

STRAINING

By Connor Snow
10/1/2025 (Version #3)

CAST

Perry - customer, hypermasculine/overconfident
Deft - budtender, chill

(A dispensary.)

DEFT

Hey, what's poppin' new face. Can I see some ID?

(PERRY pulls out their ID.)

PERRY

Oh, yeah, sorry, it's a vertical ID. I haven't -

DEFT

(handing back the ID:)

Yo. Happy belated birthday. Big 21. Of course here my favorite numbers are 4 2 0.

(PERRY laughs weakly.)

DEFT

So buddy, is this your first time coming to a dispensary?

PERRY

Yes. But I, uh, have been dabbling in the *Mary Jane*, but I'm seeking some new recommendations.

DEFT

Yo, yo I getchu. So here we have some flower called Baby's First Binky...

PERRY

What's that?

DEFT

It's a whittle weed stwain for stwoners in twaining.

PERRY

Hey, no man I said I've smoked before. Show me the good stuff.

DEFT

Okay, okay. Right on, I see you man. Well we just got this in yesterday. It's Outerspace Fruity Cumjuice. Ever seen that movie with all the lions?

PERRY

(beat, then:)

The Lion King?

DEFT

YES! You know the part where the big lion gets trampled by all those cows in the canyon? First few hours are like that over and over and over. Like I didn't think I could watch my dad die that many times. But the rest is like when they eat bugs & sing!

PERRY

Dude, okay, I don't want to watch my father die. I love him, like - he's my dad. Do you have anything more chill?

DEFT

You mean an indica?

PERRY

Is that the relaxing one?

DEFT

Oh yeah. I gotchu. Typically I go for this strain: Amsterdam Blue Circus Not My Monkeys. Crazy amount of THC in this for the price. Head high, body high, hair high, but self-confidence low. You ever see a movie with the vampire with the nose?

PERRY

Noseferatu?

DEFT

BINGO. So you're going treat this thing like you're a vampire: As long as you don't look into reflective surfaces for 4-7 days it will be the best week of your life.

PERRY

Week?

DEFT

As long as you don't look in mirrors, oh yeah. If you look in the mirror, you'll look like *him*. So don't look into mirrors.

PERRY

What? That's all I do in the morning. Do you like have a strain that's just a good experience? A short, happy, and magical experience.

DEFT

Magical? I gotchu. Ever seen that movie with that Aladdin guy?

PERRY

Aladdin?

DEFT

Yeah that's the one. This strain is called Willy's Golden Lamp. Remember that guy from the movie that was weirdly blue? Smoke this and you get three wishes. Dispersed randomly throughout your lifespan. They will have consequences if they're not made in good faith, but that's the what the 1:1:1 CBD to CBN to THC-a ratio is for man.

PERRY

MY GOD! Do you have any NORMAL weed?

DEFT

NO! More pain for children of Brad Pitt. Shit, I hope that was a good wish. I was told the wises kinda sneak up on you like that, but I didn't believe them. What'd you say though?

PERRY

I only want some normal weed, like a regular high but with the thrill of smoking weed.

DEFT

Word. Well I have this. It's simple, clean, a little sketchy.

PERRY

What is it?

TOGETHER

Delta-8.

(DEFT & PERRY give disgusted faces.)

BLACKOUT.

SOUTHERN GREETINGS

By Connor Snow
5/12/2024 (Version #3)

CAST

Billy - 8-year-old from the Chicago suburbs
Amanda - Billy's mom
Mike - a local man (no accent please)

(The Alamo. Remember?)

BILLY

Wow. The Alamo really is something to remember.

AMANDA

Just finish remembering soon! This Southern heat is killing me.

BILLY

You're the best mom a kid could ask for! I'm getting thirsty though... could we go get a Chicago dog & some pop, like Sprite?

AMANDA

I don't know if they have that here Billy. I didn't see any Jewel Osco's around, but let me ask.

(Amanda walks over to Mike.)

AMANDA

Excuse me, are you from around here?

MIKE

Why, yes mam.

AMANDA

(to herself:)

Here it goes.

(to MIKE:)

HOW-DEE partner. Do Y'ALL have Sprite around here?

MIKE

Yeah, you can get Sprite at H-E-B.

BILLY

What's a H-E-B mom?

AMANDA

(disgusted, to BILLY:)

I think it's some kind of nasty Southern derogatory term.

(to MIKE:)

HOW-DEE. I think we got off on the wrong boot. See me and my son were just thinking about how those DANG LIBERALS teachin' our kids that trees are brown! Makes me want some Sprite. YEEHAW!

MIKE

You can get some at the H-E-B.

BILLY

Why does he keep using that word?

AMANDA

(to BILLY:)

Cover your ears Billy, Mommy has to speak their lingo for a bit.

(to MIKE:)

Those immigrators. Yeesh! I hope all of them are paying both state AND federal taxes, right partner? Makes me want to support American Business, like Sprite. YEEHAW!

MIKE

If you want American, no store does more than HEB.

AMANDA

YOU'RE NOT LISTENING! I SAW A GAY PERSON ON TV. TELEVISION. THEY WERE GAY. I PRAY THE GOOD LORD - AMEN - FOR THE SAKE OF AMERICA - AMEN - SAVES ALL GAYS. EVEN THE GOOD ONES, LIKE JAMES CORDEN.

MIKE

Mam, please if you could-

AMANDA

(over)

WHY I COULD JUST CONVERT A GAY PERSON, OR EVEN PEOPLE, IF I ONLY COULD FIND SOME SPRITE. AMEN! AMEN! AMEN!

MIKE

Mam, do you see that man over there?

AMANDA

Um, yes. Looks like a liberal. Poor soul...

MIKE

He's my husband. I'd prefer you didn't talk about him like that.

AMANDA

(flabbergasted)

Oh... I am so sorry. I just didn't realize that things have progressed so much down here. How brave.

(AMANDA puts a hand on his shoulder.)

AMANDA

Is... uh, he your brother?

MIKE

I- I don't know what to say to that.

AMANDA

Hey... I know English is a hard language. You don't have to be ashamed, I understand the education system down here is just terrible. It's okay to not have words.

BILLY

I'm sorry, mister. My mom is just asking if you may have any carbonated beverages with a hint of lime flavoring.

MIKE

(exaggerly pointing)

Yes, you can buy some at the grocery store down that street.

AMANDA

(looking right at it)

Oh... what do you know? HEB's not a slur Billy, it's a grocery!

BILLY

Wow the South really is like another world Mom!

AMANDA

Thank you, cowboy.

(to BILLY:)

Now Billy, do you remember how we say goodbye in Texas?

BILLY

Yes Mom! Bye mister! The South will rise again!

(Blackout.)

GIRL PHOTO

By Connor Snow
4/3/2024 (Version #2)

CAST

Jeremy - Marcus' bro
Marcus - Jeremy's Bros

(The woods.)

JEREMY

Yo bro I love the woods man.

MARCUS

Yeah bro.

JEREMY

Like the birds, the squirrels, the little sprouting flowers,
it's all so -

MARCUS

MANLY. Like I'm returning to my roots. My wild roots.

JEREMY

CUH-CAW!

(MARCUS laughs.)

JEREMY

It's nice to get a break from the frat house. Like being
surrounded by dudes is so exhausting.

MARCUS

I mean what's the difference, we're still surrounded by tons of
wood?

(MARCUS and JEREMY laugh for a bit,
before MARCUS pauses to take a photo.)

JEREMY

Dude.

MARCUS

What bro?

JEREMY

What was that?

MARCUS

I just took a photo.

JEREMY

Why bro?

MARCUS

All the wood just looked so nice in the sunlight.

(beat)

I wanted to save the moment.

JEREMY

Let me take a look.

(MARCUS shows him the photo.)

JEREMY

That's a girl photo.

MARCUS

What? No, bro. This iPhone 15 is made of pure titanium. The Apple Store said that was the manliest one they got.

JEREMY

Nah bro.

(re: photo)

Did you apply a filter on it?

MARCUS

No dude, no filter. That's just what it looks like cause I angled the camera.

JEREMY

Nah broseph, did you use Instagram? The hints of magenta, definitely Rio De Janeiro. And you took it horizontal dude.

MARCUS

That's how you're supposed to take photos.

JEREMY

Pfft. If you're a girl.

MARCUS

Dude I don't think you even know what a girl photo is.

JEREMY

Of course I know, what a girl photo is: it's a wilted flower in a painted pot, it's a washed out Polaroid of Olivia Rodrigo, it's the subtle beauty rain against the glass.

MARCUS

No bro, a real girl photo is where you show off how much volume you got... in here.

(Marcus "burns" his ass.)

MARCUS

Here, give me your phone.

(Marcus grabs Jeremy's phone and gives it to someone in the front row. Both pose. The audience member takes pic.)

MARCUS

Thanks.

JEREMY

Can I see?

(looks)

Dang our asses look great in this.

(An iPhone message sound is heard.)

MARCUS

What'd you do?

JEREMY

Thought my mom would love to see it.

BLACKOUT.