

## COVID COMEDY

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By

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

This COVID play is written for five actors, two woman and three men who play others parts. They are dressed in black until they assume a character each of which is defined by an article of clothing or prop of their choice.

**ALFA:** Is the owner of Dumpster Alley Bar & Grill. He is an early middle-aged male who plays one other part:

- 1) **BOUND:** Is a lawyer. He is defined by a leather briefcase, bow tie, top hat.

**BETA:** Is late-middle aged.

**CATHY:** Is early middle-aged. She plays two other parts which are:

- 1) **COOKIE:** Is a drunk patron of Dumpster Alley Bar & Grill. She is middle-aged.
- 2) **RAT #1** Is a rat. She wears no surgical mask because she is a rat.

**DEBRA:** Is a female minister in her late twenties who plays several parts, which are:

- 1) **DOTTIE:** Is a patron of the church next door and of Dumpster Alley Bar & Grill. She is in her early thirties.
- 2) **BAT #1:** Is a bat. She wears no surgical mask because she is a bat.

**GOON:** Is a mobster. He is defined by a trench coat with a machine gun hidden underneath it and an unlit cigar in his mouth and prescription sunglasses. He always wears a surgical mask because he is hiding that he is a rat until he takes it off.

**SET**

This is a single set play. The Dumpster Alley Bar & Grill is a messy dive. On the upstage back wall hangs a large sign which states: "NO POLITICS & NO RELIGION OR ELSE!!! YOUR BELL GETS RUNG!!! The rest of the back wall is covered with bottles of alcohol. The bar which stretches the full length of the stage except for a door to the kitchen, bathroom and alley upstage right. Upstage left there is a door to the bar's entrance which opens onto an inner city street in a large faceless sprawling metropolis. Downstage holds several small tables with red checkered table cloths, a candle, an ashtray and the bell, (which is like a bell used to get service at a cheap hotel), to be punched in the event of political or religious speech in violation of the bar's posted rules. The door, upstage right, opens to the alley where there is dumpster. Mid-stage right, hung from the ceiling is a burlap bag full of rats which occasionally moves as the rats move inside it. Beneath the bar there is a bucket of feed marked "steroids."

**Author's Note on Production**

The crazier the better. The actors change characters and run in and out and thus enhance the humor.

ACT I SCENE 1

ALFA is asleep on the bar with a pillow and alarm clock. BETA knocks on the door, finds it unlocked and then pushes it open and knocks on the wall to wake up ALFA.

ALFA  
(Wakes up and looks at alarm clock.)

We're not open yet!

(Beat)  
Wait. Are you tonight's new Game Warden?

BETA  
(Entering wearing a surgical mask.)  
Is this where Cathy works? I'm in love!  
(Beat)  
Sorry - you require a mask?

ALFA  
(ALFA gets off the bar and hides the pillow and alarm clock.)  
Not in here we don't.

BETA  
(Takes off the mask and takes a seat at the bar.)  
Good. I had to find a place where I could take this damn thing off. I'm wicked claustrophobic after my tick bite.

ALFA  
Tick bite?

BETA  
They put me in a wheel chair and roll me up to look at a fish tank. You believe that?

ALFA  
Where did you go to the Emergency Room? At a pet store?

BETA

...They took me right to this little room for testing and I looked around and said "This room's too small. I'm getting claustrophobic." So they took me to a big room next to the elevator with a fish tank...

ALFA

Sounds like you got rushed to the receptionist.

BETA

Yeah! Tick bites can really mess you up! I was watching the bubbles raising. The fish started staring at me. I got paranoid. They were conspiring against me.

ALFA

You've got that Sushi bar look about you.

BETA

I lost it. I flipped the wheelchair and ran like hell!

ALFA

Well you came to the right place. We self-medicate here. I got an idea. You order a beer and I'll serve you. And if it makes you feel better you can call me doctor.

BETA

Draft and a shot. I just moved in around the corner. I'm going to be a regular. How much?

ALFA

No discount. We need another paranoid claustrophobic. Buck seventy-five no matter where you live. I'll run a tab?

BETA

The door was open.

ALFA

We had a crazy night last night.

BETA

You had looters? Is that why you are sleeping on the bar?

ALFA

No. Worse! Next door I got a church of "feel good - credit card Christians."

BETA

Why you scared of "credit card Christians?"

ALFA

I'm normal.

BETA

I thought they weren't supposed to drink.

ALFA

Unless they are the founders. Two founders. One of them is a lady minister. They both come in here. They figure none of the congregation will find them in here and if one does they just jump up and yell "Gotcha!"

BETA

They have been quarantined for months...?

ALFA

They don't acknowledge the lockdown. It violates their Constitutional freedoms. They're in here all the time.

BETA

The freedom to drink?

ALFA

They got nowhere to hide unless I let them come in.

BETA

You open up for them during the quarantine? That's Christian of you.

ALFA

I have to. We believe in the same God and the Twenty First Amendment.

BETA

What you worried about if you got God and the Constitution?

ALFA

Before the quarantine they'd come in and I would be selling drinks to a big crowd and their mere presence could clean out the place in ten minutes...

BETA

God wasn't on your side before the pandemic?

ALFA

Quarantine makes it worse!

BETA

So you open for them?

ALFA

Yeah. Act of God. They are both big tippers...

BETA

What's the tip on a Virgin Mary?

ALFA

Double vodka with a twist. No olives. No onions. The congregation could smell olives or onions. Twenty-five dollar tip for each round.

BETA

Each round? If the church is closed where do they get the money?

ALFA

Confession! Confession is big money. This America?

BETA

Those churches don't have confession.

ALFA

Are you kidding me? They got drive by. You can text it. They take your credit card when you join. The lady minister says she can't do more than three back-to-back confessions. Made a signature drink for them: The "Born Again": double stolichnaya on the rocks and my tuna salad, chips and sweet pickle. "It'll pick you up and set you straight." And a twenty-five dollar tip for me. Calms everybody right down. Perfect.

BETA

All you need is a fish tank.

ALFA

No, the fish would leave.

CATHY

(CATHY enters from the street and takes off her mask.)

Am I working today?

ALFA

(To CATHY)

Absolutely! New day to see if we get caught!

(To BETA)

This is how we start every day during hunting season.

(To CATHY)

Prop the door open and put out the sign. What do we want to say on the sign?

(Introduces BETA to CATHY)

Oh sorry this is....

(Looks over at BETA to get his name but BETA waves off the chance to give his name.)

BETA

Sorry.

ALFA

(To CATHY)

...This is a nameless paranoid claustrophobic, new to the neighborhood.

(Introducing CATHY to BETA.)

This is the brains of the outfit, our part-time barkeeper who is, by the way - single.

BETA

I know.

ALFA

You single?

BETA

Yes.

ALFA

(To CATHY)

Is this our man?



CATHY

(To ALFA)

Grand re-opening! Put that on the sign. "Grand opening!  
Dumpster Alley Hunting Season: Day Number Two!"

(To BETA)

Free one day hunting license and after your third Singapore  
Sling, a sling shot. Pellet gun after six, your own hand  
gun after dark. Game Warden's rules. That doesn't go on  
the sign.

(To ALFA)

Wheel the dummy out there and put him in the "fatigues."

(Looking over at BETA.)

Yes, he's our man!

ALFA

Done!

(To BETA)

I told you she was the brains of the outfit.

(To CATHY)

Done! The paranoid claustrophobic is our new Game Warden?  
He's running a tab. I'll call the lawyer.

CATHY

(To ALFA)

Tonight we'll get it right.

ALFA

(To CATHY)

Okay then I'm putting the sign out. Show him where the  
"fatigues" and the pistols are. Day number two here we go!

(Pointing at BETA)

Call the lawyer to make it official.

(Exits to put up the sign.)

BETA

So what is this Game Warden thing?

CATHY

You need another beer? I'll show you.

BETA

Sure. And a shot.

CATHY

You are perfect for the job. The dumpster is brimming and  
life is good.

(Puts a fresh beer and a  
shot in front of him.)  
You can help me with the stuff we need outside.  
(Reaches under the bar and  
hands him Game Warden hat.)  
Put it on. You are the "Game Warden". Check the rat bag.  
You ought to feed them breakfast.  
(She points to a burlap bag  
hanging on the wall.)  
There are steroids in the bucket.  
(Points to a bucket below  
the bag of rats.)

BETA  
When was the last time you had an opening day?

CATHY  
Yesterday.

BETA  
What happened to the Game Warden?

CATHY  
Not sure. Hey. Feed the rats.

CATHY exits.

BETA  
  
Inspects the hat and then tries it  
on and takes a long look at the  
rat bag, and then the bucket of  
steroids, looks at the bar and  
drinks from his beer, waits and  
then looks back at the bag and the  
bucket of steroids and then gets  
up and goes over to the bag and  
thinks about poking it.

Anybody in there?

(Beat - the bag moves.)  
You hungry for your steroids?  
(As BETA is about to poke  
the bag CATHY re-enters.)

CATHY  
You better use gloves. They bite through the bag.

BETA

Are they big?

CATHY

Sure. They live in the dumpster. We run them down the alley if the hunting gets slow. You should feed them.

BETA

Where is the alley?

CATHY

Next door. We put up the piece of stockade fence to hide it. It's dramatic. Like a hunting preserve with a stockade fence! You enter through the kitchen, past the dumpster up the alley. The lawn chairs backed up to stockade fence. Light turned on over the dumpster. The chairs in the dark. They ring the bell and I serve drinks on a tray.

BETA

Can I see?

CATHY

Sure, you're the Game Warden. Put on your hat.

BETA

Who the hell are your regulars?

CATHY

Everybody. We got rules though. "No talking politics or religion." I'm taking an online class on passive aggression and as Game Warden, you've got to enforce that.

BETA

Doesn't the church come in here?

CATHY

So? Imagine a "passive aggressive confessional." Doesn't happen. One has to be direct and the other has to listen!

BETA

I meant "religion." Don't they talk religion when they are in here?

CATHY

No, it is strictly enforced. "No talking politics! No religion!" See the little bells on the tables. Somebody rings the bell. You as Game Warden must enforce it.

BETA

I'm not crazy! Enforce the rule against double stoli drinking-slopped up-born again christians?

CATHY

They just count the money. Try this stuff on. Everybody has to wear a safety hat and glasses.

BETA starts trying on fatigues,  
glasses and safety hats as the  
conversation continues.

BETA

Everybody?

CATHY

Yeah. Everybody. It ain't legal. We advertise it as the truth and nobody believes it. It is sorta like if you walk around naked nobody looks. We sell masks with a straw hole. We sell them on the street. Nobody's going to drink with a straw hole in a mask.

BETA

So if the cops come this is just a bar serving drinks and shooting rats in a dumpster behind a stockade fence blocking off an alley next door and I'm the Game Warden?

CATHY

I know what you are thinking.

BETA

It's not good...

CATHY

Well it is all pretty much sling shots until the sun goes down and then the pellet guns don't make much noise and by the time we bring the handguns out it is dark and the cops don't bother you.

BETA

I should have known.

CATHY

Don't feel bad. It's your first day on the job.

BETA

As Game Warden? I didn't volunteer for this.

CATHY

Yeah. Well. We pay "over" the counter... in beer. We are legit.

(They both laugh.)

You think I'm kidding? Wait 'til our lawyer shows up.

BETA

Your lawyer?

BOUND (ALFA)

(Enters through the door,  
the lawyer. He puts his  
top hat on the bar, his  
brief case on the bar and  
takes a seat.)

Vodka martini up. Twist. Shaken but not stirred.

CATHY

(To BETA)

This is our lawyer. James Bound.

BETA

You also do estates and trusts?

BOUND

We litigate the first Amendment.

(He hands BETA his card.)

BETA

(BETA reads the card.)

Bound & Gagged?

BOUND

I prefer champagne but I have to order martinis because of my name.

BETA

You also do estates and trusts though?

BOUND

Okay. I will admit that, now.

BETA

Why did you lie about estates and trusts?

BOUND

I was withholding information.

BETA

Why?

BOUND

We hadn't been introduced.

BETA

Yes we had.

CATHY

(TO BETA)

He's a passive aggressive litigator. That's why we chose him. I asked him if he litigated Constitutional "Freedom of Choice" cases. Trick question. He's real smart. I didn't fool him. That's Burger King.

BETA

Are you a passive aggressive litigator?

BOUND

What makes you think that?

CATHY

(To BETA)

Don't attack! You want me to teach you how to handle this?

BETA

He's your lawyer!

CATHY

Don't you understand he is negotiating with you.

BETA

Are you negotiating with me?

BOUND

What makes you think that?

BETA

This is starting to piss me off.

CATHY

He wants that.

BETA

Why does he want that?

CATHY

He is here to negotiate your contract.

BETA

I can quit anytime I want.

CATHY

He is delaying until you use the men's room.

BETA

(To BOUND)

Is that what you are doing?

BOUND

What makes you think that?

BETA

Must be exercising my "Freedom of Choice!"

CATHY

(To BETA)

I told you not to take him head on! You've got to be more passive aggressive than he is.

BETA

(To CATHY)

Like don't make eye contact, don't say anything and just get up and go to the bathroom.

(To BOUND)

Is that what you want?

BOUND

Do you have to go to the bathroom?

BETA

What makes you think that?

BOUND

Deductive reasoning but it is only hearsay if the "truth of the matter asserted" is "you went to the bathroom and actually peed."

BETA

It is important to you as an officer of the court that I peed?

BOUND

Yes.

CATHY

Nice! You broke him.

BOUND

Now wait a minute! This may have broken my passive aggressive cross examination that is so smooth you didn't even know it was happening but I am - in all honesty - still being devious.

BETA

Yes, I actually have to go to the bathroom! I have had two beers and two shots. I'm not looking you in the eyes, not saying anything more to you and yes I am now going to the bathroom and I will have peed when I return...

BOUND

Good! An admission! One last question... which you don't have to answer. Are you running a tab?

BETA

Yes, I am running a tab!

(To CATHY)

But don't let him buy me a drink because I am not his friend and I think I hate him.

CATHY

Good. He wants that!

BOUND

Confirmed! I am a lawyer and I like that you may hate me. But just to confirm you are admitting that you have to go to the bathroom and you will pee in said bathroom?



BETA

(Growing madder)

You can come into the men's room and watch if you want!

BOUND

No! I don't want to be a witness! I would have to cross examine myself - which you can't do if I remain passive aggressive!

(BETA exits to go to the  
bathroom and as soon as he  
does BOUND turns to CATHY.)

Hand me his tab. But before you do put another beer and shot on it and put them on the bar.. So tonight we got the right guy?

CATHY puts the drinks on the bar  
and marks them on the tab and  
hands the tab over to BOUND.

CATHY

I think so.

BOUND

You want me to research him?

CATHY

He won't give you his name but I know I recognize him.

BOUND

From the retirement home?

GOON

(Enters wearing a mask and  
looks around. He is a thug  
in a rain coat hiding a  
machine gun.)

You got any unusual, suspicious looking people recently come in here?

BOUND

(Beat)

Other than you, no. But I just got here.

CATHY

There is a guy who went to the men's room.

GOON

(Beat)

So, what's "unusual" about that?

BOUND

He said I could watch.

GOON

Was he talking about a tick bite?

CATHY

Yeah.

GOON

(To CATHY)

Did you recognize him from the retirement home?

CATHY

I don't know. How did you know that?

GOON

I asked you a straight question!

BOUND

(To GOON)

Hold on buddy!

(To CATHY)

Want me to get passive aggressive with him?

CATHY

(To GOON)

How do you know that?

GOON

You shooting rats again tonight?

CATHY

How'd you know that?

GOON

Opening day. The sign out front. I'm coming back here tonight but I'll be undercover and in disguise. You can recognize me because I'll be wearing my prescription sunglasses and be smoking this cigar inconspicuously through the surgical mask with a hole in it...

which I bought outside. Do the Singapore slings have to be back to back?

CATHY

I serve them in glasses side by side... I can do shots.

GOON

(To BOUND)

Vaccinate?

CATHY

Vaccinate? You can snort it through the swizzle stick if you must.

GOON

Second question. Do I look like a para-military right wing assassin?

BOUND

Gee... What makes you think that?

GOON

I might be but I might be in a disguise. Whats if you can't tell if I'm in disguise later so you won't know. Don't tell the guy in the bathroom that I was looking for him or I'll have to kill you. I'm coming back later.

GOON exits

BOUND

You think he knows the guy in the bathroom?

CATHY

I'm getting more convinced of that. A lot of people got pissed off at the retirement home. I couldn't say for sure. That guy had tested positive and he had a face mask on. They threw him out. I think he had been looking at the fish tank.

BOUND

So you want me to seal the deal for him?

CATHY

Yeah. Tonight we got the right guy. It will et done tonight. Sign him up. He's the guy.

BETA re-enters from the men's room  
zipping up his fly.

BETA  
(Noticing the new drinks on  
the bar.)  
More payment for my services?

BOUND  
You can't quit now.

BETA  
I can quit anytime I want!

BOUND  
(Shows him the bar tab.)  
I've got your bar tab.

BETA  
So what?  
(BOUND rips the bar tab in  
half.)  
Hey!

BOUND  
We paid you in beer...

BETA  
So what?

BOUND  
You want to quit? Give it back.

BETA  
I can't give it back I just went to the bathroom!

BOUND  
That was up to you - wasn't it? Anybody force you?

BETA  
This is clearly bathroom entrapment!

BOUND  
No! You could have peed on the floor! But that doesn't  
matter because you can't return the beer!

BETA

What?

BOUND

Welcome. Just drink up and put on your hat and uniform.

BETA

Is that legal?

BOUND

Trust me.

BETA

I thought we were talking law not religion!

CATHY

(Rings the bell on the bar.)

No! No! No!

BOUND

Why would you say that? When a lawyer says "trust me" that's not religion. It might even be blasphemy.

BETA

Is that legal?

BOUND

Trust me.

BETA

No! I understand the logic. You're a lawyer...

BOUND

Why would you say that?

BETA

I'll prove it to you but you will be scared for life and... once you understand this it evolves. It is like the Garden of Eden. Once you see it and understand it you can't unsee it and it gets worse and worse. God's gift to man is self-delusion...

BOUND

You're not a lawyer are you?

BETA

First we are speaking a new language for our new reality.  
If you say "Why would you say that" it really means "No."  
And if you say or do anything else it means "Yes."

BOUND

I don't understand.

BETA

It's easy. You just said "yes".

BOUND

Why would you say that?

BETA

See? You just said "no." You appear to have a gift for  
languages - so shut up and I will prove it to you. You are  
the lawyer for this bar.

(BOUND shrugs)

Okay this is a yes. And you just employed me to be an  
employee, to be the "Game Warden," for an opening day - day  
two - rat dumpster hunt.

(BOUND shrugs)

Okay some languages have overlapping words - you just  
agreed in two languages.

(Beat)

So you represent the bar and I'm employed by the bar to  
work for the bar and so...

(He picks up BOUND's bar tab  
and rips it up.)

Now you are representing me!

BOUND

That doesn't make any sense -

BETA

Perfect! Yes? And yes it doesn't make any sense but it  
gets worse now you understand... "Trust me!"

BOUND

(Rings the bell.)

No!

BETA

Yes? Good. We are communicating so well! Okay let's go  
look at the alley.

I'm going to tell you some stuff you can't tell anybody.  
Now it is all "Attorney Client Privileged Communication"! Agreed?

First BETA stands and heads toward  
the alley door and then BOUND  
follows holding his martini glass  
as he grabs his top hat and  
briefcase as they exit.

BOUND

Why would you say that?

(Both exit)

CATHY

After they exit CATHY picks up her  
phone and feverishly starts to put  
in numbers, CATHY lets the phone  
ring and then speaks into it.  
DEBRA enters from the outside -  
stage left. She is dressed like a  
minister. She stands and waits  
for CATHY to get off the phone.

CATHY

(On her phone.)

Hey, did you send that goon in here?

(Beat)

Are you trying to scare me? Of course I want more  
information.

(Beat)

What do you mean? Call this number? Who is it?

(beat)

Okay! Okay! I'll call the number. What is it again? You  
bet I'm scared! Why do you think he's in on this again  
tought?

CATHY hangs up and begins to dial  
a phone and then puts it up to her  
ear as DEBRA is surprised to hear  
her phone ring.

DEBRA

Hello?

CATHY  
Hello?

DEBRA  
Who is this?

CATHY  
Who is this?

DEBRA  
Hello? Hello?  
(She looks at CATHY and  
abruptly hangs up.)

CATHY  
Hello? Hello?  
(The phone goes dead in her  
hand.)  
Son of a bitch! Hello? Hello?

DEBRA  
(Putting her phone in her  
pocket hastily and looks at  
CATHY)  
Hello? Excuse me?

CATHY  
(Hangs up her phone and  
looks at DEBRA.)  
Sorry. Double vodka with a twist?

DEBRA  
Absolutely! You cannot believe what people confess to!  
Today was the worst and I have to go back in fifteen  
minutes and start all over again.

CATHY  
(Making the drinks)  
Are you allowed to talk about it?

DEBRA  
No! Absolutely not!...  
(Beat)  
Not unless you are my mother confessor... So three back  
to backs!



This goon comes in and he is wearing a trench coat with - I swear to God this is true - And I mean that is saying something given my line of work - but the guy had a machine gun under his coat.

CATHY

How long ago?

DEBRA

Like an hour ago. But listen, the next two people talked about the same death but they told completely different stories. And I swear to... You see that is my real problem - I was scared to say: "Swear to god because this is so screwed up I don't believe there are such a thing as "true facts" or, or, or there even is a god.

CATHY

Wow!... You want a triple?

DEBRA

I need "a Born Again" with chips because ...I swear I think the goon was outside the booth and holding the machine gun on them! The next two people came in with different "true facts" for their confessional not only were they different but -

CATHY

Jesus! You do need "a Born Again!" The goon confessed first?

DEBRA

Yes.

CATHY

And then held a gun on the other two and they talked about the same -

DEBRA

The same deaths -

CATHY

- The same deaths but with different facts?

DEBRA

I came over here right after the last one left because they said they were coming in here for opening day - day two - tonight or maybe even earlier.

CATHY

Which death?

DEBRA

...I'm not sure I can talk about that. It is a confession to God after all. I think it is about revenge!

CATHY

Wait a minute! First, they all got different "true facts" so God isn't getting the straight story so you're not giving up anything and second, it's okay, you said you don't believe in God anymore...

DEBRA

Yeah. I may have to hedge my bet on that... I need this job. Why do you think I came over here? That may not be a "true fact?" Don't quote me. I may be looking for a second opinion on that.

CATHY

I know a lawyer but he is in the alley.

DEBRA

If there is a God I'm pretty sure he doesn't want a second opinion from a lawyer.

CATHY

Okay. Okay but is the death a murder or anything like that?

DEBRA

I'm not sure I can talk about that... maybe I do need a lawyer... but it's sort of like pleading the 5th at confession?

CATHY

Relax. He's a passive aggressive litigator. Even God won't know what he is talking about. He'll forgive you on that.

And the third thing, there was one guy earlier in here that argued - in my mind pretty persuasively - that: "That doesn't make any sense - but it gets worse now you understand..."

DEBRA

Really? That's what he said?

CATHY

Absolutely! And... he wasn't even talking about this.

DEBRA

"True fact?"

CATHY

Absolutely! And he says it gets worse now you understand.

DEBRA

I definitely can't talk about this anymore.

(beat)

You know anybody who died recently?

CATHY

Murdered?

DEBRA

Somebody without a mask gave them the virus in an old age home.

CATHY

Murder?

DEBRA

I think they called it negligent homicide? For not wearing a mask?

CATHY

You'd have to ask the lawyer on that.

DEBRA

...So everybody dead of this thing is an unsolved murder? It sounds like this is about revenge?

CATHY

In the confession? Could they see you?

DEBRA

Why?... I'm not going to admit to that. ...No!

CATHY

Could you see them?

DEBRA

They were wearing masks.

ALFA

(Entering from the alley  
door.)

We may be low on rats. The new Game Warden and the lawyer  
are out there kicking the dumpster to get the rats revved  
up but we may have to stock it from the bag.

(He points at the bag of  
rats on the wall.)

CATHY

You know why?

ALFA

Why?

CATHY

You didn't take the garbage out again last night.

ALFA

Damn, I fell asleep!

CATHY

I'll do it! This is not fair to the rats! Did you feed  
the rats in the bag? Remember "rats have rights"! Don't  
we share the planet with them? Don't they have little  
babies? You don't think they have feelings too? For  
Christ's sake! Sorry.

(CATHY rings the bell exits  
with the trash.)

ALFA

(To CATHY after she exits.)

Who the hell rings the bell and then leaves?

DEBRA

Man that bell could be the end of my business.

ALFA

You left a tip yet?

DEBRA

(Reaching into her pocket.)

No, but I will... I'm sorry that is not very charitable. Its like that guy said. Once you get it you can't forget it. I'm having a revelation! Rates deserve credit cards!

ALFA

Absolutely! I was just over at your ministry drumming up a little business and it worked. Your founder said it's been pretty busy. He's over there on his knees. Somebody paid a thousand dollars at confession. Good news for the ministry! They are starting a new religion! That is blasphemy and that sure as hell is worth a thousand, a couple of Stolis up and a hell of a tip when he comes over. Right? Right? He's coming over for a drink.

COOKIE (CATHY)

Enters from the alley. She is  
hung over, and goes right to the  
bar and looks for the bartender.

There are two assholes in the alley. The guy who won't admit to being a lawyer, but at least does answer to "Asshole" - He even seems to like it. He woke me up in the lawn chair. I mean great hunting last night! Great! I need six Singapore Slings and a sling shot. And I mean need!

ALFA

(Goes behind the bar)

You want that as a shot?

COOKIE

I'm looking for a drink. You are taking this "call me doctor" shit too far! The other guy out there said you were buying a fish tank? Pretty soon this place is going to have no class at all!

ALFA

Gold fish chasers.

COOKIE

Gold fish chasers? What are you looking for? One star at a biker bar.

ALFA

(Making the Singapore slings  
behind the bar.)

Okay, six Singapore Slings on the rocks. Six highball glasses gin, cherry liquor, cointreau, benedictine, grenadine, pineapple juice, lime juice, angostura, bitters and a maraschino cherry. There's a lot of stuff in this. You want the fruit on the side?

COOKIE

That would be quite nice. I did a good job last night! Didn't I? How about the fruit in a chilled martini glass? I'm a tiny bit thirsty so the sooner the better. I did a good job last night?

ALFA

You want the gin from a fire hose?

COOKIE

That would avoid the plastic.

ALFA

With the fruit on the side it's breakfast. What's missing? Protein? For a dollar more imagine a gold fish chaser.

COOKIE

I just don't want the place to lose its character. I particularly love this place because after dinner you get a handgun.

ALFA

You want me to call this dinner? Yesterday when you came in here you said you didn't drink.

COOKIE

That was before I was a Game Warden.

ALFA

That Q & A after the hunt was intense.

COOKIE

I don't remember any of that. I was suppose to be confessing to something?

ALFA

I didn't realize you were left out there in the alley when we turned the lights out last night.

COOKIE

No problem! Hey, the perks keep on coming. After a long night of hunting I also got room and board and a free ride to church.

(frisking herself)

I must have left the hand gun at confession this morning after that goon woke me up and took me to church.

DEBRA

You were at confession this morning?

COOKIE

Don't tell anybody what I said or you will be hit by lightening or that goon will wake you up tomorrow and take you to confession and you can't be on both sides of that booth and talking to yourself or you will be sitting right here next to me tomorrow morning having your fruit separate for dinner!

DEBRA

From your lips to God's ears.

COOKIE

Or lightening baby! It is in the Old Testament somewhere... like a couple of places.

ALFA

(ALFA rings the bell.)

You got lucky, no Game Warden to enforce it.

Serving the drink to COOKIE. He puts a martini glass full of the fruit up on the bar and a bottle of gin with a straw in it.

COOKIE

Hey what happened to my mask with the straw hole in it?

ALFA

I'll give you a refund. The drinks this morning are free.

COOKIE

Last night that lawyer tore up my tab.

ALFA

You're getting an old Game Warden discount.

COOKIE

(to DEBRA)

So has that new Game Warden talked to Cathy yet?

DEBRA

I don't know.

COOKIE

That's right. "From my lips to God's ears."

(Turn to ALFA)

So does Cathy remember that guy?

ALFA

I've got to go and not sell face masks outside. If we've got people coming over from the church I've got to keep the cops out.

(ALFA exits)

DEBRA

(To COOKIE)

He's not going to answer you.

COOKIE

He knows more than he's telling - Looks like to me.

DEBRA

Could be.

COOKIE

You holding back?

DEBRA

I have to.

COOKIE

Because you know more than you're telling?



DEBRA

It is starting to add up.

COOKIE

Did they pick the wrong person for Game Warden last night?

DEBRA

You mean you?

COOKIE

Yeah.

DEBRA

Yeah, maybe they got the right one now.

COOKIE

From what I told you?

DEBRA

Was that goon holding a gun on you?

COOKIE

He took me over there to confession and told me what to say.

DEBRA

Was what you told me true?

COOKIE

I guess so. He told me to say it.

DEBRA

Which part did he tell you to say?

COOKIE

All the good parts.

DEBRA

There were a lot of good parts.

COOKIE

I can't tell you that.

DEBRA

Why?

COOKIE

I was confessing to God.

DEBRA

You were confessing to me! Did you commit that crime?

COOKIE

If I confessed to a crime that was to God and the rest was to you. What part of my confession was a crime?

DEBRA

The goon said he was coming here to meet you?

COOKIE

With the other persons, yeah.

DEBRA

Why?

COOKIE

If I knew I wouldn't be meeting with him.

DEBRA

Who chose you to be Game Warden last night?

COOKIE

Cathy. The bartender.

DEBRA

Did you know her before?

COOKIE

Yeah. We both were working at that retirement home before we both quit.

DEBRA

Did you see a guy looking in a fish tank?

COOKIE

This morning the goon told me I did.

DEBRA

But did you?

COOKIE

Would that be a crime?

Goon enters wearing a surgical mask with a cigar jutting from the hole in it, dark glasses and machine gun under his coat.

DEBRA

(To Goon)

How did you get past the owner at the front door.

GOON

I bought another mask with a hole in it for my cigar and the owner out there told me the password.

DEBRA

I didn't know the password.

GOON

Hold it right there! I might have to kill you but you work at the church?

DEBRA

(To COOKIE)

Did you know the password?

COOKIE

I was here last night. I get old Game Warden privileges and a discount.

DEBRA

How did you get in last night?

COOKIE

Cathy told me to buy the face mask and meet her here.

GOON

(To COOKIE)

Well Goddamn, it's not secret anymore!

COOKIE

It is still secret! We have to buy the face mask at the front door or you can't get in! If you don't buy it you can't get in. Once a Game Warden, always a Game Warden, damn it.

DEBRA

That doesn't make any sense.

COOKIE

Yeah, the new Game Warden said nothing makes any sense if you really look at it. Self delusion is a wonderful thing. I'm a convert and I think I love it!

GOON

It makes sense to the outside world. If you buy a face mask you are complying with the law to get in so the cops will leave this place alone. It is safe! Don't you get it? It is safe in here!

DEBRA

So it only doesn't make sense on the inside?

GOON

How can it make no sense to someone taking confessions?

COOKIE

(To GOON)

If it doesn't make sense, why did you take me to confess?

DEBRA

Wait a minute! Does everybody know it's me?

COOKIE

If it doesn't make sense what I confess - wait a minute!  
If I just pray, why do I need a confessional?

DEBRA

That's blasphemy! That's a sin! I'm going back to work!

DEBRA exits and confronts them as  
she leaves.)

I refuse to be confused!

(Slams the door behind her.)

COOKIE

Are the other people coming?

GOON

Yeah.

COOKIE

What happened last night?

GOON

They got the wrong person. They thought it was you.

COOKIE

I didn't kill all those old women who died at the old age home!

GOON

Yeah. They thought you did.

COOKIE

I was wearing a mask!

GOON

Cathy saw you take it off one time.

COOKIE

I was washing my hands.

GOON

Based on what you said when you were Game Warden it couldn't be you.

COOKIE

Cathy is doing all this?

GOON

I don't know. I'm just following instructions.

COOKIE

Who told you that?

DOTTIE (DEBRA)

Enters with a Tootsie Roll Pop stick protruding out of the hole in her mask. She pulls the tootsie roll pop out of her mask and takes off her mask and addresses GOON.)

Where's the money? Why do I have to buy this and come in here to get my money?

GOON

Further instructions.

DOTTIE

I testified at the church!

GOON

Now you've got to testify at the trial.

DOTTIE

The trial? There's going to be a trial? Of who?

GOON

The guy you took to the fish tank.

DOTTIE

Why did I have to confess to that?

GOON

They need the cooperating testimony of a priest.

DOTTIE

The priest won't testify.

GOON

I'll handle that.

COOKIE

Wait! Was I on trial last night?

GOON

Always the Game Warden.

COOKIE

...For killing those old woman?

GOON

You got tested before you took the mask off to wash your hands. You said so. They believed you.

COOKIE

So you left me passed out in the lawn chair all night?

GOON

Could have been worse.

COOKIE

If I had been found guilty?

GOON

The pick up is tomorrow.

COOKIE

The dumpster?

GOON

Justice delayed is justice denied.

COOKIE

And the priest?

GOON

Everyone is guilty in the eyes of the lord!

(COOKIE rings the bell.)

Okay but her day job is confession and last rights.

COOKIE

I couldn't have confessed!

GOON

Then you're on your own.

COOKIE

None of this makes sense!

DOTTIE

...And yes it doesn't make sense after a while anyway...  
Does it? Somehow I can't wait. I find that comforting  
somehow.

(GOON rings the bell.)

Well I do! Where do you find your inner peace?

GOON

I am agnostic but I follow rules.

COOKIE

The rules don't make sense. You just believe them and they  
become your four walls and your roof. Could you fix an  
airplane? Do you know how it works? But you buy a ticket  
and fly through the sky. You go to a restaurant and they  
hide the kitchen but you eat the food? How does your  
phone, T.V., medication work? Everyday, every minute of  
every day you live safe in your imagined, totally trusted  
world. The newspapers? The media? The Constitution?

The Courts? I didn't know I was on trial! And I trusted you all and I was inches from a date with a dumpster?

DOTTIE

So we testify against the new Game Warden tonight?

GOON

Just point him out. Identify him. You took him to the fish tank?

DOTTIE

The priest will be there?

COOKIE

Just like last night? Holy cow!

GOON

(Rings the bell)

Please! I'm also vegan!

COOKIE

If you are agnostic why do you care?

GOON

I did it for the cow.

DOTTIE

Who is the judge?

GOON

The bartender, Cathy or whoever is giving her orders.

COOKIE

Oh my...

(Looks at the bell)

Goodness - just like last night? First the drinking and the dumpster hunt. The owner won't let anybody else in before the trial starts? Nobody wants to drink alcohol through a mask - strictly enforced? No one comes in?

GOON

It was the other lawyer's idea - named it in honor of him - "A Gag Order." Right there on the sign and the bouncer selling the masks! Brilliant! Just plain brilliant! That's a legal education for you!



DOTTIE

I was just the receptionist. I can point to identify him as the guy at the fish tank but I don't know his name.

COOKIE

That's pathetic! Your only job as a receptionist is to know the name when they check in!

DOTTIE

Who cares if I don't know their name. Not when everyone is "social distancing" or to be precise "anti-social" distancing and is wearing masks.

GOON

I figured that out. We're going to have a birthday party for him.

COOKIE

How you gonna sing "Happy Birthday" when you don't even know his name?

GOON

It's just like every birthday party. That's how you find out.

(Starts singing)

"Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday dear..." Then you just stare at them until they say their names.

DOTTIE

Yes. Everybody always says their name if you wait long enough.

COOKIE

What if it's not his birthday?

GOON

Tell me one time you have ever witnessed or ever heard "Happy Birthday" being interrupted by somebody denying that it is their birthday... maybe, after the cake?

COOKIE

Yeah. It worked last night and you people knew my name! It wasn't my birthday and I filled in anyway.

GOON

...And when you deny it's your birthday you correct and give the right date. Proper identification is essential in a murder trial.

COOKIE

Cathy figured this whole plan out?

DOTTIE

No! I consider her a good friend - We have worked together for many years - and I can tell you she's too stupid.

COOKIE

That's supposed to make me feel better?

GOON

Yeah, she may be the judge - but she's the "the brains of the outfit." Besides the lawyer got you off.

COOKIE

The guy I called "asshole" this morning was my lawyer?

GOON

Yeah. You cut up your driver's license and he took your case. No conflict. He does First Amendment "flag burning" cases and that's close enough.

COOKIE

But he's the lawyer for the bar?

GOON

That's how you tell he is a lawyer. He'll give you all this "shaken but not stirred" crap but all he wants to hear is him bragging about him being in court.

DOTTIE

I'm scared!

GOON

Don't be. It is exciting! I don't get invited to birthday parties unless they are serious and the dumpster gets picked up promptly. Come on, get out of here. I hear somebody coming from the alley.

All three exit as BETA and BOUND  
enter from upstage door to  
bathroom and alley.

BOUND

...I know every bathroom in every state and federal court  
in this state.

BETA

I always hear lawyers bragging about "it's more important  
to know the judge than to know the law" but I've never  
heard anybody say...

BOUND

See what I mean? If you are in court everyday - as I am -  
It doesn't matter if you know the judge and the law when  
you're in a trial in a state or federal court in this state  
if you need to go to the bathroom. No judge or jury or the  
law will forgive you if you go anywhere else. You gotta  
know your way around the courthouse! Okay. I decided.  
I'll take your case... because it is interesting. They've  
got the wrong man! You're in good hands now. Matter of  
fact only last night - so how did you become the Game  
Warden?

BETA

(confused)

You ripped up my bar tab.

BOUND

I mean before you became the Game Warden?

BETA

Is this more passive aggressive stuff?

BOUND

The facts. The facts. I only want the facts. What made  
you think I didn't?

BETA

Maybe I shouldn't hire you? I need you to help me with  
estates and trusts. I want to give away a million dollars.

BOUND

Really?... Really?... Really! I just remembered...I do  
estates and trusts!

BETA

(Beat)

Is it expensive?

BOUND

Very! ...But trust me you don't know how much you need me.

BETA

(They both look at each  
other and then at the  
bell.)

It's that "trust" thing again.

BOUND

You don't ring it, I won't.

BETA

Deal!

BOUND

So this Game Warden stuff comes from you wanting to give  
away one million dollars?

BETA

...And get married.

BOUND

...And get married? ...And be a Game Warden?

BETA

That's just one night.

BOUND

As your lawyer and exercising my most prudent,  
perspicacious and perfect logic - no matter how you look at  
it. Yes, it's just for one night.

BETA

Can you marry me too?

BOUND

Well... You are getting further and further from First  
Amendment litigation... but will it be a big wedding?

BETA

(Beat)

Yes.

BOUND

You have no idea how much you need me! I will need a very large retainer.

BETA

For a wedding?

BOUND

The law of matrimony is untested for lawyers as ministers.

BETA

Malpractice?

BOUND

Could depend on who you marry and whether you ask me if you should.

BETA

Good because I thought we were covering old ground with the...

(BOUND nods at BETA AND BETA  
nods back and they both  
look at the bell.)

...Just don't ask me to trust you.

BOUND

(Beat)

Never! I won't. Thank you... I feel better. Don't trust me! If you don't ask me to trust you that should end the malpractice issue

BETA

I want to give the bartender a million dollars.

BOUND

For only pennies more - I am a mixologist. I offer a marriage discount. This whole thing could be a package deal.

BETA

And I want to marry her.

BOUND

I won't buy you a drink... I don't want you to buy me one... But... incidentally I also get paid above the table... but with cash or credit card.

BETA

Would it be less expensive if I just got the priest to do it?

BOUND

She is scheduled to give you last rights! You want her before the wedding?

BETA

For the wedding. Not before the wedding.

BOUND

You want some free advice?

BETA

I thought the ethics of your profession prohibited that.

BOUND

Not if you don't trust me! You want some free advice?

BETA

That would be a first.

BOUND

Legally I must advise you that the law prohibits you from getting married after being pronounced dead.

GOON charges onto the stage, rips off his mask and reveals that he is a rat and starts firing at BOUND and BETA and apparently kills them both.

RAT #1

(Enters without a mask from the door to the alley behind the bar.)

What the hell is this?

GOON

The guy was going to get off! Again!

RAT #1

What the hell did you just do?

GOON

The dumpster's going out tomorrow!

RAT #1

The damn bats can pull this off world wide and we keep screwing it up? This has been carefully orchestrated! What is the matter with you?

GOON

Human beings keep screwing it up!

RAT #1

The police have to find a pandemic related murder in the dumpster!

GOON

Yeah! That's what I'm saying. But we gotta think "outside the box!"

RAT #1

(GOON and RAT #1 pick up  
BOUND by his head and feet  
and start to drag him off  
to the dumpster.)

What does that mean? Why can't you follow directions? This is my fault. You are overeducated.

GOON

You get what you pay for.

RAT #1

What? A dumpster at a prep school?

GOON

That's the only way I could get into a dumpster at medical school.

RAT #1

You were supposed to "infiltrate" not "graduate!"

GOON

But I loved my liberal arts education.

RAT #1

English literature pass fail? I'm amazed that you found a box to think outside of...

GOON

"First, we'll kill all the lawyers." This is how you start a revolution! And I just got me one! And...

(Points to bag of rats.)

I got our flea bag, didn't I?

RAT #1

Bubonic plague "2.0" but we are six months late. This was supposed to all be coordinated, remember?

GOON

That's why we got to do this now! Let's kick this into high gear!

(He slaps the rat bag and it  
explodes into action and  
the rats inside start  
jumping around.)

RAT #1

This is an embarrassment. Six months in the stupidest county in the world. Four percent of the world's population and 20% of all the infection and we can't find one revenge murder! I hate it when the bats get all the credit.

GOON

"Glory Days?" Don't put it all on me. That's the trouble with rats! We are not closers. People are. I learned that!

RAT #1

There you go again. We are six months late on this thing! All you learn with "higher education" is how to not follow directions and to get extensions.

GOON

Us rats almost had them four hundred years ago but we didn't finish them off. You want "Glory Days" or you want to do this thing?



RAT #1

That was our assignment over six months ago! Come on! We get both of them in the dumpster and get the flea bag in there quick. You really screwed this up! We were going to save the world and the rats screw up?

They drag BOUND off the stage into the alley and exit and the rats go wild in the bag.

DEBRA

(Enters and sees BETA on the floor and screams.)

You can't be dead! I need a drink!

(The rats go wild in the bag and DEBRA stares at the bag.)

Ahh, shut the hell up! You sound like my morning but you don't have a credit card!

ALFA

(Rushes in and sees BETA on the floor.)

How many Singapore slings did that take?

DEBRA

I found him dead on the floor!

ALFA

Sure! Too much pressure? You've got to mix it up. Do some baptisms!

DEBRA

I'm a specialist.

ALFA

Well you double fucked up. Now you got to do last rights and confess to yourself.

DEBRA

I can't do that.

ALFA

You killed my Game Warden! At least leave a tip.

DEBRA

You think this is new business? Why would I shoot your Game Warden? I do confessions! Too late! Dead people can't confess! Game's over! It's your place! You do the last rights. I'm outta here!

ALFA

At least close his eyes.

DEBRA

You close his eyes!

ALFA

Why do people do that?

DEBRA

I'm supposed to know that? I doesn't make sense. Oh my God now I'm quoting a dead man! Maybe people don't like dead people looking at them!

ALFA

There is a loud bang outside in  
the alley and the dumpster lid  
gets slammed shut.

There is somebody out in the dumpster!

DEBRA

You better hide the Game Warden!

ALFA

What will we do without the rule of law?

DEBRA

Who cares! It's a dead end job!

ALFA

We better do something quick!

DEBRA

Put him on the bar!

ALFA

I sleep there! Help me drag him behind the door!  
(They drag him behind the  
bar and DEBRA grabs a  
bottle of liquor off the  
shelf from behind the bar.)

DEBRA

I'm outta here! I don't need this place. I've just had a  
religious awakening! I love my work. I can drink on the  
job. That was disgusting!

(She exits with the bottle  
as she hears GOON enter  
from the alley.)

GOON

(Enters and is surprised to  
find ALFA and nobody lying  
on the floor. He  
desperately puts on his  
mask to hide that he is a  
rat from ALFA.)

What are you doing here?

ALFA

What were you doing out at the dumpster?

GOON

Looking for the Game Warden. You seen the Game Warden?

ALFA

(Trying to make sure GOON  
doesn't go behind the bar  
and discover BETA.)

He must have stepped out.

GOON

Mind if I look around?

ALFA

Na! You don't have to do that! You want a sling shot?

GOON

No.

ALFA

Oh, that's right, I forgot. You have a machine gun under your trench coat.

GOON

You don't know that for sure.

ALFA

Tell me it's a "have a heart."

GOON

Yes... It is... I'm agnostic... and would you believe I'm Vegan?

ALFA

The last time you used it, you didn't put a herd of elephants asleep?

GOON

Maybe I did... Maybe I didn't.

ALFA

No one sells semi-automatic stun guns. And this one has been recently fired! I can smell it.

GOON

I got it used.

ALFA

You'd better not use it on the rats!

GOON

No, the rats are sacred.

ALFA

The rats are sacred?

GOON

I want to look around. I'm looking for the Game Warden.

ALFA

No, go on out and take a lawn chair. I'll bring you a drink. What would you like?

GOON

Was there anybody here when you came in here?

ALFA  
(Beat)

Not a living soul.

GOON  
Any dead ones?

ALFA  
The Game Warden must have gone out for a little fresh air.

GOON  
Did he just walk out of here?

ALFA  
He just vanished?

GOON  
I sure hope so.

ALFA  
Wouldn't that be great? ...You do? ...Why?

GOON  
Mind if I look around?

ALFA  
(Still stalling for time to  
try to stop GOON from  
looking around.)  
Not until you tell me the truth.

GOON  
About what?

ALFA  
You trying to tell me that anywhere! Anywhere! On this  
continent there are dangerous elephants?

GOON  
I haven't seen any.

ALFA  
So they are invisible?

GOON

Must be. Which means... You haven't seen any either, have you?

ALFA

Then give me the stun gun and let me shoot you to see if you disappear. Then you are completely free to look around as much as you want.

GOON

No.

ALFA

Why not?

GOON

If it is a real gun you'd kill me.

ALFA

It would be in self-defense.

GOON

Not if you have the gun!

ALFA

See. I proved it! You are holding a machine gun under your trench coat! I want to shoot you with your "stun gun" then you can look around.

GOON

I'd be asleep.

ALFA

Yeah and I'd be "stunned" if you weren't dead.

BETA

(Jumping up from behind the  
bar rubbing his eyes.)

I can get married! I'm not dead.

ALFA

Oh my God!

(GOON rings the bell.)

I've never seen somebody rise from the dead and want to get married.

GOON

(To BETA)

You've got to enforce that. You are back. You are the Game Warden. That is a clear violation. Maybe two!

BETA

Where is my lawyer?

ALFA

You're right. This is a very litigious country. I want to bring back the church lady.

GOON

Why? Because you are a homo sapien demonstrating your propensity to believe in a god which you all have manufactured in order to feel good about yourself just because you just witnessed someone rising from the dead?

ALFA

No! I want to tell the church lady that we can do communion at the bar.

GOON

So you're being "selfless" and homo sapiens are really good?

ALFA

Absolutely! She doesn't have to be a specialist. Can't you see the repetition is driving her crazy!

BETA

Can I get a word in edgewise?

GOON

Sure, you just rose from the dead.

ALFA

You're a holy Game Warden now!

BETA

Where is my lawyer?

GOON

In the dumpster.

BETA

He went there without me?

GOON

Don't worry about it. I'm pretty sure he'll rise from the dead, too.

ALFA

Oh my God!

(GOON rings the bell.)

GOON

(GOON addresses BETA.)

Will you please enforce that!

ALFA

Oh my God!

(GOON rings the bell again.)

I want the church lady. He will be raising from the dumpster?

GOON

Yes

ALFA

Both of them right here? I got to get the church lady to see it when it happens. We are talking about the Cathedral of the Holy Dumpster! Right here! I've got to go out there. We've got to collect relics!

(ALFA exits)

BETA

(TO GOON)

You can put that gun away.

GOON

No.

BETA

You can't shoot me I'm a ghost. I'm the Game Warden that has risen from the dead!

GOON

You are living in your imagination like all homo sapiens. I wish it wasn't that way.



BETA

Like we imagine we are safe and we trust what we don't understand?

GOON

Yeah. I wish it wasn't true.

BETA

Like electricity, nuclear power and our computers save all of our data in a cloud?

GOON

Yeah and like our air pollution, water pollution and global warming... Homo sapiens are destroying the planet. You live in your imagination if you don't think so!

BETA

That's not real nice.

GOON

...And you think you have been resurrected from the dead. "Mankind cannot stand much reality." That's T.S. Elliot.

BETA

Why would I believe an english major?

GOON

"Love thy neighbor?" "Do unto others?" For religious and political reasons, you people don't wear masks? What would happen if I shoot you again?

BETA

Wow! Untested territory! Nobody has risen twice.` That would make me a new religion! ...And imagine my déjà vues!

GOON shoots BETA again and RAT #1  
charges in again.

RAT #1

Again? We are really in trouble now! The bats are here and they are pissed off!

(RAT #1 looks at BETA)

You did it again! What is the matter with you?

GOON

I wanted to go to Princeton and you made me go to a dumpster? I wanted to love classical music, eat French food, drink Irish coffee before a warm burning fire and get gout!

RAT #1

Rats are killed in labs all over the world every day, every minute, every second... and my kid ends up with "Stockholm Syndrome" and a Master's Degree? The bats, the fleas, the ticks are all the other gentle creatures on this earth... Even the fish were watching!... The Commander in Chief flew a general all the way from Wuhan.

BAT #1

Crashes through the wall stage left. He is wearing tights and a cape.

I'm bat shit! This was supposed to have gone down when we kicked off Covid months ago! This is pathetic! Your dumpster is going down!

RAT #1

No, wait!

BAT #1

Get your kid out of here and give me his gun!

(Points to GOON)

Go to the dumpster. We will call you when we have made up our minds what we are going to do!

(GOON hands over his gun to  
BAT #1 and exits.)

RAT #1

He's my kid!

BAT #1

What's this rumor about a liberal arts degree?

RAT #1

Absolutely false!

BAT #1

You know why I'm here? I get an order to fly here from Wuhan? It took me a month! You think that was a promotion?

RAT #1

Did you get following winds?

BAT #1

That is like asking if the rest stops are good on the New Jersey Turnpike!

RAT #1

I was just trying to be a good host.

BAT #1

You were supposed to be a "good host." This is our last chance to save the planet. We all were! Until you rats couldn't kick off your plague... This is our last chance to save the planet and it got screwed up by a rat in Higher Ed!

RAT #1

We come from a long history of patriotic rats...

BAT #1

You don't realize what a big screw up this is?... I was sent here to tell you it had to happen now and then there is another screw up? And another screw up? It is out of my hands... Again we get nothing?

RAT #1

No, wait...

BAT #1

No you wait! We got you the stupidest country on the planet. They elect a leader who denies it and then gets it and denies it again and the vote was almost 50/50? We get you a dumpster where they are shooting your kind and all we ask is put a COVID revenge murder in your dumpster, call the cops and the news will broadcast it, trigger the media and everyone world-wide lets loose the 2.0 and the revolution will break out... And the world will finally be safe of them. But no! The rats screw up?

RAT #1

The humans were too stupid for the plan to work. It's not my kid's fault! Nobody wears masks and over 300,000 people die because of it and then they are too stupid for revenge!

BAT #1

Enough! It was all coordinated! All we have left is the plague - 2.0.

RAT #1

Don't do this!

BAT #1

Different trigger now. Best we can do. Fire in your dumpster. When I hit the button the cops come.

RAT #1

And what?

BAT #1

Fire in the dumpster! Cut loose the fleas in the rat bag.

RAT #1

Don't do this!

BAT #1

(Pushes the button to  
release the plague.)

I'll tell them a good story when I get back...

RAT #1

It is done?

(Sound of Police car  
sirens.)

BAT #1

Go be with your son - quick! Go! I'll turn out the lights and cut the bags. Go! God let's pray it is not too late. God save us from mankind! From global warming, endless plastics and pollution from these animals that live in their logic and imagination and only think of themselves. Go!

RAT #1 exits and BAT #1 turns out the lights as the sirens get louder and the fire engines can be heard coming from the distance. BAT #1 cuts the bag and the rats empty out across the floor and are squealing in the darkness.

God have mercy!!! God have mercy!!!

(BAT #1 exits.)

BETA

(Wakes up and stands up from behind the bar.)

You called! It's a miracle! It's a miracle!

(Laughs, embarrassed as he realizes)

Oops. Sorry!

(He rings the bell and laughs.)

END OF PLAY