

Meatball Diaries

CAST

[Stripper]

[Content Creator]

[Escort]

[Waitress]

[Meatball Guy - Audience Participant]

Replace pronouns as relevant.

SUPPLIES

three chairs

Table

apron / waitress notebook

stripper outfit, makeup

phone

~8 meatballs per show

Bucket for meatballs

tarp to clean up meatballs

Wet wipes for meatball hands

6 copies of script

3 sets of plates, cups, silverware

INTRO SCENE

Stripper, escort, and creator are sitting together at the table. Waitress approaches.

WAITRESS

(with frazzled look and heavy sigh)

I am so goddamn sick of creepy dudes. (closes eyes and takes a breath to calm down.)
Hi! Hello! I'll be your waitress today. Sorry about that.

GROUP

No, no! You're Fine! We get it!

WAITRESS

I just hate that if I say anything I get fired. Maybe I should start an OnlyFans. At least then I can tell the creeps to fuck off.

CONTENT CREATOR

Not really. Sure you can block the guys who send dick pics. Or just fuck with them if you are in the mood, but a lot of your paying customers will be entitled and make you uncomfortable. You need to flirt with them anyway if you want to get tips from them.

WAITRESS

That sounds familiar.

CONTENT CREATOR

Sure. I wasn't implying you couldn't flirt. A lot of it is customer service at its core. The more customers you keep happy and coming back for more the more successful you are.

(Takes selfies)

The hardest part of it is the marketing. You have to sell yourself constantly.

No. (Swipe.)

No. (Swipe.)

No. (Swipe.)

No. (Swipe.)

(Takes more selfies.)

I feel like I spend all of my time on social media.

WAITRESS

Then how do you keep your mom from finding out you do porn?

CONTENT CREATOR

You try to keep things as anonymous as possible, but you can't really. There is a good chance she will find out. These companies and their algorithms will out you. You can use different accounts on different devices and they will still share your account with family. Some people never show their face because of that.

WAITRESS

Huh. I always wondered why some people did that. I guess that makes sense.

CONTENT CREATOR

Well. That and the worry about job discrimination. It can really mess with other careers if people know you do sex work. And word of mouth spreads fast. Even if the goal is to gain a huge following and earn a lot of money that way, a lot of us have to work second jobs while we build that kind of following.

WAITRESS

I don't understand why you would risk all that if you still have to work a second job.

CONTENT CREATOR

Well for me I am trans. Most of the people that won't hire me because I am a sex worker, also won't hire me for being trans. The reward is also that you can make some decent money eventually. It's very accessible.

WAITRESS

Ohh. Does being trans make it harder to succeed?

CONTENT CREATOR

Not exactly. There are plenty of guys who fetishize trans women. It does suck that I have to go to sites with slurs in their title and have clients talk to me like that to find subscribers. There is a certain satisfaction and revulsion at the same time in taking money off of guys who wear camo and brag about being alpha males and voting for fascists.

WAITRESS

My god. That...sounds fucking terrible. Maybe I should just try being a stripper instead.

STRIPPER SCENE

STRIPPER

oh, you wanna be a stripper? You and every bitch on TikTok right now.

(Stripper walks to the side, sits down hurriedly to do her makeup to get ready for work.)

STRIPPER

Ah shit. I gotta get there by 8:59 if I only want to pay that \$50 house fee. It jumps to \$70 at 9pm. I hate rushing. I'm always rushing. It's a blessing and a curse, being an independent contractor. We're not employees. No vacation, no sick time. Frequent sexual assault is basically written in the job description. Nobody pays me an hourly wage. The customers don't get that I pay to work. If nobody tips...I leave with nothing.

(Starts to put on a stripper outfit.)

Hell, last Monday it was so slow I left with -\$2 after paying the damn \$20 house fee. Man 1: bought 1 drink and one single dance. I twisted his damn arm for that dance. Motherfucker spent the whole time trying to finger my asshole— you gotta get up on them and pin down their arms when they start that shit. And then had the audacity to leave no tip, so \$20 and a buzz for me. Man 2: He took an interest in me at first, tucked a \$10 on stage. When I flirted a bit and asked him to do a room, he offered me coke instead. Lost interest when I turned that down. A 6 hour shift for what? I tipped out the minimum...DJ \$7 and the security guy \$5. I don't wanna get on their bad sides.

(Packs bag for work.)

It's not always like that though. Not all customers are bad or broke. This outfit is from my favorite regular. He always wants me in blue. I'll wear whatever for him if it means he keeps being consistent. He's in love. I warned him against that, but he still fell anyway. I am fond of him. And I do care, just not too much. I imagine it's something like how therapists care about a client who's hanging in there. Every regular has an expiration date though. Sometimes they lose interest. But usually it's that they start wanting too much, get mad about what they can't get. They forget that we're collaborating on a fantasy.

(Puts shirt back on over outfit, walks back to join the dinner.)

The strip club is both/and. The strip club is daydream made real. The strip club is suspension of disbelief. The strip club is a moon landing. The strip club is built on unwritten rules and delicate ambiguity.

(Picks up bag to leave, checks pockets. Takes a deep centering breath.)

Okay, I'm ready.

ORDERING AT THE RESTAURANT

WAITRESS

Ready to order?

CREATOR

Yeah! Well, I am at least- they are being indecisive.

ESCORT

I'm sorry! Everything looks good!

WAITRESS

Well, everybody *raves* about our meatballs.

ESCORT, STRIPPER, CREATOR

(all burst out laughing. Escort covers eyes in mild embarrassment. Waitress is mildly confused.)

STRIPPER

Oh god, you don't know what you've done.

CREATOR

Cmon, you gotta tell the waitress about Meatball Guy.

ESCORT

Ugh. This again. Y'all love to embarrass me. But fine, fine. Here we go.

ESCORT MEATBALL GUY SCENE

ESCORT

(Stands on the table, or maybe a chair if the table isn't sturdy. Maybe characters put out the tarp as the scene begins.)

It started with an email a few years ago. It was a little weird, but there were no red flags there. Honestly, it was refreshing. He sent in a copy of his ID without arguing about screening. Paid the deposit without me asking twice. Seemed nice enough.

CREATOR

(interrupts) Wait. Wait. I think you showed me a picture of this Guy. I think I actually saw him here tonight.

STRIPPER

(stands up, goes to audience and looks around.) Yeah, I swear I saw Meatball Guy too.

CREATOR, STRIPPER

(Go around the audience looking for Meatball Guy). Ohhhh Meatball Guy! Where are you? Raise your hand for us, yeah? Ah, there he is!

(Place Meatball Guy on the stage. Hand Meatball Guy a copy of the script or just his email.)

Don't talk unless we tell you to, Meatball Guy.

(Creator and Stripper sit back down.)

ESCORT

Anyyyyyyway. As I was saying, it started with an email. (point at Meatball Guy)

MEATBALL MAN

(Reads email)

From: mick.ball@CarneCorporation.com

Greetings,

My name is Mick Ball. I saw your profile online and was very intrigued by your very gorgeous sexy beauty. I think you might be a good match for my...refined palate. I'd love to book a two hour date with you next week. Here are a few times I'm available.

Here is a link to my LinkedIn profile and my phone number. I'm attaching a copy of my ID. Please let me know where to send my \$100 deposit.

Thank you,
Mick

ESCORT

I checked his name against this online screening list another escort showed me. I looked up a potential client last week and saw that six providers said he wasted their time. Meatball Guy definitely didn't seem like a time waster. He came up clear on the blacklist when I looked up his name and number. He readily agreed to use protection, which some clients are reluctant about for various reasons.

(Walks over to Meatball Guy, hands on hips and sighs at him.)

It just goes to show. Screening is helpful, but it isn't everything.

WAITRESS

(Silently walks up and hands Meatball Guy the bucket of meatballs, returns to the table to sit with everyone)

ESCORT

So we met up at a cafe first to get to know each other better. He seemed a little shy at first, but things were comfortable enough. We agreed on a hotel and met again at the lobby to check in together. As assurance, he places my payment on the room's table where I can see it. It's all going so smoothly... but then he opens his fucking mouth.

MEATBALL GUY

I want to shove meatballs in your ass.

ESCORT

I'm sorry, what?

MEATBALL GUY

I want to shove meatballs in your ass.

ESCORT

(Turns to the table.)

Dead ass, that was what he said to me as soon as I shut the door behind us. And then he said it again, with *feeling* this time. (Point to MG)

MEATBALL GUY

(with feeling) I want to shove meatballs in your ass.

ESCORT

So listen, I'm not trying to kinkshame, but if you want to put *anything* in my ass I gotta know in advance so that I can either A) explain that his request is not within my boundaries or B) ready my ass. Know what I mean?

(Turns back to Meatball Guy, with sugary customer service voice.)

Wow, Meatball Guy, it's so sexy that you really know what you want. I love that you asked, but sadly that's not gonna work for me as anal play requires certain preparation.

MEATBALL GUY

(Aggressive)

No meatballs, no money.

ESCORT

(Turns to table.)

Like, why do they do this to us?? I almost caved. I really needed the money that week. My rent was late but I paid, thank God, but the utilities were due in a few days.

So I did the math in my head. (Dejectedly.) Do I compromise my boundaries for this cash? I already had the deposit at least. Do I take the meatballs, in the ass? Can I ditch him and get another client before bills are due? If I piss him off, will he try to force me? Can I tap the mutual aid fund to tide me over for a sec? How many late payments do I have on my student loans?

STRIPPER

(gets up to hug Escort while talking.)

We've all been there, baby. You need to have rock-hard boundaries to make it in this work. So what did you do? How did the math add up?

ESCORT

I was like, I can't take this shit. Literally (Indicates butt). And I need this money. So I switched tactics.

(Turn to Meatball Guy. Sugary voice again)

Handsome, if you wanted special services, you need to discuss those up-front. I will not be having any meatballs in my ass tonight, but maybe...

(flirty voice, reaches hand into the bucket)
Maybe we can put those somewhere else?

(winks and shoves a meatball in their mouth)

Fill me up, baby. My safe word's Mario.

STRIPPER

(Laughing)
So he was just shoving them in there? Like this??

(Puts another meatball in the escort's mouth.)

ESCORT

Yeah!

STRIPPER

Damn, I do love the freaks.

(Turns to Meatball Guy, gets some consent.)
You like this, huh? You want a turn? You wanna get lost in the sauce?

(Stripper, Escort, and maybe Meatball Guy continue to shove in meatballs, egg on the escort. "Take my meat in that mouth!". "Let's lather you up.")

MEATBALL GUY

Mmm, I could go for a side of garlic bread right about now.

CREATOR

(As they finish up, helps clean a bit, walks to hug Escort.)
I'm so proud of you for holding that boundary strong. If you're ever in that bind again, call me and I can spot you a little something. Or you can apply for that mutual aid fund with SWOP, the sex worker org. We got you.

ESCORT

(Meatballs in mouth, hugs back.)
Thank you.

WAITRESS

(Standing awkwardly at the side.)

Look. As... *fun* as this is, I have other tables, sooooo... Are yinz ready or...?

STRIPPER

Oh my bad. Yeah, can I get the eggplant parmesan?

(To Meatball Guy) And why the fuck are you still here? Go away, we're having dinner.

CREATOR

I'll take the vegan alfredo.

Oh and one other thing, we're starting a union, for all workers who face unfair labor conditions and sexual assault at work. (To stripper) It's called the Sex Worker Union but since this is an Italian place maybe should we change the name to Spaghetti Sex Workers Union?

STRIPPER

Ooooh yeah I love that. Catchy.

(To waitress) So, you in?

WAITRESS

(Delighted)

Uhhhh. Wow. I've never been in a Union before. Let me think about it but it sounds cool?

CREATOR

I'll tell you more after your shift.

Oh, and they will have the spaghetti with meatballs.

ESCORT

(Groans) Just not the garlic bread. (Blank stare into the audience) Anything but the garlic bread.

END