

THE ITCH

A ten-minute play

By

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CHARACTERS

RAYMOND – Age could be anywhere from 30 to 50. Ray is fully paralyzed, can't move his hands, feet or head and he's very angry about it.

JAKE – Age could be anywhere from 20 to 50. Jake is also completely paralyzed, can't move his hands, feet or his head. Jake is also blind, though it's sometimes hard to tell.

TIME

Present

SETTING

A room in a hospital, but not a hospital room, it's the tub room, which makes sense if you've been in a hospital for a long time.

NOTES

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***Special note;** all of the lines by Jake that are in *italics* are direct quotes from the film **Caddyshack**, the film that Jake loves more than anything. So if you're playing Jake and you haven't seen **Caddyshack**, it's time you did, and watch the unrated version, too, not the neutered version that sometimes runs on cable. Watch it even if you're not doing this play, it's a classic, man, a total classic.

Lights up on Jake and Raymond. The two men sit there quietly for a moment.

Jake

The whole thing comes down to THIS . . .

Ray

Shut up.

Jake

This is the thing . . .

Ray

I said shut up.

Jake

The thing is . . . I got an itch.

Ray

No you don't.

Jake

Yes I do.

Ray

You can't!

Jake

But I do.

Ray

No you don't so shut up!

Faye, a nurse, enters.

Faye

Hello boys, how are you doing?

Jake

There she is!

Ray

What the hell is going on? Faye, they took me out of PT with no explanation, it wasn't even time to go yet, they stuck me in this room . . .

Faye

I know, Raymond . . .

Ray

It's basically a closet, stuck me here with no explanation, and worst of all, they stuck me in here with HIM.

Jake

Thank you very little.

Faye

I know Ray, I'm sorry. There seems to be a bit of a commotion over in B Wing.

Faye sits in a chair between them.

Ray

What is it, what's going on?

Faye

I'm not entirely sure, but it sure is noisy.

Jake

So what brings you to this nape of the woods?

Ray

Did somebody die? Who died, was it Mr. Watson? Mrs. Anderson?

Faye

Nobody died. I haven't seen you in awhile, Jake.

Jake

You missed me, didn't you? I have an itch.

Faye

Where is it, would you like me to scratch it?

Jake

Yes please, left knee.

Faye doesn't move anywhere near Jake.

Faye

How's that?

Jake

Ooo baby, that hit the spot. Ahh. *Oh Mrs. Crane, you're a little monkey woman. Yeah, you're lean, mean and I bet*

you're not too far in between, are ya? How you'd like to wrap your spikes around my . . .

Ray

Would you put a cork in it! Why aren't they telling us what's going on? If something's happening they should tell us, we have a right to know! We have the right!

Faye

How'd it go in court the other day, Raymond?

Ray

Don't know. Judge is reviewing my brief. Still waiting, but probably I'll know tomorrow.

Jake

Court? Somebody finally suing you for sexual harassment?

Faye

That would be you, goofy. Raymond's suing for the right to end his own life.

Jake

No shit?

Faye

No shit. Where's your sunglasses, Jake?

Jake

You mean they're not on my face?

Faye

I'm afraid not. Did you leave them in the tub room?

Jake

It is entirely possible. Would you be so kind?

Faye

My pleasure.

Faye exits.

Jake

So Raymond wants to end his life. Now why would you want to do something like that?

Ray

You know, in the five years I've been stuck in this hospital, you've said some monumental stupid things to me, but this one has to take the cake, it gets the big prize. You really are a mental defective, you know that?

Jake

But I'm not the suicidal one, now am I?

Ray

You dumb fucking piece of meat, I'm paralyzed from the neck down. I can't do anything remotely useful, I am nothing! I'm a doorstop with a voice. I can't work, I can't play, I can't make a family. I can't FEED myself. I used to have a job. Car. Girlfriend. All I got now is SHIT. All I can do is sit around and wait to die. And I hate waiting.

Jake

Yes, I've noticed that about you.

Ray

Face up to it, we're both paralyzed, hell, you're blind as a bat to boot. We're both fucked. All we do is take up space, man, that's you and me, that's it. We're both frozen in place.

Jake

A flute without holes is not a flute. A donut without a hole, is a Danish.

Ray

Oh man, shut the fuck up, would you!

Faye enters with sunglasses.

Faye

Is he doing his movie at you again?

Ray

Yes. What the hell's going on out there?

Faye

I don't know, everyone's still running around. We'll know soon. Here's your glasses, Jake.

She puts the glasses on Jake's face.

Jake

You're rather attractive for a beautiful girl with a great body. Ray's depressed. He thinks that he and I are frozen in place.

Faye
What do you think?

Jake
I used to think that. Now I'm under the consideration that everyone else is frozen and I'm the only one moving. Uh-oh. I have another itch.

Faye
Where?

Jake
About two inches due north . . . of my asshole.

Faye
You know what, I have an itch in that spot myself. Would you scratch it for me?

Jake
Absolutely. How's that?

Faye
Oh. Ah. Yes. Very nice.

Ray
Jacob, it's not real, your arm's not moving, your hand is not touching her. She's here and you're there. You're not fucking touching her.

Jake
I am where it counts.

Ray
Shit.

Jake
I'm tickling your asshole too, Ray. Right now.

Ray
Shut up.

Jake
Oh baby. You love it.

Jake laughs, and after a moment Faye and Ray join in.

Ray

You really are a goofy bastard, you know that?

Faye

You know Jake, we rented your movie Caddyshack last weekend, my husband and me, but I fell asleep before we could watch it.

Jake

Infidel! I still can't believe you haven't seen it yet.

Ray

Listen Faye, you never told me what you thought about my case.

Faye

Your court case?

Ray

Yes. You've never said, one way or the other. What your opinion is. I'd like to know.

Faye

Well Ray, I think you should be free to do whatever you choose to do.

Ray

Really?

Faye

But I would hope, and do hope, that you would choose to stay with us. I do.

Jake

Me too. And I don't even like you.

Short pause

Ray

Why? Do you really think life has any meaning?

Faye

Sure I do.

Ray

What do you think, Jake?

Jake

My testicles aren't supposed to itch, but they do anyway. And that's the whole nuts and bolts of the thing, if you'll pardon my pun. Friends, it's times like these that I'm reminded of the immortal words of CARL.

Faye

Carl?

Jake

Character in the movie, Carl the assistant greens-keeper, played by Bill Murray. He had this great speech.

RAY

Oh shit, here we go.

Jake

So I jump ship in Hong Kong and make my way over to Tibet, and I get on as a looper at a course over in the Himalayas. A looper, you know, a caddy, a looper, a jock. So I tell them I'm a pro jock, and who do you think they give me? The Dalai Lama, himself. Twelfth son of the Lama. The flowing robes, the grace, bald . . . striking. So, I'm on the first tee with him. I give him the driver. He hauls off and whacks one . . .big hitter, the lama . . . long, into a ten thousand foot crevasse, right at the base of this glacier. Do you know what the lama says? Gunga galunga . . . gunga, gunga-gulanga. So we finish the eighteen and he's gonna stiff me. And I say, "Hey, Lama, how about a little something, you know, for the effort, you know," and he says, "Oh, there will be no money, but when you die, on your deathbed, you will receive total consciousness." So I got that going for me. Which is nice.

Very brief pause.

Ray

So do you think that's what's gonna happen?

Jake

I don't know, but it would be pretty to think so. And that's what the whole thing comes down to, isn't it?

End of play.

