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# Buford & Leroy

**A Short Comedy for Two Men**

**by**

*Lynn-Steven Johanson*

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# Buford and Leroy

by Lynn-Steven Johanson

## **SETTING:**

*The present; at or near a park bench in a small Midwestern city*

## **CHARACTERS:**

**BUFORD KOONTZ;** 29, works in an auto parts store

**LEROY FUNT;** 29, Buford's best friend since grade school

## **ETC**

*Original production credits:*

BUFORD AND LEROY was first produced by the Attic Theatre Ensemble as part of its One Act Marathon in Hollywood, California, during June and July, 1998, with the following cast:

Buford.....Michael Groh

Leroy.....George Spelvin

It was produced by James Carey and directed by Michael Cervin.

## Buford and Leroy

by Lynn-Steven Johanson

*(AT RISE: A park in a small Midwestern city on a mild summer day. There are two benches, the type with metal frames and wooden slats. Nearby is a trash receptacle. BUFORD and LEROY'S voices are heard from off-stage. Although BUFORD and LEROY may seem southern, they are really examples of young men from the underbelly of many small Midwestern towns and cities.)*

BUFORD (O.S.)

Holy shit! What do you mean you ain't going to go?

LEROY (O.S.)

You heard me.

*(LEROY enters followed by BUFORD. LEROY, dressed in a T-shirt and jeans carries a large plastic coffee mug, the type sold by convenience stores. BUFORD, dressed in an auto parts store shirt and slacks, is carrying a bottle of Coke and a small sack of peanuts which he eventually pours into the Coke and eats them as he drinks from the bottle.)*

BUFORD

You asked me if I wanted to go the hospital to visit Skeeter, and then you go and drop this on me.

LEROY

Come on.

BUFORD

You've been looking forward to this for months.

LEROY

So.

BUFORD

That's why I sent in for a pair o' tickets.

LEROY

Well, you should of asked me first.

BUFORD

You can't wait if you want to get first class tickets to an event of this magnitude. This thing is big! You ain't going to get a decent seat at any monster truck challenge, much less this here one, if you don't get your tickets right away. Bigfoot and King Kong'll be packing them in like sardines.

LEROY

I know that. But I never told you to order me a ticket.

BUFORD

Well, you made it sound like you wanted to go last week.

LEROY

That was then.

BUFORD

Hell, Leroy. (*Pulling two tickets from his shirt pocket*) I got us two prime seats right on the starting line. Just think—you get to see that state-o'-the-art machinery, smell that hi-tech exhaust, hear that raw, brute horsepower. Why, it's enough to make your dick hard!

LEROY

I know.

BUFORD

(*Replacing the tickets into his shirt pocket*) And if that ain't enough to get you excited, Monster Truck magazine's Miss April pinup will be there signing autographs. You remember her from the April issue, don't you?

LEROY

The one with the big tits?

BUFORD

Big tits? Christ Leroy, all them pinup girls have big tits. You ever heard anybody say, "You know, that pinup girl with the tiny tits?" You ever heard anybody say that?

LEROY

Well, no. I guess I—

BUFORD

Cuz there ain't such a thing. You can't be a pinup girl without big tits. They're sort of—

LEROY

Okay, okay. You made your point. You mean the blonde with that big honkin' gear shifter between her legs.

BUFORD

Yeah! That's the one.

LEROY

She's really going to be there, huh?

BUFORD

Yup, she sure is.

LEROY

How come you never told me that last week?

BUFORD

Didn't know last week. Heard it on a radio commercial yesterday. Just think. You could get her autograph, maybe even get your picture taken with her.

LEROY

Look, I feel bad about it, Buford. I do. But I can't.

BUFORD

How come?

LEROY

I can't, that's all.

BUFORD

You got to have a reason.

LEROY

I do. I got a damn good reason.

BUFORD

Well, what is it?

LEROY

I don't see that's any of your business.

BUFORD

Come on, Leroy. I'm your buddy.

LEROY

So?

BUFORD

And being your buddy, I think you owe me a little consideration. Hell, I mean, I spent twenty-two god damned dollars on a ticket for your sorry ass, and now you say you can't come with me. And to top it off, you won't even tell me why. "I don't see that's any of your business". That's mighty rude, that's what it is. Mighty rude. And another thing—

LEROY

All right, all right. But you gotta promise me one thing, will you do that?

BUFORD

Okay. What is it?

LEROY

You will not repeat what I tell you to nobody.

BUFORD

Okay. I promise.

LEROY

I mean it.

BUFORD

I can keep a promise. You know that. What is it?

LEROY

I have to go into the city and get my brother out of jail.

BUFORD

That twerp Billy in trouble again?

LEROY

It ain't Billy this time. I wish it was but it ain't. It's Orel.

BUFORD

Orel?!!

LEROY

Uh-huh.

BUFORD

Orel's in jail?!!

LEROY

Not so damned loud, okay?

BUFORD

Sorry.

LEROY

Don't want the whole town to know.

BUFORD

Oh, they'll know. Sooner or later they're going to know.

LEROY

Well, later is better than sooner.

BUFORD

When did it happen, anyway?



BUFORD

Well, it's going to hurt a helluva lot more if you don't.

LEROY

Oh, all right. He got arrested last night for...soliciting.

BUFORD

Orel?

LEROY

Uh-huh.

BUFORD

For soliciting?

LEROY

Uh-huh.

BUFORD

Well, I'll be...What's "soliciting?"

LEROY

Don't you know nothin', Buford? Christ! Soliciting means, uh...asking for something.

BUFORD

You mean he was arrested for trying to get contributions?

LEROY

Well, not exactly contributions. More like "services."

BUFORD

He got arrested for holding an illegal prayer meeting?

LEROY

No.

BUFORD

What do you mean then?

LEROY

He got arrested for asking for sexual favors—from a prostitute.

BUFORD

For himself?

LEROY

Well, of course for himself. You don't think he was trying to hire one for you, do you?

BUFORD

We're not that friendly. Besides, I'd kind of like to see the merchandise first.

LEROY

Jesus.

BUFORD

I mean, you don't go surprising somebody you hardly know with something like that.

LEROY

It was for himself, or at least, that's what the police think. They arrested him.

BUFORD

Well, I'll be go to hell.

LEROY

An upright man with his reputation—

BUFORD

Maybe you don't know him as well as you think. Maybe he's got this dark side nobody knows about.

LEROY

I doubt it. When he called me last night he told me that it was all some kind of mix up. Said he got lost and was just asking for directions. And before he knew—

BUFORD

Yeah, right. Likely story. I can just hear it now. "Excuse me miss, but I'm kind of lost. Can you tell me how I can find a blow job?"

LEROY

It ain't funny. Orel practices abstinence.

BUFORD

Abstinence. Shit! That's just a fancy word for whacking your carrot.

LEROY

Come on, Buford.

BUFORD

Maybe he got tired of playing the lone hand.

LEROY

Just shut up, will you?

Aw right. Aw right. How'd it happen?  
 BUFORD  
 The hooker turned out to be a cop.  
 LEROY  
 A cop?  
 BUFORD  
 You know, one a them police decoys.  
 LEROY  
 No lie?  
 BUFORD  
 No lie!  
 LEROY  
 Uhhhh... Was the cop male or female?  
 BUFORD  
 (Pause as he stares at BUFORD) Are you insinuating my brother Orel is strange? Cuz if you are—  
 LEROY  
 No. I was just curious that's—  
 BUFORD  
 Because he ain't strange.  
 LEROY  
 I didn't say he was. I only wanted to—  
 BUFORD  
 Them rumors awhile back was started by a few mean-spirited people who were out to ruin him. Just because he's thirty-six years old, isn't married, and livin' at home with his mother doesn't mean he's some kind of pervert.  
 LEROY  
 I know that, but—  
 BUFORD  
 But what?  
 LEROY  
 You have to admit he does walk kind of funny.  
 BUFORD

LEROY

What do you mean "walks kind of funny?"

BUFORD

You know, it's sort of like he's...holding his butt cheeks together.

LEROY

He can't help that. He walked perfectly normal up until he had that operation.

BUFORD

What operation was that?

LEROY

Adenoid operation he had a couple years ago.

BUFORD

I didn't know he had an operation.

LEROY

Well, that ain't something a person announces on the local radio station. Especially when that god damned hospital bungled the operation and left him deformed.

BUFORD

Deformed?

LEROY

Uh-huh.

*(Pause)*

BUFORD

Deformed, you say?

LEROY

Yeah.

BUFORD

So, uh...what you're saying is...it's this deformed adenoid that makes him walk funny?

LEROY

No.

BUFORD

What do you mean?

LEROY

I shouldn't be talking about it.

BUFORD

Why?

LEROY

There's a lawsuit pending over the whole deal. It's going to be a real mess.

BUFORD

I don't understand.

LEROY

He was supposed to have had an adenoid operation. But somehow the hospital got him mixed up with another patient, and the doctor took out one o' Orel's testicles by mistake.

BUFORD

Holy shit!

LEROY

You ain't tootin'.

BUFORD

One of his—balls—?

LEROY

Uh-huh.

BUFORD

That's terrible. What the hospital do when they found out?

LEROY

Nothin'. They said they was sorry.

BUFORD

Is that all? I mean, the least they could of done was offer to put him back the way he was.

LEROY

Can't. Once it's done, it's done. There ain't no putting it back. Probably wound up in a can of dog food.

BUFORD

No. I mean, couldn't they put in one of those fake ones. You know, so it'd still look like he had two hanging there. Don't they have fake ones made out of silicon or something?

LEROY

He wouldn't want any silicon inside him. They could of maybe put one in made out of stainless steel, but that would up his chances of getting hit by lightning.

BUFORD

Or picking up a radio station. Wouldn't that be something? I heard about this guy that could pick up—

LEROY

The hospital's lawyer wanted Orel to sign some papers to let them off the hook, but he wouldn't do it.

BUFORD

What he do?

LEROY

Sued them, that's what. Once it goes to court, a jury will have to figure out damages—you know—figure out exactly what his testicle was worth.

BUFORD

That ain't going to be easy, Leroy. *(Beat)* What do you suppose a man's testicle is worth, anyway?

LEROY

I don't rightly know, Buford. What's one a your testicles worth to you?

BUFORD

Ain't never really given it much thought. I always sort of took them both for granted.

LEROY

Well, a person never seems to appreciate things 'til they're gone.

BUFORD

That's a fact. That's a fact. Poor Orel.

LEROY

This has been a terrible cross for him to bear.

BUFORD

Say. Was it his right one or his left one?

LEROY

I don't know. What difference does it make?

BUFORD

I was just wondering, that's all.

LEROY

He ain't exactly whipped off his pants to show me.

BUFORD

*(Touches his groin)* Damn!

LEROY

It's made him more self-conscious and shy around women. He don't think a woman would want a man that's not all there. Sooner or later she'd get to feeling around, notice something ain't right, and start asking questions.

BUFORD

That could ruin a romantic evening all right.

LEROY

Might think she got a hold of defective merchandise.

BUFORD

Something like that could even lead to a divorce.

LEROY

Yeah. And it'd be all over the country that she was divorcing him because he's missing one of his goyones. [Note: goyones is pronounced "goi`onz"]

BUFORD

That'd be bad. Real bad.

LEROY

Anyway, the pain and suffering he's already gone through is just terrible. At first, any little thing would set him off. Why, we were watching a baseball game on the TV over at Mom's house a couple a months after it happened, and when the announcer said the batter had one ball and two strikes, he just burst into tears.

BUFORD

My!

LEROY

And that's the only time in my life I ever heard Mom use the "f" word.

BUFORD

Your Mom said the "f" word?

LEROY

She surely did. She said, "That f'n hospital is going to pay for this."

BUFORD

I'm glad I wasn't around. I wouldn't want to see her p.o.'ed like that.

LEROY

Who can blame her, you know. Orel and her have always been real close.

BUFORD

Say, Leroy. Is that all they did to him—take out one of his testicles? I mean, they didn't do anything else did they?

LEROY

What do you mean?

BUFORD

Well, you know. Like did they change any o' the rest of his "parts?"

LEROY

Well, they didn't sew his peter to his knee if that's what you're thinking.

BUFORD

No, Leroy. That ain't what I was wondering about—exactly. I was just wondering sort of, in general. You know.

LEROY

I hope you keep this stuff to yourself, okay?

BUFORD

Oh, sure. But you know, it ain't exactly unusual for a person to have just one. Some people are born with only one and they live perfectly normal lives.

LEROY

Like who? Who do you know that only has one?

BUFORD

Well...Hitler. He only had one.

LEROY

Hitler?

BUFORD

Yeah.

LEROY

You call him perfectly normal?

BUFORD

No. But he only had one.

LEROY

Christ! Just forget about it, okay? I don't want to hear anymore about Orel not being a normal guy.

BUFORD

I understand. Really. When I asked about the cop, I wasn't meaning to insult him. I was just curious if it was a woman or some guy dressed up like a woman—you know—"undercover cop"—like on the TV?

LEROY

He said it was a woman. That's all I know. He wasn't too keen on the details.

BUFORD

Asking a lady police officer for sex.

LEROY

I know.

BUFORD

Was she a looker?

LEROY

How the hell should I know? You think I asked him that over the phone?

BUFORD

Just thought he might of volunteered the information, that's all. I mean, if she was real good looking and everything, maybe she lured him into it—there's a special word for that.

LEROY

It's embarrassing.

BUFORD

No, that ain't it. It's like, uh..."enchantment"...or something like that. They can't do it, it's illegal for them to use enchantment in order to arrest people.

LEROY

That's "entrapment", Buford. "Entrapment."

BUFORD

Yeah. That's it.

LEROY

They can use enchantment all they want, but they can't entrap people.

BUFORD

"Entrapment." I knew that. Just had a momentary brain fart, that's all.

LEROY

Be getting his name printed in the newspaper, I suppose.

BUFORD

That's for sure. Right in the arrest column. He'll be famous around these parts for a long time.

LEROY

Orel Elvis Funt arrested for soliciting prostitution. Disgrace the whole family.

BUFORD

Orel Elvis Funt?

LEROY

Well, yeah. They're always using a person's full name whenever they get into trouble.

BUFORD

Orel Elvis Funt?

LEROY

You know, like Lee Harvey Oswald. It's never Lee Oswald or Lee H. Oswald. It's always Lee Harvey Oswald.

BUFORD

Something tells me that people ain't likely to be speaking the names Lee Harvey Oswald and Orel Elvis Funt in the same breath.

LEROY

I know that, but—

BUFORD

Where'd he get a name like Orel Elvis, anyway? It's kind of a stupid sounding name, if you don't mind me saying so.

LEROY

For your information, Dad and Mom named him after things they loved most. Dad loved Orel Roberts and Mom loved Elvis Presley. So, they named him Orel Elvis.

BUFORD

It's a damn good thing your mom didn't love sex, that's all I gotta say.

LEROY

Christ, Buford. Nobody in their right mind would name their baby Oral Sex. Course, his name could of been Orel Tex . . . Mom said she liked listenin' to Tex Ritter before Elvis come along.

BUFORD

What I can't figure out is this. If he had the "urge," and playing the lone hand just wouldn't do, why didn't he pay a call on Myrna Mae Hinkle. Half the town knows she ain't a real blonde. Besides, I—

LEROY

Oh, like that's a real hard one to figure out. It ain't exactly natural to have blonde hair the color of a chicken's foot.

BUFORD

What I'm getting at is, Orel didn't need to go out of town for a woman. Hell, Myrna Mae lives only four blocks away.

LEROY

Buford.

BUFORD

She's hotter than a popcorn fart.

LEROY

Buford!

BUFORD

I heard she can damn near suck the brass off a door knob!

LEROY

God damnit! If you keep going on like this, I'm going to beat you like a red-headed step-son.

BUFORD

Sorry, Leroy.

LEROY

I happen to like Myrna Mae. All of those rumors come from that lying scumbag, Leo Whipperling. I'll bet that's where you heard em, ain't it?

BUFORD

Well, yeah.

LEROY

When he used to work with me down at the toilet seat factory, I heard him talking to the guys about her. He was bad-mouthing her something awful after she broke up with him, and those stories have been dogging her ever since. You can't always believe what you hear, Buford.

BUFORD

I know.

LEROY

She's probably a nice person when you get to know her.

BUFORD

Well, okay. I mean, I guess I stand corrected.

LEROY

Good.

BUFORD

So, it's sort of like those rumors 'at got started about Orel, huh?

LEROY

Yeah.

BUFORD

You don't have to get so upset about it. It ain't going to help.

LEROY

Sorry, Buford. I guess I just needed to get it out of my system.

BUFORD

It's all right.

LEROY

Anyway...Now you know the reason why I can't go see Bigfoot 'n King Kong duke it out with each other tonight. I have to drive an hour and a half into the city to bail Orel out of

LEROY, *Continued*

jail. And you better not tell a soul about this, you hear. Cuz if it gets around that Orel got arrested for trying to buy sex, he'll more than likely lose his entire congregation.

BUFORD

Yeah. Ain't nobody going to listen to a man of god who keeps company with a prostitute. I'd say his preaching days would definitely be numbered if it ever gets out.

LEROY

That's the god's truth. *(Pause)* Damn!

BUFORD

What's the matter?

LEROY

You know what's bothering me the most?

BUFORD

What's that?

LEROY

I don't know what to do.

BUFORD

What do you mean?

LEROY

It's just that I—I ain't ever bailed nobody out of jail before. I don't know how to—you know—go about it.

BUFORD

What about all them times Billy was in trouble?

LEROY

Orel always took care of it.

BUFORD

Oh. Well, it's no big deal, really. I bailed my Uncle Snoose out of jail a coupla times.

LEROY

I don't even know where to go or who to see. And all that traffic. I always end up getting lost when I drive downtown. God, I hate that place.

*(LEROY pauses as he takes a swig of his coffee.)*

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