

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

by Donald E. Baker

About 8 Minutes

SYNOPSIS

Gina and Dick discuss their son's—and Dick's—anxiety about not measuring up “down there.”
Does size really matter?

CHARACTERS

Gina Longman Pettigrew. Dickie's mom, age 35-40, any race or ethnicity

Richard “Dick” Pettigrew. Dickie's dad, age 35-40, any race or ethnicity

SETTING

The living room of the Pettigrew home, implied by a couple of chairs.

AUTHOR'S STATEMENT

Nothing in this play is intended to imply anything about anyone actually named Pettigrew.

This copy of the script is for perusal only.

No performance of this play is permitted without express authorization in writing from the author.

Lights up on GINA sitting in her living room, perhaps reading a magazine. Her husband DICK enters.

GINA

There you are, Dick. I was wondering where you'd disappeared to.

DICK

I was talking to our son up in his bedroom.

GINA

It's about time you were finally having "the talk." Dickie's almost fourteen.

DICK

Well, something kind of related. I was passing his door and heard him crying, so I went in and asked him what was wrong. By the way, he doesn't want to be called Dickie anymore. He wants to be called Rich.

GINA

I'll try, but it'll be difficult to change. He's been my little Dickie since he was born. Surely he wasn't crying about that!

DICK

No. He was crying about *his* little dickie.

GINA

What?

DICK

He sees boys in the locker room who're maturing faster than he is and he's afraid he isn't ever going to measure up. Apparently he's been the butt of a few jokes.

GINA

Teenagers can be so cruel. But even if he is lagging behind, he's got plenty of time to catch up.

DICK

That's what I told him. But he says, what if he inherited my genes.

GINA

What're you talking about?

DICK

When we go fishing up at the lake, just the two of us, and we're out in the boat and have to pee, we just unzip and go over the side.

GINA

You're polluting the lake!

DICK

It's a hallowed tradition handed down from fathers to sons throughout the ages. And a couple of times when it's gotten real hot out on the water and nobody's around we've gone skinny-dipping to cool off. So he's seen my penis a few times. I didn't think it was a big deal.

GINA

Neither did he apparently. But no wonder he's concerned.

DICK

What's that supposed to mean?

GINA

Dick, darling, you know I love you, and you're certainly adequate, but even in summer the water in that lake is chilly. I assume there would've been some shrinkage.

DICK

Adequate? Just adequate? If you don't mind my asking, how would you even know enough to make any kind of comparison anyhow.

GINA

Did you think I was completely inexperienced before we got together?

DICK

You never indicated otherwise, so I just assumed. Hoped.

GINA

A woman's past is none of her husband's business. Of course, her husband's "business" is very much his wife's business.

(She giggles at her little joke.)

Anyway, the first time I saw a man's "business" was when I got a peek at my brother Peter in the bathtub once. Or was it my brother Willy?

DICK

Six of one, half dozen of the other. They *are* identical twins.

GINA

I'd say it was more like eight of one, two-thirds of a dozen of the other. But whether it was Peter or Willy, it was the first time I had a clue where our family's last name might have come from.

DICK

Longman?

GINA

Centuries ago they gave men names based on their physical characteristics. You know, like Eric the Red and Charles the Fat. One of my ancestors in the Middle Ages was probably nicknamed "Long Man" and the name stuck for succeeding generations. I wonder why your ancestors were called Pettigrew.

DICK

I'm not sure I want to know.

GINA

Nonsense. It'll be fun to find out.

She takes out her cell phone and starts tapping in a search.

GINA (cont'd)

"Meaning of surname Pettigrew." Ah. Oh. Oh dear.

DICK

What? What does it mean. ... Tell me!

GINA

"Pettigrew." Derived from a Norman French word meaning ...

DICK

Meaning what?

GINA

Meaning “small growth.”

DICK

I wish I were more surprised.

GINA

Did I ever tell you about Harry, the guy I dated in college?

DICK

Harry?

GINA

Harry Johnson. He was so intimidating we dated a whole year before I was willing to risk going all the way with him. I will say, though, during that time I did learn how to control my gag reflex.

DICK

You’ve always been very good when you/

GINA

Oh, you’re no problem at all! Harry on the other hand. Actually it took two hands.

DICK

A real whopper, was he?

GINA

Let’s just say, in the hierarchy of penises, Harry’s was the (*hands apart*) ruler.

DICK

Between Harry and Peter and/or Willy, I must’ve been a great disappointment to you the first time you saw what I had to offer.

GINA

Well, until then I never understood why you’re so tall but your friends always called you “Shorty.” But Dick darling, I love your penis. For one thing, it’s much prettier than Harry’s.

DICK

Not as hairy?

GINA

A much lovelier shade of magenta when it gets all excited. But what I’m saying is, I’ve seen penises from both sides now, and I can assure you size doesn’t matter so much if a man knows how to use what he has.

DICK

Yeah, yeah. Motion of the ocean, angle of the dangle, all that well-meaning stuff they tell guys like me. But it’s hard to believe that, when the rest of the universe keeps saying “size matters.”

GINA

The universe also says that statue of David is a masterpiece, but it’s not because Michaelangelo gave him a penis proportional to the size of his hands.

DICK

Believe me, standards have changed since the Renaissance.

GINA

And not necessarily for the better. To my mind it is possible to have too much of a good thing. Harry was always very tender and very careful not to do anything that might hurt me in any way. Even so, I could never enjoy myself fully because I was always just a little nervous and a bit tense. But I've never had that problem with you.

DICK

Thanks, I guess.

GINA

Despite what you may lack in physical presence, you make up for it by being very imaginative in bed. You have great motion of the ocean and there's definitely nothing wrong with the angle of your dangle. It's obvious you're making every effort to give me pleasure, and a woman always appreciates that.

DICK

So at least I get an "A" for effort? Okay. I'll take it.

GINA

What do you say I give you an opportunity to earn an "A Plus." If you think you're up for it.

DICK

You know I've never had a problem getting up for it.

GINA

Something else a woman appreciates.

They start to exit.

GINA (cont'd)

And as far as Dickie's concerned, remind him he has genes from *both* sides of the family. He has just as much chance to be a Longman as a Pettigrew.

DICK

Remember, he wants to be called Rich from now on. And is it all right with you if you stop calling me "Dick" and start calling me "Richard"?

GINA

That'll be even harder than learning to call Dickie, "Rich." After all, you've been my sweet little/

DICK

Don't say it!

END OF PLAY