want to know?

ARNOLD: Well, for starters, are you gainfully employed?

BALTHAZAR: I am Prince of Mars!

ARNOLD: Is that a full-time position?

BALTHAZAR: Are you trying to insult me? With these two fingers, I could—

ARNOLD: I'm just showing brotherly concern.

BALTHAZAR: Your sister will have her every need met. She shall live as royalty, with many servants.

ARNOLD: A hundred?

BALTHAZAR: She won't need a hundred servants.

ARNOLD: Fifty?

BALTHAZAR: Not that many.

ARNOLD: Twenty-five?

BALTHAZAR: Be reasonable.

ARNOLD: Ten?

BALTHAZAR: Eight.

ARNOLD: I don't think that's many.

BALTHAZAR: It's more than several! She shall be a princess. Has anyone made her a better offer?

ARNOLD: I guess not.

BALTHAZAR: *(Preparing to go:)* Then unless there are further questions...

ARNOLD: I have one more question.

BALTHAZAR: It will be your last question, earthling, so make it count.

ARNOLD: Do you love her?

BALTHAZAR: What is this earthly obsession with love? Whenever I hear earth music, it is always about love. Whenever I read earth stories, they are always about love. Whenever I look at earth greeting cards, they are always about love. At least your movies have car crashes; that's fun.

ARNOLD: Then you don't love her.

*(LAURIE brings the drinks and sets them on the table. )*

BALTHAZAR: I shall treat Sally with respect and dignity, and her life will be full and rewarding.

LAURIE: I'd settle for that.

*(SALLY enters. )*

SALLY: Arnold! Balthazar! What are you—

BALTHAZAR: Sally, my beloved. You never told me you had a brother.

SALLY: I don't.

ARNOLD: I'm a close personal friend.

*(BALTHAZAR takes out his ray gun. )*

BALTHAZAR: Say your prayers, Earth man!

SALLY: Balthazar, don't!

BALTHAZAR: Why not?

SALLY: Dissolving people isn't socially acceptable on this planet.

*(BALTHAZAR puts his gun back in its holster. )*

BALTHAZAR: I will spare him, this time.

ARNOLD: Thank you for saving my life, Sally.

SALLY: Well, don't expect me to make a habit of it. What are you two doing here?

BALTHAZAR: This maggot—

ARNOLD: I lured Balthazar here, because, well, I was hoping to convince him not to take you away.

SALLY: Of all the underhanded, sneaky—

ARNOLD: I know.

SALLY: You have no right to interfere in my life.

ARNOLD: I know, I know.

BALTHAZAR: This worm is your boyfriend?

SALLY: We went out a few times.

ARNOLD: We went out *many* times. More than several.

SALLY: Arnold, just, just leave me alone.

ARNOLD: I need to talk to you, Sally.

SALLY: Just go, okay?

ARNOLD: Can't we discuss this like two rational human beings?

BALTHAZAR: "Rational human beings." Now there's an oxymoron.

SALLY: Hey, I'm a human being.

BALTHAZAR: Sorry, honey.

ARNOLD: Sally—

SALLY: Arnold—

ARNOLD: He doesn't love you. I do.

BALTHAZAR: *(To SALLY:)* Of course, I love you. *(To ARNOLD:)* Lying mealybug.

LAURIE: *(To SALLY:)* He doesn't love you. I heard him.

BALTHAZAR: Of all the women on Earth, I've chosen you to be my princess. If you come with me, your every need will be met and your every wish will be granted.

ARNOLD: Yeah, but...

*(All eyes turn to ARNOLD. )*

I have a regular job and a good dental plan.

BALTHAZAR: I will shower you with jewels and riches.

ARNOLD: I have an aunt with a condo in Florida we can stay at two weeks a year.

BALTHAZAR: You will be a princess.

ARNOLD: Ditto. Maybe not in title, but certainly in my attitude.

BALTHAZAR: I shall impregnate you with sperm a million years more evolved than his.

ARNOLD: I did really well on my S.A.T.'s.

SALLY: Look, Arnold, I've made my decision.

ARNOLD: Okay, okay, just hear me out.

SALLY: Arnold—

ARNOLD: Look, I know I can't compete with him. If I were a woman, I'd choose him over me. I can't compete with most men. I'm just a nice Passaic guy whose only dream is to lead a nice Passaic life. It's just that, well, there's this emptiness I have that when I'm with you disappears. I always thought it was part of me, but when I'm with you, I think maybe it isn't. You're the first woman I ever met I wanted to fight for. You're the first woman I ever met I had to fight for.

SALLY: That's a very nice speech, Arnold.

ARNOLD: Thanks.

SALLY: Unfortunately, even a speech that good can't make me love you.

ARNOLD: I know.

SALLY: If it makes you feel better, it does make me pity you.

ARNOLD: I knew it was a high-risk speech.

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