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FAR FROM THE THREE

a Twenty--minute Comedy in One Act

by

Monique Franz

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Characters

BOBBY: A brainy and ambitious seventeen-year-old male from the Midwest, wearing a shirt and tie with a tight pair of jeans.

BART:BOBBY's father, a forty-five-year-old, gun-toting, red-neck-type, wearing evangelical big hair, a shirt with a reverend collar under his jean overalls.

ROSIE: BOBBY's mother, a forty-two-year-old, dingy housewife wearing an apron and Midwestern bouffant.

Scene

Scene takes place in the LIVING ROOM of a rural, countryside home in Nebraska.

Time

The present.

SETTING: Scene takes place in the living room of a rural, countryside home in Nebraska. Religious decorative accents and farm antiques add to its Midwestern character.

AT RISE: BART sits in a lounge chair, watching TV with a thermos in his hand and a bible on a side table next to him. ROSIE enters with a big box of trinkets.

ROSIE: (in a high-pitched Midwestern drawl) Bartie, I got more goodies in the trunk. I'm gon' need you to bring it in.

BART: Father-in-heaven. What you done got now? Look at all this junk. What is all this stuff?

ROSIE: Well, it's Saturday. Whatcha think? I went rummaging. Wait until you see what I got.
(rummages through the box, pulls out an appliance, and squeals excitedly)
It's a hot dog maker! It works like a toaster. You put hot dogs in this part, and you put the buns in that part. Push this lever down there, and both roast at the same time. Isn't that something?

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BART: Rosie, we don't need no fancy hot dog gadget. We know how to make hot dogs the good ol' fashioned way—stuck at the end of a stick over a fire in a metal trash can. That's the best way.

ROSIE: Well, it saves us the trouble and saves us a trash can in the end.

BART: If the good lord wanted us to put hot dogs in a toaster, he would have made them flat enough to put in a toaster. That's jest a waste of time and materials.

ROSIE: Ah, never you mind.
(reaches into the box)
And what's in that thermos anyway?

BART: (tilts thermos) What? In here?

ROSIE: (accusatory) In there?

BART: This ain't nothin', but uh…Communion.

ROSIE: (suspicious) Communion wine or communion spirits?

BART: (distracting) So, what you get?

ROSIE: (effectively distracted) I found plenty. I found this really cute left shoe. I couldn't find the right one—

BART: (annoyed) You found a left shoe? Good Lord Jesus.

ROSIE; …I thought if I could find a similar shoe, then I could make a cute pair. Sum'thin' origin-able. Sum'thin'creative. Now, get on out there and help me bring the rest in.

BART; That ain't none of my business. I ain't gettin' up and bringin' none of that stuff in.

(BOBBY enters the living room with books in his hand.)

ROSIE; (another high-pitched squeal0 BOBBY, BOBBY, there you are! (flattering) Baby, sweetie, honeypie, cupcake, the chicken pot pie to my chicken pot heart….

BOBBY; (wearily) What ya need, Ma?

ROSIE; I'm gon' need a hand getting all of those lucky finds and treasures out the truck.

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BART; Bible say, 'Where your treasure is, there your heart be also' and there's your heart, right there in that box of rummage. Ain't nothing in there but junk and golden calves, except it ain't got the good sense to be golden.

ROSIE; (to BART) Oh, quite fussing. (to BOBBY) Don't worry, Cupcake, you can fetch it all later. How was school today?

BOBBY: It was okay, I had a Calculus test that darn near did me in. I was hoping to get an A in the class, but now I don't know.

BART: **Just quit**. You don't need no Calculus no how. All you need to know is how to calculate—your plusin', your minusin', your dividin' and multiplyin' up to the five multiples. That's it.

BOBBY: Dad—

BART: All the rest of that Algebras and Calculus is for astronauts and folks who forget that the good lord made the heavens for the moon and the stars, and not for that Elon Musk character.

BOBBY: (scoffs) Nevermind.

BART: No, I'm serious, Son. The good lord says, the wisdom of this world is foolishness.

BOBBY: Here we go again—

BART: You don't need no diploma and college to survive as a man. We just need the sword
(raises a Bible in one hand)
and a Smith and Wesson
(grabs a handgun with the other hand and waves it around).
You don't need school. Quit.

BOBBY: (ducking from the waved gun) Dad, I'm not going to quit school.

ROSIE: (digging in the box, admiring her rummaged items) Bartholomew, leave him alone. He wants to go to school.

BART
For what? I didn't go pass the eighth grade and look how I came out.

ROSIEL Unemployed and on general relief.

BART: (waves his gun around)

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