

Ten Minute Play #2

A short comedy by
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CAST OF CHARACTERS
(2W - 1M)

LAURA + ROBERT

(A young newly married couple)

EMILY

(Ageless - The co-author of a book on etiquette and manners)

SETTING:

The suggestion of a living room, but can be done on an empty stage.

Ten Minute Play #2

*(Standing in their front door
ROBERT and LAURA wave goodbye.)*

LAURA
(Sing song, delighted)

Bye-Bye!

ROBERT
(Sad to see them go)

Come back soon!

*(Whomever they're waving at drives
off. They step in.)*

LAURA
What a lovely couple.

ROBERT
You know the saying, "fish and company stink after three
days." - Not true with them.

LAURA
I can't believe we hosted the author of the number one
selling book on etiquette and manners.

ROBERT
Let's call them right now and invite'em back next year.

LAURA
Great idea.

(ROBERT gets on his cell.)

LAURA
I'll be in the toy-toy. Or as Emily said *(very proper,
imitating their guests)*, "Pardon me while I powder my nose.
Which way is the little girl's room?"

ROBERT
(Very proper)
That way.

LAURA
You are too kind.

(They laugh. LAURA exits to the guest bathroom.)

ROBERT
(Calling off)
Got their answering machine. *(On phone)* Hi! You just left two minutes ago, but we had to call and invite you back. And you're not staying three days. Next time, a week, no, two! Love you both and the book, thanks for signing a copy.

(He hangs up. LAURA staggers in stunned. She's seen something horrible.)

LAURA
(Shell shocked)
Oh my God...

ROBERT
Everything okay?

LAURA
(Breathing heavy)
Oh my God...

ROBERT
Sweetheart, what?

LAURA
They... They...

ROBERT
Who?

LAURA
Them. They left us a... present.

ROBERT
You're kidding. That's so nice.

LAURA
It's in the guest bathroom. They... How do I say this, they forgot to...

(She pantomimes flushing.)

ROBERT

Flush?

LAURA

(Grossed out)

I went in there and there it was, staring back at me.

ROBERT

Oh for God's sake. Let a man take care of this.

LAURA

Flush but don't look.

(ROBERT exits.)

LAURA

(Trying to pull herself together)

Oh my. Oh my.

ROBERT

(O.S. Grossed out of his mind)

Oh! My! God!

LAURA

I said, don't look.

(Robert enters paralyzed by fear.)

ROBERT

How? How? How could one person do all that?

LAURA

Was it my dinner? I thought it was rather light and healthy.

ROBERT

(Amazed)

The length. The breadth.

LAURA

Or was it my Chickpea Soup?

ROBERT

(Trying to understand)

There's only one way this could've happened. She must've gone first. Then he, on top of hers.

LAURA

Oh God no, tell me it wasn't my Chicken Mole Tacos.

ROBERT

(Grossed out)

And they left the seat up. As if they were proud of their accomplishment.

LAURA

This is your fault!

ROBERT

Mine? You're the one is always opening your big mouth. Oh, no, don't stay at a hotel, stay with us. This is why hotels were invented!

LAURA

You were the one who met her in the first place.

ROBERT

Was not. You met her at that book conference in Cleveland.

LAURA

Oh my God. You're right. *(Realization)* And I met her in the... the bathroom. Oh God, what have I brought upon this house?

ROBERT

Do me a favor, next time you meet a etiquette book author at a conference in Cleveland, before you invite her to the house, check the stalls.

LAURA

Let's not start with accusations. I'll just call the plumber.

ROBERT

You can't, after seeing the twin peaks that have taken up residency in our guest bathroom we'd be blacklisted by the plumbing community.

LAURA

(Weak kneed, light headed)

Oh God. Oh God.

ROBERT

What's wrong?

LAURA

(Breathing heavy)

I'm having a flashback. P.T.S.D.

ROBERT

Oh come on you've seen it before, maybe not that much in one place, but you've seen it.

LAURA

No, that's the first time I've looked in over a decade.

ROBERT

You don't look before you flush?

LAURA

Why should I?

ROBERT

There's a lot of information there.

LAURA

(Grossed out)

Oh my God, you look?

ROBERT

It's not like I pull up a chair and study it.

LAURA

What can you possibly gain by looking?

ROBERT

Color and consistency.

LAURA

Oh my God!

ROBERT

You're telling me you don't know your color and consistency?

LAURA

I can't handle this - I married a man who looks.

ROBERT

How do you do it?

LAURA

Like a normal person, I flush while going. I don't think I can ever sleep with you again.

ROBERT

What? Why?

LAURA

Cause they're located right next to each other!

ROBERT

So?

LAURA

It's an imperfection. A design flaw. It's the one thing I've never been able to deal with. That's why I don't believe in God.

ROBERT

What does God have to do with this?

LAURA

If God were a perfect being - he, she, or it wouldn't have design the reproductive organs and waste removal system right next to each other. And they'd look different.

ROBERT

How would they look?

LAURA

Well, yours wouldn't be so ridiculous.

ROBERT

What?

LAURA

You must admit yours does look a little like a first draft. Like God got frustrated and gave up. And intelligent designer would make it look more... More...

ROBERT

More what?

LAURA

Art deco.

ROBERT

Art deco?

LAURA

Or maybe feathers would be nice. You know, form over function?

ROBERT

If you don't mind, I'd like to keep a little functionality.

LAURA

What I mean is "art for art sake."

ROBERT

And how would your's look?

LAURA

Mine would look just like it does only it'd have a convenient zipper.

ROBERT

I don't want to ask but I'm compelled - Where would a perfect being put the waste removal system?

LAURA

It would be where it is, but it would come out differently.

ROBERT

How would it come out?

LAURA

Deer pellets.

ROBERT

What?

LAURA

A perfect God would make them look like cute little deer pellets. Simple, non-assuming.

ROBERT

Let me get this straight, you'd believe in God if we crapped deer pellets?

LAURA

Look how perfect bathrooms would be. No need for toilets, no forgetting to flush.

ROBERT

How would we do it, litter baskets?

LAURA

No. There'd be a little tube and suction system. And it would be hidden behind a secret panel so no one could see it. And these secret panels would be located all over the place. Like in your car or in... in voting booths.

ROBERT

Voting booths?

LAURA

In other words convenient, private locations.

ROBERT

You've obviously given this a great deal of thought.

LAURA

I was five years old, my parents took me to a petting zoo and this little fawn walked up and I thought how beautiful, how perfect. Only a perfect being could've made this creature. And then it pooped. And then I thought, why? Why would God make a deer poop so pretty and ours so... so... nasty. And then I thought, is there an afterlife? Or is it just a dark endless void. Do we dump memory? Are we just flushed and forgot?

ROBERT

You thought this when you were five years old?

LAURA

Yes. At that moment, looking at the pretty deer poop, I promised never to look at mine again.

ROBERT

(Dawning on him)

Wait. Is that why you don't want a dog?

(She shakes her head yes.)

ROBERT

Or a cat?

(She shakes her head yes.)

ROBERT

Or children?

(She shakes her head yes.)

ROBERT

There's only one thing to do. You must confront what it means to be human.

LAURA

What? No.

ROBERT

If we're ever going to have children, you have to go in the guest bathroom and take a good, long, look.

LAURA

God, please no. Don't make me.

ROBERT

Shock therapy is the only answer! Take my hand. Take it!

(He pulls her towards the bathroom.)

LAURA

Please for the love of God!

ROBERT

I will lead you unto enlightenment!

(A door bell. They stop.)

ROBERT

Who could...?

(EMILY enters. She's very proper and, if possible, petite.)

LAURA

Emily?

EMILY

So sorry. I forgot... *(Making something up)* My earrings. I think I left them in the little girl's room. Right back.

(EMILY runs off. A moment later a flush. The pipes groan as the massive load works its way through the conduits. This goes on as long as comedy allows.)

(Finally, EMILY comes back with her earrings.)

EMILY

(Holding up her earrings)

Found them! Alright then. See you next year.

(EMILY starts out, stops.)

EMILY

Oh, and by the way, your Chicken Mole Tacos were simply delightful. Ta-ta.

(She exits. Beat.)

LAURA

(Pulling herself together)

I'll go change the sheets.

ROBERT

And I'll clean out the tube and suction system in the voting booth.

(They exit in opposite directions.)

THE END