

## WAIT UP, JOE

**By**

**Murray Mednick**

Don't call me a dope, because I am not a dope.

Nobody called you a dope, Joe.

Yeah, you did. Take it back.

I take it back.

Okay, alright. You came close, there. You came very close.

I take it back.

Smart.

So what were you doing?

When?

Before.

Before when? Because I don't know what you were talking about. Before is before.

You were playing with Sherry.

Sherry?

Sherry.

I was not playing with Sherry.

What were you doing?

Talking. Something wrong with that?

No.

So what's the big deal? What's the big show of the centuries here?

The what?

Never mind.

You got any sodas?

Like what.

Any kind. Any kind is good.

Mountain dew.

You're thirsty?

Yeah, I'm thirsty. Gimme soemthing to drink fer chrissakes.

Give him a soda.

You got it.

Thank you.

It's hot.

It's hot out.

It's too hot to drink. What's a matter with you?

It's too hot.

How 'bout a shpritz? You wanna shpritz?

No.

Cool ya right off.

No, thanks.

It's the climate.

It's not the climate.

It's the climate.

Sometimes it's hot, sometimes it's cold. It's called weather.

Thanks a lot.

Actually, it s the fucking people.

Oh, I see.

No, you don't.

So what were you talking about, Joe?

I wasn't talking.

Yeah, you were.

You mean now.?

I mean before. On the swing.

The weather.

Don't be funny.

I'm not funny.

What were you talking about?

Nothin'.

Nothin'.

Just hanging out.

Yeah.

Enjoying the weather.

Nice.

The weather.

Yeah. Gorgeous. Beautiful weather.

Hot.

You swing on the swing?

What the fuck you talkin' about? Who gives a shit? Who wants to swing on a swing? I can't even fit on a swing.

Did you give her a swing?

What?

Did you give her a push so she could swing into the sky?

Jesus Christ.

Shut up.

Sure, I did. She enjoyed hersefl.

Flying into the sky.

Yeah.

Did she sit on your lap?

Excuse me?

Did she sit on your lap?

Hell, no. Are you kiddin me? You can't get two people on a swing. She's a big girl now.

She is. She's mature for her age.

Definitely.

So what'd you do?

I told you already.

Tell me again.

We talked.

What'd you talk about?

None a you're fuckin' business.

Don't get smart, Joey.

I'm not smart.

We know that, ha ha.

Shove it up your twat, Harold.

Easy, Joey.

You got the brains of a tweetiebird.

So what'd you talk about?

The weather. Very nice. But the assholes are fuckin' up the weather beause nobody wants to give up their goodies and comfys and shit like that. And I agreed, even though.

Even though, what?

I don't know nothin'.

Well, that's true, aint it?

Shut the fuck up, Harold or I'll twist your face into a pretzel.

Be quiet, Harold.

So what'd you do, Joe?

Tell that prick to keep his mouth shut.

I told him.

Tell him again.

Be quiet, Harold, ok?

I'll be quiet.

Good.

But he better come up with it.

What?

The truth.

That's a good one, Harold.

I know it is, Joe.

So what'd you talk about?

I told ya.

The weather.

The weather, the news, sports, fashion, things like that.

Sherry 's not interested in any of that stuff.

You don't know.

I do know.

You don't know shit.

Stand back, Harold.

You know less than shit.

So, you talked?

Definitely. Very nice.

On the bench?

Of course on the bench, where else would we talk.

I'm just just trying to get the picture.

You got the fuckin' picture already, okay?

Don't get belligerent.

Belligerent? What the fuck is that? Don't lay a hand on me or I'll crush you all into that dumpster. Right there.



Nobody 's laid a hand on you, Joe,we can all confirm that, am I right?

Right, I'll see ya later.

No, no, wait up, Joe.

What for?

We're not finished.

I'm finished. Bye, bye.

Siddown for a minute.

No. I got work to do.

A minute.

I gotta job. Some people work for a living.

You take her for a ride?

Who?

On your truck.

If you can call that a truck.

That's my truck, fellas, you can say what you want.

You need a new truck.

I don't care about his stupid fuckin' truck.

We got it, Harold.

He could drive it to the moon for all I care.

Right.

And stay up there.

Right.

It's a stupid piece of shit anyway.

Okay.

I just don't want it parked down by Jackson's Lake at night, in the middle of the night. With my daughter in the front seat.

What?

You heard me. With my daughter in the front seat with him.

What are you talking about?

I just told you what I'm talking about.

Then you better shut up from here on out.

No.

Bye, bye.

What's the rush?

I gotta go.

Hang on, Joe.

See you later.

What are you talking about with her?

With who?

Sherry.

The frogs and the slimies which live in the lake. On the bottom.

I'm gonna hit your over the head with a 2 by 4.

Gaw head.

Back off, Harold.

The catfish and the tadpoles and the worms thriving on the bottom.

Yeah, Joe?

No, I never been there.

No?

Jackson's lake?

No, I never go there. The place sucks, like a sinkhole.

Okay.

She told me herself, you talk about the stars and the moon and heavenly signs.

Heavenly signs?

Yeah.

Me?

Yeah.

The only heavenly signs I see is the sun coming up in the morning when I have to go to work like all the other pieces of shit on Earth. To make a fucking honest living and keep assholes like you off my case and minding their own business.

I see.

You don't see shit. You don't see what's behind you or what 's in front of you.

I didn't get that.

Never mind.

What are you doin' with Sherry?

Fuck you.

I'm asking ya.

Nothing.

Gimme something to hit 'im with.

We go for rides, okay?

And?

We talk about life.

Talk?

Yeah, it's more than you can handle, Harold, it's a conversation in which you would have no standing. And we never go down to that stupid lake. So I don't know where you're getting your fake information.

She 's twelve years old.

Yeah, she's like honey.

Stay back, Harold.

And if you do anythig I'll fuckin' kill you, Harold. Make no mistake. I'll cut your fuckin' head off. I'll run you over in my truck. All bets are off, Harold. The police, the army the national guard – they're off the table. It's you and me, and if you lay a hand on that girl I'll squash you like a worm. You got that, Harold? He's speechless. Tell him to nod.

Nod, Harold.

Good.

I need a ride, Joe.

Hop on. We're on our way.

Bye, now.

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