

27 PIGS

by Ed Valentine

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PLEASE E-MAIL ED@EDVALENTINE.COM.]**

CHARACTERS:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| OREN OKLAHOMA | 20's –40's. Pig farmer. Overalls. |
| IRIS | 16. Free spirit. Sometimes annoyingly so. Dressed quirky. ¹ |
| JOHNNY MCDOO | 20's. Charming, unreliable. Very sexual. A little dirty. |
| DEPUTY FOGGO | A small-town policeman. |
| <i>and</i> | |
| PIG | A woman who wears the face of a pig. |

SETTING:

Inside: a spare farmhouse in rural Oklahoma. A long table.
Make it look like a Hopper painting, or maybe Grant Wood.

Outside: a fence by a pigsty. An axe and a shovel by the sty. Patch of mud.

Above all: Some sky would be good.

ENTRANCES:

- a) US, a front door.
- b) staircase to upstairs
- c) door to the pigyard
- d) door to the rest of the house

¹ Whatever that means to you. I see her as a girl who likes Japanese comic books, watches *anime*, and wears a dirty cheap knit cap. But maybe she's a goth girl, or a butch girl in army boots and a Che shirt. Whatever she wears: it should be out of place for a small town in the West. Iris would – does - stand out in a suburban megachurch.

ACT ONE

1

LIGHTS UP: Sound of many pigs. A spare farmhouse. OREN sits at a long table for a moment.

OREN

I don't know how
the pigs get in
but the pigs get in,
the pigs get in.

(Door swings open. PIG enters: a woman who wears the face of a pig..)

PIG

Hello!

OREN

Try to keep 'em out
but the pigs get in,
the pigs get in.

PIG

Hello Hello!

OREN

Don't want 'em here
not in the house
Never in the house
But the pigs get in,
The pigs get in.

PIG

Hello, Oren. Hello.

OREN

They know my name.
They know my face.
They know my voice.
So I'll stay quiet.
Quiet as a mouse.
And that's what I'll do
when a pig's in the house.

PIG

Hello, Oren, Hello.

(PIG sits at 1 end of the table, with OREN at the other.)

What's the game today?

I say, what's the game today?

-

Snub me, but I ain't going
Nowhere. You might as well pay
Attention.

Heloo? Helloooo?

-

Soo-ee! Soo-ee!

OREN

DON'T DO THAT! Don't
DO
that.

PIG

Well, THERE you are!

OREN

Don't call soo-ee.
I ain't no
pig.

PIG

No?

OREN

I'm ignoring you.

PIG

It ain't working.
Is that toast? You gonna eat your
toast?

OREN

Goddam pigs'll eat
ANY
thing.

And ain't you lucky for it!
Them eggs. You gonna eat them
Eggs?

PIG

You ain't supposed to be here.
That ain't the way things go.

OREN

Fine one you to tell
Me how things
go, how things don't go.
What's the game?

PIG (eating)

Ain't no game.

OREN

When's the party.

PIG

Ain't no party.

OREN

Sure there is! Another party,
'nother party in the barn?

PIG

Don't party in the barn no more.

OREN

Aw! But you throw such good
parties. You played such games.
Remember?
Oren?
Oren Oklahoma?

PIG

Shut up now.
-
Don't know how you got in anyway.

OREN

PIG

You lie, Oren Oklahoma.
You know how
the pigs get in, the pigs get in.
You know exactly how the pigs get in.

OREN

SHUT UP.

-

I'm going to go take a shit now.

PIG

I'll stay here. Don't wanna see that.

OREN

Fuck you.

PIG

You wish you could.

-

Oren? Can I ask you something?

-

Do you wish you hadn't killed me?

Long moment.
Then OREN shrugs.
Both sit. No one leaves.

END OF SCENE 1

2

SCENE: Later. From outside, a girl (IRIS) yells and bangs on the door.

IRIS

HEY! HEY
COUSIN OREN.
Hey. Open up.
I know you're in
there Oren I
see the light on.

Get rid of her, Oren. PIG

Open up. IRIS

Get rid of her. PIG

Nobody's home. OREN

I see your shadow behind the shades. IRIS

Tell her you're somewhere else. PIG

I am somewhere
else. Wherever I
am I'm not
here. OREN

It's cold outside and it's
dark and I'm
afraid of the
dark open
up open UP. IRIS

Far a
way
Far far A
way OREN (singing?)

I'm shivering! IRIS

Don't open that door. Oren. PIG
Mark my words: that girl is nothing but trouble.

(PIG exits up the stairs. OREN opens the door. IRIS stands there. 16 years old. dressed strangely.)

Hey. OREN

Hey, Cousin Oren. IRIS

You're OREN

Iris? IRIS

Irish? OREN

Iriss. Your Cousin Milly's girl, from Franceville. IRIS

Been awhile. OREN

Guess so. Grown up. IRIS

Been years. OREN

Christmas two years now.
Betcha didn't recognize me
much.
I've changed ,
Some. Here: IRIS

What's that? OREN

Gum? IRIS

No I don't want Gum. OREN

So. Hey. IRIS

Been awhile. OREN

You said that. IRIS

Years. OREN

You said that too.
Can I come in? IRIS

What for? OREN

Cause I'm cold. IRIS

No ma'am. It's a mess in here. OREN

I'm COLD. I'm your COUSIN.
You're gonna leave me on the doorstep like a
NEWSPAPER?
Come ON.
Come on. IRIS

- OREN
Come in.
But I ain't too
happy about it.

(OREN steps out of the doorway and IRIS comes in.)

Gee. IRIS
Thanks.

So, CousinMillysGirl - OREN

I looked it up. Milly's my mother, your
Cousin. Makes me your
first Cousin Once
Removed. IRIS

Ain't removed far. OREN

Why you so unfriendly? IRIS

My house.
Middle of the night. My House. OREN

I'm in need, okay? IRIS

Been kicked out? OREN

No. IRIS

Bein' chased? OREN

No. IRIS

Kill someone? OREN

No. IRIS

You ain't 'in need.' OREN

If you must know - IRIS

OREN

I must
yes ma'am.

IRIS

I ran away, okay? I need a place to stay for a few days. Happy now?

OREN

-

I'm calling Milly.

IRIS

NO, wait.
PLEASE don't tell them. PLEASE don't tell anyone, please?
Please don't tell anyone where I am.
Nobody knows, keep it that way?

OREN

NOBODY knows?

IRIS

Had to get away. Didn't want anybody following.

OREN

OK, OK - listen, miss.

IRIS

'IRIS.' I'm your cousin, for God's sake.
(Goes to flop down on the chair Pig was in.)

OREN

DON'T SIT THERE.

-

Look, I ain't equipped for visitors.
I'm a bachelor, set in my ways, I –

IRIS

My stepdaddy diddles me.

OREN

He what?

IRIS

Or tries to.

OREN

The Reverend?

IRIS

Reverend my ass. He tries to have sex with me, ok?
When I'm asleep. Comes and wants to lay down on me.

OREN

O.

IRIS

Middle of the night. Rev pretends he's sleep-
walking but, but BOY I know
the difference.

OREN

Come on.

IRIS

S'true. I don't want it to happen.
I'm a good girl.
I been saving it for marriage.

OREN

O.

-
-
-

That's a good – It's a good thing to be.
Clean. You tell Millie about the Reverend?

IRIS

Wouldn't believe me?

OREN

Tell anyone?

IRIS

No one'd believe me. Suburban mega
Church, Preacher's
Daughter?

OREN

Step.

What? IRIS

Stepdaughter. OREN

Stepdaughter. I gotta
step carefully. IRIS

Huh. OREN

-
So.

(Scratches his chin. PIG enters from the staircase. Stands where OREN and IRIS could see her, but only OREN sees her.)

So can I stay here a few days?
It'll just be a few days. IRIS

Nothing but trouble. Mark my words. PIG

END OF SCENE 2

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