

THREE MONOLOGUES ADAPTED FROM
TIGER IN A CAGE
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jollyarthur@hotmail.com

www.arthurjolly.com

HAROLD: M. Late twenties. Unable to sit still for very long.
Edgy, twitchy.

The action takes place in a jail cell.

HAROLD

I fucked up. I fell off the wagon... You don't understand, I been trying but he put me next to the honeymoon suite. That channel they have? I put a block on it. Downstairs, at the desk, even before I got to the room, I had'em block it. Guy looked at me like I was nuts. "It's a parental block", he says, "There's a code to override" I don't want the code, I tell him. ... I think he thought I was a nutcase - one of those religious types.

And then this dickless wonder puts me next to the honeymoon suite. Half the night, banging away just the other side of the wall. I could hear everything. The bed moving. Voices, grunts, moans.... mostly the guy, but then she started... I could hear her like she was in the bed, like right next to me. I couldn't take it. So I - I went into the bathroom... and, you know... cut myself.

I know! I know! I don't even keep a razor no more, I got a 'lectric one now and everything... but... I couldn't help it. I used those nail clippers. Two little parallel... they weren't even cuts, like little scratches... I fucked up again, didn't I?

HAROLD

Everything you've said about how I deal with women - yeah, okay but... You could kiss me. okay, okay, okay - No, wait. I know you ain't supposed to be with a patient. I know that, I seen TV - but if it's like the patient's idea... I mean, I'm the one askin' you, right? I'm askin' you. I could kiss you right now. Whether you wanted me to or not. That guard... it takes him a while to get that door open, get down the hall, get this door open...

You couldn't stop me. I could just grab you. I could! I could, dammit! You gotta yell louder, that guard's deaf as post. He didn't hear ya! He ain't comin! He ain't comin, see? I could. I could right now, I could do anything and you can't stop me...

... but I won't.

I WON'T! I'm not gonna, 'cause... cause normal guys don't kiss no one that don't want to be kissed. You taught me that. You taught me that! So I ain't gonna do anything... but ask you. I'm changed, see? You did that. And you can save me. Just once. One kiss. I know in my heart that one kiss could save me. Like the frog in that fairy story - marries a princess. One kiss. I bet you kissed a hundred guys in your life. Two hundred. Guys in college, people you work with. Kiss'em hello, kiss'em goodbye. In France, they kiss both cheeks, just like shakin' hands. Don't mean nothin' to 'em. ... You can save me. You could make me... normal.

HAROLD

I heard the noises. I thought it was next door - but it wasn't. It was outside. In the parking lot. I look out the window. I'm looking through the blinds, and the sun is bright, stripes on my naked body. I'm a tiger, I'm a tiger, waiting behind the window. Any moment, I could pounce. Any moment now.

I can hear her. Then I can see her as I peer out from my lair. She's in a blue dress, her hair is pulled back, and she is glowing like the sun. She's... oh God... she's grunting. She's playing with a ball, throwing it as high as she can, up against the sky and catching it. Every time she throws her ball up in the air, she grunts... almost moans... huh! huh! huh! And her dress rides up on her leg, on her thigh. Each time she throws the ball up and when she reaches up to catch it, the edge of her dress pulls up. Higher, higher. Glimpses of that tiny, perfect thigh. Huh! Huh!

I'm a tiger, I'm a tiger! Oh yes... you little... you little perfect... meat.