

A Very Veggie Thanksgiving

A Play in Ten Minutes by

Adrian Babatunde Thomas

[adrian@adrianthomasplaywright.com](mailto:adrian@adrianthomasplaywright.com)

(661) 877-1419

Setting: A rental car front seat

Place: Houston, Texas

Present day Thanksgiving around 2pm.

Earnest: 30 something African American Los Angeles City truck technician who has been in Los Angeles for years and had troubles dating due to culture shock. He has finally found the girl of his dreams in Zoe.

Zoe: 30 something African American nurse who fell in love with a patient and now is coming to visit his family after two years of dating but she is a devout vegan and they are a true Texas family of red meat eating and republican leaning ideas. She is driven by ideals and she wants her partner to join her.

Earnest

My parents won't care

Zoe

They always care. I should have never come. I'm sorry for pressuring you to let me meet your parents

Earnest

It's fine. Long overdue so take a deep breath and let's go. Don't forget the drinks.

Zoe

Let's just go back to the hotel and tell them that I have the flu.

Earnest

The flu! Babe, stop. No need to be nervous. My parents are understanding.

Zoe

You told them, right? And they want me to eat with them? Your mom's a chef. She knows how to make everything so moist and delicious. It's all you talked about on our first date. You wanted to show me how to cook.

Earnest

And you are an excellent cook. I love taking my mother's old recipes and changing them with you. She knows that I have changed, okay. Let's go. My sister has peeped out the window twice. I need to pee.

Zoe

I can't. I can uber back, you go pee and I will uber back. Give my apologies to your mom. The killer of turkeys and piglets. Oh God, I can't help myself. I can't do it. Babe, I have tried. I don't want to slip but I am

Earnest

I know and they know. You are a

Zoe

Don't, look, I brought myself some granola bars and I can just sit here in the car, listen to some podcasts and you will be in and out in a few hours. I can run in the bushes and do my business.

Earnest

Honey, seriously. We flew eighteen hundred miles. You are not staying in this car. My mom is not a killer, three hundred million Americans are all enjoying turkey today and we are going to have a nice Tofurky right next to them and cranberry sauce. I sent my sister a list of veg (Cut off.)

Zoe

Don't, it's bad luck on the anti-Native American unholy day of remembrance of the... the Wampanoag People want their land back. We don't eat the colonizer's food in solidarity. Your mom is a turkey killer, Earnest, and I can't eat at the table with her.

Earnest

Dear, you are sitting on a leather seat. You are drinking out of a plastic bottle. You are wearing blue jeans made by some poor Chinese or Korean child laborer and my mother cooks dead pigs and fish and lambs and today, turkeys. We knew this when you said, "I want to meet your family, or our relationship is over." Now that we are here you are going to get off your moral vegan high horse and stop this panic attack and thank my sister for figuring out where the Whole Foods market was in the cow infested town called Houston and we are going to survive dinner with no outbursts about vegans saving the world. I will not argue with my uncle Mike about how Trump is secretly going to help black people get reparations if we just reelect him and you are going to eat Tofurky, and cranberry sauce and the veggies only roasted with sage and olive oil and like it. And after we are married, you can say to our kids that you fell in love with my meat-eating family, and we lived happily ever after.

Zoe

Marriage, oh my God, did you just say we are getting

Earnest

Yes, I want to, well not today but it's been on my mind a lot.

Zoe

Wow. You are dropping this on me today

Earnest

I don't bring just anyone to meet the meat eaters, you are special.

Zoe

Okay, I don't know how to say this.

Earnest

Say what?

Zoe

Ummmhhh, I can't marry you.

Earnest

What'd you just say? Run dat by me once mo? You can't marry me? Why?

Zoe

You know, Earnest you are, you know, you're one of them ...

Earnest

A what? One of them. I am a vegetarian.

Zoe

That's just a term for people who are non-committal to the cause of all animal liberation.

Earnest

You are the brightest, smartest, most committed woman I have ever made love to. I love you but I now know why your parents won't have us over for dinner. You are impossible.

Zoe

Now we are talking. We can run to the store and buy Impossible burgers and Beyond chicken for your whole family.

Earnest

Babe! I have to pee, and my entire family is watching us from the bedroom window. Can we please just go in and when dinner is served, we will sneak out the guest bathroom window. We are going in, get out of the car.

Zoe

If you leave this car, we are never getting married and getting freaky in the garage privileges will never happen again.

Earnest

You are pussy whipping me in front of my uncle Mike and my forty-year-old virgin sister? I'll put you over my shoulder kicking and screaming and carry you into the bathroom with me or we calmly go in and eat some damn Tofurky. (Rolls down the window) We are fine mom. Zoe is on the car phone, just letting her folks know we are ok. We'll be right in. (Rolls up the car window) Kicking and screaming with me in soiled pants or

Zoe

Or what?

Earnest

Okay that's it. (Gets out and heads into the house)

Zoe

Okay big shot. Oh shit, he took the keys. It's cold. My jacket is in the trunk. Oh, I see, he's trying to force me into the lion's den. I will freeze to death before I betray my beliefs. Shit it's really fucking cold. Earnest (Cracks open the door) Babe, Earnest I need the... she did not just slam the door. (Closes the car door) I survived

worse; I knew I should have stayed and gone to the PETA protest. Kids with a man who eats eggs still. Never!!! But he did stop eating meat. He got his sister to shop for me. For us. I can just tolerate it for one day or die in a rental car.

Earnest

(Walks back to the car)

Bad news, my sister said she didn't know she had to defrost the Tofurky. You can take the rental car back to the hotel. I will catch an Uber back. I need to get back to my family. Sorry that we (She grabs him and kisses him)

Zoe

You came back. No boyfriend has ever come back. You don't have to defrost the Tofurky. You just cook it for an extra hour. Let's go meet the family.

Earnest

What? Wait, this was all some test of yours.

Zoe

Well yes and no.

Earnest

Yes and no is not an answer.

Zoe

The test is that you are willing to at least try and tell your family and say the V word. The dread of a vegan showing up to a Texas BBQ, it's such a relief. I get to the house, meet everyone and then have a rack of lamb thrown in my face... OMG we are getting married.

Earnest

So, here's the problem! I threw all the vegan food in the trash just now in a fit of rage. Didn't think you were staying.

Zoe

No problem. It's all still in wrappers and can be washed off.

Earnest

Wait! I also told my mother you were a raving lunatic, and she went charging for the door.

Zoe

Oh, that is a problem. She is a big woman.

Earnest

Hold on, Uncle Mike is in there putting a price out on your head. He is a bit touchy when it comes to upsetting his baby sister.

Zoe

A hit out on me? Isn't that a little extreme over Tofurky?

Earnest

My sister also is probably going to attack you when she finishes the last pie. You got her blood pressure up.

Zoe

Should I go?

Earnest

No, but I would hang around my dad for a little while. No one will attack you while he is holding his bible.

Zoe

His Bible?

Earnest

Oh, he is going to read several long passages and then pray over the food before he asks everyone to pray and thank God for everything that you are grateful for this past year.

Zoe

But I am not religious

Earnest

My mother, uncle and sister are all plotting your death. I suggest you find God quickly and stick next to the preacher for the time being and Google Thanksgiving scriptures. Skip that, just say Psalms one hundred “Enter his gates with Thanksgiving and his courts with praise”.

Zoe

Enter the gates with Thanksgiving and plays tennis on the court with pals”

Earnest

Just Google and read. Google is our friend. I will dig our food out and put it in the oven myself. (Opens his door and runs around the car to help her out)

Zoe

For kids and God Dude. What if God is a woman?

Earnest

Babe, Veg Fest first. Save baby Jesus' battle for Christmas. (They exit into the house) Mom put down the knife, she's fine. Uncle Mike let's talk about the Orange Idiot.

(Lights Fade to Black Out)