

LIQUID SMOKE

Written by

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INT. RESTRAUNT - DAY

Two friends, Mark and Sam, sit together at a restraunt, they're both eating burgers and chatting.

SAM

(nearing the end of a story)

So there I am, completely naked, dirt and bruises all over my body, the cult leader hot on my tail. I think I'm done for, when all of a sudden a truck hits him, and he just goes flying. Anyway long story short, after his left foot went through the window and I offered to pay for it I found out that the burgers where pretty decent. That and I agreed to recommend the place to ten friends so long as they don't get the police involved.

MARK

Wow, that is... quite the story.

SAM

Yeah.

MARK

What, and they just let you away with it as long you promoted their restraunt to ten people?

SAM

Every month for the next five years.

MARK

Wow. I mean fair dues to them the burgers are incredible.

SAM

Mmm definitely, juicy as well.

MARK

And smoky.

SAM

Yeah... Do you think it's liquid smoke or gas smoke?

MARK

(snorts)

I'm sorry what?

SAM

The burgers, do you reckon they made it on a flat iron but with liquid smoke, or on a grill with gas smoke?

MARK

I... I don't think it's called 'gas' smoke.

SAM

Then what would you call it?

MARK

Smoke?

SAM

Yeah I know it's smoke, but that's such a broad term, you need to specify the state of the smoke.

MARK

I don't think you do.

SAM

Sure you do, how else would you know if it was liquid or gas?

MARK

No, I get that, it's just, I don't think it's necessarily a gas.

SAM

Ok look at it this way, when you heat up water it becomes steam, yeah?

MARK

Yeah?

SAM

And what is steam?

MARK

A gas.

SAM

Ergo, the smoke you're thinking of is a gas.

MARK

Hang on, do you think that smoke is just when you heat up liquid smoke?

SAM  
No! Liquid smoke is when you cool  
down gas smoke.

MARK  
Fuck off.

SAM  
What?

MARK  
Actually fuck off.

SAM  
What?!

MARK  
You do not think that that liquid  
smoke is the liquid version of  
normal smoke.

SAM  
Then what else would it be?

MARK  
Like different spices and chemicals  
and stuff?

SAM  
Like what?

MARK  
I don't know paprika?

SAM  
Ah ha, see you don't even know.

MARK  
Oh shut up, you do not get to take  
the moral high ground here.

SAM  
Yeah whatever you sheep.

MARK  
I am not a sheep, that's not even  
how that would be used.

SAM  
Sorry can you say that again? All  
I'm hearing is baa baa baa.

MARK  
Ok so let me just...

SAM  
(cutting off)  
Baa.

MARK  
Let me just...

SAM  
(cutting off)  
Baa.

MARK  
Can you...

SAM  
Baa?

Mark hits Sam over the head, they scuffle a bit.

MARK  
We good?

Sam nods.

MARK (CONT'D)  
Right well first off, why are you  
saying baa if I'm the sheep.

Sam says nothing, they just look ashamed.

MARK (CONT'D)  
Huh? Why are you baaing?

SAM  
I don't know.

MARK  
Yeah, it's a bit silly isn't it?

SAM  
I know, I was just trying to be  
funny or whatever, it's dumb...

MARK  
And second, if there is liquid and  
gas smoke, there has to be solid  
smoke.

SAM  
Oh yeah, charcoal.

MARK

Jesus man, you can not be serious.  
This is, like, actually concerning  
behaviour.

SAM

It is not concerning, I'm sorry you  
lack a basic understanding of  
physics and/or chemistry.

MARK

(slowly becoming done with  
it)  
Plasma?

SAM

What?

MARK

Plasma? That's a state.

SAM

Fire.

MARK

Yup, of course. Don't know what I  
was expecting.

SAM

Look man, I know we might not  
always see eye to eye, but this  
isn't something to get so caught up  
on. Even if I am wrong, what does  
that matter? It's not hurting  
anyone, it doesn't change our  
relationship, it's just something  
that I think. So please, can't we  
just stop, and enjoy these  
incredible burgers?

Mark slowly smiles and nods, picking up his burger and eating  
happily with Sam.

Slowly the camera pulls out revealing the two sitting next to  
an empty window pane. Around them is an array of windows, all  
in different states of cracked and completely smashed on the  
ground.

Sirens blare in the background, blue and red lights flash on  
the wall. A heavily bleeding, and footless, man crawls on the  
ground.

MARK  
You're still a fucking idiot.

FADE TO BLACK.

**THE END**