

Where the Fly Lands

A Ten minute play

Alan S. Austin

Bill and Ben are seated in the middle of center stage watching a game.

BILL
(Shouts)

‘It was a foul ref. ‘

BEN

I didn’t see it.

BILL

It should be a penalty.

BEN

Maybe it was a mistake.

BILL

Mistake! Are you blind?

BEN

It could have been a mistake.

BILL

Oh yeah....

(He laughs)

Like the Romanian girl you married?

BEN

I helped her.

BILL

Oh yeah...and her children.

(He shouts)

It’s a penalty.

BEN

She was a good singer.

BILL
(Shouts)

Referee!! What an idiot!

I don't want to talk about it.

BEN

(Sound of Referee's whistle)

Half time. I'm hungry.

BILL

Reaches inside a backpack and takes out a plastic bag in which there are two carefully wrapped sandwiches.

What you got there?

BEN

My sandwiches. You know that. We've been to enough games together. I always bring sandwiches for half-time.

BILL

Oh yes.

(Pause)

Last time you said you would bring one for me.

BEN

I'm sorry. I forgot.

BILL

That's all right. I like the food from the Chinese stall.

BEN

It's expensive.

BILL

I've been doing all right recently. Bonuses. Do you want a drink?

BEN

Yeah. Get us a beer will you?

BILL

Small or large?

BEN

Large. Thanks. Do you want money?

BILL

No, that's all right. I'll be right back.

BEN

(Exits)

BILL

Excuse me Madam... would you ask your kid to sit down during the game... he keeps jumping up and down...you know... it's distracting... I'm sure he's a great kid. No offence. Would he like a sandwich? I made them myself. No? All right.

(Pause)

Good game isn't it? Referee's a bit...you know... blind.

(He laughs)

He didn't see that foul? The player who attacked the other one? The toilets? They're on the left hand side up the stairs. You're welcome. What? Yea, he'll be all right. You can't go in with him. There'll be a line. Enjoying the game? Oh I'm sorry to hear that. I hope he gets better soon. I had an uncle who died of that. You sure you won't have a sandwich? I think you have enough on your plate. He'll be fine.

(Re-enter Ben)

BEN

Here's your beer.

(Hands him the beer.)

BILL

Thanks.

BEN

I'll have to go back and get my beer. Only got two hands. Keep an eye on my fried rice, will you?

BILL

Sure. Leave it on the seat.

BEN

Thanks.

(Exits)

BILL

Ughh! That looks disgusting. Amazing what people put in their bodies.

(To the lady in front)

He managed the toilets all right? Good job. I hope your dad gets well. You can tell him about the game when you get home.

(Re-enter Ben)

BEN

(Starts to sit down.)

Got my beer. Oops... my fried rice. Don't want to sit on it. That would be funny.

BILL

I wouldn't eat that.

BEN

What?

BILL

The fried rice.

BEN

Why not?

BILL

A fly landed on it.

BEN

When?

BILL

When you were getting your beer.

BEN

Looks all right... a bit of protein won't hurt.
(He laughs))

BILL

You shouldn't eat it.

BEN

Come on. You're joking.

BILL

No I'm not. Flies have this big sucker. They spit their juice onto the food then they suck it all up. They keep dabbing at it making it into a goop. I saw a video.

BEN

That's disgusting.

BILL

It's a fact. In the Japanese POW camps, if a fly landed on your bowl of rice, you had to throw it away immediately even though you were starving...my grandfather told me that.

BEN

This isn't a Japanese POW camp. It looks all right to me. I'm going to eat it.

BILL

Well, don't forget I told you so.

BEN

Uh Huh.

BILL

Just trying to help. I don't want you to get sick.

BEN

I could go and get another one.

BILL

The game will be starting in a minute.

BEN

Where did the fly land? Show me so I can throw that bit out.

BILL

It was about there.

(He points)

(Ben takes a plastic fork out of his pocket and scoops out the rice where Bill pointed and throws it on the ground)

BEN

There.

BILL

Of course it might have landed a second time.

BEN

Great.

BILL

Now that you've spread all the contaminated food over the ground. That will be like a bonanza for the flies. They'll think it's Christmas.

BEN

I think I'll just stick to my beer.

BILL

It's not very good beer. Budwater I call it.

BEN
It was expensive.

BILL
Always is at these places.

BEN
You didn't pay for it. I did.

BILL
There's no need to be testy. I'll pay you if you want.

BEN
No. It's Okay. I was just looking forward to that fried rice.

BILL
Watch your beer.

BEN
Why?

BILL
Well you know that fly that landed on your food.? I think it's gone for a swim in your beer.

BEN
Damn it!

BILL
I'm sorry Madam . He's got a fly in his beer. Nothing worse than a fly in your beer. Our apologies.

BEN
You're right. It's still alive. Jesus...

BILL
No so loud. There's a little kid there.
(He fishes out the fly on his finger)
It's still wriggling.

The alcohol should kill it ...but then it is Budwater.

BEN

Urggggh!
(Flicks it off)

BILL
Your beer should be all right now.

BEN
I don't feel like drinking it anymore.

BILL
A few bacteria won't hurt you.

BEN
Bacteria?

BILL
Well, you've got over two pounds of bacteria inside you.

BEN
What?

BILL
Yes. Is was on the same TV program. A lot of bacteria are good.

BEN
Two pounds?

BILL
Sounds a lot I know.

BEN
Where are they?

BILL
Everywhere. Your colon mostly. All over. Nibbling away.

BEN
That's disgusting.

BILL
It's life.

BEN
I can't drink this beer.

BILL
That's all right. I'll drink it.

BEN

When is this game going to start again?

BILL

Any time now. The referees are coming back out.

BEN

I don't care.

BILL

What?

BEN

I don't really care.

BILL

About what?

BEN

The game.

BILL

You've got to care. It's sport. You pick a side.

BEN

It's not a pleasant experience.

BILL

What do you mean? We've been doing this since high school. We always buy season tickets.

BEN

I know.

BILL

We've always been friends.

BEN

I don't think you and me can be friends.

BILL

What are you talking about?

BEN

It's not interesting. A lot of guys running around and it's expensive. I'm not enjoying it.

BILL

But you have to support your team.

BEN

I don't give a fuck about my team. It's not my team.

BILL

Hey. Watch the kid. You're depressed again.

BEN

No I'm not. Every time we come here I have to listen to some bullshit you've seen on TV, watch a bunch of guys running around chasing their own asses, drink bad beer, eat rotten and expensive food, fight the traffic home and pretend it's all wonderful. It's not...and you insulted me.

BILL

Insulted you?

BEN

Yes. I married Maria because I loved her. All right, so she used me to get into the U.S... at least I didn't walk out on my kids.

BILL

Hey... I provided for them and her. I'm paying child support. A bus driver doesn't earn much. She wanted something better. It wasn't my fault. And...then she turned the kids against me.

BEN

You know Bill, you enjoy your game. I'm going home and I'm going to miss the traffic and I'm going to get something to eat which hasn't been landed on by a fly. You and me can't be friends any more. Sorry.

Exits

BILL

Ben? I'm sorry. Here have one of my sandwiches. Don't worry ma'am. He does this every time we come to a game He's very high strung. He always wanted to be an artist. Look at that ref. That's a foul. Send him off.

Curtain

