

HOLIDAZE AT HANK'S

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Setting:

Hank's Bar - Anywhere in rural America

Characters:

Bill - 60's

Buddy - 40's, Bill's son

Aunt Agnes - 60's, Bill's sister-in-law

Lights Rise:

BILL and BUDDY sit at the bar.

BILL

Damn holidays.

BUDDY

I hear ya.

BILL

Cooking, cleaning and complaining. That's all they're about.

BUDDY

Uh-huh.

BILL

I spent five hours yesterday cleaning the house.

BUDDY

That sucks.

BILL

You all grew up in the stupid house. Why would you care how clean it is?

BUDDY

I don't.

BILL

You kids are responsible for the condition of that damn house.

BUDDY

Tell me about it. I get a new DVD player and Buddy Jr. puts a waffle in it.

BILL

Well, at least he didn't try to kill a fly with a can of fluorescent orange spray paint. I had to buy a new screen door.

BUDDY

Sorry, but that was funny.

The two men sip their beers in silence.

BUDDY

I still say you're the lucky one.

BILL

How is that?

BUDDY

You get to stay home. I have to book time off from work, pack my three kids in the car and drive for eight hours listening to them scream at each other and asking me every five minutes; "Are we there yet? How much farther is it?" All while my wife nags me about how fast I'm driving and tries to navigate us even though I make this drive six times a year!

BUDDY slams his beer down.

BILL

Feel better?

BUDDY

Kind of.

BILL

Another one?

BUDDY

Yeah.

BILL signals for two more beers.

BUDDY (CONT'D)

I have to buy cranberry sauce.

BILL

One year your mother got everything but the turkey. I had to go to five grocery stores before I found one that had any left, and they were only five pounders.

BUDDY

Damn that's tiny.

BILL

I had to buy six of 'em. Man was she pissed.

BUDDY

What do they expect when they send you out on Christmas day?

BILL

That's what I'm sayin'.

BUDDY

What goes through their minds?

BILL

Don't go there.

BUDDY

I really want to know how women think. How do they figure things out? What the hell do they want?

BILL

What they want is us to go crazy trying to figure them out.

The BARTENDER brings them their new beers. Each man takes a long drink.

BUDDY

You ever dream about doing anything else? I mean, if you hadn't got married and had a family.

BILL

Your mother put you up to this?

BUDDY

Hell no. I'm just wondering is all.

BILL

Maybe, you?

BUDDY

I always thought it would be nice to head to Mexico, get a nice little place near the beach and fish.

BILL gives him a weird look.

BUDDY (CONT'D)

Seriously, I'd get up early, fish all morning, sell my catch at the market and drink *cervezas* all night with beautiful *Senoritas*. No bills to worry about. No wife nagging me. No kids screaming for... whatever the hell it is kids scream for. Just the beach and the fish and the...

BILL

Hey, where did you go?

BUDDY

What? Oh, nowhere. Just thinking.

BILL

You're not seriously considering...

BUDDY

Oh, hell no. I would never.

BILL

Good, 'cause you got responsibilities now.

BUDDY

I know, I know.

BILL

Besides, you'd fall in love with one of them *Senoritas*, get married and have a bunch of kids.

BUDDY

Yeah, I guess you're right. What about you?

BILL

I always wanted to stow away on a steamer ship. Then when they caught me I would be made a part of the crew. I would work the ship and sail around the world. I'd romance a woman in every port and get in a fight on every continent.

BUDDY

Sounds fair.

AUNT AGNES storms into the bar.

AUNT AGNES

There you are!

BILL/BUDDY

Oh crap.

AUNT AGNES

Everyone's waiting for you!

BILL

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

AUNT AGNES

The food's ready, the kids are cleaned up and in their little suits, everyone's there but you two. And the corn. Did you even get the corn?

BILL reaches down to the stool next to him
and lifts a bag of corn.

AUNT AGNES (CONT'D)

Well, at least you did something right.

BILL

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

AUNT AGNES turns on Buddy.

AUNT AGNES

And you.

BUDDY

Crap.

AUNT AGNES

Watch your mouth!

BUDDY

Would you like a beer?

AUNT AGNES

How dare you. On Christmas day of all days you sit here drinking like a...a common...

BUDDY

Man?

AUNT AGNES

Yes. Man. A common man.

BILL

Buddy wants to run off to Mexico and live with *Senoritas* on the beach.

AUNT AGNES

What?

BUDDY

And fish.

BILL

And fish.

BUDDY

He wants to fight a woman in every port.

AUNT AGNES

What?

BILL

A man can dream can't he?

AUNT AGNES

I can't believe what I'm hearing.

BUDDY

What's your dream?

AUNT AGNES

Excuse me?

BUDDY

Your dream. Didn't you have a dream when you were young?

AUNT AGNES

This is not the time for...silly talk.

The BARTENDER brings another beer.

BUDDY

Have a seat.

AUNT AGNES

This is most certainly not the time for drinking. We have to go.

BILL

Have a beer.

AUNT AGNES

I don't drink.

Both men laugh out loud.

BILL

Are you kiddin' me woman? You been clearing out my liquor cabinet for thirty years.

BUDDY

Yeah, ever since Uncle Peter skipped out with that...what was she?

BILL

Waitress?

AUNT AGNES

Cocktail server.

BUDDY motions to the bar stool. AUNT AGNES sits down. She takes a long of her beer.

swallow

BILL

That a girl.

BUDDY'S cell phone rings.

BUDDY

Hello...Hi honey...yeah I got the cranberry sauce....Uh Huh...Yeah...OK...Sure I will...OK...OK...Yes...I love you too...Bye bye.

BUDDY hangs up and pockets his cell phone.

BUDDY (CONT'D)

Gotta go, Dad. I need to buy cranberry sauce.

BILL

I'll be home in a minute.

AUNT AGNES

If anyone asks, I'm still looking for you two bozos.

BUDDY

Did you find us?

AUNT AGNES

Hell no.

BILL

How long you plan on looking?

AUNT AGNES

How long's happy hour?

BILL and BUDDY smile at each other as BUDDY heads for the door.

A Rockette.

AUNT AGNES

What?

BUDDY

When I was younger I dreamed of being a Rockette.

AUNT AGNES

Cranberry sauce can wait. This I gotta hear.

BUDDY

BUDDY takes his seat and signals for
another beer.

THE END