

the beginning of

TOTALLY ACCESSIBLE (from **FUNNY AS A CRUTCH**)

a short comedy by Rich Orloff

Time: Evening

Place: Ivy's and Brian's living room

Characters: IVY, 30's, uses a wheelchair

BRIAN, 30's, uses a wheelchair

As the play begins, IVY moves around the room, making sure everything looks right. She opens a compact to make sure *she* looks right. Perhaps more lipstick. Perhaps adjusting her blouse. She seems a bit anxious.

From off-stage, we hear a door open, and:

BRIAN (o.s.)

Hey, pumpkin, I'm home.

Ivy claps her hands twice. Instantly the lights soften, and sexy mood music begins on the stereo.

BRIAN enters. He wears a suit and tie, but the tie has been loosened. It's been a rough day, but he's glad to see her.

BRIAN (cont'd)

(still outside the room:)

I had the worst –

(enters and notices)

Hey. Is this a special occasion?

IVY

(playfully sultry)

If you want to know the answer to that,
you'll have to earn it.

Ivy gives Brian a kiss. She's hoping it'll be more than a "hello" kiss, but Brian has other matters on his mind.

BRIAN

Work was hell today.

IVY

I'll be glad to massage your temples...
if you'll rub my sanctuary.

BRIAN

Honey, I, I –

Brian claps his hands twice. The music stops, and the lights resume their initial brightness.

BRIAN (cont'd)

I just need a few minutes to get home.

IVY

Sure. Would you like a glass of wine,
(playfully seductive)
or would you like me to squeeze
some grapes into your mouth?

BRIAN

Let's start with wine and work up to squeezing.

Ivy pours them two glasses of wine.

IVY

That bad a day?

BRIAN

Newirth decided to move up the meeting on the new marketing campaign so that everybody could put in their two cents' worth. And I realized: Two cents is not a lot of money.

IVY

I'm sorry, hon—

BRIAN

And then, after two hours of getting nowhere, Newirth said, "Let's continue this over lunch", and Green said, "Where shall we eat?", and Gerber said, "How about Petrillo's?", and Green said, "Again?" And I bite my tongue, because I can't say, "I know the food's bland, but the place is totally accessible." But then the room turns silent, because *everybody's* thinking that, so Sickles suggests Madame Wu's and Fizzard suggests Lugo's, and I'm thinking, "Great, do I want to eat at the second-floor restaurant I can only get to by using the freight elevator, or do I want to eat at the place where the accessible bathroom is located in the back section which has a step in front of it?" But I don't want to get into that, *again*, at least not in front of Newirth, who thank God says, "I *like* Petrillo's."

IVY

So it worked out okay.

BRIAN

The point is Green didn't say "Again?" because he's tired of Petrillo's. He's a vulture; if it's dead, he'll eat it. He wanted to make me feel self-conscious at lunch so there'd be more room for him to shine. And he succeeded.

IVY

What can I do for you?

BRIAN

They should just be grateful they didn't hire a disabled vegetarian.

Ivy kisses Brian. He doesn't respond. She claps her hands twice. The lights soften, and the music resumes.

IVY

So you want to know what I did during lunch?

BRIAN

You came home and rewired the apartment?

Brian claps his hands twice. The music stops, and the lights brighten.

IVY

Nope. I brown-bagged it at work so I could spend the hour researching vacation spots.

BRIAN

And?

IVY

I found this awesome new resort in Arizona. Totally accessible.

BRIAN

We went to a resort last year.

IVY

This one's much better.

BRIAN

And the year before.

IVY

Much, much better.

BRIAN

And on our honeymoon.

IVY

I should've done more research on how they define "accessible" in Acapulco.

BRIAN

Pumpkin –

IVY

Okay, what would *you* like to do?

BRIAN

I don't know, something more challenging. Something that might surprise us.

IVY

Brian, when we tried the modified kayaks, I got more than modified wet.

BRIAN

How about that place in Vermont that has ski chairs?

IVY

Look, if *you* want to do that stuff –

BRIAN

I just think challenging one's self is healthy.

IVY

I agree; I just don't think "challenging" and "vacation" belong in the same sentence.

BRIAN

Wouldn't you like to do something a little daring?

IVY

Sure.

BRIAN

Like what?

IVY

Like – Let's have a baby.