A Gay Thing

A ten-minute play

By

Joshua James

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CHARACTERS

CARL – an attractive and buff gay man.

RYAN – an attractive and buff straight man.

TIME

Present

SETTING

A Bar.

NOTES

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Ryan and Carl, two very attractive men, are sitting at a table in a bar, having drinks.

Ryan
Speaking of sex . . .

Carl
Who was talking about sex?

Ryan
We were talking about sex.

Carl
No, YOU were talking about sex, not me.

Ryan
No wait, this is serious, I gotta ask you something, we’ve been friends for like, what?

Carl
Years.

Ryan
Friends for years and you’ve been gay that whole time, right?

Carl
Oh God, here we go.

Ryan
No really, you’ve been gay the whole time I’ve known you, right?

Carl
Not another one of THESE talks.

Ryan
What talks, another one of what kind of talks are you talking about?

Carl
We’re at that talk, this is the inevitable talk every gay man eventually has with every straight boy he calls friend, the point where you sit me down for a serious talk to find out how I could ever avoid being straight, how in the world could I not possibly be excited by a woman’s vagina, aren’t women beautiful, did I ever even give it a shot there might still be hope for me, blah blah blah and excuse me, but no
thank you, all right? Let’s just nip this in the bud right here and now. NO!

Ryan
That really happens?

Carl
Absolutely, you straight boys cannot seem to fathom why we gay boys don’t stand up and cheer at the thought of a naked vagina, it’s such a mystery to you. Usually you think we just haven’t examined it closely enough, that if we take a really good look and eyeball that twat and we’ll go “oh my God, it’s beautiful! I can’t believe I thought I was gay and missed all this beautiful pussy!” and then we’ll dive face-first right into your scary straight world.

**Short pause.**

Ryan
Wow. So the vagina is not beautiful to you, really?

Carl
Eek, that’s all I have to say about the vagina. Eek eek, ick ick. So if that’s the talk you wanted to have with me . . .

Ryan
That’s not the talk I was gonna have with you.

Carl
It’s not?

Ryan
No, but that was very informative, thank you.

Carl
What kind of talk were you talking about?

Ryan
I just wanted to ask you, you are gay, right? I mean, as long as I’ve known you, you’ve been gay, but that is indeed what you are, right? A gay man?

Carl
I am a gay man, yes.

Ryan
And that’s been good for you, being gay, right?
Carl
Being gay has been extremely good for me.

Ryan
And you’ve known you were gay, since how long?

Carl
Since forever.

Ryan
Really?

Carl
Really. What the . . .

Ryan
Was there ever a point where the gay thing just kicked in, you know, or . . .

Carl
Ryan, what the hell are you talking about?

Ryan
I’m just wondering, you know, about . . .

Carl
Wondering about . . .

Ryan
Wondering about myself. Lately.

**Short pause, then Carl starts to laugh.**

Carl
No. No way. No fucking way.

Ryan
What?

Carl
No fucking way. You are the straightest man I know.

Ryan
But what if . . .

Carl
No way. No WAY you are gay.
Ryan
Hey. I could be gay.

Carl
No way. No fucking way are you gay.

Ryan
Why couldn’t I be gay?

Carl
Trust me on this Ryan, I know things gay, and gay you are not.

Ryan
But what if I am gay and just don’t know it, what about that?

Carl
You dumb fuck. You would know it!

Ryan
How would I know? If I’ve never done a gay thing, how would I know?

Carl
I don’t believe this.

Ryan
What about that guy, that guy in that book I read last month for that reading circle thing you hooked me up with, what about him?

Carl
What guy, what book, what the hell are you babbling about?

Ryan
You know, that guy I told you I read about, married, three kids, great job, loved his wife and all of a sudden he finds out he’s gay, boom, just like that, never knew he was gay until the plumber kissed him, it was a revelation and he found out he was gay. He found out he was living a lie until he did a gay thing and discovered, hey, I’m gay!

Carl
Okay, I remember you going on about this stupid fucking story, and do you remember what I said about it at the
time, I said what a fucking joke. He didn’t know he was gay, YET he let the plumber kiss him? Bullshit.

Ryan
But you hear about lots of guys, go out with girls, get married, have kids and then the next thing you know, they’re gay.

Carl
So they’re confused!

Ryan
Well maybe I’m confused!

Carl
Anybody can be confused but not everybody can be gay, it just doesn’t work that way.

Ryan
I don’t know. I just don’t know.

Carl
What the hell’s the matter with you, anyway?

Ryan
I don’t know, I just haven’t been happy these days.

Carl
Oh, and you think BEING GAY will solve all your problems?

Ryan
I don’t know, smart-ass! I’m just wondering about myself, would you give me a fucking break and stop busting my balls?

Carl
I’m sorry man, it’s just, you’re the last person I expected to hear this from.

Ryan
You know, I’m not always happy with women, you know that, right? In fact, I am quite often very miserable with the women that are in my life.

Carl
I have observed this, yes.

Ryan
And to tell the honest truth. I don’t particularly find the naked vagina to be all that appealing, in fact, I will even go so far to say that to me, the vagina is oftentimes quite frightening.

Carl
Of course it is, I mean, Goddamn, I don’t know how you straight boys do it, those big red lips and that bushy untrimmed hair, looks too much like my alcoholic Uncle Raymond the morning after a Memorial weekend bender. Yeeegggh.

**Short pause.**

Carl
But I’ve digressed.

Ryan
And to be even more brutally, brutally honest, I sometimes find men to be . . . somewhat attractive.

Carl
Really?

Ryan
Really. Some men, not all of them, not the fat hairy ones, but . . .

Carl
You want to fuck men, you think?

Ryan
I don’t know, I mean, that’s the thing, I have never in my life done a gay thing, so I have no idea if it’s the thing for me or not. I mean, maybe I am, maybe I have all the problems with women because I was meant to be with men, I mean, I understand men. I am one. I am a man.

Carl
You are definitely a man.

Ryan
Do you think I’m attractive?

Carl
Okay, hold it, stop right there, we’re not going there.

Ryan
Why not?

Carl
I am very vulnerable right now, since Chuck left, you know that, I’m not in a position to be toyed with.

Ryan
Carl, I’m not toying with you, I’m just curious, that’s all, I mean, we’re just talking here, right?

Carl
So far, we’re just talking.

Ryan
I mean, I’m just curious, that’s all, I’m just asking questions. I don’t know anything about gay taste . . .

Carl
Gay taste is oftentimes a contradiction in terms, especially when it comes to that pain in the ass gay tradition of dressing up in drag. Don’t try and figure out if you’re in the “gay taste”, you’ll make yourself crazy.

Ryan
I’m just curious, I was just wondering if I was considered attractive in the gay sense of things, just in case. That’s it. That’s all.

Carl
You are attractive.

Ryan
Really?

Carl
Trust me.

Ryan
What in particular about me is attractive in the gay way?

Carl
What are you doing?

Ryan
I’m just talking, we’re talking here, right?

Carl
How do I get into these conversations?
Ryan
This is how a person finds out about themselves, isn’t it? Asking questions, considering new things and ideas, thoughts, emotions . . .

Carl
Your ass.

Ryan
My ass?

Carl
Much about you is attractive, but in particular I find that ass of yours to be spectacular.

Ryan
This ass?

Carl
That ass of yours, I could eat that ass of yours all day. Breakfast, lunch and dinner, I could eat that ass until the cows came home, I could.

Ryan
Really?

Carl
Really.

Ryan
Wow. No one’s ever said anything like that to me before.

Carl
Hey. You asked, I answered.

Ryan
You know, a woman would never say that kind of thing to me.

Carl
Women don’t appreciate the ass, they THINK they do, but they don’t. Not like us. When I die, I want to be BURIED in ass, that’s how much I love the ass.

Ryan
So. If I were gay, do you think you and me would . . . you know. Go out?
Carl
You’re not gay.

Ryan
What if I was?

Carl
But you’re not.

Ryan
What if I am and I just don’t know it?

Carl
What if you think you are but really aren’t?

Ryan
I guess I won’t ever know for sure until . . .

Carl
Until?

Ryan
Until I try a gay thing, once and for all.

Carl
One gay thing?

Ryan
Just one gay thing, just to find out.

Carl
Just one.

Ryan leans in slowly and softly kisses Carl on the mouth. Carl kisses him back passionately.

They break off the kiss and sit quiet for a moment.

They look at each other.

Ryan
I’m not gay.

Carl
You are definitely not gay.

Short pause.
Carl
Goddamn you straight boys, you do it to me every time.
Every fucking time!

THE END