

MOTEL  
BY  
Bil Sherrin  
8/3/15 v.10.5  
based on draft 4.0

LOCATION: Room 213 at The Motel 12 off I-75 in Michigan

TIME: Late October, Present Day, 8:00 PM

SIN: Lust

CAST:

PENNY: female Prostitute. Dressed like a teacher. Smart. Funny. Playful. Doesn't give a shit. Never left town. In her forties. In great shape. Very confident. Lots of regulars. Savvy.

JOHN/ERNEST: male First-time client. Nervous. Aroused. Married but bored. Prominent in town, but also never left. In his forties.

EDITS:

v.10.2

1. Changed "Principal Skinner" to "Assistant Principle Brown"
2. Fixed some spacing mistakes
3. Fixed multiple grammatical errors
4. Switched "support hose" to "pearl necklace"
5. Removed line "close the curtains" & stage direct John to close them
6. Removed "Penny for thoughts" and "hello my name is" lines
7. Added a line for John when they're talking about AP Brown
8. Removed production note around having play be silhouetted
9. Changed "drinks" to "scotch"
10. Removed "Even intercourse is better" line

v.10.3 [from iPad]

1. Changed "handsome" to "hot"
2. Incensed stage direction changed during "dick" line
3. "You're striking" changed to "you look amazing"
4. Moved the time when John gets up for drink when discussing breasts
5. Softened Penny's "get the fuck out" line

v.10.4

1. Corrected some formatting caused by iPad edit.
2. Changed librarian to Teacher.
3. Changed scotch to Know Creek & add line "you said knob"
4. Slight change to the "went to high school with many johns line"
5. Added goofy "package" line for Penny
6. Slight change to Penny line re: John's Nervousness.

7. Changed the "does your gadget line..." to "...my bag is full"
8. Added many emotions directions in second half of script
9. Changed the "want to unzip" line to just having Penny start to unbutton John's shirt.
10. Changed Hall and Oates song to "Hot for Teacher" by Van Halen.

v.10.5

1. Cleaned up beginning few lines to include "no one's gonna see you John."
2. Got rid of the room number all together
3. Got rid of "gonna take care of me" line.
4. Fixed a typo. Line was missing an "of"
5. Added lots more stage directions and corrected some stage directions.

EXT: An Autumn drizzle falls on the trampled leaves from the trees circling the mom-and-pop motel off of I-75 just south of Frankenmuth, MI. Motel 12 ('cause it's twice as nice as Motel 6) is kept up just nice enough to keep the inspectors away and to be a favorite for local hookers who service your cliché truckers and occasional traveling salesmen. The neon sign works perfectly; There are no missing letters. Cute little cardboard ghosts and goblins and jack-o-lanterns are affixed to the windows of the outside of the office's façade. The structure is two stories with all the doors facing the parking lot. It's 45 degrees.

INT: Room 213. Second Floor. Neon sign lights show through the crack between to the brown drapes that are donned with a pattern of orange owls. The room is well kept, without stains; plush olive green, wall-to-wall shag carpeting consumes the room. The bathroom has new tile. The TV is a flat screen and is secured to the wall with a lock. The walls are covered with dark fake wood paneling. The bed is a double with a new mattress. The mini-fridge is for the customers to stock with their own beverages and wares. Penny is stage right near a window and John is center stage sitting on the edge of the bed.

Penny parses the drapes and raises the window and ducks her head out and lights two cigarettes.

PENNY

I love the fall.

JOHN

Someone'll see us.

John rushes over to window and kindly pushes Penny out of the way, closing the drapes with vigor.

PENNY

(teasing / with air quotes)

No one's gonna see YOU, "John"

Penny hands John one of the cigarettes. John looks at the smoke and reluctantly takes a drag as he heads back to the edge of the bed, and starts to play with the controls of old boom box.

JOHN

Man, this thing must be 30-years-old.

Penny is flirtatious and sultry. Heads over to sit next to John on the bed. She caresses his hair and feels his shoulders.

PENNY

That boom box, this lava lamp, the scented candles... They all are a part of the experience, "John"... and I use that term loosely, I mean, don't you think's that's a little cliché?

Penny turns on some music (Barry White / Jazz / etc.) and continues to touch him seductively. John continues to be uncomfortable, staring at the cigarette.

JOHN

I don't usually smoke.

John puts his cigarette in the ashtray politely but does not put it out.

JOHN (continued)

(with air quotes / snarky)

Cliché. Like "Penny" isn't cliché. Why don't you call yourself "Charity" or "Candy" or...

PENNY

(flirtatious)

Penny's my real name.

Penny gets up and walks toward the mini-fridge to make some drinks.

JOHN

(pause)

Well, whatever... I went to high school with a Penny.

Penny is now looking at the audience and at the mini-fridge.

PENNY

(flirtatious)

I know.

JOHN  
(surprised/concerned)  
Penelope?! Penny Malone?

Enthusiastic that he knows her, John gets up to join her at the mini-fridge. Penny continues to face the audience.

PENNY  
Yep.

John's physical nature in his enthusiasm consumes the room – (i.e. he can't believe it's her, so he's bouncy).

JOHN  
(confident)  
Oh, come on. don't remember me?

PENNY  
(still super flirty)  
Let me pour us some Knob Creek.

JOHN  
(goofy, nervous, trying to be funny)  
heh-heh. You said "knob"...  
(long pause)  
Our names are back-to-back in the  
alphabet. I sat behind you in homeroom.

PENNY  
Mason.

JOHN  
huh?

PENNY  
Your last name.

JOHN  
You remember?

PENNY  
No.

JOHN  
Oh.

Penny continues to face the audience.

PENNY

(feeling nostalgic & sarcastic)  
I went to high school with sooo many of  
my "Johns". Shit, you're probably the  
last one. Finally! My vagina can  
retire!

JOHN

You really don't remember me?

Penny faces John, and hands him his drink, and is sultry  
and flirtatious and touchy.

PENNY

No. Look. You're fucking hot. I don't  
get a lot of hot.

JOHN

(a little shy, embarrassed)  
I'm no fireman on a calendar.

PENNY

You're no pizza-face-shoelaces-never-  
tied-obsessed with winning the Rube  
Goldberg contest in physics class-kid  
either.

JOHN

You do remember!

Penny heads back over to sit on the edge of the bed.

PENNY

(emotional)  
Girls remember... boys who... don't tug  
on their hair... who don't pull their  
bra straps... You didn't goose me. You  
asked me about my dreams...

Long pause.

John saunters over to join Penny on edge of the bed.

JOHN

Well?...

PENNY

Well what?

JOHN

Your dreams.

PENNY

(not that mad, kidding, indifferent)  
You're a dick. You're looking at 'em.

Penny stands up, pounds the rest of her drink as she motions toward her outfit and details

(sarcastic)

I bring dreams to life... Just not my own! I'm dressed like a teacher!  
Glasses. Pearls. A skirt so long I might as well be inside a Jane Austen novel.

JOHN

You look amazing.

Penny heads back to fridge and starts making another another drink, and again faces the audience.

PENNY

Shut up! Why is it so important that I remember you?

JOHN

(empathetic)

Had I known you were penny precious.com, I would have asked for the cheerleader package.

PENNY

(flirty)

He-heh. You said "package". Ernie!  
That's it. Ernie Mason.

JOHN

Ernest. It's Ernest.

JOHN/PENNY (in unison)

...after Hemmingway.

JOHN

See, you do remember?

PENNY/JOHN (in unison, giggling)  
"no"

JOHN  
So now what?

Penny seductively walks over, drink in hand, and sits on John's lap.

PENNY  
Well... We're on your dime. You're  
"George Clooney" hot and I'm dressed up  
like Annie Potts in Ghostbusters...

PENNY/JOHN (in unison)  
(giggling / nasally voices)  
"Hello, Ghostbusters!?"

Penny moves her hand on John's thigh and squeezes.

PENNY  
"Does this pole work?"

Pause.

PENNY  
Come on. Ghostbusters. That was funny.

JOHN  
(nervous / concerned)  
I don't know. It's such a slippery  
slope... first, a teacher, then I ask  
you to be my stepmom, then you bring a  
donkey...

PENNY  
I'm not going to poop on you.

Pause.

John looks down Penny's blouse, as she is still on his lap...

PENNY  
They're nice, aren't they?

John lifts Penny off his lap, pounds his drink and heads to the fridge for another. Faces the audience...

JOHN

(in a silly fit / babbling)  
They're perfect. They were perfect in high school. They're perfect now. Perfect. Perfect. Perfect. The perfect breasts. The perfect Penny breasts. In her cheerleading outfit, I mean teacher outfit... I mean... damnit!

PENNY

It's just sex, Ernie.

JOHN

(upset)  
Ernest. It's Ernest... and it is not just sex.

PENNY

Uh... yeah it is. I promise. I've had lots of it. The quarterback. The point guard. The soccer coach.  
(reminiscing)  
The swim coach. The tennis coach. The hall monitor...

John heads back to the bed with his second drink in hand.

JOHN

I get it. I get it.

PENNY

(still flirty and touchy)  
Look, don't sweat it, it'll be just like Doc Schaeffer taught us biology class... I Promise.

PENNY/JOHN (in unison)

(giggling)  
He's not even a real Doctor...  
(long pause)  
I know. Right!

JOHN

He always said Courtship and Caring before "coitus"!

PENNY

Hate that word.

JOHN

(in old man teacher voice)  
The Three "C's" must come in order!  
(long pause)  
(regular voice)  
...so we pretend?

PENNY

...Yessssss! EXACTLY. We pretend. I care for you. You court me. Then we consummate.

JOHN

(giggling)  
Ha-ha. You are such the teacher!  
Another "c"!

Pause.

PENNY

Earnest. Penny precioius.com is not ok cupid. But...  
(pause)  
"pretending" – it's always there. It was there when I spent time with the quarterback, the point guard...

JOHN

(interrupting)  
I get it... I fuckin' get it!

PENNY

Anyway, you pretend at your job, you're pretending in your marriage and we're going to pretend tonight... except it's going to be so much fun!

JOHN

(kinda down)  
It's not the same.

PENN

(reassuring)  
My bag is full of helpful pharmaceuticals.

JOHN  
(kinda down)  
No, I'm good. I could find water right  
now.  
(pause)  
it's just the guilt.

Slight Pause. Penny sips from her drink joyfully – almost  
tipsy.

PENNY  
(laughing, telling it like it is...)  
Guilt!? Guilt!? I'll tell you about  
guilt. I pooped on a guy once.

JOHN  
(feeling better, now giggling)  
I thought you said you wouldn't do that.

PENNY  
(also giggling and reminiscing)  
Well, I did and it was Assistant  
Principle Brown.

JOHN  
(giggling and grossed out at same time)  
You took a dump on A.P.B! So, basically  
you had a code brown with Brown.

PENNY  
It's not something you need to do twice.

JOHN  
It's not something I need to do once.

PENNY  
Well, good.

JOHN  
I mean, I stopped at Donkey, and even  
then I was kidding.

PENNY  
I know! ...let's play some music from  
high school!

Penny reaches over to boom box, seductively throwing her  
butt in John's general direction and pushes another button

and "Hot for Teacher" by Van Halen starts to play. Penny grabs John's hand and they stand and start to Dance— she trying her hardest to seduce him and having a great time. At first, John is reluctant, but eventually the two of them are having a grand – albeit very cheesy – grand time dancing to Van Halen. As the music volume lowers, they get closer and more intimate, almost like a first kiss at Prom. Penny starts to unbutton John's shirt.

JOHN

I just, I just... I can't.

John steps away from her and sits back on bed.

PENNY

(somewhat disappointed, but whatever)  
You know "John"... (pause). You're such a wuss. There's other shit I could be doing.

JOHN

Oh, You mean like spitting ping-pong balls out of your v-j-j. No. No, I'm staying.

Penny joins him on the bed.

PENNY

(slightly vulnerable)  
Fine. But, I meant it. YOU. ARE. HOT. so... um. Yeah.

JOHN

Look. We grew up with Sesame Street and Moon Landings...

PENNY

Stirrup pants and M-TV.

They both start doing the M-TV intro song.

PENNY/JOHN (in unison)

(giggling)  
Duh-Duh-Da... Da-Da Duh-Duh-Da... Da-Da  
(long pause)

PENNY  
(feeling nostalgic)  
The Cold War.

JOHN  
(feeling nostalgic)  
Yeaahhhh.

PENNY  
(kidding around)  
Tonight feels like the cold war.

JOHN  
(sarcastic)  
Shuuuuut up.

Long pause.

JOHN  
(being genuine)  
You know what I'd really like to do?

PENNY  
Play trivia pursuit?

JOHN  
No.

PENNY  
T.P. Mr. Browns's house?

JOHN  
Ha! ...No.

PENNY  
Should I sit on your face?

JOHN  
No. No. No. Would you just shut up.  
(long pause, embarrassed)  
I want to give you a bath.

PENNY  
That sounds amazing! My back is killing  
me.

They take each other's hands and slowly walk off stage  
toward the bathroom.

JOHN

I bet.

PENNY

(not that mad, kidding)

Shut up!

(pause)

...You never told me why it was so important that I remember you.

JOHN

Because in high school... I wasn't pretending.

More music plays.

THE END.