

# PARADE DAY

two act romantic  
comedy-drama

By Terry Roueche

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# Cast of Characters

Edward - 30s, a pharmaceutical salesman from the east coast driving across the country to California. His wife has left him and HE knows HE's losing his job. HE has been wandering across the southwest five days trying to figure out his life.

Buddy - late 70s, the owner of the Flying Saucer Diner. HE witnessed a flying saucer crash years ago and is the lone survivor. HE is resentful of everything the "crash" has grown into.

Katie - around 30, lives upstairs above the diner. Her mother and BUDDY were together until her mother's death. KATIE has lived through numerous failed relationships. SHE has sworn this is her last parade; SHE wants out to find a new life.

Carl - the mayor, his job is to promote the town at any cost, fill hotels, restaurants, and gift shops with tourists spending their money. HE does not have the least interest in the crash other than it being a gold mine for the town.

*Roger, Willard, Jimmy - played by the same actor (optional)*  
*Patsy, Candi, Angelique - played by the same actress (optional)*

Roger - in his 20s, HE is a simple man who worships and admires BUDDY. HE has an innocent crush on KATIE. HE is a good-hearted person who would harm no one.

Willard - from Ohio and in his 20s, HE is a "UFO" fanatic, but harmless.

Patsy: - WILLARD's very pregnant wife also in her 20s. SHE has no interest in UFO's.

Jimmy - from California and in his 20s. HE is a mean and dangerous man without empathy. HE is the type of man who would do harm unto others without remorse.

Candi - from Las Vegas and in her 20's. SHE's a dancer at a sleazy strip club and dresses the part. SHE has a good heart towards others.

Angelique - from New Mexico, an easily impressed beauty queen.

**Scene**

Flying Saucer Diner  
Roswell, New Mexico

**Time**

The summer, recent past.

# - PARADE DAY -

## ACT I

### Scene 1

SETTING: Diner tables set with the usual: napkins, salt and pepper, menus, etc. An old pay phone is on a wall. There is a swinging door to the kitchen and an exit way to the bathrooms. There is a counter with stools.

AT RISE: The diner is empty. EDWARD enters and places a tabloid size newspaper on a table. We hear sounds from the kitchen, cups, plates, etc. being stacked. EDWARD has been driving since early morning. It is around 2 in the afternoon. EDWARD is physically and emotionally exhausted.

EDWARD

Hello ... hello ...

(BUDDY enters with a tray of dishes and cups, places the tray on the counter)

BUDDY

What are you here for? The parade?

(HE'S grumpy and gives EDWARD a resentful look)

Freaks.

EDWARD

Are you open?

BUDDY

They think I'm going.

EDWARD

How long to Albuquerque?

BUDDY

Depends, don't it?

EDWARD

Depends on what?

(KATIE enters. SHE's rushing through. ROGER follows KATIE in, taking his time. ROGER carries a large cardboard box. KATIE carries a hatbox. ROGER looks for place to set his box down. EDWARD takes note of KATIE)

KATIE

Have you talked to Carl?

BUDDY

He's called down here.

ROGER

Where do you want me to put this, Katie?

KATIE

Put it ... here ...

(KATIE indicates a table. ROGER sets the box down. KATIE sets her box down)

ROGER

You gonna need me to help you?

KATIE

(To ROGER)

No.

(To BUDDY)

I'm going up to change. You've got to get ready.

BUDDY

Go ahead, change. I'm staying put.

KATIE

Buddy, just make an effort.

ROGER  
You want a ride back, Katie?

KATIE  
(To ROGER)

No.

(To BUDDY)  
I promised the committee you'd do it this year.

(ROGER opens the box and looks in. KATIE exits.  
BUDDY looks in the box)

ROGER  
(To BUDDY)  
So you ain't goin'?

BUDDY  
(Mocks the box's contents, comments to himself)  
What's all this?

ROGER  
Buddy.

BUDDY  
What?

ROGER  
Waxed my truck. Want to see?

BUDDY  
No.

ROGER  
Know what I'm gettin' ready to do?

BUDDY  
Can't say.

ROGER  
Pullin' the beauty queens.

(BUDDY opens and places a soft drink bottle on  
the counter for ROGER. BUDDY finds a folded  
map, gets a glass of water and places it on EDWARD's  
table)

ROGER (cont'd)  
I'm gonna ask one of 'em to the dance tonight.

(Most of what ROGER says is ignored)

ROGER (cont'd)

I asked Katie to the dance. She said she wasn't goin'.

EDWARD

(Refers to map, over Roger)

What's that?

ROGER

You can ride over with me if you want.

BUDDY

A map.

EDWARD

I don't want a map.

ROGER

You lost?

EDWARD

No. I want something to eat.

ROGER

Where's he tryin' to get to?

EDWARD

I'm not lost.

ROGER

What's he want, get to the Caverns?

EDWARD

I'm not lost.

ROGER

That your Buick out front?

BUDDY

Just trying to be helpful.

ROGER

I can get you down to the Caverns in no time.

EDWARD

I don't want to see caverns.

ROGER

Let me see that map.

(ROGER takes the map)

I can show you a short cut, save you 20 minutes.

BUDDY

If you're going to Albuquerque, take two-eight-five to forty that'll shoot you right over.

ROGER

That'll shoot you right over.

EDWARD

I don't need directions.

BUDDY

You want to get to Albuquerque or not?

EDWARD

I have a map. I just want something to eat.

(BUDDY moves behind his counter. ROGER spreads the map out and studies it)

BUDDY

When a fella comes in here and sits and I bring him a glass of water, then I ask something like, "Where ya headin' fella?" Or, "Nice day, ain't it?" Don't get me wrong. That's nothing but small talk, a little friendly chatter.

ROGER

People don't mean nothin' by it.

BUDDY

All a person wants is a simple answer like "south" or "north," so I can nod and say "south" or "north." You could've said Seattle.

EDWARD

I've never been to Seattle.

BUDDY

Said Seattle, I might have lit up. Said, "Yeah? Seattle? I lived there. You live there?"

ROGER

I forgot you lived in Seattle, Buddy.

BUDDY

Then we could have had a conversation, found something in common. Maybe a woman we both knew.

ROGER

I was up there one time.

BUDDY

I think, be neighborly, get you a map out.

EDWARD

I don't want a map. I told you that.

ROGER

I liked it up there.

BUDDY

You ask me how long to Albuquerque?

ROGER

Rains a lot in Seattle. I guess you'd get used to it.

EDWARD

What does it matter?

BUDDY

I guess I don't know the answer to that.

ROGER

If you don't like rain I wouldn't move to Seattle.

(BUDDY takes the map and folds it. ROGER joins in the conversation)

EDWARD

How about some coffee and a menu.

(EDWARD tries to use his cell phone. HE looks at it defeated. The battery's dead)

ROGER

Since you're here you ought to stay and see the parade.

EDWARD

What parade?

ROGER

It's a big deal. People from all over. I'm pullin' the beauty queens.

EDWARD

I just want something to eat.

ROGER

I'd suggest Buddy's tacos. I guess, I better get on over there, and get my truck lined up. You want me to tell Carl you ain't comin'?

BUDDY

I already told him.

(ROGER moves to exit. BUDDY stops at EDWARD's table and picks up the tabloid and reads. EDWARD crosses to use the pay phone)

ROGER

Bet he didn't like hearin' that.

BUDDY

Go get your truck line up.

ROGER

You seen the car he's got you? I told 'im bring it on down here and let you look.

(Pause)

I guess Katie's goin' to drive herself back.

(To EDWARD)

You have a nice day.

(To BUDDY)

Let me know if you want to ride over to the dance, Buddy.

(ROGER exits. EDWARD stares at the phone, dials)

BUDDY

Oh, for God's sake. Don't tell me you've been to Taos.

EDWARD

What about it?

BUDDY

You buy into this stuff? New Age? It's crap. Taos, the New Age Mecca. Crap. Modern thought, make it up as you go. Crap.

EDWARD

It's my business.

BUDDY

(Reading from tabloid, over EDWARD)

Past Life channeling ... a class on honoring the inner child ...

EDWARD

(To operator, over BUDDY)

I want to make a credit card call ... Los Angeles ... Reynolds  
Pharmaceutical ... I can't find my card. Hold on. I'm looking.

(EDWARD begins searching for his credit card)

BUDDY

I bet they line up for this one, Feng Shui And I Chung Analysis.  
*"Do you hear the hummingbird calling? The era of patriarchy is  
over."* That's us, friend. Men. They're going to do away with us.  
Maybe they plan to milk us like they do rattlesnakes for venom.

(Reads from tabloid)

*"Tell the people the hummingbirds and the lightning path are  
coming,"* said Masha Ta Temple-Hudson. Hummingbirds. Are you  
taking this in? Damn feminists. You're not lost. All you need to  
do is follow the hummingbirds home.

(Frustrated, EDWARD hangs up the phone)

EDWARD

I'd been driving all day and I got dizzy. I had to pull over.  
I'm here only because I was dizzy, and didn't want to drive a  
car dizzy.

BUDDY

Dizzy?

EDWARD

I'm tired and hungry.

BUDDY

You've been to Taos, and you just somehow ended up here?

EDWARD

I got dizzy. I told you.

BUDDY

They didn't pick me out of the human race. We happened along.  
Walt Brewer. People call me Buddy.

EDWARD

You've got to have something to eat.

BUDDY

You ain't one of 'em?

EDWARD

One of whom?

BUDDY

I just thought you were one of them.

EDWARD

I'm just hungry.

BUDDY

I ain't trying to get you all upset.

EDWARD

Please.

BUDDY

You want something to drink?

EDWARD

Coffee. I told you.

BUDDY

Sure.

EDWARD

Black.

(BUDDY pours and takes EDWARD a cup of coffee.  
(BUDDY lingers at EDWARD's table)

BUDDY

You from back East, I bet.

EDWARD

Yeah.

BUDDY

First time out?

(Long pause)

You been out West before or not?

EDWARD

No.

BUDDY

So you're headin' to Albuquerque?

EDWARD

California! I'm going to spend the night in Albuquerque.

BUDDY

I lived up in San Francisco a while. Then Seattle. I was up in Seattle about fifteen years. I ain't yet figured out how the hell I ended up back here again. Here you go.

(BUDDY hands EDWARD the coffee)

EDWARD

Thank you.

BUDDY

I got divorced in Seattle. How's the coffee?

EDWARD

Fine.

BUDDY

Don't need sugar or cream?

EDWARD

Can I get a menu?

BUDDY

You don't want to know who I took you to be?

EDWARD

No.

BUDDY

And you don't know who I am?

EDWARD

I tell you what ... just tell me someplace where I can get something to eat.

BUDDY

I could make you some tacos I guess.

EDWARD  
Tacos are fine.

BUDDY  
Married?

EDWARD  
That's none of your business.

BUDDY  
Just making small talk. I was thinking maybe you're lonely ...  
missing the kids ... out here riding around.

EDWARD  
We didn't have children.

BUDDY  
Divorced?

EDWARD  
Separated.

BUDDY  
She catch you fooling around?

EDWARD  
Why all the questions? All right?

BUDDY  
Sounds like you know right where you're going. California.

(BUDDY brings EDWARD a bowl of nuts)

EDWARD  
There's a difference in driving to a certain town, to a certain  
building in that town and getting lost ... and being lost out  
finding yourself.

BUDDY  
That's an interesting way of looking at it. I can understand  
that.

EDWARD  
Is that right? You understand me?

BUDDY  
I didn't say I understand you ... relating it to myself.

EDWARD

Your life has nothing to do with mine.

BUDDY

No, bet not ...

EDWARD

Fifty thousand years ago we gathered around campfires ... you grunted, you're hungry, you're horny, you're sleepy. That's all that was. Then we learned language. Now no one can understand anything.

BUDDY

Might be some truth there...

EDWARD

Guess what I'm thinking about.

BUDDY

That you're hungry ...

EDWARD

I've been driving around seven hours. What do you think's on my mind?

BUDDY

You got me there.

EDWARD

I've been imagining myself walking into a building.

BUDDY

Just any building?

EDWARD

A building.

BUDDY

What kind of building?

EDWARD

What does it matter?

BUDDY

It might.

EDWARD

An office building, a warehouse. Your mind sees one thing, my

EDWARD (cont'd)  
mind sees completely different. Just like with people ... you see what want.

BUDDY  
I'll buy that. Sure.

EDWARD  
Gray brick building, third floor corner office with two small windows, a small mahogany desk on which sits a folder.

BUDDY  
You've got yourself all worked up. Go on, get it all out of your system.

EDWARD  
You probably don't get a lot of people through here.

BUDDY  
No, a little bit of the way, but people always coming along.

EDWARD  
Someone comes in, and you want to talk.

BUDDY  
People want that ... people want somebody to know 'em ... you live your whole life and you think might nobody ever know you.

EDWARD  
They all flew, but I said, "No, I'll drive, take my vacation ... see the country ... maybe think things out."

BUDDY  
Who flew?

EDWARD  
The people I work with ... I sell drugs ...  
(To clarify the type of drugs)  
... pharmaceuticals.

BUDDY  
All right.

EDWARD  
I was born and raised in North Carolina.

BUDDY  
Been there.

EDWARD

I lie alone in bed at night going over my life chronologically, hour by hour. When I was nine I fell from a swing and broke my right arm. I can tell you what I ate for lunch that day. I can tell you it was Frank Aull's swing. It was red. Do you want me to go on? I can, not that any of it has the least significance. I just string it all together ... over and over this way, that way wondering where's the intention, the consequence, what am I missing?

BUDDY

Consequence is a parade down Main Street.

EDWARD

What parade?

BUDDY

Founder's Day Parade, Fourth of July Parade. What town ain't got a parade? Here we got the Flying Saucer Day Parade. And I'm the last one.

EDWARD

Last what?

BUDDY

The parade people want me to ride on the back of a convertible just like a beauty queen ... smiling and waving like some freak.

EDWARD

How could I possibly understand why you don't want to ride on the back of a convertible? I would love to ride on the back of a convertible down Main Street smiling and waving.

BUDDY

I'm not doing it.

(BUDDY finds an old brochure)

Here's the brochure.

EDWARD

For what?

BUDDY

UFO's.

EDWARD

UFO's?

BUDDY

That's right.

(EDWARD looks at photo)

EDWARD

Is this you?

BUDDY

That's Benny Biggers. He died last year. That left me. The last eyewitness to flying saucers that crashed here.

EDWARD

Flying saucers?

BUDDY

Yeah, crashed right here.

EDWARD

I don't believe in flying saucers.

BUDDY

You step into my mind and remember what I saw, you'd believe. I've been hypnotized. I've done the lie detector. I've had ministers come in here and tell me what I saw I didn't see, and God does not like what I'm saying to people I saw. But I am living proof that in my mind I know I saw flying saucers. We came across it, all right ... it was just about dark. That thing crashed and flew out everywhere ... pieces of metal or something all around ... torn to bits. I don't know ... a bad smell.

EDWARD

That's who you are ... the last man alive who saw flying saucers.

BUDDY

You don't believe me?

EDWARD

No.

BUDDY

We saw it, all right.

EDWARD

Fine.

BUDDY

The government came ... they tell me what I held in my arms was the milky white flesh of a skinned deer. They told me that am what I saw because I was drunk. Sure, we'd been drinking. None of us tried to say anything different. We were just a bunch of kids, scared. Next morning this fellow takes us back, "Show me, come on," he says, "show me." But there's nothing there ... just liquor bottles and a dead deer. They took pictures of us standing there with a dead deer. We were just boys.

EDWARD

Look ...

BUDDY

Now they got that damn study center in town. Fruitcakes like Taos.

EDWARD

Nobody cares. I don't.

BUDDY

What they can't stand is I'm legit. The last one. And I won't have a thing to do with them.

EDWARD

That's the kind of world it is.

BUDDY

I see one of those saucer fruitcakes coming along the street; I cross the street, duck into a store.

EDWARD

Ten years ago my company didn't simply fire you. You were placed on "temporary selective employment search."

BUDDY

They want to hire me to greet people coming in that damn study center.

EDWARD

Now they just fire you. Outright fire you. You go to California, into an office on the third floor, they've got your name on a file on a desk.

BUDDY

No one cares any more.

EDWARD

They do charts before they fire you. You go to a sales meeting.

BUDDY

They would like nothing better than have me standing at the front door shaking hands.

EDWARD

You look at your graph ... three years ago I was all red lines ... top salesman. Now I'm all blue lines and no wife.

BUDDY

To your left we have our ten-minute video on what happened that fateful day.

EDWARD

I'm not giving the bastards the satisfaction.

BUDDY

Straight ahead you can witness actual newspaper clippings. And in the back room we have our souvenirs/gift shop. Who asked about coffee mugs? You there, young man. They're ten ninety-nine. All the way in the back, bottom shelf on the right. They can go to hell for all I care.

EDWARD

Yeah, they can go to hell.

BUDDY

Yeah.

(BUDDY and EDWARD have inadvertently come to understand one another. BUDDY begins making tacos)

BUDDY

I sort of envy you. Night after night remembering your whole life. It's getting where I can't recall much of any of it.

EDWARD

Read the brochure.

BUDDY

Not flying saucers. I'm talking about the rest of my living, the last seventy-some years. One?

EDWARD

One what?

Taco?  
BUDDY

Three.  
EDWARD

(Enter KATIE wearing a flying saucer outfit -  
some 1950ish Hollywood look. KATIE begins  
making table settings for the dance)

BUDDY  
What's all this for?

KATIE  
For the tables tonight ... at the dance ... everyone on the  
committee's got to make 10.

BUDDY  
You must have plenty of time on your hands.

KATIE  
Buddy, are you going?

BUDDY  
This is a friend of mine ...

EDWARD  
Edward. Hello.

BUDDY  
He's passing through ...

KATIE  
Hi. Katie.

BUDDY  
You look real nice. Don't you think so, Edward? She's how people  
dress up for the parade.

KATIE  
Really just something I put together.

BUDDY  
They dress up like space creatures.

KATIE  
The whole town dresses up. Except Buddy.

BUDDY

Real authentic.

KATIE

The parade's starting to form at the museum.

BUDDY

That's the UFO study center I was telling you about. They call it a museum.

KATIE

You've let everyone think you're coming.

BUDDY

I ain't.

KATIE

They've printed your name in the brochure this year. They've got some special things planned.

BUDDY

Katie lives upstairs. Her mother and I were together. She died couple years back. There was a woman.

KATIE

I promised the committee. Where's the costume I made you?

(At some point KATIE opens the hatbox)

BUDDY

Katie here's getting ready to go to New York City. Like you, Edward ... out to find herself. You going to move there?

KATIE

Maybe.

BUDDY

You want a taco?

KATIE

I'm not hungry.

BUDDY

Had your fill of pancakes?

KATIE

I did.

BUDDY

The Boy Scouts have their annual pancake breakfast ... little pancakes shaped like flying saucers.

EDWARD

I bet that's fun.

BUDDY

I hear the whole town comes out.

KATIE

What about the parade, Buddy?

BUDDY

I hear they look just like regular pancakes.

(From the box a space hat)

KATIE

Benny's hat? Try it on, Buddy.

BUDDY

No. Take that with you!

KATIE

He wanted you to have it.

BUDDY

I don't want it. Give it to Carl

KATIE

I just need to get through this day.

BUDDY

Your leaving?

KATIE

What do you care if I go or not?

BUDDY

If I was in New York, do you think somebody could just walk in and I'd look at them and know they eat bean tacos?

KATIE

That's why they've got menus, so somebody can order what they want.

BUDDY

You go ahead and go, you'll find out.

KATIE

I'm going for a weekend, I'm not moving there.

BUDDY

Maybe the two of you should go together to New York and find yourselves.

KATIE

Where do you want to go?

EDWARD

I'm not lost.

(KATIE finishes a "UFO/ALIEN" table setting.  
BUDDY picks it up)

BUDDY

(Referring to KATIE's table decoration)

What's this suppose to be?

KATIE

Put it down, Buddy.

BUDDY

Edward, why don't we ride over to Ruidoso ... get drunk.

KATIE

It's a great parade; you're not staying to see it?

BUDDY

He ain't concerned about parades.

KATIE

I'm trying to be friendly.

EDWARD

(To KATIE)

I drove out from North Carolina.

KATIE

That's pretty far off.

EDWARD

I left a week ago. So, I'm just riding around. I've got some time. I'm on my way to California ...

KATIE

There's lots to see out here.

EDWARD

I might go see the Grand Canyon ... go into Utah.

KATIE

I've always wanted to do that, just get in the car and ride ... go somewhere I've never been ...

EDWARD

I've got the time, and a company car.

BUDDY

That's his Buick out front.

KATIE

Like there's somebody else parked out there.

EDWARD

(Referring to KATIE's table setting)

This is interesting ... really creative ...

KATIE

Thank you. I wanted something fun ...

EDWARD

I'm trying to find out a little about myself. I'm going to be fired.

KATIE

I'm sorry.

EDWARD

It's fine ... I've been wanting to do something different, and here's my chance.

KATIE

That's how you should look at it, an opportunity. Be positive.

EDWARD

I've been thinking about writing a novel or opening my own restaurant. Crazy, right?

KATIE

No. I don't think it's crazy. Not if it's what you want.

EDWARD

Yeah.

KATIE

Yeah.

EDWARD

My father died a couple of years ago. After the funeral some of his friends and my mother were talking about the things they did ... things they were going to do.

BUDDY

You want onions on those tacos, Edward?

EDWARD

(To BUDDY)

Yes, thank you.

(To KATIE)

My mother said when they were first married he was going to take her to see the Grand Canyon.

KATIE

I'd like to go see the Grand Canyon.

BUDDY

What we ought to do, is the three of us get a bottle of bourbon, get in that Buick of yours, and drive up to the Grand Canyon.

KATIE

I tell you what, Buddy, as soon as we finish the parade I'll buy the bourbon.

EDWARD

I was driving yesterday and I was thinking I really would like a little coffee shop. I like coffee shops. I've got a little money saved.

KATIE

That'd be great, wouldn't it ... write a book, just open your own business.

EDWARD

I like gourmet coffee.

KATIE

I do, too.

EDWARD

I can live some place different if I want. I don't have to go back to North Carolina.

KATIE

I bet there're lots of great places to live.

EDWARD

Sure.

KATIE

I've always wanted to do that ... just go off and live some place else.

EDWARD

Start over. Where people don't know anything about you.

BUDDY

Maybe you could get things the way you want ... make changes.

EDWARD

That's right.

BUDDY

Sounds like a good idea to me. Find you a better life?

EDWARD

I could.

BUDDY

There you have it ... that'd fix everything up.

EDWARD

Move out West maybe.

BUDDY

Why you could go up to Taos and start you a commune ... lost souls finding themselves.

KATIE

At least some people try.

BUDDY

Why folks would flock from all over looking for answers.

EDWARD

The West is thought of as very romantic where I come from ... John Wayne, Clint Eastwood ...

BUDDY

A regular pilgrim, are you?

EDWARD

You don't know what I might do.

BUDDY

You should have caught you a wagon train out, Edward, you could do some real suffering there ...

KATIE

Buddy, we're just talking.

BUDDY

I bet you suffering's real important if you're out to find meaning to all this ... a man ought to suffer some.

(BUDDY exits to kitchen)

EDWARD

Every year I fly to California. You get a window seat and you can see the Grand Canyon.

KATIE

Could you hand me the ribbon?

(EDWARD hands KATIE ribbon)

KATIE (cont'd)

Thanks. I've never been to the Grand Canyon.

EDWARD

I would've thought you people would go to places like that all the time.

KATIE

I've never been anywhere.

(Pay phone rings)

EDWARD

I'm beginning to like it out here, out West.

KATIE

(To EDWARD)

People do that, come "out West" from the East to find themselves.

(Enter WILLARD and PATSY, HE is a UFO fanatic. They are dressed in ridiculous space creature Outfits. HE speaks in a mechanical "alien" voice. PATSY is eight-plus months pregnant and uncomfortable. WILLARD is most annoying)

WILLARD  
Greetings, earth people.

PATSY  
Willard.

(KATIE answers the phone)

KATIE  
Flying Saucer Diner. Hello. Carl ... it's me. Katie ...

EDWARD  
(To WILLARD and PATSY)  
Hi.

WILLARD  
(To EDWARD)  
We are in search of human urea extrusion depository ...

PATSY  
Willard!

WILLARD  
Please expedite ...

PATSY  
Willard!

EDWARD  
(Baffled, to WILLARD)  
I don't understand.

KATIE  
(To EDWARD)  
They're looking for the restroom.  
(To phone)  
Buddy's making tacos. Can you wait a minute, Carl?

WILLARD  
(To KATIE)  
Correct, human fluxional

KATIE  
(TO PHONE)  
Some people just came in.

WILLARD (cont'd)  
substance disposal.

KATIE  
(To phone)  
I don't know who. People dresses up.  
(To PATSY)  
To the right.

PATSY  
Thank you.

(PATSY hurries towards the bathroom)

WILLARD  
(To PATSY)  
Life companion require human carbonated palate enhance fluid?

PATSY  
No. I want to go back to the hotel.

(PATSY exits to bathroom)

KATIE  
(To phone, annoyed)  
The tacos aren't for me, he's got a customer.

WILLARD  
Life companion is in anticipation of impending first reproduction unit.

KATIE  
(To phone)  
I don't know what's he going to do, Carl ...

WILLARD  
Kalin, from the planet Kismo.

EDWARD  
Edward, from North Carolina.

KATIE  
(To phone)  
I don't know ...

WILLARD

Kalin heard of earth unit's domiciliary area. Kalin would like to see earth city of Myrtle Beach.

EDWARD

That's in South Carolina.

WILLARD

Kalin is corrected.

EDWARD

Kismo.

KATIE

(To phone)

Carl ...

WILLARD

Correct. Kismo.

KATIE

(To phone)

Hold on, Carl. I'll get him.

WILLARD

(To KATIE)

Greetings.

(WILLARD exits for the bathroom)

KATIE

(To EDWARD, to explain)

It's all in fun. People dress up ... they come from all over.

(Pause)

Do you know what you people like hearing? You say "out West" and I'll say "back East" each chance we get.

WILLARD

(Off stage, normal voice)

Honey, you all right? Honey?

KATIE

Like, when are you going "back East"?

EDWARD

I never thought of that.

KATIE

You know what else people from "back East" tell me? They never see whole trains "back East" like they do "out West," from one end to the other.

(BUDDY enters with a plate and taco shells)

KATIE (cont'd)

And not a lot of trees, if you haven't noticed, "out West."

(KATIE indicates phone to BUDDY)

EDWARD

You're right, "back East" we've got a lot of trees.

BUDDY

Not out West.

KATIE

Buddy ... it's Carl ...

BUDDY

You talk to him.

KATIE

(To phone)

I don't know, Carl ... I'll tell him.

(KATIE hangs up phone)

We've got one hour, Buddy. Carl said the parade starts with or without you.

BUDDY

Carl's the mayor here.

EDWARD

I guess in a town like this, everybody knows everybody.

BUDDY

Pretty much so.

KATIE

That's what I hate sometimes about living here.

EDWARD

I think it would be nice to know everybody.

KATIE

If everybody minded their own business.

BUDDY

Why know somebody if you're going to mind your own business?

KATIE

One day I might just up and leave and never come back.

(Enter PATSY. SHE looks for WILLARD. BUDDY helps here to a chair. SHE's exhausted)

KATIE (cont'd)

He went to the bathroom. Do you want anything?

PATSY

Thank you. No. If I can just sit.

BUDDY

Looks like you're about ripe.

PATSY

It's our first.

(Enter WILLARD)

WILLARD

Ka-kha-sii-eeerreee ...

PATSY

Speak English!!!

WILLARD

Primary companion elimination function complete?

PATSY

Willard!!!

WILLARD

(To BUDDY, KATIE)

Kalin wish to express appreciation to humans.

BUDDY

(To WILLARD)

You need to take care of her.

WILLARD

(To PATSY)

We must be efficient. Human celebratory ritual is imminent.

PATSY

I don't want to see the parade.

WILLARD

Kalin traveled far ...

PATSY

Take me back to the hotel. I told you this morning I don't feel good.

WILLARD

Kalin wish to see human festivity display.

PATSY

You go.

WILLARD

Kalin ...

PATSY

(over "... Kalin...")

Will you stop it? I mean it. I don't want to see the stupid parade.

WILLARD

Kalin ...

PATSY

(over "... Kalin...")

Willard ... put your hand here. Did you feel that?

WILLARD

(Normal voice)

That's the baby?

PATSY

What else do you think it could be?

WILLARD

(Normal voice)

Did you feel that?

PATSY

He's kicking inside me.

WILLARD

(Normal voice)

This is just like ... just like that scene from ALIENS.

(WILLARD and PATSY exit. Long pause)

EDWARD

I don't like Mr. Fender.

BUDDY

Who's that, Edward?

EDWARD

That's my boss.

BUDDY

I bet a real son-of-a-bitch.

EDWARD

About four weeks ago a couple of us went to lunch and Rose asked me what I thought of Fender.

KATIE

Who's Rose?

EDWARD

I've got Western North Carolina and Rose has Eastern North Carolina.

BUDDY

Edward's in pharmaceutical sales.

EDWARD

Fender sells his samples. I might have said something like I should turn him in. Do you know what happens?

BUDDY

Nope.

EDWARD

This guy Jones comes by later, tells me he was trying to shut me up with Rose. "You've put your foot in your mouth now big time," he said, "Rose and Fender are having an affair."

BUDDY

You should keep your mouth shut.

EDWARD

And I'm fired.

BUDDY

If someone could show you how to fix things you'd want that, wouldn't you?

EDWARD

I'm working it out.

BUDDY

Let's say you pulled up and your old high school buddies just sitting around drinking beer shooting the breeze and somebody says, "Hey, long time no see, Edward. So how's it going?" You wouldn't say, "I just got fired."

EDWARD

The wife threw me out for Dwanne Matthews.

BUDDY

Yeah?

EDWARD

Yeah.

BUDDY

Your friends are all making big money and here you are fired ... the wife through you out for Dwanne Matthews. You'd lie your ass off.

EDWARD

I would.

KATIE

Who's Matthews?

EDWARD

A neighbor.

KATIE

Oh ...

BUDDY

You tell me your wife left you for Dwanne Matthews ... you're getting fired ... do you see something here?

EDWARD

I'm not sure.

BUDDY

You're talking to strangers. Opening up your sweet little heart.  
Reaching right out.

EDWARD

We're just talking ...

BUDDY

Things gone to hell back home, so you head out ... think you  
want to be alone ... sort things out ... and I'm a stranger.  
People tell strangers anything.

EDWARD

I can lie my ass off and it won't matter, because in twenty  
minutes I'm out the door.

BUDDY

You didn't want to knock the son-of-a-bitch Dwanne Matthew's  
head in?

EDWARD

No.

BUDDY

You ever knocked the hell out of somebody?

EDWARD

I didn't care.

BUDDY

Didn't give a damn one way or other?

EDWARD

No!

BUDDY

Something like that's not tearing you up inside?

KATIE

Stop it, Buddy.

EDWARD

I came home one night and she said dinner was ready. She wanted  
to know if I wanted a glass of wine. I sat down but there was  
just one place set. She had a suitcase at the door. It was a  
casserole ... she said she'd eaten ... he came in.

BUDDY

You were sitting there eating a casserole and Dwanne Matthew walks in?

EDWARD

I'll figure things out.

BUDDY

People get to be experts thinking they're going to figure it out.

EDWARD

I'm going to change things.

KATIE

Maybe he likes himself the way he is.

EDWARD

I was a top salesman three years ago ...

BUDDY

Right at the top.

EDWARD

I was a good husband ... we had a nice house ... friends ... I made good money ... I was okay.

KATIE

This is none of our business.

BUDDY

That all you got, what you can convince someone else you're worth?

EDWARD

You don't know me.

BUDDY

What do you want? Tell me. I'm listening.

KATIE

Leave him alone, Buddy.

BUDDY

What do you want?

EDWARD

He came right in the house ... he picked up her suitcase. She looked at me ... she said she was sorry ... she'd tried, but there was never anything between us. I had nothing to give her.

BUDDY

It ain't gonna to do you any good riding around feeling sorry for yourself.

EDWARD

This morning I got some coffee, pulled out on the road, and started driving. I asked myself where was I going, east, west ... I didn't know. I thought, wouldn't it be just dandy if I could get an angel to drop in and give me a little direction in life. If you had an angel telling you what to do, you'd be a fool not to listen. Right?

BUDDY

Sure. I'd listen.

EDWARD

Only you know you're not going to get an angel. You're driving and you think, "Okay, God, I'll take a sign." Ever think that? You hear people all the time saying God showed them the way, opened the doors, made it happen ... I just don't get that.

BUDDY

A man's got to have some kind of belief, some kind of passion if he's going to find himself ... something he's got to have ... you should have taken a 2X4 to Matthews and threw your wife out on the street.

KATIE

You're one to give advice ...

BUDDY

You're afraid to get out there and get your feet wet ... get your hands in the dirt ... let somebody see what you feel. You do feel things, don't you?

EDWARD

Lots of things.

BUDDY

What?

EDWARD

I want something to mean something.

BUDDY

Take Katie here, every time a stranger passes through, she gets her feelings hurt.

KATIE

I know what you're talking about, Buddy. He was a salesman. He sold me shoes. I bought red pumps. I gave him my mailing address to ship me my shoes.

BUDDY

You were attracted to him.

KATIE

He was a nice looking guy, so.

BUDDY

You bleed your poor little heart out.

KATIE

I wanted pumps. At half of what I would have paid in town.

BUDDY

Can't nothin' happen if you don't lay it out there every chance you can.

(Slight pause)

Your wife didn't plan to go for Dwanne Matthews, maybe she just couldn't stop herself. He comes out of the house one morning and she's standing there holding the morning paper ... she moves out of the way only he's seen her ... sees how she looks. She turns away, only it scares her what she was feeling. They didn't want to think it, but they can't stop it. You ever take a woman in your arms ... dance maybe ... move with her ... you like the way she sounds ... you like the way she looks ... you like the slope of her shoulders ... how her breasts curve and her hips move ... there's a look in her eyes ... something about the color of her hair and how it falls down around her face and shoulders. You look at Katie, what do you see?

KATIE

Damn-it, Buddy, mind your own business.

BUDDY

An hour down the road what are you going to be asking yourself?

(CARL enters conservatively dressed in "alien" attire. HE carries a handful of brochures, Buttons, bumper stickers. HE is very upbeat)

CARL

What a day! People from all over. What a day!

BUDDY

Carl.

CARL

Hey, Buddy. That's a good-looking costume, Katie.

KATIE

Carl.

CARL

You wearing that to the dance tonight?

KATIE

No.

CARL

Come on over here a minute, Buddy. I want you to look at something. Come on. I want you to see something.

(To KATIE)

Katie, fine breakfast this morning. We served at least hundred pancakes.

(To KATIE, about her table decorations)

What are these things?

KATIE

We're putting them out on the tables at the dance tonight.

CARL

All right. All right. Buddy, just come here and just look at something.

BUDDY

Look at what?

CARL

Just come look. Just come look, would you.

(BUDDY joins CARL. CARL motions to EDWARD)

CARL (cont'd)

(To EDWARD)

Hey. Come on look. Come on.

(EDWARD joins CARL and BUDDY)

CARL (cont'd)  
You tell me that ain't a fine looking car.

BUDDY  
That's a nice-looking car, Carl. Sure is.

CARL  
'47 Cadillac convertible. Red.

BUDDY  
I can see it's red.

CARL  
I brought her down here from Las Vegas.

BUDDY  
'47 Cadillac convertible.  
(Slight pause)  
Red.

CARL  
Uuuu-eeee. That's some pretty car, ain't it?

BUDDY  
You're going to look good riding around town in that car, Carl.

CARL  
I got it here for you, Buddy. I'm hoping you'll ride in that convertible right down Main Street.

EDWARD  
That is a nice-looking car.

BUDDY  
(Introduced EDWARD to CARL)  
Edward. A friend of mine.  
(To EDWARD)  
This is Carl, the Mayor.

CARL  
Hi.

BUDDY  
Carl's got the hardware store downtown.

CARL  
Enjoying yourself?

EDWARD

Yeah.

BUDDY

He's just passin' through, Carl.

CARL

You're staying for the parade? As fine of a parade you'll see anywhere. Where you from?

EDWARD

(To KATIE)

Back East.

CARL

Back East. That your Buick out front?

EDWARD

Yeah.

(CARL makes a notation of EDWARD's car from North Carolina on a pocket size note pad)

CARL

I've seen two other cars from North Carolina. I've cars here from 32 states so far. I got the idea from the rodeo in Cheyenne, Wyoming. During the rodeo they call out where folks are from. People like that kind of thing. They do the pancakes, too. The Cheyenne people pull up a big cement truck mixer right in the middle of town ... have her running like she's mixing up the batter.

(CARL hands EDWARD a tourist pamphlet)

KATIE

We need to make some kind of decision.

CARL

Got all the day's activities listed right here. Got a map of town on the back.

EDWARD

I'm not going to be here too long.

CARL

Keep it. All the way from North Carolina to New Mexico. That's fine. That's fine. Staying in town tonight?

EDWARD

I'm just passing through.

CARL

Stay the night. We got some fine motels here. You're not going to want to miss this parade.

BUDDY

He ain't interested in parades, Carl.

CARL

Buddy here's a celebrity. Eyewitness to the flying saucers.

EDWARD

I know.

CARL

We got people from all over the country here.

(To BUDDY)

Are you coming?

BUDDY

Hear your wife's a bit under the weather.

CARL

(To KATIE)

Did you talk to him?

BUDDY

I already told you, I ain't doing the parade.

CARL

Damn-it, Buddy, I got national news people ... I can set you up an interview ...

BUDDY

Want a taco, Carl?

CARL

No. I don't want a taco.

KATIE

We'll just put somebody in a costume and say it's Buddy, what difference would it make anyway?

(CARL gets a cup of coffee)

BUDDY

Wouldn't make much difference to me.

CARL

The committee didn't want to have anything to do with you.

(Directly to BUDDY)

I stood up for you.

(To KATIE)

Tell him.

(To BUDDY)

This is it.

BUDDY

I don't remember being invited to any of those committee meetings.

CARL

Would you've come?

BUDDY

Maybe.

CARL

Then I'm sorry. I apologize. We should've invited you. I'm here now, Buddy. I'm asking you, please. This is important to this town. It's put us on the map. People are here spending a lot of money. This is a boom. We've practically got every hotel room booked.

(To EDWARD)

We're building two more. We got restaurants coming. We're getting a new steak house and a Japanese restaurant. It's coming.

BUDDY

Tell me, Carl, what do you think? You think we saw it?

CARL

Well sure. Yeah. Sure. I believe it. Why not?

(Pause)

You were born here. You grew up here. This is your town, too. You've got a civic responsibility.

BUDDY

I don't want any part of it.

CARL

Fine. Just fine. You just do what you want. This thing's bigger than you, anyway.

KATIE

Don't complain the town hates you, no one comes here to eat.

EDWARD

I bet it's a lot of fun, with everyone getting dressed up.

KATIE

You're welcome to come and watch. Why don't you?

EDWARD

I haven't been to a parade in years.

BUDDY

That's something you won't find in New York City, a parade down Main Street.

EDWARD

Macy's.

BUDDY

I ain't talking about Broadway, I'm talking about Main Street.

EDWARD

Buddy, maybe you ought to go. I mean, why not?

BUDDY

I don't want to.

EDWARD

It all sounds like great fun.

BUDDY

Great fun?

EDWARD

Yeah.

BUDDY

Come one, come all ... come see the real thing ... "Buddy."

KATIE

People lined up to get Benny's autograph ... they'll want yours.

BUDDY

Is that right?

KATIE

Yeah. Buddy, this thing's gotten really big ... just like Carl said, people come from all over.

BUDDY

"Actual Eye Witness" ... "Last One Alive." Parade me around like some freak.

KATIE

Nobody thinks that.

BUDDY

Selling coffee mugs and post cards and souvenir flying saucers. It's got nothing to do with what I saw.

EDWARD

None of this would be going on if hadn't been for you.

BUDDY

Wrap yourself in tin foil, antennas growing out of your head.

KATIE

It's all just in fun.

BUDDY

A real hoot ... "Come See, Buddy" ... the last crazy man living who swears he saw flying saucers.

KATIE

And there're some people who think that.

BUDDY

I was just some crazy old man until all of you figured out you could make money off this. Now you knocking at my door.

KATIE

Know what, Buddy, you just dress up and have fun. What difference does it make? I'm not going to beg you.

(Enter JIMMY. HE has been drinking. BUDDY exits abruptly to kitchen, KATIE follows)

KATIE (cont'd)

(At the kitchen door)

You don't want to go. Fine.

(JIMMY looks around, sizing the place up)