

The Jester
By Sam Arnel

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INT. BLACK ROOM

PAUL (21) talking to camera.

PAUL

My name is Paul O'Reilly, and
this is my story. April 16th,
2011 and it was time for dad's
birthday dinner.

INT. PAUL'S DINING ROOM

Paul is discussing plans with AMY (27) for their first
family night in some time while setting the table.

AMY

It's so good of you to do this for
dad's birthday, it's been forever
since we had a family dinner.

PAUL

Yeah I thought it would be good for
everyone to come see my new house
and let me cook up a storm.

AMY

Ha we'll see about that.

Knock on the door

PAUL

Must be them.

Paul answers the door to see GARY (54) and JENNY (49)

PAUL

Mum, good to see you

Hugs Jenny. Jenny doesn't say anything and just puts on a
smile.

PAUL

Dad, happy birthday.

Shakes Gary's hand.

GARY

Thanks son, good to see you. Gee
nice place you got here, might have
to get one for myself to get away
from this one.

(CONTINUED)

Gary hugs Jenny to show he's just kidding as Jenny gives a quiet laugh. Paul walks them into the dining room and they see Amy helping set up.

PAUL

Here, come this way.

Amy sees them and gives both Jenny and Gary a hug.

AMY

Good to see you mum... and happy birthday dad!

GARY

Thank you darling, what do we have for dinner champ?

PAUL

Your favourite, chicken.

JENNY

I don't think that's a good idea.

AMY

Why's that? Dad loves his chicken

GARY

It's my birthday and I'll have what I bloody want! Now give me a leg son!

Gary digs into his chicken while Jenny looks on in concern.

INT. PAUL'S DINING ROOM AND KITCHEN

PAUL

(Voiceover) Everything was going great and we all seemed to be having fun, especially dad.

Everyone has just finished their food. Paul lets out a big burp to get looks from Jenny and Amy.

GARY

That's nothing son, check this one out!

Gary lets out a bigger burp and leans back impressed with what he has just achieved.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

Gary, don't be so rude.

GARY

It's my birthday darl, I can do whatever I bloody want!

AMY

Gee you two haven't changed!

PAUL

Hey dad, since you won the burping contest, how about a game of pool?

GARY

Your on son, and you're going down!

Jenny sighs.

JENNY

Guess I'll clean up then, as usual.

GARY

Don't be trying to guilt me you old hag.

AMY

Dad! I'll help you mum.

Paul and Gary set up the pool table while Amy goes to help Jenny out and find out what's wrong.

AMY

Everything okay mum?

JENNY

Yeah... yeah I'll be fine.

AMY

Come on, you can tell me.

JENNY

Okay.

Jenny takes Amy to the loungeroom and makes sure that Gary and Paul cannot see or hear them.

PAUL'S LOUNGEROOM

JENNY

Your father got back from the doctors the other day...

AMY

And? Is he alright?

JENNY

He's not as strong as he used to be, his heart is struggling from all the fatty foods he has been eating.

AMY

So that's why you didn't want him having the chicken?

JENNY

Yes, please don't tell any of this to him or Paul, you know it's just going to hurt him.

AMY

He deserves to know though.

JENNY

Yes we will tell him, but not tonight, you can see how much fun he's having.

Both look over to see Gary and Paul sharing a laugh.

AMY

Okay, but you promise to tell him right?

JENNY

Promise.

Jenny and Amy make their way back to clean up as Gary's left arm plays up and he gives two shots to PAUL.

INT. PAUL'S DINING ROOM AND KITCHEN

PAUL

What happened there?

GARY

No idea son.

(CONTINUED)

PAUL

Must be getting too old, time to
give it away old man.

Gary gives a little smirk while shaking his left arm. Jenny and Amy are too busy cleaning up to notice what is happening to Gary. Paul starts sinking a few balls and talks trash.

PAUL

Check it out, I'm too good for you!

GARY

You wish son, you know I'm the best
in the world.

PAUL

Well "the best in the world" is
currently trailing the child
prodigy.

GARY

Let's just keep playing, my
comeback is on it's way.

Just as Gary says that it's his turn and he starts his comeback by sinking a few balls.

GARY

Do you smell that darl?

JENNY

No, what is it?

GARY

Smoke, shit put me out, I'm on
fire!

PAUL

Very funny dad, you just keep
bringing it.

AMY

Go dad! Kick his arse!

PAUL

I'll kick your arse if you're not
careful.

AMY

Bring it!

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

Amy! Paul! Don't speak to each other like that!

GARY

Everyone relax, we all know none of you can trash talk for shit! So leave it up to the expert! Let's finish this Pauline.

PAUL

That the best you got old man?

GARY

You know I'm only just warming up, I know plenty about you.

Paul looks on nervously hoping Gary doesn't say anything.

JENNY

All done here.

GARY

Good on ya darl.

Jenny and Amy stand by and watch as Gary goes to take a shot. Gary is taking his time for this shot.

PAUL

Come on dad, I'll be as old as you soon.

GARY

Don't rush me Pauline, the jester needs his time.

PAUL

(Voiceover) Just as I thought I was gaining the momentum back, things took a turn.

Gary looks out of it as Jenny and Amy look on in concern. Gary collapses to the floor whilst grabbing his heart as the others look on in disbelief.

PAUL

Dad!

Paul runs over to try and wake him up.

PAUL

Call the hospital!

(CONTINUED)

Jenny, now crying, quickly goes for the phone and dials the hospital.

AMY
Check his pulse!

PAUL
There's a pulse, but it's fading.

JENNY
Hello, my husband has just had a heart attack! Quick he's fading on us!

DOCTOR ON PHONE
Okay, stay calm. Where are you located?

JENNY
We're in...

PAUL
He's gone...

Jenny screams as Amy hangs up the phone and then comforts Jenny. Paul tries to hold back his emotions and he joins Jenny and Amy in a hug.

INT. BLACK ROOM

Paul looking at camera.

PAUL
He was a good man and he will be missed.

Paul looks down and tries to keep his emotions together.