

FLAKES

A short play

Written by David Garry

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Flakes

Josh- twenties-thirties male

Saige- twenties-thirties female

Jerry- twenties-thirties male

Mitchell- twenties-thirties male

(Lights up on Josh in the doorway, looking out. Saige sits on a couch in a living room with a Blue Margarita)

Josh- Bye guys... Thanks for stopping by...no, it's fine. I'm sure Lisa will understand. **(He shuts the door, goes to Saige)** Well, that's fun. Those two came over to say that they *can't* come over for a surprise, where the guest of honor should be arriving any second... hmm.

Saige- Well, they did stop by to let you know.

Josh- Oh, sure. Yeah, that's very sweet. Where is everybody else, I'm curious? It's almost 7:30, and arrival time was set for 6:30. Lisa's gonna be here, and it would be cool to have everyone here to surprise her. Ya know...Dental Hygienist Licenses are hard to come by...we all should be here cause we're most certainly proud of our friend, and want to celebrate her, right?

Saige- Yeah, ya know... people do the fashionably late thing, I guess. Where's Frank, is what I want to know...?

Josh-Yeah, how's that going by the way?

Saige- Well, tonight's our 3rd date. Technically, it would be our 4th, but he stood me up last time... but it's cool. I totally understand. He called me the next day to tell me he had a friend that lost it, ya know? Totally flew over the cuckoo's nest, so he had to visit him in the psychiatric ward in a hospital.

Josh- Yeah. That doesn't happen everyday.

Saige- I suppose. Yeah, Frank's really sweet... and cute! He kind of looks like a younger Don Rickles.

Josh- Um...okay... and apart from that, what else is wrong with him?

Saige- (a beat) Alright, he has a lazy eye.

Josh- I knew it!

Saige- You know I like flaws! No jokes about it tonight, alright? And don't be freaked out if he's talking to you, but looking at the floor. That's a heads up.

Josh- Alrighty then...whatever happened to that other guy... he's gotta be my favorite... the... 27 year old that had to use Viagra?

Saige- That one I told you about...he didn't **have** to use it, it **WASN'T** a **MEDICAL** condition! Just a fun sort of... stimulant...for a little while (**PHONE RINGS**) ...well, a *long* while...

Josh- (picks up phone) Hello? Yeah, hey... what's up? You can't? Um...okay...sure...alright...talk to you later.

Saige- Who was that?

Josh- Brenda... she apparently can't come, as well... She was just saying on the phone... 'I can't...I just can't'... that's all...Hm...I don't know... um...? (fake smile/enthusiasm)

Saige- Doesn't surprise me... and it doesn't really upset me either...there's something really wrong with her. Can't quite pinpoint it. I'm gonna call and see if Frank left yet.

Josh- Sure.

Saige- (pulls out cell phone, dials) Voicemail...yeah, hi, it's Saige. It's about 7:30... Just wondering where you are... um... call me on my cell if you check your messages, and let me know you're on your way... maybe you'll be here soon...?...just checking. Okay, Bye. (Puts away phone).

Josh- Wow. I'm sure Frank's a cool guy...but obviously it would be cool if he was to call you to let you know he's running late.

Saige- I know, right?

Josh- I dunno. I think I'm beginning to come to a realization here... Honestly, I'm still a little baffled about Carl too, who was really into the plans for tonight originally, but him calling me an hour ago to let me know he isn't coming because he says it all sounds tiring? I mean, he did call, but still....tiring?

Saige- Yeah, that's pretty lame.

Josh- When I put out the invite, I wasn't proposing we all do construction work tonight, ya know?...like build the restaurant we'd be going to...and everyone else we haven't heard from yet...um...is it me? Really... Do I have way too high expectations of people? Is this normal for people to be like this?

Saige- Yeah, it's you High-strung Harry. No...just kidding...it's not you. I think you have normal expectations of people. I'm here and I was on time. I don't need a ribbon or prize, but I've just always been like that. Other people... I don't know. Everyone's got their good points and bad points, I suppose. Oh! And I just remembered... someone else to add to the list of no-shows... I forgot to tell you, sorry...

Josh- Who is it?

Saige- JT can't come tonight. I asked him, and he said he had a party to go to tonight, kind of like a networking function something or other.... you know how that goes. He did this to me a couple weeks ago. We had plans to go see a movie, and he totally flaked on me, saying he was invited to a party that Lorenzo Lamas may or may not be at....

Josh- You're kidding.

Saige- Nope. Turns out Lorenzo wasn't at the party, but he got to (finger quoting) "network" with the EX-bass player for Kayla Conrad.

Josh- Who's that?

Saige- Exactly.

Josh- Be that -as it may, he had original plans with you.... he shouldn't have cancelled plans like that... (**KNOCK AT DOOR**). Could be Lisa... (**goes to door**).

Saige- If its Frank, don't stare at the eye. No jokes about the hairpiece, either.

(Josh opens door to reveal 2 guys)

Josh- Hey Jerry, Hey Mitchell... what's up? Where've you been?

Jerry- Hey, sorry Josh, we're a little late. We were *starving* on the way over here; we stopped to grab something to eat.

Josh- Um... but we're all going out to dinner... couldn't you wait?

Mitchell- No, we were *that* hungry. Yeah... so we stopped at this sandwich shop on the way. I got the meatball... not that good, actually. You want the rest of it? (Hands bag to Josh).

Josh- Hmm. Probably not. (To Jerry) I left you a message on your cell like forty-five minutes ago. Did you get it?

Jerry- Mmmm.... that must've been when we were going through that tunnel... or...that... thing?

Josh- Ahhh. Yeah... You miss calls a lot going through that tunnel or... thing?

Jerry- I don't know, I guess that's the point. I don't get them.

Josh- Hmm. Pretty long tunnel... thingie...I called you a half hour after that.

Jerry- (Looks at phone)...So you did... so you did. Hmm. I didn't think you'd mind if we'd be a little late...Hey Saige!

Mitchell- Hey Parsley and Saige.

Saige- Ahhh....Rosemary and *Time* (indicates watch).

Jerry- Where's our new favorite Dental Hygienist?

Saige- Umm... Sam's supposed to have brought Lisa here by now, after she got outta work, and Josh here has left him a couple messages today so far...but...we haven't heard anything.

Josh- He said he was going to go over to her office job, and take her over here to just hang and have a drink...and then 'surprise'! I hope they're on her way... But... what if her coworkers are planning on taking her out on her last day?... no, he would've called me by now... (Goes to check phone).

Mitchell- So I wrote a poem recently that maybe I can read for Lisa tonight...ya wanna hear it?

(Ad-lib "Sure-Yeah-Whatever")

Mitchell- (pulls out pocket journal, flips through pages) Oh! Here it is. "A warm rainbow nestled between two branches... Quivering... Flipping to and fro.... It is the god of righteousness.... the one who casts the first stone, and does jumping jacks of pain. Oh, tree of serenity.... stone me with your rainbows.... The quivering stops.... Elation."

Saige- I like it. I can see how that's really fitting for this occasion. Especially....um, what was it? The "jumping jacks of pain"? Thanks, Mitchell.

Mitchell- Yeah...going to the dentist isn't fun. She'll know what I'm talking about.

Jerry- So, Saige...I hear there's a new guy... what's wrong with him?

Saige- Ugh. Nothing. You'll be meeting him tonight. He's on his way, hopefully.

Josh- And this new guy has no left arm, no right leg, and perpetually thinks he's battling in the civil war. (**Saige smacks**) Just kidding!

Mitchell- Where'd you meet him?

Josh- They met from either side of a dimly lit bar. Distance and darkness is a girl's best friend.

Saige- You stifle! And be nice to him when he gets here. He's supposed to be here by now, too...um... but I don't know where he is... I tried calling his cell and everything... let me try again (dials cell phone).

Jerry- I'm sure he's on his way. Hey guys, hold on a sec... I gotta make a quick call (dials cell phone).

Josh- Okay. Ya know... I should try Sam again... see what's holding them up (dials cell phone).

(Through this, Jerry, Josh, and Saige are on the cell phone simultaneously. Mitchell is just confused. They all catch the end of Jerry's conversation).

Jerry- (picks up phone, dials) Hey Kate....'sup? I got your voicemail.... oh, you called yesterday? ... No, I know... sometimes I don't get my voicemails until the next day. It just depends on where I am in LA...kinda freaky, huh? Yeah...heheheheheh.... but I wanted to call you to tell you I can't make it tonight... yeah, I guess I'm supposed to take a friend of mine to the airport a little later. His ride totally flaked on him... Yeah! Can you believe it?...heheheheh, yeah. And he's supposed to catch a plane! I said 'Dude, I'll take you to the airport!' ...heheheheh, I know.... So, let's reschedule, I really want to hang... I'll give you a call later, all right? Okay, bye.

Josh- (picks up phone, dials, *listens to voicemail first*, then leaves message) Hey there Sam... just wondering where you are... We've got a few people here already. Just give me a heads up that you're on your way. Just give me a call.

Saige- (picks up phone, dials, *listens to voicemail first*, then leaves message) Frank, it's Saige again, just trying to get a hold of you... give me a call. I hope you're okay... or that your friend is okay? Um. Yeah...just give me a call.

Saige- I just heard...who are you taking to the airport?

Jerry- Nobody... but... I don't want to meet up with this girl again... we met online, and her picture is NOTHING like what you see in person! We met at a coffeehouse a few days ago, and when she started talking, I could see why in her picture, she was smiling without showing teeth. They were so nasty! Like little gravel rocks or something... all...askew!

Mitchell- Sounds like she might need some help from someone in the Dentistry profession!
And we got connections now!

Jerry- Plus she laughed alot for no reason. Okay, direct quote: “I love the smell of Shoe Polish! (Kate laugh) hehehehehehehe”. I ask of you...What does one do with that?

Josh- Why didn't you tell her you didn't want to go on another date? Instead of flaking on her and lying to her just now, you might've said...I don't know, uh... Listen, Kate, I think you're cool, and a great person, but after thinking about it, I don't think we'd be too compatible. Good luck to you and hope you find the right guy for you...

Mitchell- hehehhe, or better yet- Listen, Kate... I think you're teeth are purty dang nasty, and I don't think I want to catch what you got... so I'm kickin' you to the curb! (Kate laugh) heheheheheh.

Saige- That's so out of line.

Josh- Yeah, you have to really consider people's feelings.

Jerry- (dramatic) Don't you worry, my friends. I'll tell her sometime soon, when the time is right....

(A KNOCK AT THE DOOR)

Josh- It might be Lisa and Sam... so, get ready to do the ol' surprise cheer **(Opens Door on pizza delivery guy, looks at slip on pizza box)** No, this is Apartment 7. You're looking for Apt. 1... down to the left. **(Closes Door)**.

Jerry- (pointing to Saige's drink) What's that you got there, little lady?

Saige- Blue Margarita. Here, I'll get you guys one. Just don't say “little lady” again, alright John Wayne?

(Jerry's cell rings, all look at him, and he looks at it)

Josh- Are you gonna answer it?

Jerry- (a beat as he looks at phone) Nah, it's cool.

(Mitchell notices a decorated box on coffee table)

Mitchell- What's this? (Picks box up, reads) Trivial Pursuit ‘Teeth Edition’ ... (To Josh) Did you make this for tonight for Lisa and all?

Josh- Yep.

Mitchell- Funny Funny... Do you guys want to play? Looks like Josh here spent some time creating a fun game!

Saige- I think we should wait for Lisa and Sam. I believe the plans were to meet here, surprise Lisa and go out to dinner... *then* come back and hang, maybe play some games. Right, Josh?
(Hands Jerry and Mitchell drinks)

Josh- Thank you. Yes. **(Offers a plate of crab cakes to Jerry and Mitchell. Neither wants one).**

Saige- (Taking crab cake) Ya know... maybe I should try Frank again, maybe I should block *my* number so he doesn't see it...he could be avoiding me...

Josh- You just tried calling him. You left 2 messages.

Saige- I know. You're right. He's an hour late already, though. I'm worried. What if his psycho friend just got out of lockdown in the psychiatric ward of the hospital, and isn't on his new meds, and is attacking Frank?

Josh- Hmm. Dramatic. Is it just LA? I don't know, when I lived in a small town, if somebody couldn't show up, they would call and apologize and have some sort of valid reason. Or if they were running late (indicating Jerry and Mitchell), they would call and let you know that... out here, in non-committal land, even "Oops, sorry, I flaked" can be an actual excuse! This sucks... a little painful, to be honest. Ya know, there were supposed to be 15 people here tonight. And now, only 4 of us are here so far to go out for dinner, in which 2 have already just eaten...which I *still* don't get!

Jerry- Like I said, we were hungry.

Josh- I know, I understand hunger. I feel it sometimes...maybe even NOW! Why couldn't you have waited maybe 10 more minutes or however long it would take you to get here? Instead, you show up an hour late, without even calling, and then you don't want to go out to dinner, which was the original plan to help celebrate a friend of yours! This isn't the first time this happened!

Saige- Okay... hold on. Josh. We can all go out to dinner when Lisa and Sam come... those of us that have eaten already, can order drinks... see? Problem solved. Jerry Springer moment is now over.

Mitchell- But don't you guys want to play this game? (Looking through trivia cards) It's purty cool! I didn't know George Washington's' false teeth weren't made of wood!

(They all look at Mitchell)

Mitchell- (a beat) Ivory... mm-hmm...

Jerry- (To Josh) What do you mean, "This isn't the first time this has happened"?

Saige- Ugh. Turn knob to agitate.

Josh- Well, let's go back in time.... ! ('Wayne's World' - doodloo doodloo) What about the time you said you would pick me up from work when I had car trouble. Instead, you picked up Mitchell and went to some party in Malibu. I had to take the bus home. The BUS! If it were me, and you had asked me for help, I wouldn't have gone to a party instead of helping you!

Saige- You got another trivia question there, Mitchell?

Mitchell- Um... how many swimming pools could your own personal saliva fill after a lifetime? (Beat)... 2... 2 swimming pools...25, 000 quarts (points to mouth)...

(A Beat)

Jerry- I told you I was sorry about that, Josh. A LONG time ago.

Saige- Hey, guys... I just found this mole. What should I name it?

(A quick beat, Mitchell thinks about it)

Josh- You also said something like that wouldn't happen again! I haven't seen a change. And you, Mitchell, you're just as bad, cause you're with him every time he flakes on people, including me. And you just go along with whatever the plan is, just like a little lap dog.

Saige- Hey everybody! Look what I can do! (She does something bizarrely awkward, a choice for the actor, per the discretion of the director. The others stare for a beat).

Mitchell- Hey, man... I'm sorry for ... um... what did I do?

Jerry- Hey! Wait a minute, Josh. You think you're an angel? What about the time we were supposed to go see JT's play?

Josh- Oh! The time when my car shit the bed, and I was stuck on the freeway? Oh, yeah... I believe I called you on my cell right after I called my mechanic... to let you know I wouldn't be able to come.

Jerry- uh... mm....Ha!

(Josh's phone rings. He picks it up)

Josh- Sam! Finally! (answers phone) Hey, where are you? You're home?! What happened?... Okay... did you mention that we might be waiting for her, at least?... No?!.. okay... well...job well done, I guess... so, what are *your* plans for the evening?... uh-huh... Yeah... pretty exhausting, I imagine... yeah, I guess you *should* just 'stay home and take care of yourself'... um... yeah...thanks again (hangs up).

Saige- What happened?

Josh- Lisa did end up going out with her coworkers for a drink after work. Sam talked to her on the phone...oh, maybe... a couple HOURS ago? Then he took a nap, and just called me to let me know that now. He also didn't let Lisa know that there might've been some people waiting to surprise her tonight.

(Josh sits down, head in hands. Jerry's phone rings)

Jerry- Hold up... its JT. (Answers phone) Hey JT! What's up? Yeah? No shit! really?... I don't know, we were all supposed to go out for dinner, but... Mitchell and I ate already, no one else showed but we have Josh and Saige here...Lisa's not evening coming...yeah...Flake! We're just sittin' here doing noth- (caught)... Alright, cool.... give us about 20 minutes.... what's the address?... (takes it down)... Okay. See you soon. Bye. (Hangs up)

Saige- And now the plan is...

Jerry- That was JT, telling us about this party he's at in Reseda. Sounds like alot of fun... about two hundred people. Open bar. Some really cool band called "Huck the Upchuck" is playing, and some babes are gettin' a little tipsy, hoppin' in a jacuzzi. Sounds cool. You guys want to go?

Saige- Tipsy babes? All hot and wet in a Jacuzzi? Mmmm..... as enticing as that sounds, no. The original plans of going out to dinner from here come to mind. Josh spent time on this happening for tonight. Frank might be coming any second, too.....maybe.

Jerry- Alright... ya wanna go Mitchell?

Mitchell- Sure...sounds cool. Ooh! I didn't even see that! **(Walks to poster on wall)** 'Pin the Teeth on the Dental Hygienist'...! **(He starts to figure out the blindfold, and grabs the teeth).**

Jerry- Would you kill us then if we made plans to go out another night?

Saige- You are *not* using the chainsaw this time, Josh. Too messy.

Josh- (picking his head up) This time?... this is the last time...

Jerry- Oh, what does that mean. We'd be flaking on JT now if we didn't go... isn't that what you were just talking about? Why don't you two go out for dinner, and then meet up with us at the party... here's the address... (Copies it down) Cool? Thanks for the drinks, and the invite, Josh... alright...um...coolio... Okay, Mitchell, come on.

Mitchell- (removes blindfold) What's going' on?

Josh- Ya know what, Jerry? Don't bother calling me again. I'm done. It's been a while now that I haven't been able to respect or trust you. I'm not gaining anything positive from this friendship. And if you don't have the respect or trust between 2 people, what's the point?

Jerry- Are you being serious?

Josh- Dead serious... What's the point of hanging with someone if in the back of your mind, you know they're always looking for the next best thing or party to go to. Or that if you're in a jam, they won't be there to help. That's not friendship. This is all obvious to me.

Mitchell- Whoa. Harsh.

Josh- Take Mitchell too... Mitchell...ya know, man...I barely know you... you're more of Jerry's friend... but there's a type of friend I look to have in my life... so far, you haven't shown me a reason either to stick around... I wish ya both luck.

Mitchell- (announces to the room) Herbie!

Josh- What?

Mitchell- Saige's mole... you should name it Herbie!

Josh- Goodbye.

(Jerry and Mitchell exit. Josh shuts the door. Sees the bag of meatball sub, goes to unlock the door and throws it out into the hall, shuts and locks door again).

Josh- (deep exhale) ...And then, there were 2... Hungry? Wanna order in?

Saige- Yeah. Want a shot?

Josh- Sure. (Saige goes to pour shots). I think it's time to clean house. Ya know... hand out the figurative pink slips to some people that are obviously on a different path.

Saige- I hear ya.

(They both down their shots).

Josh- I really lost my faith in humanity in just under an hour. Or I think it's just been a slow build to this point.

Saige- Let's just build a spaceship and go to our own planet.

Josh- I don't think we even need to build a spaceship. I think we already have our own planet. We just share it with some flaky people, is all.

Saige- Yep. Like Frank, of course, who may still be coming over...who's to say?... Just in case, don't say any-

Josh- I know...nothing about the lazy eye or the hairpiece.

Saige- And... please... just sit there and smile if he busts out a harmonica.

Josh- We'll see...

Saige- But, not even hearing from him by now... I think *I'm* beginning to have a little bit of a realization here...

Josh- Yeah... feels good, right?... thanks for being here... and for being you, my friend.

(Josh's phone rings)

Saige- Your phone...

(A beat)

Josh- I'm not getting it.

(Phone continues to ring, as we)

FADE OUT