

BUCK THE RIDER

By Aditi Brennan Kapil

Commissioned and produced by
Thirst Theater in Minneapolis, MN
Winter Season 2007

All rights, including but not limited to professional, amateur, recording, motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio and television broadcasting, and the rights of translation into foreign languages are expressly reserved. Permission for which must be secured from the author's representative:

United States

Kevin Lin | CAA
kevin.lin@caa.com
(212) 277-9000

International

Antje Oegel | AO International
aoegel@aoiagency.com
(917) 521-6640

Woman 1 & Man enter and sit. Woman 1 is guiding Man, brings drinks from bar

Man

I am here against my will!

Woman 1

Give it a rest dad

silence

Man

I am here against my will

Woman 1

No one cares, dad!

I'm having a drink.

Selfish. You always were selfish. You always had money, and what did you do with it, anything for the greater good? Anything at all? Alleviate hunger? Genocide? Did you ever even read the world section?

Never mind, I'm having a drink.

They watch a Thirst show.

Woman 1

That was good, huh? Come on, crack a smile, it won't kill you. Well, I thought that was good.

Woman 2

Ohh, baby!

Woman 1

About time, I'm going crazy here!

Woman 2

Is he being a pain? ARE YOU BEING A PAIN?

Man

I am here against my will

Woman 2

Yeah what else is new (*kisses him on the cheek*)
So! What's new?

Woman 1

Nothing yet, I just got out of the house for the first time in days

Woman 2

Well we'll try to show you a good time here on the outside, is this one for me?

Woman 1

That's it, just take take take

Woman 2

Love ya, sis
So, how's dad?

Man

You are not my daughter!

Woman 2

Well, that's nice, what a nice thing to say

Woman 1

Just one hour away from him... that's all I ask

Woman 2

Well, in just about 1/2 an hour, you'll get more than that

Woman 1

Thank the fucking gods

Woman 2

What the hell did you order?

Woman 1

You like?

Woman 2

It's like... it's like... I don't even know what it's like, but it's not a damn drink, it's like a frothy picture of the ocean at sunset spritzer insanity

Woman 1

It's a tribute

Woman 2

To what? Wait! This is what she drank?

Woman 1

Vile, isn't it?

Woman 2

Oh, no wonder she bugged the crap out of me!

Man

I'm thirsty

Woman 1

You have water. You can't have anything else because of your meds, you know that. Or you do when you choose to remember it.

Woman 2

Come on, it's not a choice

Woman 1

It's been a long week

Woman 2

Well, it's almost over, so relax. All's well, everything's in place. We're having disgusting girly drinks, dad's having water and meds and getting some time out in the real world, it's all good

Man

You're not my daughter

Woman 2

Enough already, ok? God! You're not exactly in tune with the reality bandwidth, so you might consider shutting your mouth instead of sticking your foot in it

Man

You don't even look like me. She doesn't even look like me!

Woman 2

Nice. Real nice.

Woman 1

See what I mean?

Man

I am here against my will!

Woman 1

Listen don't bother the nice people, drink your water, we're heading out in 5 minutes anyway.

Man

I don't know them! I need help!

Woman 2

Ok, that's it, we're ignoring you now. We need a moment to just chat and have a life, so you just sit there and do what you do, we're talking.

Woman 1

I wish I'd ordered a real drink

Woman 2

OK, happy thoughts, what do you want to do with the money?

Woman 1

You mean aside from the sunny beach?

Woman 2

Unless you're buying the whole fucking island you'll have some left over

Woman 1

What are you doing with it?

Woman 2

I don't know. What the hell did Gracie do with it?

Woman 1

Develop crappy taste in alcoholic beverages. Spend most of college ashamed of it, pretending she didn't have it, so she could have a 'real' experience. So yeah, let's not do that.

Man

GRACIE!

Woman 2

Come on!

Man

GRACIE!

Woman 1

Yes, Gracie, our college room mate. You met her like once, you're just being difficult. Come on, don't we deserve a break? Huh? Don't we? You'll be back home in no time.

Man

I'M HERE AGAINST MY WILL!

Woman 2

No one cares! No one is listening to you! You're just embarrassing everyone, yourself, us, everyone!

Man

HELP!

Woman 2

Try yelling fire.

Woman 1

Don't mock him

Woman 2

Dude, he won't remember a word of this conversation in 5 minutes, if nothing else, that gives me leeway to say whatever, this is how I don't get all frustrated like you, I see the humor

Woman 1

No, that's because you're not the one talking care of him every day, that's why you see humor

Woman 2

Fine so next time we'll switch. Then you'll see my humor under pressure

Woman 1

Bitch

Woman 2

Face it, I'm a superior bitch

Woman 1

Five more minutes, 5 MORE MINUTES DAD! Then we're leaving!

Man

Ok. OK Good. Ok Good. I want to leave

Woman 1

Well, I'm glad you're being reasonable finally. Sitting there and screaming at people, just plain rude. It's not like they're going to get involved, are ya folks?

Woman 2

Remember Gracie with the scream?

Man

Gracie!

Woman 1

Yeah, yeah, we're sitting in our room, like just studying or something, all quiet on every front, and then suddenly there's this scream from somewhere in the hall, and then nothing, and we keep studying, and then you look up

Woman 2

I look up and I'm like, guys that was a scream-

Woman 1

Yeah I know and none of us moved, not an inch, no reaction at all, why?

Woman 2

Cause it sounded like a real scream, it sounded real, not just like goofing off, why didn't we react, what sort of people are we?

Man

Gracie...

Woman 1

And Gracie's like, well I guess it didn't sound real to me-

Woman 2

But it did

Woman 1

But then that was it, no other sound at all

Woman 2

Maybe cuz she's dead, I mean you don't feel like we should go check

Woman 1

No, I guess I don't

Woman 2

And there you have it, humanity in a nutshell dad, gotta have the blinders on the horse cuz otherwise horse gets skittish, don't want that, it's scary out there, gotta filter shit out

Woman 1

Like us, Gracie filtered us right out

Woman 2

Stone cold, spends all year bumming money for cigarettes and beer and whatever the hell cuz she's not really rich, I'm one of you all, and when we need some help-

Woman 1

It's your own damn fault for telling her

Woman 2

It wasn't plagiarism it was an accident, like she never copied anything in her life, rich bitch

Man

Gracie...

Woman 1

Some of us need our scholarships, we're not being funded by the generations of ride the backs of the poor give to the wealthy

Woman 2

Besides which she actually owed us money, she actually owed us and wouldn't pay up

Woman 1

A couple of packs my ass, if you add in the smokes she bummed, it was a hell of a lot more, bitch could have funded our senior year

Man

Gracie—

Woman 2

Yeah, Gracie! Christ!

Woman 1

No smoking

Woman 2

I know, shit, is it time yet?

Woman 1

Yeah, getting there

Man starts crying

Woman 2

I don't want to end up like him

Woman 1

We won't, we have each other

Woman 2

We should get some insurance with the money, buy a house, start a life, invest-

Woman 1

Yeah

Woman 2

It's ok, old man, 20 minutes tops, everything will be different and you won't remember any of this

Man

I can't help...

Woman 2

No. You can't help.

Woman 1

Time

Woman 1 & Woman 2 kiss

Woman 2

See ya

Man and Woman 1 leave, Woman 2 pulls out cell and watches it, countdown. Dials.

Woman 2

Gracie? Do you see them? Ok... Gracie, calm down, breathe, he's fine, breathe. Now just drop it in the trunk, and then drive straight home, you'll get the call when he's back at the apt. Just do it, no guarantees, no promises, we're done here. OK? Karma baby. It's cosmic. Have a good life.

Hangs up, looks around at the audience

What? It's a joke, Jesus, you should see your faces! Man. I killed your buzz, right. Sorry about that, but look on the bright side. You won't remember any of this in 5 minutes. Blinders right? Can't have the horse getting skittish. Might throw the rider, and that's who really matters. The rider.

Woman 2 exits

READING COPY