

Pick Ups 2006

by

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Cast:

JILL – late 20s / early 30s, attractive

JOCIE – late 20s / early 30s, attractive

UNIS (known as “Tubby”) – less attractive and decidedly plump

MICHAEL – mid 30s, reasonably good looking

WAITER / WAITRESS – any age

Scene:

A city lounge bar early evening Friday night.

As the scene opens, Michael is standing nearby a table and the table has around it 4 chairs as respectable looking as possible.

Props:

Two \$50 notes.

A bottle of champagne.

Ice will be needed so that the champagne bottle does not explode when opened and pour champagne all over everybody. The bottle must be cooled beforehand.

A champagne bucket and serviette to wrap the Australian bottle of champagne so it could be anything.

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[Lights. Michael is leaning against a wall or a bar. The three women enter together.]

Jill: Thank god it's Friday. We've got here early enough to get a decent table.

[As they walk towards the table.]

Jocie: Yes, I thought that meeting could go on till 7 or 8 o'clock and we'd end up here standing in a corner.

[The three sit down. As they sit down, Michael comes up.]

Michael: If I buy the drinks, may I have the pleasure of joining you ladies?

[Jill looks him up and down and waves to the waiter who enters stage at this point.]

Jill: Sure.

[To the waiter.]

A bottle of your best French champagne and four glasses.

[The waiter exits.]

[Michael looking a bit perturbed at the order of French champagne.]

Michael: My name is Michael.

Jill: I'm Jill. This is Jocie, and this our friend Tubby.

[Michael stands solemnly and shakes hands with each of the three.]

Jill: What do you do, Michael?

Michael: I'm a lawyer.

Jill: I understand that scientists prefer to use lawyers rather than laboratory rats because there are some things a rat just won't do.

[Jill and Jocie laugh. Tubby and Michael remain stone faced.]

[As Jill continues, and with no pause in dialogue, the waiter enters with a bottle of champagne and an ice bucket wrapped up.

He opens the champagne bottle with a nice 'pop', and pours the champagne into the 4 glasses and then holds out a tray with the bill to Michael.

He puts \$50 onto the tray and then looks at the bill, and looking a little shocked puts another \$50 on the tray. The waiter exits.]

Jill: And did you hear that when the Pope died recently, he arrived at the Pearly Gates just as a lawyer arrived and St Peter ushered them both in, guided them down a beautiful marble street with fruit trees and birds singing and fountains, and showed the lawyer to a beautiful marble palace with a marble path leading up to the palace door and said to the lawyer, ‘This is your home for eternity – enjoy.’ Then with the Pope he continued down off the marble street into a bitumen street and then off into a side dirt lane to a simple humble wooden cottage, ‘Your Holiness, this is your home for eternity – enjoy.’ And the Pope looked surprised and said, ‘I’ve always been a very modest man and lived very modestly but I was the Pope and that lawyer you’ve given him a palace to live in?’ ‘Ah, your Holiness, we have many Popes up here. That is our first lawyer.’

[Jill and Jocie laugh heartily. Michael and Tubby remain stone faced.]

Jocie: And did you hear about the lawyer who had to swim from a small desert island to the mainland through shark-infested waters. The sharks lined up and give him a guard of honour.

[Jill and Jocie laugh again. Michael and Tubby remain stone faced.]

Jocie: Did you read that wonderful piece of cross-examination from the USA published recently ? The lawyers cross-examining a medical practitioner who is giving evidence about his examination of a body and the lawyer asked, ‘Did you check his pulse?’ Doctor, ‘No.’ ‘Did you check his breathing?’ Doctor, ‘No.’ ‘How did you know he was dead?’ Doctor, ‘You’re quite right. I had his brain in a jar of formalin sitting on my desk but he could have been walking around somewhere practicing law.’

[Again, Jill and Jocie laugh. Michael and Tubby remain stone faced.]

Michael: And what do you ladies do?

Jill: We’re all journalists.

Michael: Ah, you write that black print that the editors wrap around the advertisements and the photographs if they can fit the black print in.

[Tubby (to the right) gives a little giggle, and Jill and Jocie do not think it humorous.]

Michael: Perhaps one of you writes the apologies column at the bottom of the last right-hand column on page 2, apologising and withdrawing. I read those everyday. One of my jobs is writing letters to the editors threatening legal action unless an apology is published. I used to think that the apologies were in finer print than anything else in the paper

Michael: (CONT) until I actually got a fine measurement and discovered it was same size as the rest of the small print, it was just that somehow or other it always looked lighter.

Jill: We are serious journalists who take our responsibility to keep the public informed of matters that concern the public and important political issues on a day-to-day basis.

Michael: Everyone wants to criticise lawyers but then they all want their children to become one. There are currently more people attending law schools throughout the Commonwealth than the total number of presently practicing lawyers.

[There is a slight lull in conversation.]

Jill: Tubby writes the cookery column in the newspaper and in the women's magazines we publish, and she also does a TV cooking program. So I suppose she's not really a journalist.

[Michael – with real interest.]

Michael: I've always wanted to meet a great cook who loved cooking. It's always been my ambition to find that Miss Right who is a great cook and wants to do it.

Jill: Ah, you want to find somebody who cooks just like your mother did? What a sweet little boy you must have been.

Michael: Oh heavens no. Mum believed that if it tasted good, it couldn't be good for me. I used to save up my pocket money to buy some nice food. I still try to avoid ever having dinner with her.

[Michael turning to Tubby.]

Could I ask you to have dinner with me tonight so you can tell me about your cooking experiences? I know a couple of nice restaurants near here?

Tubby: I've been cooking at home all day for my TV program, so I have a large amount of food at home with nobody to eat it. Would you like to come home with me and have dinner at my place from the food I've cooked today? It's such a shame to see it going to waste.

Michael: I would be absolutely delighted.

[Michael and Tubby stand up, as Tubby continues.]

Tubby: I did a really simple but delicious seafood and rocket salad with avocado and mandarin and a balsamic dressing as an entrée ...

[She is still talking as they leave the stage.]

[Jill and Jocie remain seated at the table sipping their champagne.]

Jill: He was reasonably cute.

Jocie: And as a lawyer he probably earns a decent income.

Jill: And he goes off with Tubby?

Jill & Jocie: [together] Where did we go wrong?

[Lights]