

“IN THE BEGINNING”
A One Act Comedy
By Bruce Kane

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“IN THE BEGINNING”
by Bruce Kane

SETTING: The Garden Of Eden Bar & Grill

CHARACTERS:

ADAM: The first man. Handsome, muscular but not too bright.

EVE: The first woman... Attractive and soon to be very smart.

SERPENT: The reptilian bartender at the Garden of Eden Bar & Grill.

Dressed in a snakeskin jacket with greased back hair. Has a tendency to flick his tongue when he speaks and slithers, rather than moves, from side to side.

AT CURTAIN: *The Serpent, dressed in a snake skin jacket, slick, greased back hair is tending bar when Adam enters and looks around like a hick on his first visit to the big city.*

SERPENT: Welcome to The Garden of Eden Bar And Grill. I'm the Serpent. I'll be your bartender tonight. Haven't seen you in here before. You must be new.

ADAM: Yes, I am. Very new.

SERPENT: What'll it be?

ADAM: What'll what be?

SERPENT: Drink. What do you want to drink?

ADAM: I don't know. No one's ever asked me that before. As a matter of fact, no one's ever asked me anything.

SERPENT: What's your name?

ADAM: Name?

SERPENT: What do people call you?

ADAM: People?

SERPENT: *(getting annoyed)* People... Like yourself.

ADAM: I don't know. I've never met anybody like me.

SERPENT: That makes two of us.

(Eve enters hesitantly. She also looks around like an out of townner in the big city for the first time.)

SERPENT: *(to himself, admiringly)* Well, hello there.

(Eve crosses to the bar)

EVE: *(shyly)* Hi.

SERPENT: Hi... What can I get you?

EVE: I'm not sure.

SERPENT: *(to himself)* Great... Another one. *(to Eve)* Might I suggest an apple margarita? I make a great apple margarita.

EVE: I've never had an apple margarita. Come to think of it, I've never had anything to drink.

SERPENT: You won't be sorry. Trust me.

(As the Serpent prepares her drink, Eve trades a couple of quick glances with Adam. The Serpent serves up Eve's apple margarita. She takes a sip.)

EVE: Wow.

SERPENT: Goes down smooth, doesn't it?

EVE: Yes... Very smooth.

SERPENT: Just wait until it kicks in.

EVE: Kicks in? What do you mean...? *(Suddenly her whole demeanor changes. She sits up straight and exudes complete and knowing confidence. She speaks to the serpent with great self confidence.)* You left out the salt.

SERPENT: The what?

EVE: The salt... You always salt the rim of the glass when you serve a proper apple margarita. Also you used too much liqueur. Overwhelms the kick of the vodka. But, otherwise not bad.

SERPENT: I thought you said you never had an apple margarita.

EVE: That's right. This is my first.

SERPENT: Then how do you know so much about how to make one?

EVE: I have knowledge.

SERPENT: You know what they say about knowledge?

EVE: It's a dangerous thing.

SERPENT: *(surprised)* Yeah... That's what they say, alright.

EVE: But that depends on whose got it.

SERPENT: *(impressed)* You're alright... *(crosses back to Adam, nods in the direction of Eve)* What do you think?

ADAM: I don't.

SERPENT: Don't what?

ADAM: Think.

SERPENT: No kidding... I'm talking about the babe at the end of bar.

ADAM: Babe?

SERPENT: Yeah... The babe... The chick... The Betty... The skirt... She's alone and looks very available. If you get my drift.

ADAM: I don't.

SERPENT: Don't what?

ADAM: Get your drift. I don't even know what that means... to get your drift.

SERPENT: It means I think you have a real chance with her. Why don't you give it a shot.

ADAM: Why don't you... give it a shot?

SERPENT: Normally, I would... But, I have a feeling she's not into inter-species dating. You do want to propagate the species, don't you?

ADAM: Propa... ? Propa..?

SERPENT: Propagate... Get it on... Do the wild thing.

ADAM: You talk funny.

SERPENT: Never mind how I talk... Just find out how the woman talks.

ADAM: What's a woman?

SERPENT: *(looks to heaven)* I realize he's an early prototype, but just how dumb did you have to make him? *(to Adam)* Let me explain. You are a human being... She is a human being... You are both human beings.

ADAM: Oh, I don't think so.

SERPENT: Trust me... I've been around longer than you have... Which isn't saying much... But this I know... You are both human beings... You have the distinction of being the first human being... She is what you might call the new and improved model. Go over and introduce yourself.

(Adam crosses to Eve)

ADAM: Hi.

EVE: Hi.

ADAM: Want to propagate the species?

EVE: Hey... Back off pal... I don't know you from Adam.

ADAM: Who's Adam?

(Eve gestures to the Serpent with a “do you believe this yo-yo?” gesture. The Serpent just shrugs)

ADAM: I’m the first human being.

EVE: Great...

ADAM: You’re a human being...

EVE: I know.

ADAM: We are both human beings.

EVE: Hard to believe, isn’t it?

ADAM: You’re the new and improved version.

EVE: That goes without saying.

(Adam walks back to the Serpent)

ADAM: I talked to her.

SERPENT: She doesn’t seem too impressed. Try again... Tell her something about yourself. Chicks dig that.

ADAM: What should I tell her?

SERPENT: Something that will impress her... Turn her on... Get her all hot and bothered.

ADAM: Hot and bothered? Won’t that make her uncomfortable?

SERPENT: This is going to be the shortest lived species in history... Is there anything you know how to do?

ADAM: I can lift big rocks... I’m very strong.

SERPENT: It’s not much, but it’s a start... You never know... Maybe she digs the muscle type... Opposites attracting and all that. Try again.

(Adam crosses to Eve)

ADAM: I can lift big rocks... Can you?

EVE: Well... If I had a long enough lever and a pivot point, theoretically I could lift very big rocks.

ADAM: What's a pivot point?

EVE: You're not too bright are you?

ADAM: (*proudly*) No... I'm a human being.

EVE: Please don't keep saying that.

ADAM: Okay. You want to propagate the species?

EVE: Not if you were the only man on earth.

SERPENT: Excuse me... I couldn't help overhearing your conversation. And I don't mean to throw a wet blanket over the proceedings, but, unfortunately, he is the only man on earth.

EVE: You've got to be kidding.

SERPENT: I wish I was...

EVE: He's it?

SERPENT: A small flaw in the master plan.

EVE: There are no other males?

SERPENT: Not one.

EVE: But he's... he's...

SERPENT: A moron?

EVE: I wouldn't go that far.

SERPENT: He's not bad to look at.

EVE: Well...no. But, still... looks aren't everything.

SERPENT: That seals it. You're definitely not the male of the species... Anyway, it's up to you. It's either him or the human race ends right here, before it's even had a chance.

EVE: Please, I really don't need the pressure.

SERPENT: Hey... Maybe the human race ending with you two isn't such a bad thing.

EVE: Isn't there someone else we could hook him up with?

SERPENT: He may be the only man, but you're the only woman.

EVE: Talk about a lousy deal.

SERPENT: Maybe if you gave him another chance.

EVE: Maybe I was just a tad judgmental.

SERPENT: If mankind is going to have a future...

EVE: By the way... How does this future of mankind thing work, anyway?

SERPENT: Well, it usually begins with a bottle of wine... Then some *(whispers in Eve's ear.)*

EVE: *(smiling)* Really?

SERPENT: And that's only for starters.

EVE: Tell me more.

SERPENT: Then... *(whispers in her ear again)*

EVE: *(getting a little turned on)* Oh. *(The Serpent whispers some more. She gets even more turned on)* Oh.... *(He whispers again. Eve can hardly control herself)* Ohhhhhhh.

SERPENT: And right about there you call out the Lord's name.

EVE: And that's it?

SERPENT: Not exactly. *(He whispers in Eve's ear again)*

EVE: *(shocked)* You're kidding!!!

SERPENT: No... That's how it works.

EVE: *(aghast)* Something that big *(points at Adam)* is going to come out of something this small? *(Points at her stomach and lower. Serpent nods)* How can that not be incredibly painful?

SERPENT: Wasn't my idea.

EVE: And whose great idea was it?

SERPENT: (*shakes his head*) I'm a serpent. We lay eggs.

EVE: I'm down with the first part... The wine... The other stuff... But the second part... Not a chance.

SERPENT: It's your choice... If you want mankind to end right here, right now...

EVE: (*takes another look at Adam*) The things woman has to do. (*To Adam*) I'm afraid we got off to a bad start... Why don't we talk... I can tell you a little something about me... You can tell me a little something about you...(*sarcastically*) Probably, very little. Why don't I start. If that's okay with you?

ADAM: And then we can propagate the species?

EVE: We'll see... What can I tell you about myself? I'm smart... I know that can be a little off putting, but, it's the truth... I am a fountain of knowledge... For instance I know that one plus one equals two.

SERPENT: (*bringing Eve another apple margarita*) And, under the right circumstances, one plus one can equal three.

EVE: Never mind.

SERPENT: (*puts drink down*) On the house.

EVE: Where was I?

ADAM: You were being smart.

EVE: Yes... Smart... I know that the sun is the center of our solar system and that the sky is filled with billions of stars, planets, pulsars, nova and super novas.

ADAM: I can lift heavy rocks.

EVE: Yes... You said that... I know why the grass grows, why it gets dark at night, where rain comes from and what causes volcanoes.

ADAM: I once killed an animal with my bare hands.

EVE: How... charming... I know that pi is the ratio between the radius of a circle and its circumference. I know that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction and that bodies in motion tend to stay in motion...

ADAM: We could put our bodies in motion...

EVE: (*holding him off*) And bodies at rest tend to stay at rest.

ADAM: Oh...

EVE: I know that water is two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. I know that...

ADAM: I'm very strong.

EVE: You do have a very nice physique.

ADAM: But, I think my butt's too big.

EVE: Oh no... You have a very nice... butt.

ADAM: You're just saying that.

EVE: No... The first time I saw you, I said to myself... nice butt.

ADAM: But, I'm too hippy.

EVE: Don't say that... You should have more self esteem.

ADAM: I'm not smart like you.

EVE: Who is? But you have a lot of other very admirable and useful qualities.

ADAM: Why, just because I can lift a heavy rock?

EVE: That could be very useful in situations where heavy rocks need to be lifted. And you can kill animals. You said so yourself.

ADAM: Big deal.

EVE: It's a very big deal when you're hungry and you're in the mood for some honey braised... animal.

ADAM: It must be good to know all the things that you know.

EVE: Well, knowledge is power.

ADAM: What's power?

EVE: The ability to control things. The forces of nature... The world around you. The inhabitants of that world.

ADAM: Wow... And you can do all that?

EVE: Yes, I can.

ADAM: Because you're smart?

EVE: That... and because I'm a woman.

ADAM: He said (*indicating the Serpent*) that you and I are the same.

EVE: Not exactly.

ADAM: I don't understand.

EVE: It's nothing to worry your pretty little head about.

ADAM: How can I be smart and know about one plus one and the stars and the grass and controlling things? I'd like to have power.

EVE: But, then who would look after the children?

ADAM: Children?

EVE: You do want to have children, don't you?

ADAM: You're going a little fast, aren't you?

EVE: You think so?

ADAM: We've only just met.

EVE: And it's going so well... Don't you agree?

ADAM: But...

EVE: What is it, cupcake?

ADAM: We haven't even talked about the future... About us... About a real commitment.

EVE: Why don't you let me worry about those things and you worry about, well... looking incredibly hot.

ADAM: (*almost blushing*) Well...

EVE: Let's get out of here. I know a nice little place over in the Land of Nod... It's just east of here.

ADAM: I don't know.

EVE: Here... Take a little sip of my drink... It'll help you... relax.

ADAM: Really?

EVE: Trust me.

(Adam drinks.)

ADAM: That's good... *(Downs the entire drink then stands up straight and tall. Obviously taken with himself, he speaks forcefully.)* One plus two equals three... E equals M... C... squared. The square root of eighty one is nine. Earth is the third planet from the sun.

EVE: *(to Serpent)* What happened to him?

SERPENT: Knowledge

EVE: Knowledge?

ADAM: This is great... You were right. Knowledge is power.

SERPENT: And you know what that say about power.

EVE: It corrupts... And absolute power...

SERPENT: *(gleefully)* Corrupts absolutely.

EVE: *(to Serpent)* You knew this was going to happen, didn't you? You planned it.

(The Serpent smiles)

ADAM: *(exiting)* There are sixteen ounces in a pound. The hypotenuse of a right triangle...

EVE: Where are you going?

ADAM: *(forcefully)* Out.

EVE: Where?

ADAM: To kick some ass and gain dominion over all the creatures of the earth.

EVE: When you will be back?

ADAM: I'll be back when I'm back. And for God's sakes do something with your hair. *(He strides off)*

EVE: *(speaks to audience in complete and total panic)* We're doomed!!!

(The Serpent steps forward rubbing his hands together gleefully and speaks to the audience)

SERPENT: And to think... this is only the beginning.

CURTAIN