

D E M O N   D I N E R   P L A Y

Regis

Jennis

Cal

Ronnie

Lesbian #1

Lesbian #2

Lesbian #3

Health Inspector

## **Scene One**

*A filthy, broken-down diner amid unhappy lesbians.*

*Rotting food from unidentifiable sources hangs on metal skewers from the ceiling. Some of it might not even be food.*

*The only item in the space that looks somewhat normal and clean is a white fridge sitting just behind the counter.*

*Four people sit at the counter: a small child, CAL, holding a crayon and scribbling on a piece of paper. The other three were fat, morose lesbians who sit, eat, and complain.*

*JENNIS enters in a raggedy and ill-fitting waitress uniform, shouting off stage to the cook, REGIS.*

**JENNIS**

He wouldn't know a Quaqua from a Zebra! *(Stopping in her tracks. Looks at the child.)* What the fuck you doin' in there, you asshole? Get the fuck to school.

**CAL**

I'm not going to fucking school.

**JENNIS**

Yeah, the fuck you are! Pick up those crayons and run, kid.

**CAL**

I'm not going to fucking school.

**JENNIS**

You hear this, Regis? The kids not going to fucking school.

**REGIS**

*(From the kitchen.)* LIKE HELL HE AINT!

*The ground thumps as Regis steps to the window peering from the kitchen to the dining--no--eating area. No dining happens here. She is a large woman. Not even sure if she is human or not. Just a big, bulking, being. She peers at Cal.*

**REGIS**

Put those boots to the ground and get.

*Cal huffs. He picks up his crayons, his bag, and leaves.*

*Jennis and Regis return to their normally scheduled programming.*

*Unbeknownst to them, Cal has reentered the diner via a crawl and now hides under the counter.*

*He pulls out his crayons once again and continues what he had been doing.*

**LESBIAN #1**

Regis, the slop is a little too spicy today.

**LESBIAN #2**

I agree, too spicy.

**LESBIAN #3**

Too much flavor today, Regis.

**REGIS**

*(Shouting from the back.)* It's the same slop you had yesterday. That batch is from last week.

**LESBIAN #1**

It's still too spicy.

**LESBIAN #2**

I agree, too spicy.

**LESBIAN #3**

Too much, Regis.

*The bell hanging over the door rings. RONNIE enters lugging a few large boxes.*

**JENNIS**

Hey, Ronnie. What you've got.

**RONNIE**

I got the blues, I got the reds, I got the greens and blacks, the ones from last week.

*RONNIE thuds the boxes on the counter and starts to pull out creatures from the boxes. Each item looks like a cross between a food item, a sex toy, and a sleep paralysis demon. None of them are particularly appetizing.*

*Jennis smells and inspects each item, placing some back in the boxes and throwing some back to Regis, all of which she catches.*

*Suddenly, she comes upon an item that looks nothing like the others.*

*An apple.*

*Jennis holds it up as if a prized possession. It catches the eye of all the lesbians. Regis pops her head out from the kitchen.*

**RONNIE**

How did that get in there?

*She goes to take it back, Jennis snatches it away.*

*Jennis turns and places it carefully in the white fridge.*

**JENNIS**

Thank you, Ronnie. *(Pause, compose.)* I'll take the reds, the greens, half the blues, half the blacks, and-- REGIS!

**REGIS**

*(Offstage.)* WHAT!

**JENNIS**

YOU KNOW WHAT RONNIE BROUGHT LAST WEEK?

**REGIS**

YEAH

**JENNIS**

YOU WANT THOSE?

**REGIS**

YEAH, FUCK IT.

**LESBIAN #1**

Are you sure, Regis?

**LESBIAN #2**

I agree, are you sure?

**LESBIAN #3**

I wouldn't be so sure, Regis.

**REGIS**

SHUT UP.

**LESBIAN #1**

Last week's won't be any better than this week's, Regis.

**LESBIAN #2**

I agree, no better.

**LESBIAN #3**

You should think more, Regis.

**JENNIS**

*(To Ronnie:)* And throw last week's in there too.

**RONNIE**

Fine. I'll send you an invoice?

**JENNIS**

As always.

*Ronnie gathers her unsold materials and exits.*

*Time passes. It is now night.*

*The Lesbians are sitting at the counter, their heads slumped on the counter in slumber.*

*A green light shines from within the white fridge; a low grumbling and mumbling can be heard. Jennis and Regis emerge from the kitchen and approach the fridge. Jennis carries Cal on her arm.*

*Regis takes Cal and puts him on top of the fridge. He sits cross-legged and closes his eyes. He begins to hum.*

*The Lesbians have now awoken and approach the fridge, however, they have changed shape and now resemble crows more than people.*

*Jennis opens the door of the fridge.*

*Inside: the apple, a carton of milk, a stick of butter, and an egg. Arranged to look like a pyramid with the apple at the top. Each looks fresh and perfect, a far cry from the rest of the substances we have seen thus far.*

*Jennis leads the group in a chant.*

*They chant.*

*They sing.*

*Regis grows wings.*

*Then the ceremony is finished. The food inside the fridge disappears as if sucked away by a cosmic vacuum.*

*Regis's wings disappear, she takes Cal from the fridge and returns to the kitchen.*

*The Lesbians return to the counter and sleep.*

*Jennis tidies up after the ceremony. She closes the fridge, gives it a kiss, then exits to the kitchen.*

## **Scene Two**

*The diner. The next day. The sun shines through the murky layer of filth that has covered the interior of the windows.*

*The Lesbians sit promptly awaiting their slop. Cal sits with his crayons once again.*

*JENNIS comes from the kitchen holding three bowls of slop with bones, feathers, and other phallic symbols sticking out, sliding around in their liquid (?) bases.*

*She slams bowls in front of them and the Lesbians go crazy, devouring their slop.*

**JENNIS**

*(to Cal) What the fuck you doin' in there, you asshole? Get the fuck to school.*

**CAL**

*I'm not going to school.*

**JENNIS**

Yeah, the fuck you are! Pick up those crayons and run, kid.

**CAL**

I'm not going to fucking school.

**JENNIS**

D'You hear this, Regis? The kids not going to fucking school.

**CAL**

You need me here today.

**JENNIS**

Yeah? To do what?

**CAL**

I'm not sure yet.

**JENNIS**

Trust me, they need you at school more than we need you here.

**REGIS**

*(Offstage)* Put those boots to the ground and get, boy!

*Cal, with a huff, begins to gather his things.*

*The bell over the door chimes to everyone's surprise.*

*The HEALTH INSPECTOR enters. They are sharp and refined; a stark contrast to their surroundings. A glimpse into what world exists beyond this grimy "dining" establishment. An intense hush falls over the diner. The grunting noises from the Lesbians turns to a slow and low grumble.*

**JENNIS**

Can I help you?

**HEALTH INSPECTOR**

*(flashing their badge)* I'm from the Department of Health. Can I speak to the owner?

**JENNIS**

That would be me.

**HEALTH INSPECTOR**

We've received some complaints, I'm just here to look around.

**JENNIS**

What kind of complaints?

**HEALTH INSPECTOR**

I'm not at liberty to share that information.

**JENNIS**

Fine. What do you need?

**HEALTH INSPECTOR**

I'm just gonna have a look around. No need to do anything other than the ordinary.

*Jennis nods and slinks back into the kitchen.*

*The inspector carefully puts their things down, takes out a notepad and pen, and begins to walk around.*

**HEALTH INSPECTOR**

*(To the Lesbians)* What is that you're eating?

**LESBIAN #1**

Remove thyself from our space.

**LESBIAN #2**

Unfasten your being from this ground.

**LESBIAN #3**

Withdraw from this expanse.

**HEALTH INSPECTOR**

Alright then.

*They continue to walk through the space, taking notes, doing what I imagine a health inspector would do.*



*From the window to the kitchen, we see Regis and Jennis pop up and down, carefully watching what the inspector is doing, speaking to each other in hushed tones.*

*The bell over the door rings again and RONNIE enters with another box.*

**RONNIE**

JENNIS! Something crazy came in this morning I just had to--

*Ronnie and the Health Inspector lock eyes.*

*Ronnie freezes.*

*Ronnie sprints out of the door.*

**HEALTH INSPECTOR**

*(to themselves) Ok...*

*They move behind the counter and continue their inspection.*

*Cal appears from behind, silently sneaking around, but closely following the movements of the inspector.*

*The inspector moves to the pristine fridge and goes to open it.*

*Jennis launches from the kitchen and guards the fridge, creating a barrier with their body.*

**JENNIS**

What's all this poking around for?

**HEALTH INSPECTOR**

This is just all part of the inspection.

**JENNIS**

We didn't ask for you to come.

**HEALTH INSPECTOR**

But someone did.

**JENNIS**

Haven't you poked around enough.

**HEALTH INSPECTOR**

Apparently not enough.

*They step forward, challenging Jennis.*

*REGIS appears from the kitchen, towering over the inspector. They are unwavering in the presence of Regis's bulk.*

*They step forward again. The Lesbians hiss.*

**HEALTH INSPECTOR**

What is going on here?

**REGIS**

We're just serving grub.

**JENNIS**

We're just serving our customers.

**HEALTH INSPECTOR**

Then what's in the fridge?

*The following happens really quickly:*

*Inspector launches for the fridge.*

*Regis pushes them back.*

*The Lesbians crouch into an attack stance.*

*Jennis throws their body in front of the fridge, creating a human barrier.*

*Cal appears from behind the inspector, jumps on their back, and snaps their neck.*

*The Inspector falls to the ground.*

*Silence falls.*