

# EXTRACT

# Turn the other cheek

a short comedy

by

Alex Broun

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**Cast**

ALBERT

SAMSON

**Setting**

Anywhere, anytime.

ALBERT: (FURIOUS) Because it's not what I want!

SAMSON: (LACONIC) What you want doesn't matter.

ALBERT: Yes it does.

SAMSON: No it doesn't.

ALBERT: How do you know what I want doesn't matter?

SAMSON: Because it doesn't.

ALBERT: I tell you what I'm going to do. The next one – I'm going to say to her. Straight out. When I ask her out – or at the start of the night when I pick her up - I'm going to say, very nicely: "Look, is there any chance you are even the teeniest bit attracted to me because if you're not let's just say goodnight right now."

SAMSON: Won't work.

ALBERT: How do you know?

SAMSON: Because I tried it. Had the reverse effect.

ALBERT: What did she say?

SAMSON: "I could never be attracted to anyone who said something like that."

ALBERT: Crap. She was never attracted to you in the first place.

SAMSON: Might've been. Some attractions take time to develop.

ALBERT: Crap. Not true attraction. It's instantaneous. You know in a second. "I want her," "She wants me." (CLICKS FINGERS) Snap.

SAMSON: That's a very male viewpoint.

ALBERT: Because I'm a male.

SAMSON: A woman sees things differently. She doesn't know whether she's attracted to you or not yet. It takes her a while. That's why she has to go out with you. To see if she is attracted to you.

ALBERT: Well let me tell you – she ain't.

SAMSON: That's because you're not giving them time.

ALBERT: How much time do they need? If somebody gives me one more cheek to kiss I'm going to scream. And the way they do it. They don't even give you the slightest hint, the tiniest option that there might be

ALBERT: (CONT) something more. Before you've got time to even start leaning they plonk a big cheek in your face and say a quick "Night." And you oblige. Give them a dutiful peck and they skedaddle. Through their front door in a mini-second.

SAMSON: I think it's milli-second.

ALBERT: Mini-second, milli-second. Whatever!

PAUSE.

SAMSON: What are you doing to these women?

ALBERT: I'm not doing anything. I'm being nice and charming, polite even. I pick them up. I take them to the appointed restaurant or function or opening at the appointed time – as promised – then return them again to said residence again at the appointed time.

SAMSON: Well what do you expect?

ALBERT: I expect more than getting a big cheek rammed in my face the milli-second I think of anything to do with lips. Well I tell you, next time I'm not going to be nice. The next cheek that comes my way I'm not going to give it a nice little peck. I'm going to give it a juicy big lick. A nice sloppy one. Right from the tip of the chin to the top of the cheekbone. I'm gonna slobber all over that bitch.

SAMSON: So why exactly don't they go out with you on a second date?

ALBERT: Because they're all bitches – every single one of them.

SAMSON: How many girls exactly has this particular occurrence occurred with?

ALBERT: I hate it when you do that.

SAMSON: Do what?

ALBERT: Try to sound intelligent.

SAMSON: I wasn't – was I?

ALBERT: Yes you were.

SAMSON: And did I?

ALBERT: No you didn't. Thirty eight.

SAMSON: What's thirty eight?

ALBERT: That's the number of delightful young ladies who have shoved their big fat, red cheek in my gob at the end of an evening.

SAMSON: You really hate women don't you?

ALBERT: No I don't.

SAMSON: Doesn't sound like it.

ALBERT: I don't hate women. Just those thirty eight particular women.

SAMSON: It can't be that many.

ALBERT: It is.

SAMSON: Can't be.

ALBERT: Alright here they are. The thirty eight women since I broke up with –

SAMSON: She who won't be named.

ALBERT: Her – the thirty eight women who I have expressed interest in who have expressed absolutely no interest in me.

**SAMSON COUNTS ALONG ON HIS FINGERS.**

ALBERT: Alison, Annabelle, Anne, Belinda, Christine, Deborah, Deborah's friend -

SAMSON: I don't think they count if you can't name them.

ALBERT: Yes they do. Eli, Eve, Evelyn, Fabien,

SAMSON: Who?

ALBERT: Fabien.

SAMSON: That's a nice name.

ALBERT: And she's a very nice girl – with an even nicer cheek! Georgia, Jaime, Jennifer, Jesse, Jessica,

SAMSON: Lot of J's there.

ALBERT: Yes there are. And a lot of L's too. Laura, Liz, Louise, Louise

SAMSON: You already said Louise.

ALBERT: There's three of them.

SAMSON: Three?