

Electric



Broadsheet

publishers of semi-literate doodlings, scraps, & snippets

presents

barnabas

a short one-act play by Matthew W. Schmeer

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barnabas

a short one-act play

Matthew W. Schmeer

(The two characters, ETAG and FRED sit on a stone garden bench in the center of a blackened stage. The only light comes from the back of the theater, where several low-intensity yellow “bug lights” have been set, with the bulbs facing the stage. It is apparent that both FRED and ETAG know each other well, as they nod and gesture to what each other say in a familiar manner. It is also obvious that the characters are homeless from their attire, both wearing tattered and torn flannel shirts, camouflage army fatigue pants, mis-matched shoes, and are caked with dirt, grease, and grime. They speak moderately, their voices at an even cant.)

ETAG: Pass the soap.

FRED: No soap!

ETAG: Radio!

FRED: Radio?

ETAG: Radio.

FRED: Pass the radio.

ETAG: Soap!

FRED: Dustbunny frypan.

ETAG: Living large in muffinman tins.

FRED: Daffodil.

ETAG: Picture perfect rainbow book.

FRED: Tongue slide posterboard.

ETAG: Radio!

FRED: No soap, Radio!

ETAG: Eat a muffinman tin posterboard tongue.

FRED: White red white red white red white red white.

ETAG: Muffinman.

FRED: Sugar.

ETAG: White sugar red sugar white sugar red sugar white.

FRED: Jesus.

ETAG: Jesus.

FRED: Jesus.

ETAG: Jesus.

FRED: Jesus.

ETAG: Radio!

FRED: Jesus Radio static channel.

ETAG: Radio floppy disk.

FRED: Abort delete retry Jesus Radio.

ETAG: Dictionary! Dictionary!

Dictionary!

FRED: Paper fly chase letter coke can downbeat stapler horse.

ETAG: Mother eat.

FRED: Fly coke downbeat can horse score the big one ball point

ETAG: Radio meat!

FRED: Floppy drive.

ETAG: Calendaric obfuscation.

FRED: Postage stamp greeting card.

ETAG: Mother horse.

FRED: Ummm.

ETAG: Ummm.

FRED: Mother horse.

ETAG: Spin spin spin spin spin spin spin spin mother horse.

FRED: Mother eat radio meat spin spin spin.

ETAG: Gotcha more accordion I warrant thee good God.

FRED: Eh?

ETAG: What.

FRED: Chase the judy punch eat meat mother radio jesus freak eat.

ETAG: mother mother mother mother mother mother mother mother mother.

FRED: Radio Jesus eat my mother meat.

ETAG: Vacuum drill frypan tent luggage kit.

FRED: Ate a hot dog on mulberry street and got the hershey squirts.

ETAG: Pants leg.

(Cut lights. The theater is plunged into darkness. Both characters stop and are silent for two full minutes. Then a

spotlight is lit and shines on *ETAG*, the light illuminating his face. *ETAG* stands and walks stage left, facing the audience with his left side. He is parallel with the stone garden bench. *FRED* speaks only from the darkness.)

ETAG: Sweat sweet sweat pants leg
radio mother eating meat friday tuesday
may june letter carry calculator floppy
mother eating jesus king james said
maybe letter dictionary! Dictionary!
Dictionary! Lexicon king james said
american american american american
magnavox! Red white while reading
white red postage stamp coffee maker
java black sun java coffee mug black
coffee mug black coffee mug black.
Dollar bottom soul food shoe fool coffee
mug black foot fool socket left socket left
wrench hammer nailed screw time
stamp postage stamp stapler calculator
picture frame perfect black coffee coffee
coffee coffee coffee mother meat coffee
crystal vase upon reefer coral. Drill drill
drill vacuum silverware massage.
Waffle iron booster black! Cheese.
FRED: Radio meat.
ETAG: Eh what radio meat had whale
had said james king lexicon. Dictionary!
Dictionary! Dictionary! Rolodex
dictionary rent.
FRED: Legs house hen envelope.
ETAG: Dictionary! Dictionary!
Cacophony dictionary coke can
muffinman tin cup jesus meat home
home home home home mother.
FRED: Toaster oven.
ETAG: Toaster oven.
FRED: Toaster oven.
ETAG: Toaster oven.
FRED: Pass the soap.
ETAG: No soap.
FRED: Radio!
ETAG: Radio.

(*ETAG* falls to the stage and the
spotlight goes black.)

the end