

PERFECT STRANGERS

by

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Balki sits in the living room, watching the crappy little television they share. He is smiling heavily, Larry enters and looks at him, shakes his head, and sits down next to

him.

LARRY

Hey, Balki. You know it's St. Patty's Day, today?

BALKI

Ohhh, who is this Patty? A new girlfriend, perhaps?

LARRY

No, not a new girlfriend. St. Patrick. The guy that drove all of the snakes out of Scotland.

BALKI

Where did he drive them? Disney World?

LARRY

What? No.

BALKI

He should have taken them there, I think they would like it. I liked it.

LARRY

No, he drove them out of Ireland because they didn't want snakes there anymore.

BALKI

Who doesn't like snakes? They eat mice and rats and so on, and don't we have problems with them, cousin Larry?

LARRY

Yes, but they didn't like them in Ireland.

BALKI

Where is Ireland? Is that over on the west side of town?

LARRY

No, Balki. Ireland. You know, the country?

BALKI

Oh, of course.

LARRY

You don't know where Ireland is, do you?

BALKI

Don't be ridukulaus. Of course I know where Ireland is.

LARRY  
On the west side of town?

BALKI  
But you told me it wasn't...ohhh, cousin Larry. You are trying to trick me now, aren't you?

LARRY  
(disappointingly) Yes, Balki, I am trying to trick you.

BALKI  
I knew it, cousin Larry. You always trying to play games on cousin Balki, aren't you.

LARRY  
Sorry, Balki, I won't play any more tricks on you. Anyway, it's St. Patty's day, and we should go out.

BALKI  
Why, cousin Larry?

LARRY  
Because it's the only holiday that says it's OK to get stinking drunk on.

BALKI  
The only holiday?

LARRY  
Well, most people get drunk on all holidays, but...

BALKI  
Why most people get drunk on holidays?

LARRY  
Because they have to see family. But this is the one...

BALKI  
Why people get drunk if they seeing family? Don't they like family? Like us, cousin Larry, we're family, and I like you.

LARRY  
Yes, Balki. Most people like family, but usually it helps with some alcohol. But on this holiday, on St. Patty's Day, we can get drunk without family, which is kind of the beauty of the holiday.

BALKI

Do these Irish not have family? Is that why we get drunk without them?

LARRY

Yes, the Irish don't have family. They just have potatoes. Potatoes and whiskey.

BALKI

What is this whiskey?

LARRY

You'll find out by the end of the night.

BALKI

So where do we go on this holiday for Patty?

LARRY

St. Patty's Day. And we can kind of just go anywhere, which is the beauty of it. Because everyone, everywhere is celebrating it.

BALKI

Why they celebrate it?

LARRY

Because you can drink green beer and wear green clothes and drink Irish whiskey in the streets, acting like an idiot, and no one cares.

BALKI

Is everyone so carefree because they don't have to worry about the snakes?

LARRY

What? Oh, yes, the snakes. Well, most people have kind of forgotten about the snakes.

BALKI

But I thought that was what this holiday was about?

LARRY

Maybe long ago, but you remember that whiskey I mentioned earlier?

BALKI

Yes.

LARRY

Well, it makes people forget a lot of things.

BALKI  
Is forgetting juice?

LARRY  
Kind of. Sometimes it's regretting  
juice, but mostly it's just forgetting  
juice.

BALKI  
Where do we get this wonderful juice at?

LARRY  
Well, I was thinking we could try the  
singles bar down on 38<sup>th</sup>.

BALKI  
Oh, I like the singles bar, cousin  
Larry. Many beautiful women are being  
there.

LARRY  
Again, Balki, that's kind of the point.  
So why don't you go get on your Sunday  
best and we'll head out for the night.

BALKI  
OK, cousin. I go get ready.

Balki runs off stage and the scene goes dark. It reopens on  
the Singles bar with some people mingling about and Larry  
and Balki standing at the bar. Balki looks ridiculous.  
Larry looks at him and just shakes his head.

LARRY  
This is your Sunday best?

BALKI  
You know that, cousin. You see me where  
it every Sunday.

LARRY  
I meant for you to where something nice.

BALKI  
Why didn't you just say that, then? And  
this is nice.

LARRY  
That's what the expression "Sundays  
best" means, Balki. It means something,  
I don't know, elegant and attractive.

BALKI  
Oh, then that is not what this is.

LARRY  
No, Balki, it's not. It doesn't matter

now, anyway, let's just get something to drink.

BALKI  
Some whiskey?

LARRY  
Yes, Balki, some whiskey.

BALKI  
Let's hope that this isn't the regretting kind, eh cousin Larry?

LARRY  
I know I'm hoping it's the forgetting kind.

The two order their drinks and look around the room. Some people mingle, and an attractive girl comes to the bar, kind of smiling at Balki and Larry.

BALKI  
I think that girl likes my (sweater/coat/t-shirt, whatever it is we decide is Balki's ugly outfit).

LARRY  
No, Balki, I think she's looking at me.  
She's looking at Balki.

BALKI  
I don't know, cousin, I think she might be admiring my Sunday's best.

LARRY  
Trust me, she's looking at me.  
She's not, she's still looking at Balki.

LARRY  
I'm going to go talk to her.

BALKI  
But look, cousin Larry, she's drinking whiskey, too. What if she forgets what you say?

Larry rolls his eyes.

LARRY  
Don't worry, Balki, it'll be fine.

Larry approaches the girl as Balki speaks to himself.

BALKI  
Oh, I really hope that's not the regretting juice, either.

Larry nervously leans up against the bar next to the girl.

LARRY  
So, uh, you come here often.

GIRL  
Yes.

The girl keeps looking at Balki, who is smiling dumbly at her.

LARRY  
Good, good. Um. Yeah. So, um, can I get you a drink.

Larry cringes, realizing too late that she's already purchased a drink.

GIRL  
No, thanks, I've got my whiskey right here. Is that your friend over there?

LARRY  
Who, him? Yeah, he's my cousin Balki. He comes from Mypos, I'm just trying to take him out and show him a good time.

GIRL  
That's so cute.

LARRY  
Yeah, thanks. I do what I can.

GIRL  
No, Mypos. Mypos is so cute. And so is your cousin Balki. Is everyone from Mypos that good looking.

LARRY  
Well, I don't know about Mypos, but I know another good looking guy from Madison.

GIRL  
Really, is he meeting you here later?

LARRY  
I'm from Madison.

GIRL  
Oh, that's how you know you're good looking friend?

LARRY  
No, no, I'm the good looking friend. It's just me and my cousin, Balki. I'm from Madison, he's from Mypos.

GIRL  
But what about this other friend of  
yours from Madison? The good looking  
one?

LARRY  
(very dryly) He's not coming until  
later.

GIRL  
Oh, well, maybe I'll catch up with you  
guys then.

The girl moves off and Larry returns to Balki, defeated.

BALKI  
So, cousin, how did it go?

LARRY  
Not so well, Balki. She said she'd meet  
up with us later, but I have a feeling  
that won't be happening.

BALKI  
Oh no! Is she drinking the forgetting  
juice?

LARRY  
No, but I think I might have gotten a  
glass of the regretting juice.

And the play ends.