

the beginning of

VEGETARIANS IN LUST (from **ROMANTIC FOOLS**)

a short comedy by Rich Orloff

(**ROMANTIC FOOLS**, a comic revue for one man and one woman, is published and licensed by Playscripts, Inc. www.playscripts.com)

As the play begins, the MAN and WOMAN are in the living room.
In the center of the living room is a couch, facing away from the audience.

MAN

Another great meal, Lori.

WOMAN

Thanks, Andrew.

MAN

You make the best lentil lasagna of anyone I know.

WOMAN

And thank *you* for making dessert. That was the most delicious spinach cake I've ever tasted.

MAN

(modestly)

It was okay...

WOMAN

I liked it even better than your broccoli mousse pie.

MAN

Some days you get lucky.

WOMAN

Would you like an after-dinner drink?

MAN

Sure.

WOMAN

So what's your pleasure:
free-range watercress juice or V8?

MAN

Surprise me.

The woman fixes them drinks.

MAN

You know, I think the luckiest moment in my life was when we shopped together at that organic vegetarian health food store, and I realized we had compatible values.

WOMAN

When we got into that conversation comparing rice bran and oat bran, I thought, this is a man I can talk to.

MAN

When you told me you were such a radical vegetarian that you refused to eat gummi bears... Well, I knew I'd feel healthier when I chose to give up meat *and* junk food, but, but I never thought it'd lead to someone like you.

WOMAN

Well, I like to think I'm part of a well-balanced diet.

MAN

When I first gave up meat, I thought it'd be so difficult.

WOMAN

And you didn't even do it gradually.

MAN

No, I had to do it cold tofu.

WOMAN

And you did.

MAN

I used to put such junk in my body. But I'm clean now. My body is my temple.

WOMAN

When do services begin?

MAN

I read a quote from Shaw today. He said, "Animals are my friends. And I don't eat my friends." Doesn't that just say it all?

WOMAN

Yes, but, as far as I'm concerned,
vegetables are my friends, too.

(sexily)

Fortunately, I like to nibble on my friends.

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

WOMAN (cont'd)

What is it?

MAN

It's nothing.

WOMAN

Am I too forward?

MAN

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

WOMAN

Don't you find me attractive?

MAN

Of course, I find you attractive.

WOMAN

Then what is it, Andrew?

MAN

It's nothing, Lori.

WOMAN

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

MAN

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.

WOMAN

I don't want you to go.

MAN

(feeling guilty)

Look, I'm sorry.

WOMAN

It's okay.

MAN

No, it's not. For some reason, ever since I became a vegetarian...

WOMAN

Relax. We don't have to do anything.

MAN

Thanks. I appreciate that.

For a moment, they just sit with each other.

WOMAN

You want to rent a dirty movie?

MAN

No.

WOMAN

Would you like me to whisper dirty words in your ear?

MAN

No.

WOMAN

Magazines? Whips? Costumes? Bondage?

MAN

Look, I've tried all those things; they didn't help. It's, it's just a phase I'm going through. It'll pass... eventually... I hope.

WOMAN

(getting an idea)

Maybe... Maybe you need some... meat.

MAN

No!

WOMAN

Or maybe, maybe if you had like just one taste of junk food...

MAN

(smiles, then stops)

No, No, I can't allow myself to even think –

WOMAN

Just a morsel of meat.

MAN

If I ate meat, I could never look a cow in the face again.

WOMAN

Maybe a ménage a trois with you, me, and Sara Lee.

MAN

Never.

WOMAN

Everyone cheats occasionally, Andrew.

MAN

Not me. I made a commitment,
and I'm sticking to it.

WOMAN

(seductively)

C'mon. Maybe just one little Whopper, with
a thick slice of American processed cheese –

MAN

No. I promised myself I'd never –

WOMAN

Or a Big Mac...

MAN

I couldn't...

WOMAN

Some Kentucky Fried Chicken...

MAN

I shouldn't...

WOMAN

Greasy fries...

MAN

Please stop...

WOMAN

And for dessert, two scoops of Ben and Jerry's
chocolate chocolate chunk ice cream...

MAN

Oh, God, yes!

They begin rubbing each other erotically as they speak
(which we can't see, as the couch blocks our view).

WOMAN

And then some Milk Duds... Snickers... Almond Joy...

MAN

Mounds!

WOMAN

Mr. Goodbar!

MAN

M and M's...

WOMAN

Butterfingers...

MAN

Movie popcorn with buttery flavoring...

WOMAN

Sugar Twin...

MAN

Coffee Mate...

WOMAN

Cyclamates...

MAN

I love it when you talk additives.