

Fixing Bob

by

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Setting

A kitchen.

Time

The present.

Cast

TANYA - A woman in her 30s-40s.

CHERYL - A woman in her 30s-40s.

(In a kitchen, CHERYL measures and pours ingredients into a mixing bowl as TANYA hones a knife on a sharpening steel. There are a variety of vegetables on the counter, including celery and tomatoes on the vine. Throughout the play, they will go through the motions of making a meal as they consult their recipes. They also have a bottle of pinot grigio on the counter and two wine glasses. They both drink liberally during the play.)

CHERYL

It is so nice of you to make this dinner for Bob.

TANYA

Well, it is a lot of work, but it's his birthday. I really appreciate you coming over to help out.

CHERYL

Hey, what are best friends for? You worry about everything else, but leave the baking to me.

(beat)

So, did you get him any kind of present?

TANYA

Oh, he wants some kind of newfangled golf balls or this high-tech putter he heard about. But honestly, how much golf equipment does one man need?

CHERYL

So what are you thinking?

(TANYA tests the knife against her thumb in a contemplative fashion.)

TANYA

Have you ever thought about castrating a man?

CHERYL

Sure. What woman hasn't?

(TANYA sets to work on some celery, chopping rapidly.)

CHERYL

Tanya...are you thinking about castrating any man in particular?

TANYA

Bob.

CHERYL

As a birthday present?

Mmm-hmm.

TANYA

(More chopping.)

CHERYL

Any particular reason?

TANYA

Well, I've been thinking...we've had three kids and we're pretty much done in that department, so why not?

CHERYL

Have you thought about a vasectomy?

TANYA

Oh yeah. But that just seems really impersonal, sending him off to a clinic or whatnot. Plus, that's elective surgery, so I'm not sure if it's covered by our insurance...do you think this is enough celery?

CHERYL

That should do us. Do you need more cilantro?

TANYA

I think I'm good.

(They focus on their recipes briefly.)

CHERYL

So, are you thinking of castrating him in any particular way?

TANYA

I'm not sure. But, you said you've thought about it. What would you do?

CHERYL

Well, for me, it's usually a heat of the moment type of situation, you know? So, whatever would be convenient...some scissors...teeth. What are you thinking?

TANYA

Well, what are they called...garden shears?

CHERYL

You mean those big choppy things for trimming hedges? They would definitely do the job.

TANYA

Exactly! One clip and you're done, neat as you please.

CHERYL

Have you mentioned this to Bob at all?

TANYA

Oh no, he likes surprises on his birthday.

CHERYL

So you don't plan on telling him?

TANYA

Well, you know what they say, it's always easier to ask for forgiveness than permission.

CHERYL

(reading her recipe)

That is so true. Golden raisins...where are my...there they are!
(pouring the raisins into a
measuring cup)

If you don't mind my asking, how do you plan on doing the deed, exactly? If Bob's not on board, that might be a problem.

TANYA

Oh, it's not very complicated. I'll just get a couple of beers into him and tell him I want to do something kinky.

CHERYL

Done and done!

TANYA

I just say the word "kinky" and his brain dissolves. So, I'll strip him, tie him to the bed--

CHERYL

Spread-eagle?

TANYA

Oh yeah. And we've got this plastic tarp we use to pick up leaves in the fall. I'll put that under him.

CHERYL

That's good thinking. You don't want a mess.

TANYA

The thing is, I'm not sure how vascular scrotums are. Would there be a lot of bleeding?

CHERYL

I'm not sure. You should Google it.

TANYA

I will.

CHERYL

So, you'd just be doing the scrotum and testicles?

TANYA

You think I should do the whole thing?

CHERYL

Not necessarily. I was just asking.

TANYA

Well, taking off the whole unit is called emasculation. Castration refers to just the testicles and scrotum.

CHERYL

I didn't know that. It's nice that there's a distinction.

TANYA

Well, I've been doing a little research. Did you know that castration used to be incredibly popular?

CHERYL

Is that right? So, like Abba?

TANYA

More popular than Abba even. Warriors used to do it because it was a handy way of proving how many men you killed.

CHERYL

Like Indian scalps?

TANYA

Right! Then because the Catholic Church wouldn't allow women in their choirs, they used to castrate boys before they hit puberty, so they would have singers who could hit the high notes. They were called castrati...or castratos...I forget which.

CHERYL

Now that, I respect that. Those are some people who were serious about their choirs. But can I play Devil's Advocate a little bit here? It's not like you've defeated Bob in battle. And you'd be castrating him too late in life to give him a good singing voice.

TANYA

Oh, I know. But there's a ton of other benefits to castrating men.

CHERYL

Such as?

TANYA

Well, two different studies have shown that eunuchs live an average of fourteen years longer than regular men...

CHERYL

No kidding!

TANYA

Mmm-hmm. It also prevents male pattern baldness...

CHERYL

Bonus!

TANYA

And, Bob wouldn't have to worry about getting testicular cancer.

CHERYL

No, he definitely would not.

TANYA

Plus, let's face it, a lot of middle-aged men wind up doing some hanky-panky on the side to try and prove something to themselves. I'm guessing that being castrated might reduce that urge.

CHERYL

You've really thought this through!

TANYA

Well, you and I know that, but...

CHERYL

Honey, what's wrong?

TANYA

I'm just worried that Bob will take it the wrong way.

CHERYL

He might be a little upset at first, sure. But you give him some time to think about it, and I'll bet he winds up thanking you. Jeez, he gets to live another fourteen years with a full head of hair? That's like the best birthday present ever!

TANYA

I know. I just hope he sees it that way.

CHERYL

It's a wonderful gesture of thoughtfulness and affection for the man you love. In fact, you know what you should do if you're worried about his reaction?

TANYA

What?

CHERYL

Get him the golf balls too! You know, kind of a trade-in deal? I bet that would make him crack a smile!

TANYA

Oh, that's funny! Maybe get the golf balls personalized...Bob's Balls.

CHERYL

I love it! Now, let's get back to practical matters. Any plans for what to do with his testicles when you're done?

TANYA

That's a good question. I don't know if I'd feel right just throwing them out. Wouldn't that be kind of insensitive? I mean, they are his, after all.

CHERYL

True. So, why not keep them?

TANYA

I'd like to. I mean, we did get three kids out of them, so there's some nostalgia value there. But we have enough clutter around the house as it is.

CHERYL

It's not like they would take up that much room. Maybe you could get the whole package mounted and framed or something.

TANYA

And put it up as a decoration?

CHERYL

Why not? Like you said, warriors used to gather them after battle. What are you, but an Amazon warrior on the domestic battlefield?

TANYA

I don't know. If it's out in the open, Bob might feel awkward explaining it to his golf buddies when they come over.

CHERYL

Well, how about the walk-in closet in your bedroom?

TANYA

That's a thought.

CHERYL

That way, every morning when you're getting dressed, there it is. Kind of a souvenir.

TANYA

I'd like that.

CHERYL

I'm telling you, Tanya, I think you are on to something. You're on Twitter, right?

TANYA

I love Twitter!

CHERYL

Then here's what you need to do. Once you take care of the old snippetty-snip, you need to Tweet about it, then update your Facebook status. Let the world know! This could go viral in a heartbeat!

TANYA

Oh yeah?

CHERYL

It just makes so much sense! For the physical health of men, for their mental health, for the good of society. You're a pioneer, Tanya!

TANYA

I never thought of it that way.

CHERYL

You are too modest. I'm telling you, you will be an inspiration to women around the world. It makes me want to get married just so I can castrate a man for his own good!

TANYA

Who says you have to be married?

CHERYL

Oh my God, you're right! You see, here I am, getting bogged down by convention and you just cut right to the chase! That is a gift, Tanya! I am getting right on Match.com when I get home!

(TANYA's phone rings. She checks it.)

TANYA

It's Bob!

(answering her phone)

Hi sweetie! Happy birthday!...Well, right now I am making you a delicious birthday dinner...uh-huh...your present? Well, I have a special surprise for you...it's a little kinky.

(They both cover their mouths to stop themselves from laughing.)

TANYA

No, no, no! Don't rush home, honey! Oh, one more thing, do we have any garden shears, you know, like for trimming the hedges?...Could you maybe pick one up at Home Depot on your way home?...Thanks, hon!

(TANYA hangs up.)

CHERYL

Bob is such a nice guy.

TANYA

Isn't he?

CHERYL

And thanks to you you'll have an extra fourteen years together!

TANYA

Thanks, Cheryl. I feel so much better about this now.

(CHERYL holds up a pair of tomatoes held together on the vine and swings them gently. Both women smile, then sing.)

CHERYL

You say tomato, I say tomato...

TANYA

You say castrati, I say castrato...

CHERYL

Tomato.

TANYA

Tomato.

CHERYL

Castrati.

TANYA

Castrato.

TANYA AND CHERYL

Let's cut the whole thing off!

(TANYA takes some kitchen shears, clips the vine, and the two tomatoes fall to the counter with a thump. They pick up their glasses, clink them together, and drink.)

END OF PLAY.