

The Whale Basters
By Murphi Cook

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CHARACTERS

Alex

Brian

Trevor

LOCATION

Everywhere and nowhere

A pit of trash

That is also a pit of doom

That has an attic sometimes

But sometimes it doesn't because it is a trailer

And sometimes, just sometimes,

There is a beach with a whale, freshly basted.

1.

It is the outside.

He looks left, he looks right. He looks forward. He sees it. He sees her. Claudia. She is a dog. She is also dead.

This really hurts.

BRIAN

Fuck!

He runs back inside.

Tra, la, la, la, la. The chalkboard flips.

THE WHALE BASTERS.

2.

The toilet.

Ding. Ding. Ding. Ding. Ding.

This is a British Game show.

ALEX

OH!
Good day lads and lassies
And welcome to
HAPPY HOUR

Big dings. Big sound. Big fun.

Today's happy hour specialty cocktail of the day is
FOUR FICKLE FILLIES
This means
We will be calling
Four lucky ladies located spatially in the north, south, east, and west quadrangles of
the upper segment of Worcestershire Alley.
TELEPHONE PLEASE

A rotary telephone.

With each turn of the dial she makes a
WOOOO sound.

HELLO,
This is Thumbelina Walker
Calling you live from
HAPPY HOUR
Yes,
Yes,
THE Happy Hour 9'o'clock game show areyouready?!
Your fickle fillie question of the day is,
Just what, is, the secret ingredient, in the Queen Mother's pickled marmalade?

Tick tock. Tick tock.

ALEX

Welllllll?
This is a whale of a question but there is certainly an impossibly possible answer!

BRIAN

Fuck you
Fuck you
Fuck you
Fuck you

ALEX

Oh,
Excuse me.

She hangs up the phone.
This is no longer a game show. She is no
longer british.

ALEX

WHAT THE FUCK DO YOU WANT?

BRIAN

You killed her.

ALEX

What are you talking about?

BRIAN

You killed her.

ALEX

Killed who?

Claudia.	BRIAN
Who?	ALEX
My dog.	BRIAN
Your dog?	ALEX
Yes my dog.	BRIAN
I didn't kill your dog.	ALEX
Her name is Claudia.	BRIAN
You don't have a dog.	ALEX
I do.	BRIAN
No you don't.	ALEX
I do. I did.	BRIAN
I never saw her.	ALEX
Yes you did I saw you pet her last night You touched her head You touched her tiny little brown head You did. And then You fucking shot her right between the eyeballs.	BRIAN

ALEX

That wasn't your dog, that was just some mutt from the woods.

BRIAN

She was my dog.
I fed her my scraps every night.

ALEX

And you called her Claudia?

BRIAN

Yes.

ALEX

Strange name.
For a dog.

BRIAN

No it wasn't a strange name.
She had blue eyes just like Claudia Schiffer.
Blue eyed things should all be called Claudia.

ALEX

My name's not Claudia.

BRIAN

Your eyes aren't blue.

ALEX

They could be.

BRIAN

If they were,
I would rip them out of your head.

ALEX

...

BRIAN

...

ALEX

I didn't kill your dog.

BRIAN

Claudia.
Her name was Claudia.

ALEX

I didn't kill Claudia.

BRIAN

Fuck you.

ALEX

Fuck you!

BRIAN

Fine.
Then who did?

Knock. Knock. Knock.

ALEX AND BRIAN TOGETHER

Our Lady of Perpetual Understanding!

BRIAN

I'll get the pitchfork.

ALEX

I've got the iron.

Through the peephole.

ALEX

He doesn't look like a lady.

BRIAN

But he looks like the picture.

ALEX

He's got short hair.

BRIAN

He must have cut it.

ALEX

Oh. Yeah. I see it.
Totally.

The door opens. Trevor.

They smile, sweetly.

ALEX AND BRIAN TOGETHER

Hello.

TREVOR

Would you like to buy a vacuum?

ALEX

Would we like to buy a vacuum?

TREVOR

Your neighbors just bought one.

BRIAN

We don't have any neighbors.

ALEX

And you don't have any vacuums.

BRIAN

We know who you are.

ALEX

You can't trick us.

TREVOR

It's on my back.
See?

BRIAN

What?

TREVOR

It's a backpack vacuum.
I keep it on my back.
May I come in?

TREVOR comes in. There is a BACKPACK
VACCUUM on his back.

ALEX

You do have a vacuum.

TREVOR

Of course.

...

Oh wow,

Oh wow. I have come to the right place.

You two are in dire need of a vacuum.

BRIAN

What's that supposed to mean?

TREVOR

Usually I bring a tiny bag of dirt with me everywhere I go,

But I won't be needing that here, will I?

BRIAN

Are you calling us dirty?

TREVOR

Just a bit dusty.

BRIAN

Asshole.

TREVOR

This device on my back is called a backpack vacuum cleaner.

It is the cost effective solution when

Comfort

Power

And Fine Filtration are what's most important to you.

BRIAN

We don't want your vacuum.

TREVOR

Tut tut tut.

Shh.

This powerful machine is 1,400 watts with a 12 amp motor, yet
Miraculously weighs only 10 lbs.

And as if that wasn't enough it includes a HEPA filter!

Would you like to see this lovely lady in action?

BRIAN

No.

ALEX

Yes.

BRIAN

Close your ears.

(to Alex)

What are you doing?

ALEX

I want to see it suck up the dirt.

BRIAN

One. We are not dirty.

And Two. You mean to tell me you actually believe that this dick goes door-to-door selling vacuums?

ALEX

He's got a vacuum!

BRIAN

He's a liar.

ALEX

I don't think he's her.

BRIAN

How do you know?

Have you ever seen our lady of perpetual understanding?

ALEX

No.

BRIAN

Yes you have!

ALEX

Right.

BRIAN

And who does she look like?

She points to TREVOR.

BRIAN

Exactly.

ALEX

Except I don't think he's a woman.

BRIAN

Forget that.

ALEX

I know how we can settle this once and for all.

(to Trevor)

Pop open your ears!

Have you ever been to the coast?

TREVOR

Never.

ALEX

Plug 'em back up

(to Brian)

He's never been to the coast.

That means he is definitely not her!

SO

Can't we just watch him suck up the dirt so we can have a little bit of fun around here?

BRIAN

...

Fine.

Just don't look into his eyes.

Uncover your ears asshole, and show us what it does.

TREVOR

You're in for a real treat with this one.

Now

Watch carefully.

You see the spot?

ALEX

Where?

TREVOR

Right there.

You see it emanating above the rug's fine fibers

Taunting you

Do you hear it?

ALEX

I don't hear anything.

TREVOR

No? What a shame.

Such a foul-mouthed piece of dirt it is.

You're sure you can't hear what it's saying?

ALEX

No.

TREVOR

It says, "You can't get me. You can't even see me. You've grown so accustomed to this shit piss trailer that the only thing you know is filth. I'd like to see you try and suck me out of my home. Go on, just try."
Shall we try?

BRIAN

It didn't say that.

ALEX

Did it really say that?
Suck that bitch up!

TREVOR

Just one moment, please.
Would you like to do it?

ALEX

Me?

TREVOR

Here it only takes a second to,

The vacuum is on her back.

TREVOR

You look like a model.

ALEX

Do I really?

TREVOR

You surely do.
Are you ready?
Three.
Two.
One.

Vacuum roar. Plop.

TREVOR

Done.

That was fun. ALEX

It was? BRIAN

Would you like to look at what you did? TREVOR

I don't see anything.
It's gone.
I did it! ALEX

And for just \$189 you can do it every single day. TREVOR

That's not that much. ALEX

Not much at all, considering the lifetime of good health and cleanliness you are about to endure. TREVOR

Can we get it? ALEX

(to Trevor)
Get out. BRIAN

What? ALEX

Get the fuck out of my house. BRIAN

No wait.
Don't leave.
I'll pay for it. ALEX

Shut up, Alex. BRIAN

ALEX
Don't you tell me to shut up I want the vacuum.

BRIAN
Trust me you don't want the vacuum.

ALEX
I do.
It feels like it was meant to be on my back.

BRIAN rips the vacuum off Alex's back.

BRIAN
Take your vacuum
And get the fuck
Out of my house.

ALEX
Wait!
I have the money.
Let me just get my whale jar.

ALEX runs to find her jar.

BRIAN
I know who you are.

TREVOR
I'm a vacuum salesman.

BRIAN
I know what you've done.

TREVOR
I sucked up the dirt.

BRIAN
I know you don't really sell vacuums.

TREVOR
I do.

BRIAN
I saw you in the grocery store.

TREVOR

It must have been someone else.

BRIAN

At the video store.

TREVOR

You must be mistaken.

BRIAN

And in my dreams.
You're everywhere.

TREVOR

I'm right here.

BRIAN

Our. Lady. Of. Perpetual. Understanding.

BRIAN unveils his shrine. TREVOR stares at his womanly likeness.

TREVOR

...

BRIAN

...

TREVOR

I don't know what you're talking about.

BRIAN

I'm not going to let you take her from me.

TREVOR

Did you draw that?

BRIAN

I told you I know who you are.

TREVOR

I don't want to take her from you.

BRIAN

Get out.

TREVOR

She wants to buy my vacuum.

BRIAN

I don't care.

TREVOR

This is a very peculiar situation so forgive me if I sound a bit brash but,
It is she, and not you, who is my customer.
So I will wait until she comes back, and I would appreciate it if you no longer spoke
to me, thank you very much.

BRIAN

I am going to take this pitchfork and ram it into your kidneys. Then, I will eat them
for my Sunday brunch.

TREVOR

...

BRIAN

...

TREVOR

You are a bully.

TREVOR takes the vacuum cleaner. He is
gone.

ALEX

I found it.
I got it,
Hang on, hang on, hang on.
Fuck you Brian.

Out the door.

ALEX

I've got the money right here!
Hello?
Hello?

Back inside.

ALEX

He's gone.

BRIAN

The man was partial to his kidneys.

ALEX

I wanted to buy the vacuum.

BRIAN

So buy one from a real vacuum salesman.

ALEX

You are fucked up in the head.

BRIAN

I just saved your life.

ALEX

If I were as fucked as you I would kill myself.

BRIAN

You almost let him in.
And once he's in, there's only one thing he will do
And that is this:
He will KILL US because he wants REVENGE.

ALEX

Listen here,
I know that in your head Our Lady of Perpetual Understanding is a motherfuck who
deserves to be slaughtered mercilessly
But
That man was not her.

BRIAN

Yes he was.

ALEX

No he wasn't!
That man was simply trying to sell me something to clean this god damn filthy shit
pit with!

BRIAN

We're not dirty.

ALEX

Yes we are.
You smell like horse piss.
And my hair feels like bear vomit.
And this trailer is covered in dirt.

And even the dirt thinks we're god damn motherfucking failures and laughs at us everywhere we go.

BRIAN

It –

ALEX

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL UNDERSTANDING DOES NOT EXIST, BRIAN.

BRIAN

Take that back.

ALEX

I've never seen her.

BRIAN

You said you did.

ALEX

I never saw her on that day
And I haven't seen her on any other day.
She's not in my dreams. She's nowhere. And I am sick and tired of hiding from her.

BRIAN

You –

ALEX

Shut up.
I want to go sit on the toilet for the rest of the day and hear nothing but the sound of my own voice.

BRIAN

Alex.

ALEX

Only my voice.

She is gone.

3.

The toilet.

Ding ding ding ding ding ding.

We are back in front of a live studio audience.

ALEX holds the phone receiver to her ear.

ALEX

Oh my goodness me,
I am sorry for the delay, ladies and gents.
BUT

Dear caller, I bet that pause gave you just enough time to figure out just what is the secret ingredient in the queen mother's marmalade!

CALLER

Umm
Is it turnips?

A loud buzz. Wrong.

ALEX

No, no, no, no,
I am afraid turnips is not the answer.

She hangs up the phone.

ALEX

If you are just joining us on HAPPY HOUR,
Let me remind you that
Today's happy hour specialty cocktail of the day is
FOUR FICKLE FILLIES
Now we've already called a lucky lady located spatially in the north of the upper segment of Worcestershire Alley, so let take a dip south for just a moment.
Telephone please.

A rotary phone. ALEX dials.

ALEX

Hello this is Thumbelina Walker calling from Happy Hour, may I please speak to the lovely lady of the house?
Hello and welcome to Happy Hour!
Are you ready for today's fickle filly question?
Of course you are.
So, can you tell me, what is the secret ingredient in the queen mother's pickled marmalade?

Tick tock tick tock tick tock.

Butter!
It's butter!

CALLER

BUZZ. WRONG.

That is terribly incorrect, I'm afraid.
Next contestant!

ALEX

Dial. Dial. Dial.

Hello and you're on Happy Hour and we are looking for the secret ingredient in the queen mother's pickled marmalade?

ALEX

Vinegar?

CALLER

Knock. Knock. Knock.

Alex?

BRIAN

The gameshow disappears for just a moment.

I said – my own voice.

ALEX

The gameshow is back.

Oh fiddlesticks I am sorry but that is not the answer.

ALEX

The knocking continues.

Let's move on.
One more contestant.

ALEX

Dial. Dial. Dial. Knock. Knock. Knock.

What is the secret ingredient in the queen mother's marmalade?

ALEX

Knock. Knock.

Tick. Tock. Tick. Tock.

Alex.

BRIAN

We're waiting.

ALEX

Alex.

BRIAN

Don't you know the bloody secret ingredient?

ALEX

Uhhhh

CALLER

Alex, please.

BRIAN

It's the piss shit mother fuck QUEEN MOTHER

ALEX

Knock. Knock. Knock. Knock. Knock.

Soup?

CALLER

Alex let me in.

BRIAN

No you idiot, soup is not the secret ingredient in the queen mother's pickled marmalade!

ALEX

She slams down the phone.

It rings. She looks at it.

This is Happy Hour.

ALEX

BRIAN holds a phone to his ear.

May I please speak to Alex?

BRIAN

The game show is gone.

What the fuck do you want?

ALEX

Alex?

BRIAN

WHAT?

ALEX

Will you marry me?

BRIAN

Yes.

No.

Wait.

Marry you?

ALEX

Close your eyes.

BRIAN

...

ALEX

Are they closed?

BRIAN

No.

ALEX

Close them.

BRIAN

Fine.

ALEX

Now I want you to picture a place.

BRIAN

The ocean. The waves crash against the beach.

It smells like salt.	BRIAN
The beach.	ALEX
Yes. And on this beach is a whale.	BRIAN
A whale?	ALEX
A whale.	BRIAN
You're sure –	ALEX
Yes.	BRIAN
Is she alive?	ALEX
She was.	BRIAN
She's not now?	ALEX
No.	BRIAN
She's dead?	ALEX
Yeah.	BRIAN
She's really beautiful.	ALEX
I want you to crawl inside of her	BRIAN

With me.

ALEX

We can't.

BRIAN

Why not?

ALEX

It's so
Gross.

BRIAN

You said she was beautiful.

ALEX

Gross wasn't the word.

BRIAN

Beautiful.

ALEX

But she's an animal.

BRIAN

So are you.

ALEX

She's got guts and a heart.

BRIAN

No she doesn't.
She cleaned herself out for you and me.

ALEX

She couldn't have.

BRIAN

Why?

ALEX

Whales aren't self-cleaning.

BRIAN

She is.
Come on.

I'm scared. ALEX

You don't need to be.
I've got you. BRIAN

She's glistening.
It hurts my eyes to look at her. ALEX

She's cooking herself so we'll be warm forever.
Marry me, Alex. BRIAN

... ALEX

Marry me. BRIAN

Marry you. ALEX

Marry me. BRIAN

Mrs. ALEX

You would be. BRIAN

And we'd live inside the whale together? ALEX

Yes. BRIAN

And we didn't kill her? ALEX

No. BRIAN

ALEX

...
But we did kill her, didn't we?

BRIAN

Alex –

ALEX

Say we did.
Say we shot her.

BRIAN

No.

ALEX

There she is on the beach.
She's not cooking yet, she's not even dead.
She's just stuck.
And we see her.
And she's so big. Bigger than anything I've seen besides your trailer.
And you say

BRIAN

I wonder what it would feel like to shoot something that big.

ALEX

And pow,
You do it.
But there's nobody else there.
Nobody sees us do it.

BRIAN

She does.

ALEX

Look again.
Our lady of perpetual understanding does not exist.
She is not there.
Do you see her?

BRIAN

...
No.

TREVOR stands outside the window. He wears a long robe and a big blonde wig. He holds a phone to his ear.

ALEX sees him.

Marry me, Alex.

BRIAN

ALEX

...

BRIAN

Marry me.

...

Alex?

ALEX

I

...

I'll have to think about it.

ALEX goes to the window.

TREVOR

I know what the secret ingredient is.

ALEX

You can't.

She hangs up the phone.

ALEX

It seems that not a soul knows the Queen Mother's secret to her pickled marmalade.

...

Just a dash of Clorox.

ALEX pulls CLOROX from behind the toilet.

She drinks it.

4.

A grave.

Brian shovels and shovels until he's done.

He pulls a piece of paper out of his pocket.

BRIAN

For Claudia.
On her funeral.

When I first saw you I knew
That you and me would be together until
We couldn't be anymore
But I thought that that couldn't be would be after
Today
Much after, in fact.
I am so far taken aback by your untimely death,
That I can hardly find the words to speak,
But I can find the tears to cry,
And I will love you until I'm dead
Because you are my dog
My friend
And I am just a man.

...

I just wanted to protect you.
(to the window)
I just wanted to protect you.

5.

TREVOR watches BRIAN.

TREVOR

Our Lady of Perpetual Understanding is a happy woman
Filled with love
And kindness
And faith
And hope
And wisdom
And truth
And eternal salvation.
But there are just three things she hates:
Dogs.
Filth.
And whale basters.

She readies her gun.

Pop
Pop
Pop

BLACK.

TREVOR

Pow.

END OF PLAY.