

# Heretics

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A short play

Jacques Manjarrez

Characters:

IKE

JORDAN

ARTHUR

HOMELESS MAN

SCENE 1

IKE and JORDAN are sitting in a car with ARTHUR. JORDAN is driving, IKE is in shotgun, ARTHUR is in the back. It is midnight in a small, suburban neighborhood.

IKE

I don't know - I'm getting the feeling that whenever I try to do something new, something real, it ends up biting me in the ass. Suburbia is a new kind of hell that gets people weird in the head to join hands and dance around the social bonfire like some kind of cult ritual. Anybody that lags behind gets throne in the flames, and I'm left feeling empty - like a shell.

JORDAN

Yeah, but who gives a shit about what you feel?

IKE

I know, right? Hey, Arthur can you do something evil so we can say you have mental health issues?

JORDAN

(to Arthur)

Can you feel bad?

ARTHUR

Bad how?

IKE

I don't feel bad.

JORDAN

Oh no, feel bad!

IKE

Why would I want to feel bad?

JORDAN

Otherwise you wont be able to rationalize your erratic behavior.

IKE

Oh - I guess that's awkward for you, Arthur.

JORDAN

Arthur didn't hear that.

Did you, Arthur?

IKE

I did not.

ARTHUR

Where are we going?

IKE

Back to your house.

JORDAN

Why?

IKE

Because we're going to play board games, bitch! Catan! Ticket to Ride!

JORDAN

Oh, all right.

IKE

Fuck!

JORDAN

We could um, we could play UNO.

ARTHUR

Beat.

JORDAN

Hey, Ike! I heard you peaked in eighth grade.

IKE

Who told you?

JORDAN

Arthur did.

IKE

Arthur, did you know me in sophomore year? I was a God in sophomore year.

JORDAN

People should be worshipping Ike, not worshipping some other thing.

IKE

What else would they be worshipping?

JORDAN

You know what? We're going to do the thing.

IKE

Yes, good. I think we need to be somewhere for the thing to work, though.

ARTHUR

Wait, are we doing the thing?

IKE

WE'RE doing the thing. You can watch.

JORDAN

I think it has to be a park.

IKE

All right, we're going to a park.

JORDAN

Which park is it?

IKE

Grant park is the nearest.

ARTHUR

What about board games?

JORDAN

I need to do a u-turn.

IKE

Do a double u-turn!

Jordan does a double u-turn. JORDAN and IKE chuckle.

ARTHUR

I thought we were going to play board games.

JORDAN

Mm-hmm.

IKE

We still need to do a U-turn.

JORDAN

I was just going to go around the block.

IKE

Okay. Hey, what would happen if instead of doing the thing, we would go pick up Jerry Rothberg right now?

JORDAN

Jer-bear.

IKE

Jerry-spaghetti.

JORDAN

The Jer-meister.

IKE

Jermanji.

JORDAN

Jerbaret.

ARTHUR

Jerry.

JORDAN

Yeah, no. He's wack.

IKE AND ARTHUR

Wack.

JORDAN

Ike, do you not want to do the thing? We don't have to do the thing if you don't want to do the thing.

IKE

No, I want to do the thing. I want to do the thing. When I say I want to do the thing, I want to do the thing.

JORDAN

Oh, Idea! Let's go pick up uh... Jessica!

IKE  
You're a real - you're real weird.

JORDAN  
You're wild.

IKE  
You're a real fucking creep.

JORDAN  
Shit, I want to go to Oregon.

ARTHUR  
Where are you in right now?

IKE  
Uh... NYU, Mudd...

ARTHUR  
I'm in NYU.

IKE  
Oh yeah?

JORDAN  
You should go to Mudd if you have the choice. Do you know who went to Mudd?

IKE  
I dunno. Who?

JORDAN  
Scott Stodyk. Do you like Scott Stodyk?

IKE  
Yeah.

JORDAN  
You also got into Santa Barbara, right?

IKE  
Yeah.

JORDAN  
So what's stopping you from going?

IKE

Aaron Bleach. Where are we going?

JORDAN

Your house.

IKE

God. Do you have to keep finding excuses? We're doing the thing. We already said we're doing the thing, so we're doing the thing.

ARTHUR

Can we just play board games?

IKE turns back to face ARTHUR.

IKE

Can you say anything else? Please? What are you, just some kind of broken record? You know? Just -

(impersonates repeated scratching on record)

Some kind of void? You know, you're there, I'm here, and I just want you to die. I really just want to kill you so bad.

JORDAN

Do you have anything insightful to add, Arthur?

ARTHUR

No.

JORDAN

Then kindly shut your fucking mouth.

Beat.

JORDAN

I don't know if I want to do the thing now. I'm not - I'm out of the mood.

IKE

We're doing the thing. That's final.

JORDAN

Okay, fine. But only because you insist. I want you both to know that if it was up to me, we wouldn't do it.



IKE  
We're going to Grant.

JORDAN  
Fine, yes. Yeah. Grant.

## SCENE 2

IKE, JORDAN, and ARTHUR wander into a park later that night. There's a HOMELESS MAN sitting on a bench. ARTHUR sits next to the HOMELESS MAN. JORDAN and IKE tear off their shirts. They start furiously fighting each other like wild beasts, kicking and punching with unrelenting fury. ARTHUR and the HOMELESS man look on with mild boredom.

HOMELESS MAN  
I like to think of myself as a king in my own garden. Trees grow, flowers bloom, only because I, myself, will it. You have me to thank for that - me and my supreme might. Yet in the end, I am at the mercy of giants that sunder my gift underfoot. To them I am at best irrelevant and at worst an obstacle.

ARTHUR  
I don't know.

JORDAN and IKE wrestle each other in the grass. JORDAN bites IKE's ear. He begins to tear. IKE lets out a shriek of pain. JORDAN tears the ear off. IKE rolls up into a fetal position, clutching where his ear used to be. Blood is streaming down his face. JORDAN eats the ear.

ARTHUR  
It's cold out.

HOMELESS MAN  
Yes.

ARTHUR  
Are you cold?

HOMELESS MAN  
Yes.

ARTHUR  
I'm sorry.

ARTHUR sits silently, hands on his lap. IKE has passed out from the pain. JORDAN falls to his knees, gasping for air.

JORDAN  
I am king. Gaze upon me with silent awe.

HOMELESS MAN  
Heresy. This is my kingdom.

JORDAN stands and advances towards the HOMELESS MAN. The HOMELESS MAN makes no effort to move. JORDAN bites into the neck of the man, tearing out a clump of flesh. Blood begins to rush out of the HOMELESS MAN's neck. The HOMELESS MAN leans over, dead.

JORDAN  
Call me a heretic, I'll fucking kill you.

JORDAN collapses from exhaustion. ARTHUR stands. He lays his coat over the corpse of the HOMELESS MAN, and exits the scene.

End.