

Clerical Matters

By Michael Zielinski

Registered with the Writers  
Guild of America, East

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## Cast of Characters

CANDY:

MAX:

ACT IScene 1

*The curtain rises on MAX WOOD and CANDY APPLE sitting up in a hotel suite bed. Both are in their 40s.*

CANDY

I hate waking up in bed with a total stranger.

MAX

I thought after last night you could at least consider me an acquaintance.

CANDY

I don't even know your name.

MAX

I guess I'm the dick with no name.

CANDY

Having a conversation with an anonymous vagina.

MAX

More stimulating than the Vagina Monologues.

CANDY

I always prefer a good dialogue over a good monologue.

MAX

My name is Max Baller.

CANDY

You must be joking. With a name like that, you're either a professional golfer or a porn star. Of course, after sleeping with you, I assume it's the former.

MAX

Funny girl. Actually, I'm a football coach and physical education teacher at a large suburban public high school.

CANDY

Football is a petri dish for concussions and brain damage.

MAX

Soccer and ice hockey also cause concussions. Life is  
(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)  
full of risk. Football is a violent game, but a game with lots of redeeming qualities for helping mold young men off the field.

CANDY  
Being on the chess team also builds character.

MAX  
You play chess?

CANDY  
Checkers. I also used to play Chinese checkers until it became no longer politically correct.

MAX  
When you're not playing golf, what do you do?

CANDY  
I'm an interior decorator. But my primary passion is collecting fine art.

MAX  
That takes money.

CANDY  
I was born with a silver spoon in my mouth. I'm surprised you didn't notice it when we were kissing.

MAX  
I thought it was an overly large dental implant.

CANDY  
Do you think I make a habit out of one-night stands?

MAX  
I suspect this was your first time. Mine, too.

CANDY  
This was my first time. Perhaps we simultaneously had a lapse in judgment, courtesy of too much alcohol.

MAX  
Not to mention great sexual chemistry.

CANDY  
Did I mention that?

MAX  
No, but I assumed there was some physical connection since we were all over each other. Our guardian  
(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)

angels would've needed crowbars to pry us apart.

CANDY

I obviously was attracted to you. I still am, even after seeing you in the morning light.

MAX

Ditto. When I woke up with my arm around you, I wasn't tempted to chew it off in disgust.

CANDY

Thanks. When I first opened my eyes this morning, I was relieved that I didn't find a reptilian creature staring back at me.

MAX

Thanks for the compliment.

CANDY

Not sure what we experienced was love at first sight. But it sure was lust at first sight.

MAX

It still is lust at second sight.

*He leans over and kisses her gently.*

CANDY

I have a headache.

MAX

And so it begins. We haven't known each other yet for 24 hours and already you have a headache.

CANDY

From all the alcohol. Buy me breakfast in bed and I'm all yours again.

MAX

Deal. By the way, what's your name?

CANDY

I thought you'd never ask.

MAX

I was too distracted by your beauty.

CANDY

Are you sure you're not a salesman?

MAX

Just stating the truth.

CANDY

Good to hear. I had been wondering if you hadn't been smashed at the wedding reception would you've even looked twice at me.

MAX

Not only twice but thrice.

CANDY

I'm flattered.

MAX

So what's your name?

CANDY

Candy Apple.

*He laughs.*

MAX

Now that's an alias if I've ever heard one.

CANDY

That's my given name. My parents Abe and Abby Apple have made a fortune selling candy apples. Hence, my name.

MAX

Perfect. I have a sweet tooth for candy.

CANDY

I'm famished. Let's order breakfast from room service. Two scrambled eggs, jelly toast and a cup of coffee should get rid of my headache in a hurry.

MAX

Four scrambled eggs would work even faster.

CANDY

If I eat four eggs and immediately roll around in bed with you, my flatulence may give you erectile dysfunction.

MAX

A real bummer when a guy is spending so much money for a room in this five-star hotel.

CANDY

You weren't shocked to find out that I fart?

MAX

No. You farted a couple times in your sleep. Woke me up.

CANDY

Oh my God! I'm so embarrassed.

MAX

Don't be. I had a girlfriend who never farted in front of me. A real tight ass. She walked around with her ass cheeks clenched.

CANDY

She must have great buttocks.

MAX

Too much of a good thing. She has a tough time sitting on airplane seats.

CANDY

I had a boyfriend who snored like a grizzly bear. I broke up with him before I went deaf. I didn't hear you snore.

MAX

I don't snore or wet the bed.

CANDY

Good to know. Speaking of good to know, it would be good to know more about you.

MAX

Besides coaching football and being a gym teacher, I'm writing a novel.

CANDY

Not to stereotype football coaches, but that surprises me.

MAX

Most football coaches only care about the X's and O's in their playbooks. I like using all the the letters.

CANDY

What's your novel about?

MAX

A rugged firefighter rescues a beautiful actress from  
(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)

a fire and they fall in love. Then soon find they have nothing in common. But they're determined to make it a go and both are forced to explore life outside their comfort zones.

CANDY

Sounds like a romance novel.

MAX

It is. Figured my name Max Baller would attract female readers.

CANDY

I'm not a big fan of your name but Max Baller is less cheesy than say, Lance Savage.

MAX

I love your name. Makes me want to lick Candy Apple.

CANDY

You're not very original for a writer. Do you know how many guys have used that line on me?

MAX

Sorry. Couldn't resist.

CANDY

Sometimes I wish my first name was Rotten. Or Bad. Or Poison.

MAX

Then go by your middle name.

CANDY

No thanks. It's Love. My full name is Candy Love Apple. My parents sucked as humorists.

MAX

Tell me more about yourself.

CANDY

In addition to the interior decorating and expanding my fine art collection, I love to visit museums, travel and do fundraising for non-profit organizations. I also sit on several boards.

MAX

Sounds like we have nothing in common.



CANDY

We now have a sexual history. And we both like scrambled eggs. If we don't order them soon, I may have to find something to munch on you.

MAX

Be my guest. And don't forget. We both love sex.

CANDY

Why is it that men never forget the sex?

MAX

Do you live in Philly?

CANDY

Society Hill.

MAX

I live in Lansdale. Not too far from Society Hill. Unless traffic is stacked up like cordwood on the Schuylkill Expressway.

CANDY

Are you up for seeing if we can establish a relationship?

MAX

Are you kidding? I'm up now.

CANDY

We'll get to that after breakfast, tiger. Seriously, do you want to see if we can make this work?

MAX

Absolutely. Kind of eerie, but this sort of parallels the narrative of my novel.

CANDY

They say life imitates art. Just keep us out of the pages of your novel.

MAX

I never mix business with pleasure.

CANDY

We'll hopefully find each other to be a refreshing change of pace.

MAX

Fate is something, isn't it? We were the only people at the wedding reception without a date. So they sat  
(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)  
us together.

CANDY  
I was going to take a cab home after the reception.  
Until you brazenly invited me to spend the night with  
you.

MAX  
I was shocked you accepted. I stuttered through the  
invitation because I had never done that before. Pure  
impulse.

CANDY  
Guys hit on me all the time but I always ignore them.  
Until last night. Until you. And it wasn't because I  
had too many chocolate martinis.

MAX  
Believe it or not, I'm always shy around women. Until  
last night. Until you.

CANDY  
So, would you be comfortable standing by my side at a  
museum or fundraising reception? Or would you be  
bored out of your mind?

MAX  
Exploring new things excites me. Especially with you  
there by my side. Can you see yourself sitting in the  
stands on a chilly fall Friday night during one of my  
football games?

CANDY  
Only if they sell hot chocolate at the concession  
stand.

MAX  
I'll arrange waitress service for you.

CANDY  
Are you religious? I'm not anymore.

MAX  
Why not?

CANDY  
I used to be a nun.

MAX  
What?

CANDY

I always like to be upfront about that when I meet a guy. Some guys immediately don't want to touch me, as if I've suddenly contracted leprosy. And other guys want me to dress up in a nun's habit and screw my ears off. Which camp do you fall into?

MAX

I'm a lapsed Catholic so I'm OK with it. But after the amazing sex we had last night, I must say I'm shocked.

CANDY

Why? Nuns are human beings, too. Even if we used to dress up like penguins.

MAX

So why did you leave?

CANDY

Just in case you're thinking I couldn't control my sex drive, that's not why I left.

MAX

If that were the case, you could've remained a nun and just smuggled a vibrator into the convent.

CANDY

How do you know that I didn't?

*She laughs.*

MAX

So why did you leave?

CANDY

I had a craving to wear designer clothes.

MAX

What?

*She laughs.*

CANDY

Got you! It wasn't because my family is wealthy and I wanted to live the good life again. By the way, my parents thought I was insane when I entered the convent.

MAX

Why?

CANDY

They're atheists. I grew up Catholic because our au pair was Catholic and didn't want me joining my parents in hell.

MAX

I guess your parents threw you a party when you left the sisterhood.

CANDY

And bought me a Porsche.

MAX

Not too many nuns drives Porsches. I'm dying to know why you broke your vows.

CANDY

The Roman Catholic Church treats women and nuns like second-class citizens. I simply no longer wanted to be part of that chauvinistic culture.

MAX

Nothing to do with the sex scandals by priests?

CANDY

To a degree. The pedophiles are beastly monsters. But not all priests prefer boys. Several priests hit on me. A monsignor told me he'd hear my confession immediately after we had sex. My response was to scream Jesus Christ. The pompous ass scolded me for taking the Lord's name in vain.

MAX

I know many more good priests than bad priests.

CANDY

How does a football coach at a public high school know so many priests?

MAX

I'm an ex-priest.

CANDY

Fuck me!

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF PLAY)

