

"Drunk Custody"

by

David Dalton & Chad Schnackel

Pages: 3

Characters: 1 male, 1 girl

Jenny, daughter, 10 yr. old

John, father, 35+

Synopsis: John has custody of his daughter Jenny and takes her to a lounge for dinner. Jenny knows he's really there for a drink.

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Mock Sides, Volume 1: Original Scripts for Workshop Actors

INT. TED'S BAR - NIGHT

We see a booth in a small hotel bar. John escorts his young daughter, Jenny, to a small table. John appears a little shaky and Jenny a little disgusted with her surroundings.

JENNY

Dad, I thought we we're going to Burger Hut. I don't think this place has curly fries.

JOHN

I know, sweetie. But their burgers are really good.

A waitress enters and before she can speak...

JOHN

I'll have a gin and tonic on the rocks, with a twist. You know what, make it a double.

(pause)

Oh, and let's have a burger with fries and a Shirley Temple for her.

JENNY

Could you make my burger well done and I'll just have a water. Wait, do you have bottled water?

JOHN

Just bring whatever water you have.

The waitress leaves.

John becomes more anxious and jittery.

JENNY

Are you okay?

JOHN

Yeah, um, my blood sugar level is a little low. I get a little shaky if I don't eat.

JENNY

Why didn't you order some food?

JOHN

Huh? Oh, I'll just eat a few of your fries and I'll be fine. Look, honey, I only have you for another hour before I have to get you back to your mom's, so let's eat up and go.

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JENNY

Actually, we were supposed to be back an hour ago.

JOHN

What? What time is it?
(looking at his cell phone)
Oh, damn! How did I lose track?

JENNY

We could just cancel the order. It's not too late.

JOHN

No, no, it's alright. I'll just let your mom know we had to eat.

JENNY

Really, it's okay. I'd rather eat at home, anyway.

JOHN

Where is she with that drink?

JENNY

Mom warned you about being late again.

JOHN

I know, I know ...your mom has this thing about rules, only she doesn't always like to follow them herself.

(beat)

Wow, what happened to this place. It used to have great service. There's hardly anyone here and it's taking forever to get a drink.

JENNY

Mom wanted to take me shopping for school supplies. You might want to give her a call, and just let her know...

JOHN

(snapping angrily)

Your mom can just wait!

(toward the bar)

Hey, remember me? Gin and Tonic?

(back to Jenny)

You need school supplies? All your mom had to say was stop by and get school supplies! I can get school supplies. That's just a poor excuse to pull the reigns in on me. If she's so concerned, why hasn't she called me. Huh?

(MORE)

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You know why? Because she's passive aggressive. You know what that means?
(toward the bar, again)
Come on, is there anyone working back there. How long does it take to fix a goddam drink?

Jenny slumps in her seat. She pulls a cell phone from her pocket and quickly dials. She waits for an answer.

JOHN
Since when do you have a cell phone?

JENNY
Ever since you got weekends with me. She gave it to me for emergencies.

JOHN
(laughing)
What, is there some kind of emergency?

JENNY
(snapping back)
I don't know! Is there?
(there's an answer)
Mom, can you come get me? I'm at some dive on ColfaxTed's Lounge?

John reaching over the table for the phone.

JOHN
Okay, let me talk to her.

Jenny pulls away from his reach.

JENNY
Alright ...okay ...yes, I remember. See you.

John retreats and settles down.

JOHN
Okay, so what? You and mom got some emergency escape plan from your own father. Oh, that's great.

The waitress returns with his drink and the water.

JOHN
(To waitress)
It's about time! Tell you what, let's just start mixing another one right now! Maybe it'll get here before happy hour is over.

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Waitress leaves. John finishes off his drink in a single guzzle.

CUT TO:

END