

DRAFT EIGHT

Bisque in Glory
(Or Red Red Red Lobster)

written by

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Characters

Sheldon* - determined, knows what he wants, secretly a great dancer

Gavin** - frail, wears glasses, also knows what he wants, is an okay dancer as long as he isn't leading.

Andrew - easily fooled, he also...knows what he wants, is not a good dancer but he sure thinks he is

Olivia*** - does not get paid enough for this

Puzzone (Off stage)** - From Italy, came to this country for the American dream

Scott the Lobster* - Lobster named Scott (Can be played by the same actor as Gabe)

Joe the Lobster** - Lobster named Joe (Can be played by the same actor as Gavin)

Serena the Lobster, *** - does not get paid enough for this (Can be played by the same actor as Waitress)

Patrons**** - nonspeaking

****optional

Settings

Old fashion diner with a red counter and red bar stools

Time

Afternoon

Author's note

Please keep pacing quick and embrace the absurdity.

After transformation, please keep a key costume piece on their new body so the audience can keep track of who is who. For Gavin, I imagined glasses. For Olivia, her apron. Things like that.

Please note that the following roles should be double cast -

Sheldon/Scott*

Gavin/Chef/Joe**

Olivia/Serena the Lobster***

Dedication

To Gabe Warburton, Gavin P. Norton, Andrew Maga, Joe Donia, and Scott Buchanan. You all are some of the strangest and most wonderful people I've ever met.

SCENE ONE

A diner.

Gavin sits on a bar-stool, eagerly anticipating his food. He's hungry. And he's one of those guys who becomes a little less human when he's hungry.

GAVIN

I've never gotten the lobster here before.
Potatoes and ham? Yes ma'am.
Mac and cheese? Yes please!
But boy oh boy lobster bisque? Yes- uhm- wisque.
...I'm excited. I'm exited. Are you excited Olivia?

...

I'm excited.

...

Lobster is about to get a lot more expensive ya know that?
I read on the news that there's been some big time
overfishing stuff and the lobsters are giving up.
Isn't that crazy?
Lobsters are giving up!
Disapearing off the face of the planet.
You'd think they're resilient little buggers. But no. No.
They're just done! Soon you won't be able to serve lobster
bisque.
Puzzone, you hear that?
This may just be your last bowl you ever make of lobster
bisque!
And it's all mine.

Olivia walks out with the soup.

She trips on her shoelace a little-

GAVIN (CONT'D)

CAREFUL!

Olivia looks at him. And sloppily sets the soup down.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

AH!

Gavin lovingly attends to the bowl and licks off the sides. Olivia gives him a disgusted look.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

You better be careful - this may very well be the last bowl
of lobster bisque you ever serve!

Olivia rolls her eyes.

OLIVIA

Anything else?

GAVIN
No thank you. This is all I want. Alllllll I want.

OLIVIA
I'll be in the back.

GAVIN
You should tie your shoelace.

Olivia throws her leg up on the counter- but it's the wrong foot- oh wait, no, she unties the other one.

Olivia goes into the kitchen.

Gavin prepares for his bowl of soup. He sips. He moans loudly in approval.

Sip. Mmmhhm

Sip. Mmmhghmmmmmm.

Sip. MMMMHMMMMMMMM.

OLIVIA
(peaking her head out behind
the curtain, a warning)
I've got two untied shoelaces. I could trip again. Who knows
where I'd fall.
Here.
There.

(pointing to the soup)
Definitely there.

GAVIN
Sorry.

She leaves.

...

MMMHMMMM.

OLIVIA
(from behind the curtain)
GAVIN!

Gavin quickly eats more soup.

SHELDON
(panicked, to Gavin)
Do you have any lobster?

*Gavin, desperately trying not to look at his soup,
pulls his bowl away.*

GAVIN

No.

SHELDON

Please, anything- anything you have-

GAVIN

OLIVIA, THERE'S A CUSTOMER HERE!

OLIVIA

(entering)

Settle down.

(to Sheldon)

Hey there, what can I get for ya?

SHELDON

Lobster. Please. It's urgent.

OLIVIA

We don't serve straight lobster.

SHELDON

Gay lobster is fine.

OLIVIA

We have a bisque.

GAVIN

You do NOT have bisque-

OLIVIA

We have no bisque.

SHELDON

I'll take the lobster bisque.

OLIVIA

We're out. You want tomato or lentil or something?

SHELDON

(Frantic and desperate)

Lentil?? Lentil soup is peasant food! I just asked for lobster bisque! Lobster! The food of kings! Tell me how those two are even remotely similar to one another please just get me lobster bisque please I don't care if it's a day old or if it's-

OLIVIA

We're out of lobster. I could give you some, just minus the lobster I guess...

SHELDON

Then it's just bisque! I'm not an animal!

OLIVIA

Look buddy, we don't have any more soup. He has the last bowl. If you figure out what you'd like from what we have, just holler for me, I'll be in the back.

Gavin is mid slurp while Sheldon stares at him with all the fury his body can handle.

SHELDON

You.

GAVIN

(With the spoon still caressing his lips)

Hm?

SHELDON

Soup.

GAVIN

Yeah...soup.

SHELDON

Give it to me.

GAVIN

Excuse me?

SHELDON

Give me the soup.

GAVIN

I'm half way done!

SHELDON

I didn't ask, just give me the soup-

Sheldon rushes over to Gavin's side and reaches for his bowl.

The two quarrel and push back and forth but careful not to spill the soup. Gavin protects his soup like a mother protects her child.

Gavin turns around and smacks Sheldon on the nose with his spoon.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Ow! What's wrong with you?

GAVIN

Me??? Stop trying to steal my soup!

Sheldon wipes his nose with his hand and before wiping off the residue on his pants, he stops and licks it.

The small sample is more delicious than pancakes for dinner.

Gavin is disgusted by this act.

SHELDON

Please, please, I need the soup-

AND THEY'RE OFF!

Sheldon lunges for Gavin - the two start to fight. Sheldon normally would easily be able to take on this guy due to his size alone...but he's pretty weak at the moment. Does Gavin have a chance??

They fight for their lives - for soup!

And punch! And duck! And leap! And kick!

And! And! And!

Something...changes-

The animosity, the fury shifts from anger to passion-

The two begin to tango, carefully avoiding the soup, but aggressively pulling one another.

Sheldon harshly dips Gavin and Gavin lets out a yulp.

It's aggressive yet beautiful.

Sheldon dips Gavin again, but this time, he does it right.

The dance becomes more intimate and as their faces get close to one another, they step closer and closer till they are nose to nose.

Gavin steps closer and accidentally steps in the soup and it spills over.

GAVIN

MY SOUP!

SHELDON (CONT'D)

MY SOUP!

Gavin starts to become very very angry.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

You ruined my soup-

SHELDON

You ruined MY soup-

GAVIN

There is a lobster crisis right now! I'm never going to eat lobster again!

SHELDON

TAKE MY HOME TAKE MY CAR TAKE MY WIFE JUST GIVE ME THIS BOWL OF LOBSTER BISQUE

GAVIN

I JUST WANTED A WARM BOWL OF SOUP LIKE MOTHER USED TO MAKE

SHELDON

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND

GAVIN

NO **YOU** DON'T UNDERSTAND

SHELDON

ALL YOU DO IS TAKE TAKE TAKE

GAVIN

IT'S NOT TAKING IF IT'S MINE YOU'RE THE TAKER

SHELDON

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A SOUP SPILLING TAKER

GAVIN

YOU TAKE THAT BACK

SHELDON

NO YOU-

Sheldon pushes Gavin with all her might.

Gavin becomes increasingly angry and begins to turn red.

red...red...red...

Red...Red...Red...

RED...RED...RED...

Gavin starts to get smaller and smaller and smaller.

With all of his fury and might, Gavin turns into a lobster. He is all lobster with small glasses.

The lobster sits on the floor, running around.

Sheldon reaches down and grabs the lobster.

The lobster begins to pinch, so he holds it out away from his body.

Sheldon calmly calls for the waitress.

SHELDON (CONT'D)
(Calmly)

Hey, miss?

Olivia returns.

OLIVIA
(Not noticing the lobster)
Did you figure out what you want?

Sheldon pulls up the lobster and places it on the table.

SHELDON
(With great relief)
I'd like your finest bowl of lobster bisque please.

OLIVIA
I told you, we're out of-
oh.

The Olivia looks at the lobster then at Sheldon.

She sighs.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
One bowl of lobster bisque coming right up.

SHELDON
Great, thank you.

The waitress takes the lobster from Sheldon and heads back to the kitchen.

Sheldon sits down at the seat Gavin was occupying while he was a human.

After a moment of tranquility, Andrew rushes into the cafe.

ANDREW
PLease PLease Help Me!!

SHELDON
Olivia!

The Olivia enters.

ANDREW

Please, please I need lobster bisque.

OLIVIA

He's got dibs on the last bowl.

Sheldon smiles brightly.

The waitress leaves and comes back with the bowl of soup and sets it in front of Sheldon.

One of the patrons gets up and leaves - he is not dealing with this.

Sheldon begins to eat the soup.

ANDREW

Please, give me the soup.

SHELDON

This is my soup. I earned this.

ANDREW

You don't know, I NEED this-

SHELDON

`So do I. And It's mine. So back off.

The two begin to quarrel.

Andrew attempts to dip his face into the soup but Sheldon blocks him in.

The two dance in front of a patron, then on top of his table.

PATRON

Can you pass the salt?

...

They do.

The dance continues.

The waitress walks in on them fighting, sees them then turns around and goes back into the kitchen. She doesn't get paid enough for this.

Andrew and Sheldon are pulling one another back and forth and back and forth and soon, swing music begins to play.

The two swing dance with anger and with fury.

Andrew and Sheldon do the rock step. Each time they get closer to the soup, they try to lick the soup but the other pulls them away before they can.

The dancing is now becoming intense.

The waitress walks in again

OLIVIA

Where is this music coming fro-

While dancing, Sheldon and Andrew hit the bowl and it splashes onto the waitress. It burns.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

OH DEAR GOD

The music stops.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I HAVE HAD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH OF THIS! EVERYDAY SOME NEW WACK JOB JUST MOSEYS ON IN HERE DEMANDING THIS AND THAT - I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! WHAT IS IT WITH YOU PEOPLE AND THIS SOUP?? TRY OUR BURGERS, OUR BURGERS ARE GREAT, AND GUESS WHAT WE HAVE PLENTY OF THOSE BECAUSE EVERYONE IS EATING THE FREAKING SOUP!

Hi there, how is everything can I get you anything?
WHERE WAS I?!

PATRON

You were in the middle of telling them about the freaking soup-

OLIVIA

RIGHT! THE FREAKING SOUP! WHY ON GOD'S EARTH DO YOU WANT SOUP? LOBSTER BISQUE ISN'T EVEN THAT GOOD OF SOUP TOMATO IS JUST AS GOOD HELL TRY MUSHROOM OR GOD FORBIT TRYING STEW OR SOMETHING NON LIQUID BASED! BE A MAN EAT A STEAK OR SOMETHING!

The waitress becomes red...

red...red...red...

Red...Red...Red...

RED...RED...RED...

The waitress turns into a lobster.

Andrew and Sheldon beam with excitement and tackle the lobster.

ANDREW
Ooohhh CHEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!

SHELDON
Ooohhh CHEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!

The two men run into the kitchen, each of them holding one of the claws like an intense game of Red Rover.

The cafe is empty.

From off stage...

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Hi sir, sorry to bother you but we need some of your lobster bisque -

PUZZONE
(with a thick Italian accent)
What the hell are you doing back here! You can't bring own food cook yourself at home my god where all lobsters coming from???

SHELDON
We don't have time for questions, just boil the lobster for christ sake!

PUZZONE
I'm not gonna -

SHELDON
BOIL THE LOBSTER

ANDREW
BOIL THE LOBSTER

PUZZONE
OH NO OH NO-A, YOU GUYS ARE NOT-A DOING THIS TO ME I HAD IT WITH YOU KIDS, THINKING YOU BETTER THAN EVERYONE I THOUGHT AMERICA IS LAND OF BEAUTY-FUL COUNTY BUT ALL I GET IS "GET HERE ON TIME" OR "MAKE ME LOBSTER BISQUE" OR "WASH YOUR HANDS" I THOUGHT THIS LAND OF OPPERTU-

The Puzzone stops mid-rant and...

...

...

...

Andrew and Sheldon walk out holding the waitress lobster and a new huge chef lobster wearing a tiny hat.

ANDREW
That guy was huge!

SHELDON
We have enough lobster for at least a week's worth of bisque.

ANDREW
Fire up the stove my good man.

SHELDON
After you my good sir!

ANDREW
I bet the big one is gonna be extra juicy

SHELDON
Haha yeah! I'll tell you how it is.

ANDREW
What?

SHELDON
Yeah, so you can like...know how it is.

ANDREW
I'm getting the chef.

SHELDON
What?? Why would - I was here first! I had my soup, you were the one who knocked it over-

ANDREW
Right, you HAD your soup already. I haven't had any yet. So it's only fair that I get the big one-

SHELDON
You're holding the girl! Eat her!

ANDREW
I don't want to eat her!

SHELDON
Heh

ANDREW
What?

SHELDON
I bet you wouldn't know how.

ANDREW
I know how to eat a lobster.

SHELDON
But do you know how to *eat a lobster...*

ANDREW
Yes

Nope
SHELDON

Yes!
ANDREW

Nope!
SHELDON

YES I DO!
ANDREW

Okay, Prove it!
SHELDON

FINE!
ANDREW

Andrew runs off into the kitchen holding the waitress lobster.

He comes back with a beautifully plated, fully cooked lobster finished with a lemon and a nice shine.

SHELDON
Impressive. But you still haven't shown me you can eat it.

ANDREW
JUST WATCH!

Andrew looks at the lobster - wait...does he know how to eat a lobster??

He begins to attempt eating it like an apple -

He locks eyes with a patron...the patron shakes his head no.

Andrew starts to open the shell...the patron approves.

Andrew goes mad and starts devouring the lobster. Bits of shell are flying everywhere. Sheldon has to shield his face.

Andrew finishes the lobster with sweat and tears running down his face.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
What do you have to say to that huh?

Sheldon smiles.

SHELDON
I guess I get the other lobster huh. I mean, it's only fair.

...

ANDREW

HEY

Sheldon starts to run to the kitchen, but Andrew body slams him to the ground before he gets very far.

They start wrestling.

The patron calmly grabs his briefcase - he pulls out two lobsters.

The patron gets their attention with a sexy whistle.

He flaunts his lobsters, tempting the wrestlers.

The patron makes his way to the kitchen - he turns around and asks "are you coming" with his intoxicating eyes.

They are.

They go.

In the kitchen, both Andrew and Sheldon turn into lobsters.

Then, one by one each human on planet earth turns into a lobster.

...

100 years later

...

Joe the Lobster sits at a bar stool in a cafe eating human bisque soup.

MMMMmmmmm

Scott the Lobster rushes into the cafe in a drenched sweat. He rushes to the counter and begins to yell at the lobster waitress.

SCOTT THE LOBSTER

OH thank GOd you're OpeN! Please Please would you please whip me up your largest bowl of human bisque?

SERENA THE LOBSTER

We're out. You want tomato or lentil or something?

Blackout.