

GETTING TO KNOW YOU
By Donald E. Baker

CHARACTERS

Ray 40, good-looking, accountant.
Justin 25, good-looking, accountant.

SETTING

Sitting area of a hotel room attached to a conference center. One “comfortable” chair. There is a doorway to the bedroom area.

TIME

Recently.

SYNOPSIS

A straight man suggests he and a gay co-worker share a hotel room at a business conference so they can “get to know each other a little better.” They may have different ideas about just what that means.

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Sitting area of a hotel room attached to a conference center. One “comfortable” chair. There is a doorway to the bedroom area. A very agitated RAY bursts in from the bedroom, followed by JUSTIN. Ray wears a horrible pair of pajamas. Justin wears boxers.

RAY

What the hell were you doing?

JUSTIN

Wasn't it obvious? I had your dick in my mouth.

RAY

Yuck!

JUSTIN

Well, I've never had that reaction before.

RAY

I was sound asleep. Then to wake up with you in my bed. Doing—YUCK.

JUSTIN

You wouldn't be the first guy to act like he was sleeping while I, you know. “Yuck.” And all the booze you were taking in after dinner, I figure you were setting yourself up for credible deniability. “Gosh, Justin. I slept like a log. Don't even remember getting into bed. Must have been all the alcohol.” I mean, I've heard it before from curious closeted men.

RAY

Closeted? I'm married! To a beautiful woman who fulfills all my needs. You've met my wife.

JUSTIN

She's definitely beautiful. The jury's still out on the matter of her fulfilling all your needs.

RAY

She does, dammit. We have four kids.

JUSTIN

I was with an older guy for a while. He had eight kids. Every time his wife got suspicious he'd get her pregnant to throw her off the scent.

RAY

I am telling you, I am not closeted. And what in hell made you think I was curious about *that*.

JUSTIN

That. At least we've gotten beyond “yuck.” It's no secret in the office that I'm gay. So when we signed up for this conference and you offered to share a room “so we could get to know each other a little better,” I just assumed that was code for, well, getting to know each other a *lot* better. And then when the room turned out to just have one bed ...

RAY

I asked for a room with separate beds. They were all booked up already.

JUSTIN

Well, two queen beds would have been more appropriate.

RAY

What/

JUSTIN

For two guys on a business trip. What did you think I meant?

RAY

At this point I don't know what to think.

JUSTIN

Well, I'm sorry if I got my signals crossed. Apparently my gaydar needs a tune-up. Though I should have taken into consideration those perfectly horrible pajamas.

RAY

They were a gift from my wife last Valentine's Day.

JUSTIN

I should've known. No gay man would be caught in bed wearing those. Or wearing much of anything probably.

RAY

I am not gay.

JUSTIN

If you say so. But you wouldn't be the first married man to kick up his heels a little when he goes out of town.

RAY

I do not "kick up my heels."

JUSTIN

Since we didn't get around to that, I'll have to take your word for it. But as they say, don't knock it till you've tried it.

RAY

I do not want to try it.

JUSTIN

A lot of guys don't. They'd just prefer to stick with fellatio. I refuse to keep calling it "yuck."

RAY

Fellatio sounds even worse.

JUSTIN

It's pretty darn marvelous actually. But to each his own. Some guys just like to cuddle. Maybe I should have started with that.

RAY

You shouldn't have started with anything!

JUSTIN

Are you really trying to convince me you've never been curious about any of it?

RAY

I'm not trying to convince you of anything. I'm merely stating a fact.

JUSTIN

There's no shame in it. A lot of guys are curious. Some act on it, some don't. For some it's a rite of passage. Like helping each other through puberty with a little mutual groping. It serves a purpose and then they move on. You're a good-looking guy. I bet you had plenty of chances.

RAY

All right. Yes. I've had guys come onto me. But/

JUSTIN

But you never took them up on it?

RAY

Never.

JUSTIN

Not even once?

RAY

...

JUSTIN

Aha!

RAY

Alright. Once. My college roommate. Yes I was a little curious. And yes I was a little drunk.

JUSTIN

Of course you were. So. How was it?

RAY

It was okay, I guess.

JUSTIN

Just okay?

RAY

He was a little drunk, too. And I suspect not really very experienced. He jacked me off, I came, and he went to his own bed and did the same for himself.

JUSTIN

That's all? And you didn't even offer to reciprocate?

RAY

God, no!

JUSTIN

And you've never been tempted to see what might happen with a guy with a little more experience. Somebody with a few more tricks up his sleeve—or in his past?

RAY

Never!

JUSTIN

Well. Okay, then. Sorry I misinterpreted your signals.

RAY

I'm telling you, I wasn't signaling anything!

JUSTIN

I understand completely. So, you ready to go back to bed? It's two o'clock in the morning and we've got an all-day panel discussion about updated accounting practices. You'll need to be wide awake for that. At least at the beginning.

RAY

I'll sleep in the chair.

JUSTIN

You'll do no such thing. One thing I do know about you is you have a bad back. You won't be able to move after a night in a hotel chair.

RAY

(Hesitates.)

Okay. If you promise to stay on your side of the bed.

JUSTIN

I will if you will.

Justin exits to the bedroom. Ray hesitates, and then follows him.

END OF PLAY