

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

The Eternal Cocktail

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ACT ONE - "THE ETERNAL COCKTAIL"

SCENE ONE

Blackout. Upbeat, Rachel Ray-style music plays. Lights up, revealing a cooking-show style set, complete with wet bar. Music fades out.

DANDY ALEXANDER

"Welcome back to Cocktail Hour with Dandy Alexander! And now, let's finish off that rum punch. A few scrapes of the nutmeg..." (Scrapes nutmeg into drink) "...Voila! The perfect rum punch!" (Sips drink) "Tastes like colonialism! And for our final cocktail this evening --"

(BARTHOLOMEW enters, interrupting.)

BARTHOLOMEW

"Dandy."

DANDY ALEXANDER

"You -- you! How have you come here?"

BARTHOLOMEW

"I had a Groupon. But all the savings have afforded me is disappointment! Dandy, you and your cock-tails have been measured and found wanting!" (Approaches, takes drink from DANDY, and downs it.)

DANDY ALEXANDER

"What do you know of *liq-uors* and *cock-tails*? You prefer your rum and coke shaken! You know nothing of *cock-tailing*!"

BARTHOLOMEW

"Perhaps once, Dandy... But now I have acquired knowledge most forbidden... from the ancient grimoire-- *The Spiritus Ex Phallus*. First edition."

(DANDY gasps.)

BARTHOLOMEW

"I found a copy on Bunz" (aside, to audience) "For three tokens and a tall can-- forbidden knowledge is surprisingly cheap! (back to DANDY) "But far more interesting are the contents... I have found the secret to *true power*-- The **Eternal Cocktail!**"

(DANDY double gasps.)

DANDY ALEXANDER

"I have absolutely heard of such a terrible artifact!"

BARTHOLOMEW

"Yes - and now, Dandy, this is my true reason for being here - I must..." (Sighs) "Enlist your aid in procuring this concoction!"

DANDY ALEXANDER

(Scoffs) "Why would I ever assist you-- you *tatterdemalion!*"

BARTHOLOMEW

"Why Dandy... You've been stagnating. Look at you, Pathetic, teaching an *Intro to Cocktails* show-- I wouldn't be surprised if these were virgins!" (Gestures at audience, then at drinks) "Your cock-tails are flaccid, your limes withered... what happened to that dashing Dandy whose daring *spirits* enlivened the party? This may be your last chance at reviving that true Dandy Glory!"

DANDY ALEXANDER

(Looking plagued) "It...it's true. (Spotlight, soliloquy) "I once travelled the world, sipping its splendours - but now, I am landlocked - dry. *BEACHED*. For how long do the limes truly remain fresh?"

BARTHOLOMEW

"The **Eternal Cocktail** is said to grant knowledge of All Cocktails Lost and Forgotten." (Extends hand) "Join me, my Dampened Dandy, and together we will mix our destinies!"

DANDY ALEXANDER

(Looking darkly into a bottle) "Forgive me, Captain, for what I am about to do..." (Turns to BARTHOLOMEW) "Alright, you foul beast-- What must we do?"

BARTHOLOMEW

(Pleased) "Prepare the ingredients thusly..." (Reads from book as DANDY adds ingredients to shaker) "One toss bitters, one dash cinnamon, shot of hot sauce, and shake vigorously. Okay, now this part is a little fast, so stay with me--" (Quickly reads, as DANDY rushes) "Lemon zest... drop of blood..." (DANDY pricks himself) "Dandy-druff..." (DANDY scratches his head above the shaker) "Twenty bucks..." (DANDY pulls the cash out of a pocket, which BARTH pockets) "Hair of the dog..." (DANDY plucks some of BARTH's hair] "OW!..." (Regains composure) "Shot rum--"

DANDY ALEXANDER

"What kind?"

BARTHOLOMEW

"Oh just whatever you've got."

DANDY ALEXANDER

"Okay!" (Crouches down, peers in cabinet) "I've got Appleton four year, five year, twenty year, thousand year, fancy brand; Cockspur! Mount Gay-"

BARTHOLOMEW

(Interrupting) "Oh, just PICK one!"

DANDY ALEXANDER

(Indignant) "One does not just simply *PICK* a rum... Oh."
(Makes face, revealing a bottle) "A most foul rum, for most foul magic. *Bacardi*." (Cringes)

BARTHOLOMEW

(Dramatically) "And now... a sacrifice."

DANDY ALEXANDER

"A... A Sacrifice??"

BARTHOLOMEW

(Turns to DANDY) "Yes... This'll only hurt for a second."

(BARTHOMEW rips pocket square out of DANDY's jacket pocket, dips in shaker.)

DANDY ALEXANDER

"AGH!" (Covers pocket as if applying pressure to a wound. Quickly replaces it with a cocktail napkin off the bar) "You fiend!"

BARTHOLOMEW

(Laughs) "And now, Dandy, shake thrice and say these magic words... "*Ignoramus Quaffeth Thusly!*"

DANDY ALEXANDER

Barth, I must say, I've always doubted you, but this seems to have been a success!

BARTHOLOMEW

Let's drink to our liquor-soaked destiny, my Dandy!

(They clink shots-- BARTH shoves DANDY and steals the **Cocktail**, quaffing it down.)

BARTHOLOMEW

(Wiping mouth) "AHHHHHhhh, HAH!" (Shudders, begins speaking in a raspy voice) "HAAAHAHAHAHAHA! Thank you, DANDY!!"

(DANDY raises dramatic hand of shock to mouth)

BARTHOLOMEW

You have *unwittingly* helped me get one step closer to *True Demonhood!*" (To audience) "Fear me, thou cocktailian neophytes! The tail is a sign of true power! Is it not terrifying!!! BEHOLD! (Turns around, revealing a dildo/corn cob attached to their tailbone, and shakes it. Vibrating SFX plays) "It... TINGLES! *WITH POWER!!*"

(BARTHOLOMEW melodramatically exits the scene.)

DANDY ALEXANDER

(Suddenly regaining composure) "...And that is why we do *not* concoct with the forces of dark beverages. Join us next week, as we explore the finer points of lemon zest-- how much is too much, really? And when is it appropriate to shake or stir? Goodnight!"

(Cooking show ending music plays, blackout.)

CURTAIN.