



Proudly Presents

THE MAN-CATION

WRITTEN BY GREGORY T. BURNS

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Characters:

Edward, a married man in his twenties

Carl, a married man in his twenties

Time: Present

Place: Ed and Carl's respective homes. The boarding gate at an airport. A hotel room. The hotel lounge.

Scene One: Ed and Carl's respective homes.

Edward has just dialed Carl's number on his cell phone.

Carl: (*Answering his cell phone.*) Hello?

Edward: Hey, Carl. It's Edward. Listen, *guess* what JoAnne and I were just doing.

Carl: I don't think I like where this is going, Edward—

Edward: —We were watching *City Slickers*. You know, the movie with Billy Crystal? And Billy Crystal and his buddies all go to that dude ranch?

Carl: Okay. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I've seen it...

Edward: Okay. Well, after we watched the movie, JoAnne asks me if *I've* ever wanted to go on a vacation with just the guys, right? And I say that I really hadn't given it any thought. (*Beat.*) And then I *do!* And do you know what I said to JoAnne? (*Long pause.*)

Carl: (*Realizing he has to literally answer.*) No. What did you say, Edward?

Edward: I said, "Yes!" I said, "Yes, JoAnne! I *do* want to go on a vacation with just the guys! And we'll call it...our *MANcation!*" Well, she just laughed and said, "Well, okay! Go! Go arrange it!" And I thought to myself, "I am married to one *very* special lady." And as I realized I was just...standing there...smiling at JoAnne...I realized that she *wasn't* smiling. She said, "Now! I mean it! Get your cell phone and call the guys!" So, that's what I'm doing. I'm calling the guys!

Carl: Well, who else is going?

Edward: Just Joe. I called Joe, and he said, "Sure." Now, I'm

calling *you*.

Carl: I see. Is there any reason you called Joe *first*?

Edward: (*Said as if it is the most logical answer in the world.*) Sure. His name's shorter.

Carl: Oh. (*Beat.*) Okay. Well, let me check. (*He lowers/covers his cell phone, as if talking to his wife.*) Sweetheart, Edward's on the phone. He says that some of the guys are going on a MANcation together and—(*As if he is explaining "MANcation" to his wife.*)—you know, like in that movie, *City Slickers*? And that other one we rented last month. What was it called? (*The wife obviously responds quickly.*) Yeah, that's the one! *National Lampoon's Road Trip*! So can I go with the guys? (*Beat. He waits for wife's response.*) Okay. Bev said that it's fine. So, count me in, too! Oh, but Bev said she doesn't want me to ride a *bull*...

Edward: All right, Carl! The *Joe-Meister* and *The Carl-O-Nator* are going on the MANcation!

Carl: (*Trying to play along.*) Don't forget The...Edward—*do*.

Edward: (*Elongate the 'Ah' as if he is thinking outloud.*) Ahhhhhhhh—no. It's just Edward.

Carl: (*Still playful.*) Okay...*Ed*.

Edward: No. Seriously. It's just *Edward*.

Carl: Okay then. So, where are we going...Edward?

Edward: Well, the *exact* location for the MANcation hasn't been decided yet. *BUT*...you can rest assured that it will be somewhere very...MANly!

Scene Two: The boarding gate at an airport.

Carl: So, who's idea was it to go to *Cincinnati, Ohio*?

Edward: Joe's...

Carl: I don't know, Edward. Correct me, if I'm wrong, but *Cincinnati* doesn't sound like a very *MANly* place for a MANcation.

Edward: Joe said it was the best deal on *airfare*. He's an accountant, you know, so I figure it'd be best if he made all of the *financial* arrangements.

Carl: (*Looking around, as if looking for Joe.*) Where is he