

PERFECT STRANGERS

by

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Balki sits in the living room, watching the crappy little television they share. He is smiling heavily, Larry enters and looks at him, shakes his head, and sits down next to

him.

LARRY

Hey, Balki. You know it's St. Patty's Day, today?

BALKI

Ohhh, who is this Patty? A new girlfriend, perhaps?

LARRY

No, not a new girlfriend. St. Patrick. The guy that drove all of the snakes out of Scotland.

BALKI

Where did he drive them? Disney World?

LARRY

What? No.

BALKI

He should have taken them there, I think they would like it. I liked it.

LARRY

No, he drove them out of Ireland because they didn't want snakes there anymore.

BALKI

Who doesn't like snakes? They eat mice and rats and so on, and don't we have problems with them, cousin Larry?

LARRY

Yes, but they didn't like them in Ireland.

BALKI

Where is Ireland? Is that over on the west side of town?

LARRY

No, Balki. Ireland. You know, the country?

BALKI

Oh, of course.

LARRY

You don't know where Ireland is, do you?

BALKI

Don't be ridukulaus. Of course I know where Ireland is.

LARRY

On the west side of town?

BALKI

But you told me it wasn't...ohhh, cousin Larry. You are trying to trick me now, aren't you?

LARRY

(disappointingly) Yes, Balki, I am trying to trick you.

BALKI

I knew it, cousin Larry. You always trying to play games on cousin Balki, aren't you.

LARRY

Yes, Balki, always trying to play tricks on you. Anyway, it's St. Patty's day, and we should go out?

BALKI

Why, cousin Larry?

LARRY

Because it's the only holiday that says it's OK to get stinking drunk on.

BALKI

The only holiday?

LARRY

Well, most people get drunk on all holidays, but...

BALKI

Why most people get drunk on holidays?

LARRY

Because they have to see family. But this is the one...

BALKI

Why people get drunk if they seeing family? Don't they like family? Like us, cousin Larry?

LARRY

Yes, Balki. Most people like family, but usually it helps with alcohol. But on this holiday, on St. Patty's Day, we can get drunk without family, which is kind of the beauty of the holiday.

BALKI

Do these Irish not have family? Is that

why we get drunk without them?

LARRY

Yes, the Irish don't have family. They just have potatoes. Potatoes and whiskey.

BALKI

What is this whiskey?

LARRY

You'll find out by the end of the night.

BALKI

So where do we go on this holiday for Patty?

LARRY

St. Patty's Day. And we can kind of just go anywhere, which is the beauty of it. Because everyone, everywhere is celebrating it.

BALKI

Why the celebrate it?

LARRY

Because they can drink whiskey without having to deal with Uncle Steve.

BALKI

Oh, Uncle Steve! I like Uncle Steve! He's always trying to touch me in funny ways.

LARRY

No, Balki, we don't like Uncle Steve. Mostly because of the funny ways he, uh, touches us. And tonight we can just drink whiskey to have fun, not to forget.

BALKI

But you always told me whiskey was for forgetting, cousin Larry.

LARRY

It is for forgetting, Balki, but not tonight. Well, it's still for forgetting tonight, but for other reasons entirely.

BALKI

I don't understand.

LARRY

But you're usually so perceptive.

BALKI

What does perceptive mean?

LARRY

Never mind. Just go get on your Sunday best and we'll head out.

BALKI

But I usually wear my Spider-man pajamas on Sunday.

LARRY

Just go get something nice on and we'll head out, OK Balki?

BALKI

OK cousin Larry. I know just what to wear.

Balki starts to head back to bedroom.

LARRY

Wait, Balki, let me help you pick something out.

BALKI

OK, cousin Larry. But since it's not a regular holiday, no Uncle Steve touching, OK?

LARRY

OK, Balki.

The two exit to the back of the stage. The lights go out and come back up in a singles bar (I'll take this point to ask, what the hell is a singles bar? And why wasn't I twenty-something in the eighties, when there was such a thing as a singles bar? Dammit!). The scene opens on a singles bar with a bunch of people mingling, including several hot women by themselves. Balki is oblivious to them and Larry avoids them out of fear since he's a wuss and they go to the bar for a drink.

BARTENDER

What can I get for you fellas?

BALKI

Cousin Larry says we must drink whiskey to forget!

Bartender eyes both of them.

BARTENDER

Yeah, that seems about right.

Bartender pours them whiskey. The two drink their first shot and the bartender pours them another.

BALKI
Wow, cousin Larry! It makes my lips
tingle!

LARRY
But it's not making me forget soon
enough.

Two girls look at them.

BALKI
Those ladies are looking our way.

Larry quickly turns to the bartender.

LARRY
More whiskey, barkeep!

BALKI
I see lots of people having fun here,
but I see no snakes. Where are the
snakes you spoke of earlier?

LARRY
No one really cares about the snakes.
It's more about the whiskey.

BALKI
Does the whiskey represent the snakes?

LARRY
I guess, maybe, with enough of it, it
probably represents anything.

A woman approaches Balki and touches his arm seductively.

LADY
Hello, sexy.

Balki kind of flitters at the touch.

BALKI
Oh, cousin Larry, I thought you said
this wasn't about family.

LARRY
What are you talking about, Balki?

BALKI
She touches me just like Uncle Steve.

The woman, looking disgusted, walks away. Larry turns to
the bartender.

LARRY
More whiskey, barkeep!

The bartender pours more whiskey.

BALKI

I'm not seeing why we want to forget all of this, cousin Larry. It is so much fun.

The two keep drinking and partying as the lights go out. The scene now opens with them back at home, waking up on the couch/bed in living room.

LARRY

Oh, why did I drink so much whiskey last night.

BALKI

I thought it was to forget.

LARRY

So why can't I forget the taste in my mouth this morning?

BALKI

We were up pretty late.

LARRY

Oh, I don't remember. What happened last night?

BALKI

We celebrated the holidays. As family!

Larry looks confused, looks around room, then lifts blanket and throws it back down immediately.

LARRY

Balki! Why don't I have any pants on?

BALKI

Despite you telling me the holiday wasn't about family earlier last night, when we got home, you kept talking about Uncle Steve.

LARRY

(nervously) and?...

BALKI

And we took part in family traditions last night.

LARRY

Uncle Steve family traditions?

BALKI

You said it was appropriate. You said it was what the holiday was about.

LARRY

No! I said the holiday was about
whiskey. Whiskey!

BALKI

Maybe it was the whiskey talking then.

We are left feeling very, very uncomfortable.