

BLACKOUT  
a Play in One Act  
by  
Stewart Skelton

Copyright 1989  
Revised February, 1996

Stewart E. Skelton  
6720 Franklin Place, #404  
Hollywood, CA 90028  
213.461.8189

SETTING:

SECLUDED ROOM IN A VACANT WAREHOUSE OR  
FACTORY.

A ROUND TABLE IS STAGE CENTER, SURROUNDED  
BY SIX CHAIRS. RESTING ON THE CENTER OF THE  
TABLE IS A REVOLVER. THE TABLE IS LIT BY A  
SINGLE OVERHEAD LIGHT.

THERE IS A DOOR OFFSTAGE FOR THE ENTRANCE  
AND THE EXIT.

CAST (Gender and age are open.):

ONE  
TWO  
THREE  
FOUR  
FIVE  
SIX

TIME:

THE PRESENT

(Darkness but for a single, small pool of light in the center of the table. After a moment, we hear footsteps offstage. A door opens and six people enter the room. The last person shuts the door. After the door has closed, the six take their seats at the table. ONE takes the revolver from the table, inserts a cartridge, and places the revolver in the center of the pool of light.)

There, it's ready. ONE

Why don't you go first? TWO

Sure. ONE

(ONE picks up the revolver and removes it from the light. We hear the hammer click, then nothing. the revolver is replaced.)

Good? THREE

Yeah. ONE

TWO  
Did anybody see that picture in the paper today? The uh, the one with the picture of the kid on the front page? He had been mauled by a pitbull, it grabbed him by the head. Did anybody see that?

FOUR  
I saw from a distance. It was in somebody's car.

FIVE  
The newspaper?

(FOUR picks up the revolver and removes it from the light. We hear the hammer click, then nothing. The revolver is replaced.)

FOUR  
The kid. And the pitbull.

SIX

Didn't see it.

TWO

Yeah. Anyway, I was getting some milk and Suzy Q's and I decided to get this paper, can't remember why, and I saw this picture. And I said, "Yuck. I don't want to see this."

FOUR

Yeah?

TWO

I mean, I could have thrown up or something, trying to eat while I'm looking at that. My stomach is very visually oriented.

SIX

I think I know what you mean.

FIVE

Beautiful.

SIX

No, really. When I see orange Jello with grated carrots in it, my stomach does a little loop-the-loop. Just because I looked at the stuff.

FIVE

Then don't look at it. Just eat it, honey; that's what I do.

TWO

I looked at it for a long time.

FOUR

Sometimes you just got to look at it.

SIX

Yeah.

TWO

Yeah. Well, I didn't buy the paper.

(TWO picks up the revolver and removes it from the light. We hear the hammer click and a loud report. The revolver hits the floor, followed by the body and sounds of movement. The revolver is reloaded and replaced by ONE.)

There. ONE

You know what really disgusts me? THREE

Can we guess? FIVE

Ticks. Big, ugly, grey ticks. THREE

(THREE picks up the revolver and removes it from the light. We hear the hammer click, then nothing. The revolver is replaced.)

On my dog. THREE

I can see that. I really can. FOUR

Just beautiful. FIVE

(FIVE picks up the revolver and removes it from the light. We hear the hammer click, then nothing. The revolver is replaced.)

I'm all here. SIX

Yeah, we're all here. FOUR

Oh, come on! FIVE

What? THREE

He's/She's bleeding on my foot! FIVE

SIX

Get over it.

(SIX picks up the revolver and removes it from the light. We hear the hammer click and a loud report. The revolver hits the floor, followed by the body and sounds of movement. The revolver is reloaded and replaced by ONE.)

ONE

Okay.

FOUR

Who wants gum?

FIVE

I do, I do.

FOUR

Here.

(FOUR's hand enters the pool of light with a stick of gum. FIVE's hand takes the gum. Both hands leave.)

FIVE

Thanks.

ONE

I can't chew gum. When I was a kid, my big brother would hold me down and threaten to plaster this huge wad of Bubs Daddy in my hair if I didn't chew a whole stick of it myself. He would sit on me and cram a whole stick of Bubs Daddy in my mouth.

FOUR

What flavor?

(ONE picks up the revolver and removes it from the light. We hear the hammer click, then nothing. The revolver is replaced.)

ONE

Grape.

FIVE

Can you believe that when I was a kid, I pulled the wings off flies? Can you believe that?

ONE

I dismembered toads.

THREE

I had a cousin who claimed he would suck on toads. Something about secretions on the skin. Said it turned him on.

(THREE picks up the revolver and removes it from the light. We hear the hammer click, then nothing. The revolver is replaced.)

FIVE

I knew a guy who ate earthworms.

ONE

Did he chew them?

FIVE

I don't think so. He'd just let them slide down.

FOUR

I've never eaten anything really disgusting.

FIVE

I ate a beetle once. I was eating ice cream outside at a birthday party and it must have landed in my ice cream. One of those little, round, flying, June bug type beetles. It was crunchy.

THREE

Why didn't you spit it out?

FIVE

I didn't want anybody to know.

(FIVE picks up the revolver and removes it from the light. We hear the hammer click and a loud report. The revolver hits the floor, followed by the body and sounds of movement. The revolver is reloaded and replaced by ONE.)

ONE

Yeah.

FOUR

I miss my dog.

(FOUR picks up the revolver and removes it from the light. We hear the hammer click, then nothing. The revolver is replaced.)

ONE

I never had a dog.

THREE

I had a cat. It got trapped under our pool cover. We didn't find it until the next Spring. Actually, it was only bones by then.

ONE

I never had a cat, either.

(ONE picks up the revolver and removes it from the light. We hear the hammer click, then nothing. The revolver is replaced.)

FOUR

My dog was put to sleep. It was sort of traumatic.

THREE

I think somebody should get a mop.

FOUR

Somebody'll clean it up. Don't worry about it.

(FOUR picks up the revolver and removes it from the light. We hear the hammer click and a loud report. The revolver hits the floor, followed by the body and sounds of movement. The revolver is reloaded and replaced by ONE.)

ONE

All right.

THREE

Do you like me?

ONE

Huh?



Do you like me? THREE

I guess so. ONE

(ONE picks up the revolver and removes it from the light. We hear the hammer click, then nothing. The revolver is replaced.)

I like you. THREE

That's nice. ONE

Yeah. THREE

(THREE picks up the revolver and removes it from the light. We hear the hammer click, then nothing. The revolver is replaced.)

It may not mean a lot to you, but it means a little to me. THREE

I can see that. ONE

Well. THREE

Yeah. ONE

(ONE picks up the revolver and removes it from the light.)

Maybe more than a little. THREE

Uh, look, um, would you, would you like to go see a movie? Get a pizza? Or something? ONE

THREE

Sure.

ONE

Okay.

(ONE replaces the revolver. The couple gets up from the table and exits through the door, closing it behind them. Blackout.)

THE END