

THE THING ABOUT AMERICAN GIRLS

TOM- A nice geek, mid 20s, kinda chubby and regular

STACY- A nice girl but Traci brings the worst out in her

TRACI- A hot mess of bad decisions, but decent looking enough

GUSTAV- A foreigner with a terrible Eastern European accent

PALENKO- A foreigner with a terrible Eastern European accent

(Lights up on STACY & TRACI seated at a regular bar, just one-notch above being an actual dive bar. Both are looking good with just a touch of trashiness as to blend in with their surroundings. From offstage we hear Tom loudly finishing a song)

TOM (OFFSTAGE)

(Closing out Mack the Knife)

'Now that Mackiiiiieeeee'sss,

Back in ttttttttoooooooooooooowwwwwnnnnnnn.

Look out ole Mackie's BACK!

(STACY & TRACI clap half-heartedly)

TOM (OFFSTAGE)

Thank you, thank you so much!

(TOM enters from SL & notices the girls)

TOM

Hey Stacy & Traci! How's it going ladies?

TRACI:

Fine, Tom

STACY

Hi Tom.

TOM

I was gonna head over to the 'Bees and see you two, later on tonight for some late night action.

TRACI

You're disgusting Tom. And stop calling it the 'Bees. You sound like a fuck-tard.

STACY

Yeahhhh...we make fun of the people who try to make Appleebee's sound cool. The money's good and there are always families coming to the mall.

TRACI

Yeah families, and creepers who call it 'the 'Bees' and drink water at the bar all afternoon and stare at you. Speaking of which, are you still working at Dildo's & Things Playroom?

TOM

It's called Bilbo's & Dreams Cantina.

STACY

What the hell is that?

TOM

It's a non-alcoholic pub inside Chuck E. Cheese that caters to sci-fi kids & their parents. It's one part 'Hobbit', one part the 80's movie 'Cocktail' and one part 'Star Wars'. Yup, I can't believe it myself. Bilbo's & Dreams Cantina.

STACY

It sounds like the seventh circle of hell.

TOM

Well the money's great and I only work three nights a week. You'd be surprised how much you can get in tips selling Shire Punch, Flannigan's Spilt Milk & Lando's Luscious Malted Milk Balls Shake.

TRACI

Oh.My.God. Can you just leave already?

STACY

Be nice, Traci.

TRACI

He freaks me out with his little hands.

TOM

I can hear you, you know.

TRACI

Well I hope so, Frodo, with those ears.

STACY

Traci!

TOM

Aaaannnnnyyway. So what are you ladies doing out here at the Shaggy Clam on a Wednesday? Did you come to sing some karaoke? Stacy, we could totally do LOVE SHACK!!

TRACI

No Frodo Faggins, we're waiting on some guys who we met at work today. They are so hot!

STACY

They were watching ESPN and that Geico commercial came on and they started making all of these Hump Day jokes. They are hilarious.

TOM

Hilarious? Really?

STACY

Oh yeah. They kept asking what Hump Day meant. I guess they don't have Hump Day where they're from. I tried to tell them and I got all embarrassed. It was too funny.

TRACI

I'd like to show them what it means.

STACY

Anyway, a group of them are coming out tonight, so yeah.

TOM

Wait a minute? You mean the camp counselors for Camp Ma-spunk-tunk? They're all airheads who come to the States all summer just to sleep with American girls cuz they're too ugly to get any at home.

TRACI

Maybe you should try that, Gandolf?

STACY

And they're not airheads! They all go to college.

TOM

All they do is say regular things and you all just fall over them for their stupid accents.

STACY

Not true!

(The sound of commotion of people entering the bar comes from offstage.

Laughing, hooting, hollering, etc.

Enter GUSTAV & PALENCKO, two swarthy, albeit not that attractive European men looking around)

TRACI

Hey boys! Over here...

(GUSTAV & PALENCKO cross to the girls and Tom)

GUSTAV

Hey Palencko, look it is our Honey Bees! BUZZ, BUZZ, BUZZ

(STACY & TRACI over laugh)

TRACI

Oh Gustav you are too funny!

PALENCKO

It is very good to see beautiful ladies...this makes us very happy. Like two peepees in your pod.

STACY

(Laughing)

You mean 'two peas in a pod!'

PALENCKO

Oh what did I say?

STACY

'Two peepees in your pod.'

PALENCKO

I am so silly. I must have Hump Day in the brain.

PALENCKO & GUSTAV:
(While thrusting their hips demonstrating sex)
HUMP DAY!! HUMP DAY!!

TOM

You gotta be kidding me.

TRACI

You guys are a riot!

GUSTAV

Who is this chubby little fellow?

TRACI

Oh this is Tom, he was just leaving...

TOM

Hi guys. So where are you guys from?

PALENCKO

What is 'from'?

STACY

Oh he's asking where you guys were born?

PALENCKO

I'm not sure how you say but...we are born from my Mama's coochie.

(TRACI & STACY overlaugh)

TRACI

You guys are too much. They are brothers from Iceland.

TOM

Iceland, huh?

GUSTAV

That is our homeland.

TOM

That's bullshit. You guys don't look Icelandic.

STACY

Tom, you don't need to jump down their throats. They are guests in our country!

PALENCKO

What is this 'jump down throat' mean?

STACY

It's just a phrase for when someone gets too personal and acts rude.

GUSTAV

(To Traci)

Miss Traci, I would very much like to jump down your throat.

TRACI

(Making a come hither cat noise)

Meow!

TOM

No I've got to nip this in the bud, these guys know exactly what they are saying.

STACY

TOM! Stop it. Of course they don't, they're from Iceland. They barely know our language. Be a little more hospitable.

PALENCKO

(To Stacy)

What is this 'nip this in the butt'?

STACY

No it's nip this in the bud and it means 'to take quick action.'

GUSTAV

(To Traci)

Miss Traci, I would like to nip you in the butt

TRACI

(Making a come hither dog noise)

Ruff! Ruff! Howl!

TOM

This is ridiculous, you can't see through this.

STACY

Tom, I'm not going to beat around the bush, I think you're jealous of these guys.

GUSTAV
(To Traci)

Miss Tracy, I would like to beat around—

TOM

OK, that's enough Gus!

STACY

Tom, what are you doing?

GUSTAV

My name is Gustav

TOM

Can't you see these guys are just perverts.

TRACI

Yeah they are

TOM

They just pretend they don't know what they're saying to be cute and foreign. They just say dirty things to get you in bed. You'd slap any local guy who tried any of this shit but you make an exception with these two asshats. If Gus and Plinko say creepy perverted stuff, you just swallow it hook, line and sinker.

(Everyone stops and looks at Gustav)

GUSTAV

That one is too easy.

STACY

You're making too much of this, they are just nice guys.

TOM

They screw up every American idiom that they say! They haven't gotten a single one right!

STACY

It's okay! They are Icelandish!

TOM

(Being honest and real)

See and that's the problem. I'm a nice guy, a good guy. But I'm too regular, too available. You want this to be true. You want some foreign stranger to come in and hit on you and be swarthy and unknown. I never told you this before, but Stacy I've been in

love with you since you asked to borrow my brown crayon the first day of Kindergarten and I've loved you every day since. I never thought that I was good enough for you growing up. Even in high school you were the cheering captain and I was part of the geek squad. It wasn't until the last few years that I realized that I am good enough because you deserve only the best and I can't imagine anyone loving you better than I could. I get it. You want to be swept away like in those romance novels you used to read in junior high. You want some pirate or prince with a cool accent to sweep you off your feet. You want that to be your love story so much that you surround yourself with this delusion that Plinko here is the real deal. You can't see the forest through the trees, but one day you will and on that day when you can see the forest you will know that it was me that loved you all along.

(Beat)

STACY

For.

TOM

What? Like the number?

STACY

No. For. Like, 'for'. You said 'You can't see the forest through the trees' the idiom is 'you can't see the forest for the trees.'

TOM

That doesn't make any sense.

STACY

Of course it does. You can't see the forest for the trees.

GUSTAV

I thought it was because of the trees.

TRACI

No it's for the trees.

TOM

At least because makes a little bit more sense than for, I mean at least-

STACY

How does for not make any sense?! You can't see the forest for the trees. You are looking too close at the trees so you can't see the big picture, AKA the forest!

TOM

Okay change the context. I'm in a crowded bar. I can't see what they have on draft.

Multiple choice:

- A. I can't see what they have on draft through the patrons.
- B. I can't see what they have on draft because of the patrons.
- C. I can't see what they have on draft FOR THE PATRONS!

PALENKO

I would say A or B

TOM

Thank you Plinko!

PALENKO

It is actually pronounced PA-LENK-O.

STACY

Nobody cares, Plinko! So Tom, you're telling me you think, in your heart of hearts, that the saying is 'through the trees'. Do you know how FUCKING STUPID THAT SOUNDS!

TOM

And by 'stupid' you mean right?

STACY

Of course you can't see the forest through trees, why are you searching through the trees!

GUSTAV

Because if you step back and look at it-

TRACI

Shut up, you beautiful dumb pervert!

GUSTAV

Miss Tracy, my Honey Bee. Why you so mean?

TRACI

Stacy I can't do this. Let's get out of here.

STACY

Yeah. Morons.

***(STACY & TRACI storm out and exit SL)
(TOM, GUSTAV & PALENKO watch them go)***

GUSTAV

(With no accent at all, purely American)

Well that sucks, bro.

PALENKO

(Without a trace of accent, purely American)

Fack. You can say that again.

(TOM is totally taken aback by the revelation that GUSTAV & PALENKO are not foreigners after all)

TOM

What the hell? Where did your accents go?!

GUSTAV

Oh fack, dude, nah, we're not from Iceland

PALENKO

I'm from Pittsburgh I go to Penn State

GUSTAV

I from Worcester. Love the Bruins, Bub.

TOM

But what? How?

GUSTAV

Oh we put on phony accents and come to Maine every summer to be counselors.
We say we're from some other country and rake ass.

PALENKO

It's pretty fucking sweet dude.

GUSTAV

Still I would've loved to bang those two.

PALENKO

Ppff, there's more fish in the sea. Hey Tommie you want in?

GUSTAV

Yeah check out that table of ladies over there.

(GUSTAV points offstage)

PALENKO

Just put on a phony accent and roll on up all confident-like. You look like a funny European, it'll work. Give it a try.

TOM

*(In a terrible European accent
and yelling offstage to the ladies)*

HELLO PRETTY AMERICANS! IT'S HUMP DAY!

***(TOM, GUSTAV & PALENKO all thrust their hips demonstrating sex as
they cross to exit)***

GUSTAV

(Yelling to the ladies)

I WOULD LIKE TO GET SOMETHING ON YOUR CHEST

PALENKO

(Yelling to the ladies)

CAN I LEAVE A BAD TASTE IN YOUR MOUTH?!

END SCENE

