

Have you attended one of our NINE bars yet?

There are 3 spas and four discos

Ha hahahahaha

Everyone on the ship.
Every performer, speaker, your waiter,
musician

They will take care of you
keep you occupied and moving in the right
direction.

CHORUS

That guy with the goatee and the tacky shirt is Gary. Gary's been on 42 cruises. Mostly with his wife. Mindy, who looks like a cross between himself and a dolphin. She has an english degree. She temps.

Um.

He dropped out of college because he was bored. What's that thing they say about bored people? That they're boring? There's a saying. I can't remember. Whatever.

JOHNNY O

I'd like to welcome the
Big fat Red Hat Society
Friends of Dorothy
The Service Club
The Rotary Club
Jim's 90th Birthday Group
A Bride and Bridal Group

A cruise is a country unto itself
We exist outside the rules

You're in international waters.

By day three you will find yourself very

comfortable talking to people who

you might never associate with in real life -
older people, people from other countries, etc.

GARY

You lose sense of time on ship.
That's my favorite

They pump oxygen in

Very few clocks
Each thing bleeds right into the next.
Each thing bleeds right into the next.

It's the greatest entertainment
in the world

You are never alone on a cruise.
The cabins are

My bandaaid came off
I'm wearing new shoes

CHORUS

Gary likes to quote movie lines. He promised himself he wouldn't do that on this cruise because co-workers tell him it's fucking annoying.

JOHNNY O

Many people's credit card companies reject charges accrued on the cruise

because they are from a strange international address -

Ha hahahahaha

Take it away, guys!

GARY

The cabins are tiny
And most have no window
so it's not a great place to go.

I can climb a pole like a monkey.
I miss my sister

I apologize in advance for this shirt smell

GARY gives himself over to whatever is present..

*GAYLE appears, and dances badly by herself, holding a mai tai.
MACK joins GAYLE and dances badly as well. He also holds a mai tai.*

GAYLE

On board are the

Hi

These

What?

Oh

My 5th cruise

I go on cruises with my girlfriends

The first hour is the craziest.

Up on the swimming pool deck
drinkingdancing and letting it all go

There's

There's a group of 5 women in their 40s
in bikinis

MACK

Oh
The life jackets, Hi

Single shot

The mai tai
I don't want to get sick
I don't want to get sea sick
Motion sickness

From this perspective you
Really?

Where?

Where?

dancing on top of the life preserver chest
grinding each other
It's a divorce party

Are they drunk?

CHORUS

That's Gayle. She's 35. She's a fucking terrible dancer. Is that mean?

Gayle smiles all the time. It's like someone told her people like cheerful women. She likes people liking her. Gayle is genuinely happy, mostly.

She saved enough money to buy a house for herself. She asked her neighbor to feed her cats while she was gone. Right now that neighbor is crapping in her toilet and eating all her Pepperidge Farm goldfish.

GAYLE

MACK

And a group of 7 or so young latin men
spinning them in wild salsa combos

Why are we so
In general
As a society

the crew is from over 60 countries

My friend is from India
Hm?

From this perspective you

My friend is from India
She isn't here

This - this uh
Stream of constant--

I love to meet people
I stay in touch
I meet lots of international people.
I live in San Pedro

CHORUS

Oh, this is kind of interesting. Gayle has a fiction blog! She keeps it under a pseudonym. It's historical romance stuff. Ripping bodices and heaving bosoms. Sweaty male torsos. She gets about forty hits per week. No one in her life knows about it.

GAYLE

MACK

Is this your first cruise?

Yeah

I took a, this cruise
we were dropped off on a private island
no one else on it - the waiters-

I think if I did this a lot

the waiters delivered our drinks to us in the
ocean.

Yeah?

Uhm-hum

We
I think if I did this a lot

I think I'd go a little crazy.

CHORUS

Okay, that's Mack. He's here with his father. Mommy and Daddy divorced when he was 8. He grew up mostly with his mom, who never recovered from the divorce. She's a tippler! That's an awesome old-fashioned word. Mack is weirdly old-fashioned.

I feel like I'm talking a lot.

Mack would genuinely rather be in his room reading.

Mack believes that people need to think of themselves as unique, and will do anything to preserve this façade. This makes him hate everyone. Especially himself.

Oh! He wishes he liked his father more. That's pretty important, I guess.

MAYA wears the baby. She walks by. Everyone stops to stare at her. It is a balletic moment, out of time.

Shift.

CHORUS

Here's Maya.

(silence)

This is Maya.

(silence)

Meet Maya.

(silence)

I don't know what else to say.

CAROLINE strips down by the pool. She is nervous talking to MAYA. Like everyone else.

MAYA

Hi.

It's good

CAROLINE

Lookit this water.
EXQUISITE.
Hi.

THIS I could get into.
SUNSHINE. CHILL-TIME.
Healing.
Doing nothing.
If I wanted to exercise I would have stayed
home, right?

It is
I never do this
I would goddamn marry this pool

You know
I'm fine with my body?
I spent my twenties scoffing at the,
The *scene*, if you will

But there was always a bit of a sour grapes
thing underlying it?
I expect?

Yeah?

Because the, because,
I always think about this
I MIGHT have been able to convince others
that I was too intelligent for the,

that I disliked the
the
Um stunning idiocy
The flesh
the crass mating displays -

But honestly who doesn't want the--

The chick with the gravity-defying boobs?

No one?

No one.
Exactly.

CHORUS

I'm so tired.

I would love a seltzer.

Someone I know just spent two hundred bucks on a homemade seltzer machine. She was all, "it's so better for the environment! AND, eventually it will pay for itself." The stupid shit we buy in this country... it's fucking ponderous.

Anyhoo.

This chick, Caroline. After her second divorce she traveled the world— she got a pretty big settlement because he was a wealthy cheating asshole. Caroline is happy, mostly. Like everyone.

Now she's an event organizer for a wine company. About once a month she looks for a better job.

MAYA

CAROLINE

	I'm getting old, after all
	The baby is just precious
She.	He?
	Name?
She doesn't have one.	
Yet.	My little nephew just turned twenty!
	I can't believe it..
	He's in theatre.
	He's a production associate for touring
	Broadway preludes.
Oh?	
	Tarzan? Aida?
	He's been to Hamburg, Amsterdam, Thailand.
	The Midwest.
Exciting.	Loves it. Loves it.

CHORUS

Also, Caroline had an emergency hysterectomy when she was twenty-two.

MAYA <i>(tries to put on suntan lotion)</i>	CAROLINE
	Do you need help?
Sure.	
Just my neck.	
That's great.	Arms too?
No thanks.	
Thank you.	I think it's a wonderful thing you're doing.
Thank you.	Cultures coming together.
It's for everyone.	It can't be easy

I feel connected.

Part of everything.

The beauty of ritual is that there's always a change within.

We do this for the surprises inside us.

Part of a, what.

Um.

Universal cosmic-

Well it's wonderful.

I can't wait for tomorrow.

Though I thought you'd be older.

All shift. Daria and Gary appear.

DARIA

Disco nap

My parents call an afternoon nap

Disco nap

DISCO NAP

GARY

Ha

CHORUS

That's Daria. She's 19. She's pretending to be drunk right now.

Daria carries around a copy of *Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit*. She was told it would be transformative. Which is also why her parents put her on this boat.

DARIA

I'm draped over a chair

This dude next to me with sexy abs

He thinks I'm 21

You have to be 21 on this cruise

Our arm hairs were touching.

They can't throw me overboard!

GARY

They can

GAYLE

Shut up!
Shut up!

If you aren't having fun
They can throw you over

They can throw you over
Because you aren't legally here

Hi, hi, hi.

You're funny
You're like a cruise, a cruise--
Is there a word
A word for like,

You are in international waters
The laws don't apply

I've been on a lot
I've never been on this one

Sometimes I rolls my
clothes into tiny little balls
because someone told me
it's easier to fit everything
into your suitcase.

My parents wanted me to
come.

The older you get, the
drier you get.
It's fine.
I like to laugh.

I like
I like organization
I like when things go well

CHORUS

Daria wants to be a photographer. She took pictures of her father's penis once while he slept. She called the series "Still Life with a Dickhead." That one never made it to her Flickr account.

But the ones that did were: A never-ending staircase. Her stuffed monkey. A shirt she made. Tree bark.

DARIA

You know what I thought I'd
do?
Find true love
Fall into a big cake
see the engine room

GARY

GAYLE

Me too.
Me too.

take a picture of whales
Get a drink with an umbrella
Get an uneven tan
Read my crappy books
I brought three crappy books

Your head is so sweaty.

I don't

Ooohhhh.
Like a winter sweater
I'm stupid
That's why they made me come
They want me to see something

I'm stupid

Yeah.

They confiscated my camera.

I feel naked without my
camera.

Oh
No.

I have loads of toxins coming
out.

I'm a sweater. You can pull
me on.

Ha ha ha ha ha.

You're not

No one is stupid
No one is stupid on a cruise

Have you
Have you seen her yet?

Me too
Oh my God, me too!

Ha ha ha ha ha.

Some words are timeless

They're new.
I hate them.

I'm gonna go.

Nowhere.

I like your sunglasses

You...

Me too!

Where?

CHORUS

Most of the kids she knows got cars for high school graduation. Daria got this cruise.

CAROLINE and BLAKE play blackjack.

BLAKE

The top rank with the white uniforms.

Largely blond-haired blue-eyed, call them
Rank A.

The mixed Caucasian Rank B.
And the non white Rank C.
They form easily identifiable groups for the
allocation of privileges.

CAROLINE

Right.

Okay

CHORUS

That taking guy is Blake. Blake made his millions as an investment banker. He is dangerous and common. But he's not here for himself. He's worried about his son Mack.

BLAKE

CAROLINE

The occasional white worker hired for a--
No ice, I asked for no ice.
Thank you

I asked, I did ask.
The occasional white worker who is hired for a
Rank C job is likely to benefit from the racial
hierarchy's "hyper awareness" of color.

Like, a white waiter will be promoted from the
regular waiting staff to work in the upscale
restaurant in preference to a non-white waiter
with longer tenure and greater experience.

AND, a white crew member who holds an
identical job to a non-white is probably paid a
greater salary. For example, say one Filipino
pastry chef earns \$600 a month. His white
counterpart probably makes \$1000. The folks
in the upper echelon are able to divide and
conquer its work force by—excuse me-- by
drawing pre-existent racial, gender, and
national inequalities into the ship's internal
organization.

(served a drink)

Thank you.
It's like a race to consume alcohol here.

I heard you ask.

Hyper-awareness

Hit me.

Oooh. I'm out. Dammit. Thanks.

CHORUS

He found out about this cruise on 20/20. So many people said it changed their lives. Blake wants Mack to change his life. But he can't hold a simple conversation with him.

BLAKE

CAROLINE

(served a drink)

Thank you sweetheart.

See, she probably gets paid just enough to live
on, yet she's sending half of it to her mother in
the Dominican Republic who's raising her four
babies.

She was pretty. Nice cheekbones.

Excellent cheekbones.

That's America.

Have you
Have you seen Maya?

No.

Shift. People gather. People drift in and out of focus.

JOHNNY O

Attention.

This is your cruise director

Jonnie O

Speaking

Are you all having a good time?

Don't forget Crown Bingo

Double Jackpots in the Casino

The Champagne Art Auction

The Captain's Welcome Reception

And all just before three PM!

But if you are saving up your energy for tomorrow's MAIN EVENT, never fear.

PLENTY of lounging space by the pool!

And please don't forget to give a warm Crown Hello to our guest of honor, Maya, and the small person attached to her. They deserve your most special attention. But don't fret if you miss her!

You shall see her at your mandatory meeting. And if for some reason your assigned time slot does not suit your schedule, please see an event facilitator immediately. There are multiple slots, and we are happy to accommodate you.

And now it is time for....

THE LUNCH BUFFET!!!!

Everyone cheers.

But before we launch

I want you to take a moment to thank your servers

These elegant humans, these dashing creatures
Hauling your bag
Pouring your beverage
Playing your song
Snapping your photo
Teaching your salsa
Hot-stoning your spine
Loading your plate
Mopping your vomit

These are not servants
These are gods
They hold you in the lowest regard
They look at your pasty faces, your sunburned thighs
Your stupid hats
Your rinky-dinks
Your pathos

And they bile themselves

Look upon them
Look upon them
as they pity you

JOHNNY O is a fire and brimstone preacher. His speech goes on forever.

Yea, they prepare your dinner buffet
the stove is made ready
the griddle hottened
the flames do now rage and glow
the meats bubble and the oil spits
The glittering spatula is whet
and held over you as you round the corner
clutching your plate with your cavernous mouths

Your bottomless need makes you heavy as lead
heaving downwards with great weight and pressure towards the sea
and if these Gods should fling you overboard
you would immediately descend into the depths of the gulf

And so I say this unto you
Do not dismiss this charity!
You have an extraordinary opportunity today
A day wherein these beings
have thrown the doors of benevolence wide open
They stand in the vestibule
calling and crying to you in a loud voice

So haste, my friends
Drop to your knees
Drizzle precious oils on their bare feet
Mop their perspiring brows with your well-conditioned hair
Worship them as is their due
And you shall be spared their scorn
From now until disembarkation.

Enjoy your meal.

An eating frenzy ensues. Perhaps it is frightening. Dialogue is repeated, overlaps. It is useless text, used for rhythm rather than meaning.

MAYA does not participate. But somehow she is in the center. Perhaps she sings.

ALL

I'm not normally
I'm excited about
I've never been
I have no more
I have too much
I need to tell you
I wish I was
I wish he would
I am so
I have no problem with
I'm not sure about
I can't find the
I wonder if
I can't see the

I will remember
I will enjoy
I will be present
I will be honest

I will be different
I will be better
I will be hopeful
I will be aware

I will be
I will have
I will do
I will keep
I will be
I will have
I will do
I will keep
I will be
I will have
I will do
I will keep

Feeding frenzy ends.

Shift. Different mood than we've seen.

It's getting closer. It's coming.

Somewhere, GARY does a solo dance of joy. It's strange and it goes on forever. There is no music.

GAYLE (To Mack)	MACK (to Gayle)	CAROLINE (to Daria)	DARIA (to Caroline)
		Yes.	We have the prelude coming up
Hi I'm not	It's you again Hi	Hm.	
Um Oh, where I grabbed a bunch of wetnaps	I saw your friends By the pool	Kate Beckinsale's an excellent actress.	
The pool?			

Want one?	Yes, please My hands are	They're playing her mov- Sorry?	Who's she? Who's she?
Everything looks cleaner than it is you know You look more relaxed	I like clean hands On myself And other people	Aan actress They're playing her movie in the theatre at midnight Ha ha ha ha ha	Ha ha ha ha ha
You eat with Right Me too		They don't speak English.	Waiter! Excuse me!
I'm	Your friends have the hats		
I came alone			
You aren't enjoying yourself	I've n- No	I have no foreign in me I love being here	Do you speak anything
I love being here			
	I've never been on a I don't go on vacations I'm I work at the it doesn't matter My dad is here		
Your dad Oh	This Yes		
Are you hungry?	No I just ate three lunches	I ran into Maya Yes. Yes.	Talk to her?
		She's She's	What's she like?
	Um.		

I saw her.
I saw her.
Did you?

Um.
You.

Short, young, not too
young, small nose

She's not UN-attractive
She's wearing this...
Well you'll see her at the
meeting later.
It's mandatory.

She has it in a carrier
Like a papoose.

No.

I'm so tired
What?

This is going to be
important.

I think

Should we dance?

This is going to be
important.

Oh.
Yes, yes definitely.

Definitely, of course

Are you going to the
prelude tonight?

I paid for myself. To be
here.

Oh?

No one raised money to
get me here.

Oh

What--
What--

It's someone's
It's someone's

90th birthday

Hi.

What do you do?

As a job.

So why are *you* here.

When?

Oh
It's boring.

I'll let you know.

A stillness, a pause. A sound that continues, a special light.

CAROLINE

I hold myself at night by my shoulders like this.
I can't sleep otherwise.

ALL

I hold myself at night by my shoulders like this.

They hold their shoulders.

Slowness. Movement.

The patrons gather in a small room. They sit in a circle. Maya sits in a chair, rocking the baby. All hold clipboards with various forms attached. They flip through and sign multiple pages as the session transpires.

THIS PLAY IS NOT OVER!
email info@sheilacallaghan.com
to read more