

FINGER FOOD

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A short play  
by  
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Rev. Date  
21 Feb 2009

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**FINGER FOOD**

**CHARACTERS**

MR. FORK

LITTLE MISS SPOON

**TIME**

The Present.

**PLACE**

A diner.

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**FINGER FOOD**

A fork and spoon try to listen to patrons order their food in great anticipation.

SPOON

I didn't hear. What did she order?

FORK

Chicken nuggets.

SPOON

Damn!

FORK

Lighten up, will ya. Gotta keep your shine on.

SPOON

Easy for you to say.

FORK

What?

SPOON

Remember when they used to serve ice cream in a *bowl*?

FORK

Yeah.

SPOON

We didn't even see it coming and then: BAM!

FORK

SPOON

The ice cream cone! The ice cream cone!

SPOON (CONT'D)

The bane of all spoons.

FORK

Yeah, but you're not going to be replaced. We just have to be patient. Besides, I think you've got better prospects than I do.

SPOON

What do you mean?

FORK

I mean you could always re-train and go into measurement!

SPOON

Oh...

FORK

It's not as if I am going to run into a miniature devil looking for a replacement for his pitch fork.

SPOON

I had a cousin who was in jail.

FORK

Really?

SPOON

Yeah. Some convict used him to try and tunnel his way out. Wore him down into a twisted metal nub. Never was the same after that.

FORK

Sad.

SPOON

Then there was this psychic guy.

FORK

Yeah?

SPOON

Uri Geller. We called him "The Demonic Bender".

FORK

Whoa.

SPOON

The holocaust of '73--bent over half a million spoons. Started a whole spoon-bending craze! Didn't know if we were going to survive.

FORK

Wait. Look over there.

SPOON

Which one?

FORK

The chunky guy in the blue shirt. C'mon buddy.

SPOON

Soup!

FORK

Or salad!

SPOON

Soup!

FORK

Or salad!

SPOON

Soup!

FORK

Or salahhdamnit!

SPOON

Was really looking forward to bathing in a bowl of steaming hot clam chowder.

FORK

Or sinking my tines into some lush green lettuce and a juicy tomato.

SPOON

What did he order?

FORK

Eggrolls. Can you believe it?

SPOON

Well at least we aren't chopsticks.

FORK

Yeah. Remember that sushi place that used to be next door?

SPOON

Do I ever! One night, someone used me to scrape a plate into the garbage out back. That's where I saw 'em.

In the garbage?  
FORK

SPOON  
Uh-huh. Looked like hundreds of 'em. Stained with wasabi and soy sauce. All separated from their mates. Crisscrossed all over each other like a perverted game of pick-up sticks.

Oh, the horror.  
FORK

Pitiful.  
SPOON

Sad. (beat) Finger food. That's the problem.  
FORK

You said it brother.  
SPOON

People used to use us all the time.  
FORK

Now they just can't be bothered.  
SPOON

As if people never heard of etiquette.  
FORK

Table manners! They should print them on the place mat!  
SPOON

Do not eat food with your fingers unless you are consuming food, such as bread, French fries, chicken wings, and hamburgers--  
FORK

The fork may be used either in the American fashion:  
SPOON

(in Texas accent)  
Use the fork in your left hand while cutting; switch to right hand to pick up and eat a piece!  
FORK

Or the Continental fashion:  
SPOON

FORK

(in British accent)

The fork remains in the left hand at all times for dining ease and to project a refined and cultivated image.

SPOON

Either is acceptable for conveying solid food to the mouth.

FORK

The spoon, on the other hand, is used for conveying gelatinous or liquid food to the mouth, such as soup.

SPOON

When you have finished eating soup, the spoon should be placed to the side of the saucer, not left in the bowl. I hate that!

FORK

Use your silverware from the outside moving inward toward the main plate.

SPOON

The salad fork, knife and soup spoon are further from the main plate--

FORK

Than the main course fork, knife and spoon.

SPOON

Dessert utensils are either placed above the main plate or served with the dessert. (beat)

FORK

Well we can dream can't we?

SPOON

Now it's as if we are an impediment to shovelling food into their mouths.

FORK

What can we do?

SPOON

I was the original shovel, buddy! Try me. You'll like me!

FORK

Used to be that people would go out to *dine*.

SPOON

And there were a variety of spoons to choose from: the grapefruit spoon.

FORK

With the teeth?

SPOON

Uh-huh. And the soup spoon, of course.

FORK

Yep.

SPOON

The baby spoon.

FORK

How cute.

SPOON

The honey spoon.

FORK

Is that really a spoon?

SPOON

Well, she's kind of the black sheep of the family.

FORK

I see.

SPOON

The tablespoon, the teaspoon, the coffee spoon--

FORK

Oh, like T.S. Eliot? "I've measured out my life with coffee spoons..."

SPOON

Well no one does that these days. They have disposable coffee stirrers. Made from plastic! No one could measure anything with those!

FORK

Oh god! Don't start with the plastic!

SPOON

How do you think you'd feel if you were created knowing that you were meant to be thrown away? That you're disposable?

(MORE)

SPOON (CONTD)

That you're not biodegradable That you're contributing to the greenhouse effect? What kind of existence would that be? We are silverware! We are durable! We persist! We just need to be used!

FORK

Utensils unite!

SPOON

Oh! God! What are we going to do?

FORK

Hey, cheer up. Um...wanna spoon?

SPOON

You? Spoon with me? But you're not a spoon

FORK

Okay, then. Wanna fork?

SPOON

That sounds kinky! Ok. Let's try.

They stand next to each other very close, one in front of the other.

FORK

This is kinda nice.

SPOON

Oh. Yes. It is.

FORK

You feeling better?

SPOON

Uh huh. Rawr! Come closer spikey!

FORK

What are you doing?

SPOON

Nuzzle me...

Nuzzle you? FORK

That's it. Ah... SPOON

Maybe that's enough. (He stands aside.) FORK

What's wrong? SPOON

Have you ever seen one of those half-spoon-half-forks at the chicken place? Where they use them to scoop the mashed potatoes and poke the coleslaw? FORK

Oh! You mean a spork? SPOON

Yes...I think that's just wrong. FORK

Oh. Didn't know you felt that way about inter-cutlery relationships... SPOON

No. No. Don't get me wrong! FORK

I thought when they got together the child got the best of both parents. SPOON

That's a matter of opinion—but I think it's unnatural. FORK

What about knives? SPOON

Knives are dangerous. FORK

You're one to talk. SPOON

Never trust anyone with a silent letter in their name! FORK

SPOON

Words to live by. But what if a knife and a spoon got together?

FORK

I've never seen that.

SPOON

I think it's forbidden.

FORK

It's taboo for sure.

SPOON

Think of it for a sec. (They think.)

FORK

A knaioon?

SPOON

A spife?

FORK

Or a fork and a knife? (They think.)

SPOON

A forfe?

FORK

A knork?

SPOON

Ok. Then just stay over there. Maybe we shouldn't be so close to--

FORK

Here comes another one.

SPOON

Soup!

FORK

Or Salad!

SPOON

Soup!

Or Salad! FORK

Soup! SPOON

Or Salad! FORK

Oh my god! (pause) SPOON

The waitress is coming this way! FORK

What did she order? SPOON

I thought I heard her say a donut? FORK

With coffee? Please, please, please, please.... SPOON

She's getting a knife. FORK

A knife and fork for a donut? SPOON

Pick me! Pick me! Pick me! (to himself)  
(The waitress picks a different fork.) She picked Freddie. Oh  
shucks! But see, there's hope!

She's is using a knife and fork to eat a donut? SPOON

I've seen it before. She doesn't want to get the glaze on her fingers. FORK

Really? SPOON

I saw someone use a knife and fork to eat pizza once too. FORK

That's sacrilegious.

SPOON

I think they were from Hungary.

FORK

They would've just used their hands if they were hungry.

SPOON

Maybe it'll become trendy.

FORK

We can only hope.

SPOON

People who eat finger food without their fingers...

FORK  
(ponders)

That's strange.

SPOON

It could be chic!

FORK

Hmm...

SPOON

It could happen!

FORK

And then people would eat regular food with their fingers?

SPOON

They do in some parts of the world--like India or Malaysia.

FORK

Really? That's kind of gross.

SPOON

What do you mean?

FORK

Like if they just came back from the toilet and the water wasn't working or they ran out of soap, or if they —

SPOON

FORK

Oh. They only eat with their right hand. They use the other hand for...ya know.

SPOON

Phew! That's good.

FORK

Here comes another one.

SPOON

She looks slim.

FORK

Healthy even. Maybe she...

SPOON

She's looking at the menu...

FORK

She's pointing to the specials board...

SPOON

Soup!

FORK

Or Salad!

SPOON

Soup!

FORK

Or Salad!

SPOON

Soup!

FORK

Or Salad!

SPOON

Did she say what I thought she said?

FORK

Soup and salad!

Spoon  
Soup and salad!

They do a little jig around each other.

Spoon (cont'd)  
Here we go!

Fork  
At last!

Spoon  
I think I'm gonna cry.

Fork  
Keep it together. Make sure you're nice and clean for the lady. No tears. No water spots. Don't want her to think you're dirty.

Spoon  
Sorry. Sorry. I'm just so overwhelmed. I think I'm verklempt. I thought we'd never get used again.

Fork  
I told you it would happen. Let's go!

Spoon  
Thanks for helping me through this.

Fork  
Any time.

Spoon  
See you back at the dishwasher?

Fork  
Then we can take a bath together!

Spoon  
Okay. But no forkin' around!

END.