**‘Rusty Love Bomb’ –**

**A Queer iMessage Courtship Confessional**

 **by David Fenton.**

**Draft 21**

**Pre check:**

1. Reboot computer
2. Airgap
3. Check earphone is connected and check volume
4. Check GPO
5. Check fan trajectory
6. Adjust Chair
7. Test microphone (sound level)
8. Run voice master file
9. LX state preshow
10. Vision – preshow
11. Check pre and post sound level.

**Set/Props**

* X2 tables
* X1 chair
* X1 cushion
* X1 fan

**Props**

* X1 music box
* X1 bell
* X1 sunglasses
* X1 red drink bottle
* X1 earphone and back up kit
* (make up kit)

**------------------------------------------LX 1 Preshow State**

**--------------------------------------- FX 1 Preshow Vision**

**--------------------------------------------- SFX 1 Preshow Music**

***David Enters***

**------------------------------------------LX 2 X Fade**

**--------------------------------------------- SFX 2 Fade out**

DAVID: (to audience) **‘Rusty Love Bomb’ - A Queer iMessage Courtship Confessional (in eight uneven chapters)** by David Fenton.

DAVID: (to audience)

* **I acknowledge the Yuggera (YUG garah) and Turrbal (ToouRah Bul) people,**
* **the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather.**
* **I recognize their continued connection to Country, land and waterways,**
* **and acknowledge that they never ceded sovereignty.**
* **I respect their Elders and Ancestors, and any First Nations people with us tonight.**
* **I feel privileged to gather, with you, on this Country.**

DAVID: (to audience) **Well, that’s the last politically appropriate things that will be said on this stage tonight!**

DAVID: (to audience) **CONTENT WARNING:**

**This work involves extremely explicit discussions about**

**gay male sexual practices,**

**drug use,**

**sexual abuse, and …**

**dissing ex-boyfriends.**

**It also includes a fixation on Myers-Briggs Personality Tests.**

**So, proud boys strap-in and proud gurls strap-on.**

**Consider yourself warned.**

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

REAL DAVID: My finger gets bruised from swiping left, augh, left, ewww, left, Ah OHHHH

Right.

Alright! A match!

He’s slight, dark n’ dusky and of indeterminate origins –

Eurasian? Nooo.

South Sea Islander? Maybe.

And age not revealed. (oh, I’ve always been hopeless with age.)

Maybe late 30s.

What do you recon?

Too young for me? (don’t answer that).

I’m liking the look – it’s all very suburban dad?

So, I-iMessage him!

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **Chapter One ‘Mythical Creatures’ iMessage 23rd June, 8:05pm.**

DAVID: Hello there. I’m David.

RUSTY: Hello, I’m Rusty REDACTED MĀORI SURNAME.

REAL DAVID: **Ha! Snap! Not too far off!**

DAVID: Rusty is a diminution for…?

RUSTY: Russell.

Shame - you live so far away.

But are you open to out-of-town visits?

DAVID: And the etymology of REDACTED MĀORI SURNAME?

RUSTY: Oh, it means ‘Mythical Creature’ in Māori.

REAL DAVID: **OMG, OMG he knows what ‘etymology’ means**

 **I’m going to get an intellectual hard on!**

DAVID: Hmmm ‘Mythical Creature’? So, you’re catfishing me?

RUSTY: LOL. What you see is what you get.

So, I’m part Māori, part German.

But naturalized Australian since I was six.

REAL DAVID: **Double snap. Point for David. (ding)**

DAVID: Me? ‘Fenton’, ‘of the fen’ –

As in ‘of’ bog, wasteland, marsh, swamp.

David in the Hebrew means beloved,

So, I have an apocryphal take on La Fontaine –

making my name 'beloved fountain'

but it's all just showing off.

RUSTY: Beautiful name in the French,

Always has this suave tone to it.

DAVID: Smoke and mirrors - ‘the magic of theatre’.

(to audience) **And on theatrical magic dear audience,**

 **you will notice this is a headphone verbatim production,**

**where the magic of digital technology**

**beams all the lines into the empty vessel of my head…**

**Additionally, I have a controlling ‘finger mouse’**

**(which I could make a dirty joke about but have decided not to)**

 **– so, if you are impressed – best pace ya selves.**

RUSTY: Did you sidestep my question about a visit to,

your REDATECTED REGIONAL TOWN?

I do like a little road trip from time to time.

DAVID: WELL, I’m down in REDACTED MUCH MALIGNED NORTHERN CITY on the 28th.

RUSTY: That's June, I guess.

I see, back so soon, do you get here often?

How far is it?

DAVID: It's an hour and forty-five. Though at times it feels like a long drive.

RUSTY: I guess it's not too far.

DAVID: I come down to see the family twice a month.

Sometimes more if forced to see theatre.

I’m a theatre lecturer, so it’s all TOO MUCH like work.

RUSTY: Oh, artsy fartsy! I see.

Well, if not this weekend,

then sometime soon

 I'd like to meet you,

but play it by ear.

Soooo, you are in your late 50s?

DAVID: Yes, we are not going there. You?

RUSTY: Early 40s.

DAVID: Just a pup I see. How long have you been in

REDACTED MUCH MALIGNED NORTHERN CITY BTW?

RUSTY: I've lived in REDACTED MUCH MALIGNED NORTHERN CITY all my life.

DAVID: Well, we came to REDACTED MUCH MALIGNED NORTHERN CITY

from REDACTED CELEBRATED SOUTHERN CITY when I was twelve.

**(to audience) Yes, dear audience, ‘this’ was twelve once.**

So, ostensibly, we are REDACTED MUCH MALIGNED NORTHERN CITY lads.

(pause)

REAL DAVID: Folks, should I throw down another test?

I don’t want to come across as a dick,

but it kind of expedites things.

DAVID: Do you consider being gay a ‘lifestyle’ BTW?

RUSTY: Oh that’s a very good question.

One I have had to,

experience rather than think about.

DAVID: Yes, BTW I am open to out-of-town visits.

RUSTY: Excellent! I'm following a tangential path of questions and response here.

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **At times folks we iMessage at cross purposes.**

**It’s very Post-modern.**

**So, keep up and do the work.**

RUSTY: I think that I am the same person now

as I was when I was married.

REAL DAVID: Married? The plot thins!

RUSTY: No gayer or straighter.

Just comfortable.

When I came out,

ALL my friends and coworkers said

that they knew and were giving me space and time.

So, no change there.

DAVID: That' sweet - people are so much more civilized these days

 - not so much so when I came out.

Although all my theatre tribe were cool.

RUSTY: But I think when I met my first Boy Friend,

I was naive about gay life.

So, I was kind of mentored,

if you like,

by him and his tribe.

I soon reaIised that being gay is not really a ‘lifestyle’

 - it is just a single part of who I am.

Really, I just like the affection and romance

but with a male.

DAVID: I have very few gay friends.

My friends are an eclectic mix.

A very small circle.

RUSTY: I try my best to be honest with myself

and those around me

and don't suffer anymore the superficiality

of self-centered,

egotistical,

narcissistic,

vapid people in general.

I'm not rude

but I keep my values and boundaries firm.

DAVID: As for gay ‘culture’,

other than a brief stint in REDACTED SIN CITY’s

queer cultural anus.

I've little to do with it all - too busy.

RUSTY: This I understand.

As a closeted Boy/Man,

I would stay clear of anything gay -

as it might have let the ‘cat out of the closet’

But it's not who I am.

I am a dad,

I’m an ex-husband

I’m a physiotherapist,

And I’m a gentle person,

who adores connection and loyalty.

DAVID: Oh, I see a Daddy - who’s good with his hands.

RUSTY: I think being gay and in touch

with my feminine side

makes me a better at my job

and being a dad.

Speaking of etymology…

My best friend in China NIGEL.

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **Ok so every REDACTED person’s name is going to be NIGEL.**

**As an audience it’s hard for you to follow …but trust me it will pay off!**

RUSTY: My best friend in China NIGEL.

His father chose his Chinese character name as ‘Pacific Ocean’ because

he hoped he would have a wide gentle heart. And he does too.

DAVID: Oh, that's lovely - so well considered.

RUSTY: I'm going to just say it!

I just imagined making love to you.

REAL DAVID: **(to audience) Oh, ho ho! – Fish on the line.**

RUSTY: Stopping for a wonderful conversational interlude,

intermission

if you Iike,

then continuing for hours.

DAVID: Well, what other way is there?

RUSTY: I've met so many dumb-arses in the past 4 years.

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **At this point I say to myself “What only four years? Pace yourself love.”**

RUSTY: So…I hope to appreciate your body someday. Rn rn rn!

DAVID: I would like that very much –

I like intimate sex – connected.

I was in a long-term relationship with a guy who couldn't

be emotionally present during sex,

it became somewhat ...

what's the word...?

prescriptive.

RUSTY: Uninspired?

Robotic?

Anonymous?

SNAP! I was in this same situation,

REAL DAVID: Snap! He just said Snap!

RUSTY: It was exhausting and …frankly, saddening.

DAVID: **Well, I must admit** after a while I withheld from him - emotionally.

That was a barren strategy.

I’m not proud of that.

But I realized he was never actually present –

I was simply projecting.

RUSTY: I see.

I debated, rationalized, begged even,

I learned that I deserve more.

I give more, so I deserve more.

but he had his issues, and, in the end,

it was too frightening for him to be vulnerable.

(Saddened) He ran away.

I feel sadness for him.

But he is a grown man who has to follow his journey.

DAVID: Yes, yes! This is what they do

- mine ran headlong into addiction.

RUSTY: Anonymous sex addiction?

DAVID: (agreeing) That’s my Ex.

During covid lockdown –

before any vaccine existed,

he’d go out, take drugs and have sex with strangers.

Hey, bring the virus to my door!

RUSTY: We’ve both have horrible stories.

DAVID: Yeah, crystal meth was way sexier than me –

it's been almost REDACTED years now and you would think

he would have hit rock bottom

but no wait

clearly there’s more bottoms to hit!

RUSTY: My story gets me a bit exasperated.

DAVID: I'm sorry about that. Mine just makes me - really sad.

RUSTY: Going from 12 years of a loving connected relationship,

with a wife and a kid

to one with a guy who was an emotionally immature narcissist

was definitely unplanned.

But man, I've sorted through a lot since then.

DAVID: Yes? Like me, done some therapy have we?

RUSTY: BTW, You have a lovely hairy chest.

REAL DAVID: Men are queer creatures – so vulnerable and lacking in self-knowledge.

RUSTY: Please tell me you like to kiss.

DAVID: My Ex projected some body shaming – so, fuck that.

I'm inside myself again which is great.

Kissing? – yes

RUSTY: Inside yourself rn rn rn rn rn rn rn!

And touch, nice intimate everyday touch.

Full body contact and constant reinforcement?

I’m 5,'7".

DAVID: Oh, Every day. I'm 6 - just.

RUSTY: We are talking about our height not penis size, I hope!

I wish I could see you.

Instead of texting.

DAVID: I've been known to be sexually experimental but

- I’d trade it all in for one profound connection.

RUSTY: I don’t mind a little kink.

REAL DAVID: **(to audience) Red Flag ‘A *little* kink?’**

I wish you could see me too

but I'm going to be a gentleman

and not resort to dick pic advertising

just yet, if that's ok.

RUSTY: It is perfectly splendid.

But can I ask you to describe

in your own words

what I might find.

Down there.

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **Pause for effect**

Well, it wouldn't be theatre without props –

I have a piercing.

RUSTY: I'm highly visual. And seemingly more aroused.

DAVID: Could such a thing be?!

RUSTY: The piercing doesn’t scare me, it’s just sensual. I can imagine it clanking on my teeth.

DAVID: I bet your cock is beautiful too - surrounded I expect in dark splendor?

RUSTY: I have Double ‘D’ balls,

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **OMG!**

RUSTY: These days it hard to get’ em through a larger cock-ring.

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **OMG, OMG!**

Yes, I expect so.

Well Rusty,

I’m having to turn in.

RUSTY: As much as I wish you were here

naked next to me

to caress me to sleep.

I do have to get some ZZZZZ too.

Chat again soon.

DAVID: Yes, please heart.

RUSTY: I look forward to it.

REAL DAVID: (to audience)

**So,**

**Part Mori,**

**a real Daddy,**

**with firm values and boundaries.**

**Let’s see if I can reel in this fish.**

--------------------------------------------------------------(Swivel)-------------------------------------------------------------

DAVID: (to audience) ***Chapter Two: ‘We Go Deeper’, iMessage, 24th June, The Next Day 6:05am.***

RUSTY: Good Moring hun!

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **Radio Silence.** **iMessage 10:05am**

Hello Heart!

RUSTY: Too soon?

You came up in my Facebook friend suggestions

so, I ‘requested’ [Please emoji]

DAVID: (to audience)

**What was I to do?**

**Pretend I hadn’t seen his request FFS?**

**Fast Forward.**

**Something really lewd is shared here but I can’t recall why I censored it.**

RUSTY: Oh baby

OMG that's so hot.

DAVID: It’s very romantic.

I'm pretty sure you have it in you based on our conversations.

RUSTY: I do!

DAVID: Yes?

RUSTY: - it's like some type of romantic dream state

half-awake but totally present.

DAVID: Yes.

RUSTY: And falling asleep inside you… - OMG yum.

DAVID: YES!

RUSTY: Geez

When can we see each other?

Will you stay the night?

DAVID: (to audience) I can if you want me to - but you haven't even met me!

RUSTY: When has that stopped a gurl before,

I feel like it.

It’ll be ok,

(or we can decide on the day).

DAVID: Ok then.

Yes, let’s.

RUSTY: How exciting!

DAVID: Change of subject.

So, I'm undetectable. Surely, you've clocked that.

RUSTY: Pardon

Oh, HIV (Undetectable)?

DAVID: Correct.

RUSTY: Ok. Are you ok with it all?

DAVID: Yep.

RUSTY: Mmmmm.

DAVID: (to audience) **Pause for effect**

RUSTY: Well, I'm ok too.

DAVID: And you are Versatile, Yes?

RUSTY: Yes Versatile.

Obviously, it's all safe.

I'm on PREP.

DAVID: That's double the protection then.

RUSTY: So, I'm trusting it's all fine these days, right?

DAVID: Yes.

I take one tablet a day and its totally manageable.

I’m not flippant about that, if that’s what it sounds like.

RUSTY: It doesn’t.

You have HIV.

I have kid.

We all have something.

REAL DAVID: Ha!

Bizarre comparison

Not sure the kid would appreciate that.

But OK.

RUSTY: I don't have herpes.

But I have had syphilis.

DAVID: Oh, been there done that

- the T-Shirt was nice but not a keeper.

‘Shame’ is a wasteful emotion, I think.

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **Ding Ding! Theme.**

RUSTY: I love talking about shame.

Get all that crap out into the light.

DAVID: Do you carry any?

RUSTY: We all do.

But I consider it

and look at how I can manage it.

DAVID: Well said.

RUSTY: Oh, yes BTW. I have engaged in a little therapy.

My favorite is ‘Attachment Theory’, looove it.

My ex-BF actually listened to it

and agreed on the result

but didn't put it into practice

Man of NO action

what a surprise.

Please tell me you are not AVOIDANT.

DAVID: Well…

RUSTY: Stupid question.

We'd not be having this conversation if you were.

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **You note I avoided answer the question.**

I've been told NOT to intellectualise my emotions.

RUSTY: What overthink, ANALyze?

Is that who you are?

DAVID: However, we are talking through iMessage as a prophylactic

- so that eases me open (if you like the image).

RUSTY: I do.

DAVID: I’m kind of, also, annoyingly intuitive as well.

RUSTY: Noooooo.

So, you mentioned

‘EASE ME OPEN’.

Freudian slips David?

DAVID: Schema Therapy says

I'm conflict avoidant –

I “withdraw and protect”.

No slips.

It’s all deliberate.

RUSTY: Then married me!!

DAVID: (to audience) **Red Flag!**

RUSTY: I can take it slowly.

Especially when curling up next to a gorgeous man in bed.

I can get into the zone.

I'd like to take my time to explore your entire being.

DAVID: Slow is good!

RUSTY: Over months…

Over years.

Always something I can learn.

Find the best bits that bring me joy.

So, I know it's you next to me

when all light leaves the room.

In the darkest nights.

DAVID: Are you seducing me?

I'm slightly unfamiliar with the terrain.

This makes me vulnerable.

RUSTY: And that's a nice feeling?

DAVID: It's a smaller version of myself –

it's a good place for a big personality to be.

RUSTY: Brene Brown: “Can't be brave without vulnerability”.

DAVID: Your vulnerability? Or others?

RUSTY: “In the quiet of my mundane existence vulnerability is what gives me the most joy”.

DAVID: I take it you know yourself well.

RUSTY: Better these days.

Gone through a crucible.

But you know.

The Ex-Wife always enlightens me about me.

She's adorable.

But demonic too.

She wants to hug you BTW.

I showed her your Facebook picture.

Like a fucking model of a man.

Grrrrr, Aroooooo!

DAVID: (to audience) **OK. MASSIVE RED FLAG!!!**

**Especially when the Ex-wife wants to hug me!!! What is that?**

DAVID: Golly. What if I'm not that ‘perfect a specimen of manhood’?

RUSTY: Who is really.

DAVID: You’re childlike in a way, aren't you?

RUSTY: I love chatting.

DAVID: It's disarming

- scares me a little

- it sounds like

you'll SEE through me –

challenges haven't been the norm –

most of the childlike folk I've delt with seem unconscious.

RUSTY: How are they unconscious? I think you are doubting your own intrigue.

DAVID: They don't know

they seem unevolved –

they don't know

they are adults who are childish.

RUSTY: Is it so scary to be SEEN. Besides ‘Childlike’ and ‘childish’ are very different.

DAVID: Listen, I don't want to dissect you like a specimen

- I can do that easily.

but you do make me want to climb into your skin –

in an erotic and emotional way - I get that feeling rarely.

RUSTY: Tell me. Do you know your Myers-Briggs?

DAVID: Myers-Briggs?

The personality test?

Isn’t that all Scientology stuff.

RUSTY: Noooo.

DAVID: I would need to revisit it.

I'll get back to you.

RUSTY: So, in summary – we get to crawl into each other’s skin

repeatedly until…we nestle in each other's arms.

So, we know I'm Versatile.

How about you?

DAVID: (to audience) **Pause for effect**

You give good text BTW

As you are slightly smaller than me in stature -

this psycho-sexual positioning is a good thing

to bring my Vers to the fore –

it's been a while

but he's in there.

RUSTY: What have you been recently?

DAVID: For last 5-years, celibate.

RUSTY: I understand.

DAVID: Do you?

RUSTY: Of course, I do!

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **He doesn’t. Trust me folks, he really doesn’t.**

RUSTY: Do you get hard and stay hard? Do you use Viagra?

DAVID: (to audience) **OMG. I’m not Methuselah!**

**OUT OF BOUNDS.**

That's funny and sweet too.

RUSTY: Just, putting it out in the open. Just in case I just want to jump on.

DAVID: (to audience) **OK at this point**

**probably to overcompensate**

**I give him a quick lesson in how to get me ‘off’.**

**But it’s so rude I can’t say it.**

**So, I’ll leave it up to your imagination.**

**I’ll play some music while you think about it.**

**--------------------------------------------- SFX 3 Mic Up**

**[music plays]**

**--------------------------------------------- SFX 4 Mic Down**

RUSTY: I have been with a guy who experiences anal orgasms and it felt great inside him.

And a guy who has full body orgasm. It was illuminating.

DAVID: Well, I have been known to experience the whole gamut from A - all the way to B.

So there!

RUSTY: It’s not a competition love.

However, my EX-BF called me Spiderman

cause when I blow it can shoot across the room.

I haven't blown inside someone for ages.

I’m so looking forward to it!

I’m a little out of “Top practice”

so please reassure me.

DAVID: Well because of the piercing I'm a dribbler –

but I was never really a spitter –

REAL DAVID: **Although I must admit a couple of weeks ago,**

**I took myself by surprise.**

So slow is good,

connected is better

I'd rather be fucked than tickled to death.

RUSTY: Ok! We have to sort out our first date!

I want to look you in the eyes for a long time,

And feel you touching my heart.

DAVID: You are a Romantic.

RUSTY: Go do the Briggs.

DAVID: I'm serving up dinner!

RUSTY: Where do I find a deep soulful man?

DAVID: You find then 'gently' in this space.

RUSTY: That's the right answer. God you are delicious.

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: (to audience) **iMessage 8:25pm later that night.**

My Myers-Briggs is an INFJ- what’s that?

RUSTY: OMG! That’s rare – like really, really rare for a guy.

DAVID: What are you saying I’m a big gurl?

RUSTY: Perfect, Simply perfect.

DAVID: Oh, enlighten me.

RUSTY: The humanitarian angle – perfect!

Structure – perfect

Compassion - perfect

I mean we only have one letter difference.

I’m an ENFJ.

INFJ equals Introvert, Intuitive, Feeling, Judging.

DAVID: Well yep, that’s me alright. Judgmental.

RUSTY: No, you judge through feelings you intuit like an empath.

DAVID: But everyone does that love.

RUSTY: No, they don’t, some judge through data’n stuff.

DAVID: Oh, I stand erected!

RUSTY: AS an ENFJ!

The ‘E’ stands for Extroversion

That’s the childlike addition to my personality.

Oh, I love these conversations.

Hey.

What if we really like each other?

I mean .... really like each other.

DAVID: Well, we will have to deal with that

the best way we know how.

Connecting deeply.

Slow exploration…

so, we don't scare each other,

ease in,

open up,

then push through

and bottom out!

RUSTY: Good plan. I'm not scared! I'm excited!

REAL DAVID: **So INFJ and ENFJ**

**only one letter difference**

**And that’s out of 16 personality types.**

**Why do I feel like giddy schoolgirl?**

**But I think the most important thing I’ve discovered…**

**Is that**

**he can shoot across the room!**

**-------------------------------------------------------------(Swivel)--------------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: (to audience) **Chapter Three: ‘Mess’, iMessage 25th June, The Next Day Again! 6:05pm.**

I want to read your CV.

RUSTY: What?!

I'll just tell you.

I'm a nobody.

I'm just a dad.

I'm just an ex-husband.

I’m just a physiotherapist.

REAL DAVID: **I know –**

DAVID: but I'm curious to read it.

RUSTY: Haven't used a Curriculum Vitae in seventeen years. Besides, I don’t do labels.

DAVID: Oh, labels.

I do.

I'm a post-colonial, marxist,

liberal feminist, post­modern, anti-essentialist, queer theorist,

gay, cis gendered anglo-celtic,

baptized Catholic, confirmed high Anglican

from presbyterian quacker stock

- agnostic, existentialist.

RUSTY: Oh OK!

French, Scottish, Irish, bog-standard English white guy,

HIV Positive undetectable poof –

who works and teaches in theatre

- I'm a walking cliché,

and a dime a dozen in the industry.

I’m none

and all of these things simultaneously.

One I prepared fucking earlier.

RUSTY: Well, my defining nature is… ‘I love dick’.

I do adore your Myers -Briggs though,

That’s a rare and beautiful label.

OMG, I've said too much.

DAVID: You know you haven’t.

You’re just saying that, so I can say ‘no, you haven't'.

RUSTY: Oh, no, I tend to rant.

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: (to audience) **iMessage 11:05pm “way past my bed time”.**

So, your Ex-Bf. When was the breakup?

RUSTY: Ten months ago.

I was told I was not supportive enough.

That I wasn’t ‘straight acting' enough?

And that he was my ‘least priority after the kid and Ex-Wife’.

DAVID: Interesting choice.

RUSTY: It was all internalized homophobia -

He was quite gay,

But was into ‘masc’ things

engines and boxing.

FFS!

Hooking up with more ‘masc’ guys.

DAVID: I see - another original choice.

RUSTY: I mean he screamed and ran if he saw a cock-a-roach.

DAVID: Snap! Mine with spiders.

Boy/Man stuff, child in an adult body.

RUSTY: Look, he had long standing trauma issues that he’s never addressed.

Plus, I think very strong narcissistic traits.

He had the emotional age

of a 6-year-old.

DAVID: Mine?

Probably 12 years of age

Impulsive and

exhaustingly acquisitive,

and rarely present.

I still love him,

but I can’t be in love with him – anymore.

RUSTY: Mine.

Neglectful narcissists.

He ‘loved bombed’ me and reeled me in like a fish.

When I first came out.

REAL DAVID: **Was he your first narcissists?**

RUSTY: I demand equality in a relationship.

I won't expect anything Iess.

And FFS ....

honesty and integrity.

REAL DAVID: **You go gurl!**

**Set those boundaries!**

It’s weird, a huge percentage of guys

I've connected with have some childhood trauma.

RUSTY: I'm ok with childhood trauma

as long as the guy is seeking healing.

EQ!

FFS get some EQ!

DAVID: My only trauma was growing up gay

with a father who knew I was gay

but couldn't do anything about it.

He had no Emotional Quotient whatsoever.

RUSTY: My trauma was I was a complete closet case.

Denial of my identity.

REAL DAVID: (Audience): **See, we all need to be in therapy.**

**It’s good for us.**

I had a great Beta Male therapist for 3 years.

When I seroconverted –

he was so sweet…

for a ‘straight guy’.

RUSTY: Seroconverted?

Ok became HIV Positive? Got it.

But my shame and trauma are reversing

because

I have this amazing

Ex-wife and kid.

DAVID: Yes, surely having a family

who loves you

must heal that early trauma.

RUSTY: I feel it does to, a point.

“Trauma is carved by fire

Healing eyes water slowly”.

That’s a Haiku if you check it out.

But my dad still struggles with the ‘shame issue’.

DAVID: Oh no still?

RUSTY: He’s not very bright.

DAVID: My Ex’s family. Augh.

I put up with them for eighteen years,

RUSTY: 18 years!

REAL DAVID: They treated me as if I had green skin and antennae.

RUSTY: Truth?

I only care what my kid thinks and feels,

And what you think and feel – yes?

DAVID: Yes.

RUSTY: Everyone else can fuck the fuck off.

DAVID: Do you feel proud of saying ‘I'm of nobody’?

Why did you say that?

RUSTY: Me, ‘a nobody’? ‘Cause I am.

DAVID: I should think you are part of what makes life fun.

Part of what propels the planets around the sun.

RUSTY: Oh! poetry slam!

Who’s the Romantic now?

OK I am important,

But no more important than my next-door neighbor,

or the homeless meth addict.

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **Silence**

**At this point we chat about**

**sex toys, piercings, childhood sexuality**

**through to how we prefer to jerk-off.**

**Including how much cum we do or don’t produce on any given occasion.**

**But I’ve decided**

**NOT to go into the details.**

**I’d rather leave it up to your imagination.**

**Whilst you imagine those topics - graphically -**

**I’ll play some music.**

**--------------------------------------------- SFX 5 Mic Up**

**[he music plays music into the microphone]**

**--------------------------------------------- SFX 6 Mic Down**

RUSTY: Do you show public affection?

DAVID: Baby it’s a GIVEN!

I'll be trying to make you gag with my tongue.

RUSTY: Hold hands?

Cuddles?

A blow job in the car?

DAVID: If I could have you on the local cross walk I would!

RUSTY: A sneaky stop at a beat while on a day trip?

DAVID: I'd rather slip my hand in your pocket at a party

(while you were talking to someone)

and just hold you there, firm, till you harden up.

RUSTY: Ok we're going to have a lot of fun.

DAVID: I'll slip my hand ‘down there’

and get the smell of you in on my fingers –

you bet I would

I wouldn't care if you were dirty

- just to have the smell of you on me.

RUSTY: I won't be dirty... musty but clean! Musty but clean!

DAVID: Ha!

Found your boundary.

Score!

RUSTY: You were testing me.

REAL DAVID: **I have this theory**

**that ultimately the reason why lesbian relationships are**

**commercially marketable in film and TV**

**is not just because they are constructed from the Male Gaze**

**(see Laura Mulvey)**

**but because fundamentally for straight people**

**man on man sex**

**means that literally**

**“shit could happen”**

**and that's the center of their ultimate disgust.**

RUSTY: But hey if the moment takes us suddenly…

REAL/DAVID: **It's all good,**

**I'm teasing you –**

**I just wanted to penetrate the edges of your comfort zone.**

**There is some truth in it.**

**But Statistically there is more butt sex happening between heterosexuals than gays.**

**It’s just how the numbers play out.**

When was the last time you had sex BTW?

RUSTY: Penetration?

DAVID: Is that sex?

RUSTY: You mean ‘when was the last time I was intimate with someone?’

DAVID: Not necessarily.

RUSTY: Um about a week ago

maybe more.

I stopped at a beat the other day

to actually pee…

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **Yeah right. Tell it to the Judge gurl!**

RUSTY: …and a couple of guys were there.

One played with me for a minute,

then I left.

DAVID: Me four weeks ago

in Sydney, a Fuck Buddy who I've frequent on’n off.

He's very sweet.

But he’s in an LTR.

‘David as third wheel’ once again.

All he ever does is remind me of a ‘deep trench of longing’ for real intimacy.

RUSTY: Hmmmm ‘Real Intimacy’

Since I broke up,

I have been a bit more active on Grindr.

But I watched a YouTube video, about guys needing constant external validation

like a drug

and the correlation with the use of Grindr for a high!

Of course, I knew that,

but he mentioned Tinder as a different platform

for finding more ‘authentic’ guys.

So, I downloaded it, and a day or so later I started chatting with you.

Love the challenges you throw down.

REAL/DAVID: I know I can be intimidating,

at times I just forget.

These days I rarely watch porn,

‘cause it floods the zone,

over stimulate me.

As for the apps it's like online gambling

- here in REDACTED REGIONAL CITY

everyone is a Married-Tradie with bad teeth.

RUSTY: Noooo!

DAVID: It’s true. They’re ONLY interested in fem cross dressers.

RUSTY: I think I've divided the pool with my kid in the picture.

DAVID: Oh, how interesting. I think it's a very wise positioning.

RUSTY: Maybe they are just curious,

But I try to be as honest as possible

about myself and my availability.

BTW - I’m wondering about your

little habits

both domestic and erotic.

Like how often do you jerk off?

How often do you shower?

For me it’s twice a day!

DAVID: Oh, everyday babe.

(to audience)

**Wait!**

**Which questions am I answering?**

RUSTY: I jerk in bed, the lounge, the toilet, the balcony,

in my car,

at a beat.

DAVID: Oh my, you are a husky bunny.

 REAL DAVID: (to audience) **OK folks, let just stop there for a moment.**

**If any of you are under the misapprehension**

**that this type of activity is specific to gay men – wake up!**

**All men are animals. We are not silicone-based lifeforms! ‘We flesh and blood! ‘**

Russ, you’ll find it, hard, very hard to find the edges of my boundaries.

RUSTY: My boundary is no mucking around behind my back.

If I’m in a committed relationship,

if we want more,

we hunt cock together.

DAVID: (to audience)

**You know Chekov…**

**The playwright?**

**He said,**

**that it was the contradictions in his character**

**that made them seem more human.**

**I just felt I needed to ‘raise the tone’ a little.**

So, hunting more cock – great!

RUSTY: Don't play with someone else if you refuse to do it with me.

Unless its fisting.

Happy to watch.

DAVID: Right.

No fisting. (At first)

(to audience) **At this point**

**I will once again call upon your great imagination**

**to fill in this redacted section**

**on the genteel art of fisting.**

**--------------------------------------------- SFX 7 Mic Up**

**[he music plays music into the microphone]**

**--------------------------------------------- SFX 8 Mic Down**

**There.**

**Are we all done now?**

**Alright then, let’s continue.**

I'll need to know ‘us’

before knowing ‘us with others’ – if that's cool.

I've actually been in a poly – in the 90s – not that that's what you are suggesting –

there are some wounds I don't want to open –

unless feeling secure and connected

with a base-line.

RUSTY: Base-line?

DAVID: Emotional base-line – intimacy.

So, how experimental are you then?

RUSTY: Often, I don’t talk about this stuff. Never with my Ex-BF.

DAVID: But they are part of how you construct your sense of ‘self’.

They rest at the center of all your potentiality

- they necessitate your Jungian shadow self!

RUSTY: What do?

DAVID: Your kinks

your desires –

your fantasies.

RUSTY: OK yes. But what’s the point if not communicated.

DAVID: It's the version of you that isn't about lifting up humanity

but becoming a messy part *of* humanity.

RUSTY: I like that.

REAL DAVID: **I'm not a Hedonist**

**Buuuuut…**

**I firmly believe**

**that if there is a part of us**

**that we hold at a distance**

**- it's a part of us that dies.**

**And more often than not,**

**it's the shameful parts**

**that actually make us more human.**

**To be audience, witnessed, seen to be human.**

RUSTY: There is no shame in being grotty

with someone you choose a Iife with.

BUT

don't go off doing something

before giving me the opportunity to partake.

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **OMG,**

**I hate it when he’s unclear.**

I can hear you saying that to him

but

I feel you saying that to me too.

RUSTY: I’ll say it to anyone. Anyone who tells me I'm theirs.

Question? Would you prefer fresh sheets on the bed

or the scent of Rusty for two weeks.

DAVID: Scent please. I do. I really do.

RUSTY: I can’t guarantee there won’t be dried up cum stains.

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **He sends a picture of his erection…**

**in Marvel Universe jockey shorts.**

Oh, my and Captain America as well!

**(to audience) What have I been saying a Man/Boys?!!!**

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: (to audience) **iMessage 12:05am (insomnia land)**

I’ve been studying your ENFJ.

RUSTY: Doing your homework. Are we a match?

DAVID: Of course, we are.

RUSTY: That’s a ‘yay!’

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **I send him a YouTube link**

RUSTY: Oh, I’ll look.

DAVID: These are cognitive biases right

– defaults setting,

 Just preferences.

RUSTY: A most perfect pairing!!!

Power couple.

Conscientious.

Conflict rare.

Oh, you're likely to lead the 'team'!

DAVID: Well to be honest

I get tired of being in charge all the time

I can hand the reins over

in the bedroom

if needs be.

RUSTY: You'd have to if I was up inside you.

Or wearing a dog collar and cuffs. Woof!

Arms ‘n legs tied the bed.

Oh, you want to be helpless.

DAVID: We can go there together.

RUSTY: I think our exploration is going to take a long time,

More than one night.

DAVID: Oh, I think so too.

RUSTY: I'm very excited about it. Exhilarated.

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **he sends a Gif of Jeff Goldblum dancing!**

RUSTY: God, I could kiss you now.

I want fold you in my arms and subsume you whole.

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: Do you want someone to take care of you?

RUSTY: Who doesn’t? But I can do that myself.

DAVID: I want to care for someone

 and be cared for. To belong.

RUSTY: But not control.

DAVID: Just us in a bubble.

RUSTY: A ‘love bubble’. I have so much love to give.

**----------------------------------------------------------------(Swivel)-----------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: (to audience) **Chapter Four: ‘Folding’, iMessage 26th June, The ensuing afternoon 12:30pm**

What do you fear the most?

RUSTY: I'm thinking…That my intensity pushes someone away.

REAL DAVID: **Me?**

**Abandonment.**

RUSTY: I think we all do.

For twelve years I was so happy.

Then for the last four years

I’ve been so sad.

REAL DAVID: **Let's talk about depression then, shall we?**

I'll show you mine if you show me yours.

RUSTY: I'm not depressed.

DAVID: (to audience) Ouch!

RUSTY: I'm insanely happy.

But… you have been?

DAVID: You’ve never needed pills?

RUSTY: I don't think so,

Not truly depressed.

At times I thought it could be

but then my mood would change.

Happy, annoyed, horny.

All going around together.

DAVID: In 2001 I finally started taking ‘happy pills’

love them!

I feel so even now

- because something traumatic happen that year

that tipped me

into a deep trauma fueled funk…

RUSTY: Oh. Ok.

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **Please spare me the enthusiasm.**

I had my first existential depression at thirteen

- it's rare now

- and if I have bad thoughts

it's usually cause I need to eat.

RUSTY: Oh Snap! Me too.

What happened in 2001?

DAVID: (to audience) I was raped

on April Fool’s Day.

Of all days.

RUSTY: What!!!

DAVID: (to audience) Plunged me into a lot of ideations.

So, I am in praise of the pharmacopoeia.

RUSTY: Was this before PrEP in REDACTED SIN CITY?

DAVID: Yep.

He was this big American body builder

who just decided to bare back me against my will.

It's a conflicting scenario

since I was there for the sex

it was very little use struggling.

You know you either fight, flight, or flop.

RUSTY: But rape, nonetheless.

DAVID: Took me a long time

before I could even call it ‘rape’.

It was all kind of pathetic really.

RUSTY: Baby.

I don’t know what to say.

REAL DAVID: (to audience)

**Folks can you do me a favour?**

**Can’t you NOT let one moment define**

**Who you THINK I am.**

**And if given the opportunity**

**I’ll return that favour.**

**Yes?**

**Thanks.**

**----------------------------------------------------------------(Swivel)-----------------------------------------------------------**

RUSTY: I’m the city. Waiting for NIGEL at

 REDACTED GENERIC AMERICAN COFFEE VENUE

at a table

next to meth users.

REAL DAVID: (to audience) How do you know it’s meth?

Are they having thirteen hours of great sex or something?

RUSTY: Hmmmm, that’s an oddly specific response.

DAVID: (to audience) **Silence**

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: (to audience) **iMessage 8:45pm Date Night!**

RUSTY: If you are ready, you can pop on over.

DAVID: OK. Should I leave? Or you need some time?

RUSTY: No head in now.

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **And so finally.**

**Sex ensues.**

**All you need to know was that it was fine.**

**It was fun.**

**But one thing did take me by surprise.**

**After we finished, he wanted to show me his underwear collection.**

**Yes, once again think Marvel Universe, but sluttier.**

**And then… he starts …folding them.**

**Very precisely.**

**Very focused… on the folding.**

**And I’m sitting there… like, in a puddle**

**and he’s like…**

RUSTY: ‘Bear with me … I just need to fold these NOW’.

DAVID: (to audience) **I mean … is it just me or WTF?**

**--------------------------------------------------------------(Swivel)-------------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: (to audience) **Chapter Five: ‘Kryptonite!’ iMessage 27th June, “having stayed the night! The morning after the deed and having gone our sperate ways” 8:05am.**

RUSTY: Morning Darl!

So, I just wanted to give some

positive affirmations here.

DAVID: (to audience) **Oh no, that’s my kryptonite! ‘positive fucking affirmations’**

RUSTY: 1. I find you intriguing and very personable

to the point of feeling comfortable in your presence.

2. I can tell you are thoughtful and open.

3. I am attracted to you in a number of ways - particularly sexually.

I can imagine becoming more (snort) ‘piggish’ over time

as I leave my inhibitions aside.

I hope you would like to see where this may go.

ENFJ Out [Love Heart emoji]

DAVID: Rusty you are a sweet man.

I’ve stopped off at a servo to get a coffee.

On the long drive home to

REDACTED REGIONAL CITY.

a. I felt comfortable too -

I loved being out and about with you.

I especially love the ‘public displays of affection’.

(to audience) **Well, I do so there!**

b. I am thoughtful. I want to be open with you.

c. I’m sexually attracted to you too heart.

d. Besides you do have DOUBLE ‘D’ BALLS!

INFJ Out

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **At this point I make a comment**

**which I needed to redact**

**because it was extremely lewd.**

**It involves the inconvenience travel**

**and my retention of some of his bodily fluid.**

**I’ll let you imagine that for a moment.**

**Need any music?**

**No?**

**Right.**

**Well, some of you are quite imaginative.**

**I’ll continue.**

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: (to audience) **iMessage 9:30am The same morning**

RUSTY: Morning sweets!

So, I wanted to chat about our INFJ and ENFJ difference.

I think you are a guy who likes his down time,

time alone

and time apart, right?

DAVID: Not necessarily. (pause)

Yes.

I like time to think and reflect.

RUSTY: I totally understand.

My Ex-Boyfriend would fuck off for days.

Plus, he was on the apps.

So, it made me feel really anxious and unwanted.

DAVID: I understand.

RUSTY: I'm just saying that reassurance would have been nice - from him.

DAVID: I can see how this could trigger you. What are you feeling right now?

RUSTY: I often think about multiple things

but I don't want to have to think

'Have I done or said something to push someone away?'

I figured

based on our conversations

that I could talk about it to you.

DAVID: (to audience) **Insecure and not unreasonably so.**

You can darling.

And thank you for putting up with my interrogation

When you cryptically announce

"I'm not a Top"

just after you blew.

(to audience) **Oh, dear audience**

**did I forget to tell you that bit?**

**How very remiss of me.**

RUSTY: OMG nooooo.

I'm so glad you went deep there.

Honestly.

I get stuff in my head and start to believe it.

You are TOO sexy.

DAVID: You are TOO kind.

Of course, it was indeed perplexing at the time

 Now I can see why your undies demanded folding.

RUSTY: I guess I have a different story.

One that most gay men have never really experienced.

DAVID: Hence my questions.

And my unfortunate KNEE JERK reaction

to finding out you’re a gamer.

I do have an irrational response to that.

Big sorry.

RUSTY: Oh, don’t worry.

I know guys can use a hobby

as a distraction

from a relationship.

DAVID: One questions how playing for nine hours straight

made my Ex-partner

a better version of himself.

REAL DAVID: **Maybe I'm too Calvinistic about these things.**

**I seek meaning in everything**

**- in that gesture the meaning was clear**

**"life is just full of time that needs killing"**

RUSTY: Nine fucking hours! For real?

DAVID: Yep, whole days would go by.

I know an addiction when I see it.

RUSTY: It’s freezing.

I'm outside having a cigarette, yes, I smoke.

I didn’t tell you.

Because I was ashamed.

So, you now know my little vice.

What were you addicted to?

DAVID: You are funny.

Took you a while to ask babe.

REAL DAVID: **I’ve done every party drug available.**

 **I think I knew I was on the verge of addiction**

**- so, I drew a line in the sand.**

**I let the Ex know it too.**

**I just said one day**

**'No more. I’m not using again’**

**and I never looked back.**

**A sheer act of will.**

**It was easy to be celibate for five years**

**to reprogram my sex life.**

RUSTY: But what was the substance of addiction?

REAL DAVID: **Meth of course – hence the sexual-recalibration.**

RUSTY: OMG, tough gig.

REAL DAVID: **I stopped**

**It was easy.**

**He didn't –**

**he made it very difficult for me to leave**

**but impossible for me to stay.**

**I’ve faced my shadow-self.**

**I don't have any desire,**

**or need,**

**to be that person ever again.**

**I’ve had more wired sex**

**than anyone can have**

**over three life-times.**

You see why I think

you confessing to smoking

is kind of funny.

RUSTY: I guess I feel my shame around it, even if it's minor in comparison.

REAL DAVID: **I have little space for shame**

 **- it would cripple me if I did.**

**I'm just pragmatic about these issues. (DING)**

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

RUSTY: My Ex would use his gaming to cock-block me too.

Why are gay men so commitment phobic?

I hate a man who doesn’t know what he wants.

DAVID: NIGEL my friend

In RESDACTED SIN CITY

late thirties

never had an LTR

I mean what’s up with that?

FFS!

RUSTY: My mate from work is thirty-five.

Same situation.

‘Man up’

But he's very insecure about his penis size.

But it's not even little.

DAVID: Is this NIGEL?

Or NIGEL?

RUSTY: No neither. It’s NIGEL!

DAVID: Oh, NIGEL.

RUSTY: NIGEL was a meth user and hideously abused as a child. Really messed up.

DAVID: The musician.

RUSTY: No NIGEL the hairdresser.

Older NIGEL is the musician,

Child of extreme narcissistic parents.

DAVID: Oh my god I have got one right!

RUSTY: Huh?

DAVID: All your friends,

I haven’t got one right yet!

RUSTY: They all have their barriers up.

They are so INvulnerable.

Except NIGEL.

But they are all endearing boys.

REAL DAVID: **Have you noticed?**

**He keeps coming back to…**

**vulnerability.**

**­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­**

**--------------------------------------------------------(Swivel)-------------------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: (to audience) **Chapter Six: ‘Aliens’, iMessage 31st June, Four Days Later 07:05am.**

RUSTY: Morning babe!

DAVID: (to audience) **iMessage 8:05pm**

This by the way.

(to audience) **I send another YouTube clip.**

RUSTY: Are you researching again?

DAVID: I know.

Myers-Briggs

is like a queer horoscope,

I’m a convert.

RUSTY: My ENFJ is working overtime.

But I don't want to alarm you.

It's positive affirmations time!

DAVID: (to audience) **Augh.**

**Kryptonite again.**

**I don’t do compliments –**

**fuck off with your compliments.**

RUSTY: I really like you

and the way that we have somehow connected.

I'm really enjoying the intellectual stimulation

very much,

and the emotional intelligence that comes along with it.

DAVID: Bless you

When you affirm

I question if I’m worthy.

(to audience)

**What am I doing?!**

**Fuck this!**

**I’m a disingenuous prat!**

RUSTY: And I question the same myself,

but I remind myself…

that because I seem to have connected with someone,

intelligent, communicative, deep and sensual

then I too must be worthy.

DAVID: (to audience) **Oh no!**

**Please don’t say that.**

**Change the subject.**

Do you have vivid dreams?

I do?

I have dreams on different planets.

I'm starting to think this isn’t normal.

RUSTY: I love dream interpretation.

Like Dali and Freud.

DAVID: I meet a lot of aliens.

RUSTY: And have what…conversation, assignations?

DAVID: I told you I had a dream about you.

RUSTY: Nooooo!

DAVID: After we first chatted.

You were a lizard person

- but it was still you

- just like a different

version of you,

and you used your tail to fuck me.

RUSTY: Oh, OK then!

I don't feel *of* this gay world,

I’m alien to it.

DAVID: Well same with me,

so that's ok.

**---------------------------------------------------------(Swivel)------------------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: (to audience) **Chapter Seven: ‘The Little Monster’, iMessage 2nd July, Two Days On, 6:22am.**

RUSTY: Morning sleepy head!

DAVID: Hey Babe.

RUSTY: I'm getting very excited.

DAVID: ETA?

RUSTY: I guess around 3:00pm.

I’m aching to see you.

You’re not scared

that I'm so ‘into being into you’?

DAVID: The attention is disconcerting.

RUSTY: But -you are so easy to think about!

**Fuck Folks!**

**David can’t seem to take a compliment.**

**Talk about insecure.**

DAVID: I'm unapproachable

aloof and at times patronizing.

Or simply so obtuse as to annoy the shit out of people.

I was on a date once and he said it was like a therapy session!

RUSTY: Why was that?

DAVID: I asked too many questions

to see if his life experience

was anything like mine.

RUSTY: That’s what I’m drawn to.

DAVID: That’s me - desperate to crawl under someone else’s skin to see how they tick.

(to audience) **Wait! WTF? Did Rusty just say I was insecure?**

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

RUSTY: So, one of those YouTube clips you sent intentionally?

DAVID: Yeh – there’s something about INFJs that I don't like to talk about.

RUSTY: Happy to listen. All ears and teeth.

DAVID: INFJ’s have a low river of rage below the surface.

Or maybe just David does.

It can erupt over issues like incomprehensible UNfairness.

Not just to me but to anyone.

- it’s like a horrid ID

a big baby who squeals for a moment.

As a baby I was always

unhappy,

angry,

prone to tantrums.

It was like *being* a baby

was a total fucking inconvenience.

My Grandfather nicknamed me

‘The Little Monster’- ‘he’s such a show-off!’

- these days if I ever get enraged

 I'm so deeply ashamed of it.

When my veneer of civility is shattered

my rage kind of fucking frightens me.

RUSTY: Ooooookay.

DAVID: Did you have sex with men before you were married? Did your wife know?

RUSTY: (to audience) **Fuck.**

**Questions that cut to the quick.**

I don’t know what she knew or didn’t know.

DAVID: Oh sorry. I see.

RUSTY: This is why I can't stand deception.

I don't want to be that person again.

Sound familiar?

DAVID: I’m sorry. (pause) Do you know the story of the Spartan boy who caught a fox?

RUSTY: No! I don’t know ‘the story’

(to audience) **David’s going to get patronizing - again.**

**Can you feel it?**

**I can.**

DAVID: The boy lived in a Spartan dormitory

with many other boys.

One night he went out to hunt - because Spartan boys were not fed

they had to fend for themselves.

He returned to camp

having captured and stunned a fox.

He was going to skin it and eat it

but he was hauled up by a bigger boy

who policed the dormitories

who asked

“What do’ya have under your cloak?”

It was at this point that the fox awoke, but instead of giving up the fox,

which was they boy only food –

the boy lied

and said,

“I’ve nothing under my cloak”.

RUSTY: OooooKay.

DAVID: But at that very moment

the fox started to gnaw on the boy’s innards

 - as the lie ate him from the inside out.

RUSTY: (clapping) Profound.

DAVID: Plutarch, actually.

RUSTY: **What a fucking show-off he is.**

**Supercilious too.**

And yes, perhaps that's what occurs to gay married men over time

and why they come out later in life.

Better alive, than eaten alive.

Yes?

DAVID: Yes.

**----------------------------------------------------------(Swivel)-----------------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: (to audience) **Chapter Eight: ‘Pause for Affect’, iMessage 3rd July, The Next Day 12:06pm.**

What type of milk

– I use oat but I can easily get more of any other.

RUSTY: What’s the milk for?

DAVID: Anything, coffee, cereal.

RUSTY: It’s fine.

DAVID: I’ll have the driveway gate open for you.

RUSTY: Darling I’m leaving now.

DAVID: OK. Now it’s a long drive. Drive safe.

RUSTY: Kissy, kissy, kissy!

**---------------------------------------------------------(Swivel)------------------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: (to audience) **3:15pm the same day and we are live.**

**At this point he arrives at my place in REDACTED REGIONAL CITY.**

**We have sex for the second time.**

**You know that thing where ‘Tops’ says**

**that they really are ‘Tops’.**

**Then they say they’re ‘Top-Vers’.**

**Then they say “Gen Vers’.**

**Then they end up, (like most of us), desperate fucking ‘Bottoms’.**

**Well in the middle of that desperation he turns (back to me) and says,**

RUSTY: ‘I love you.’

DAVID: (to audience) **Pause for Affect.**

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: (to audience) **iMessage 4th July, “The day after the second deed”. 5:25pm**

RUSTY: I just got home.

DAVID: Pleased you got home safe.

(to audience) **iMessage 7:43pm**

RUSTY: Hey.

I had a really nice stay.

Thank you.

DAVID: Lovley spending time together.

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: (to audience) **iMessage 5th July, 7:07am.**

RUSTY: Moring hun!

DAVID: Hey babe

I can’t believe it has taken me this long to get to work

RUSTY: Traffic in REDACTED REGIONAL CITY really bad, huh?

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: (to audience) **iMessage that night 10:30pm**

RUSTY: I’m heading to bed.

Night.

I’m trying to psych myself up to sleeping.

Did you take a bath?

Nap?

Eat dinner?

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **Silence**

Night babe.

Sleep well.

RUSTY: You too!

Did it take all that time to come down

from the Rusty ENFJ experience, babe?

REAL DAVID: (to audience) **Silence**

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

DAVID: (to audience) **iMessage later that night 11:06pm**

Gracious that was an extremely long day.

RUSTY: Yes. You are having a busy one.

But need to get your rest too.

I’m watch ‘Transformers’.

Like a big Man/Boy.

I wanted to say,

I appreciate the foot and head massage.

Very generous of you.

**-(up and slow swivel) -------------------------------------------- LX 3 Down main state keep special**

REAL DAVID: (to audience)

**Ostensibly, here is the end of all the iMessages.**

**All but two remain.**

**What can I say?**

**For one thing,**

**I didn't know until messaging Rusty,**

**that there was a direct line between being raped**

**and my burgeoning meth addiction.**

**In some bizarre way**

**for many years,**

**I was involved in what could only be called**

**‘a slow-motion car crash’.**

**It’s been a long drive home.**

**People are very different**

**and regardless**

**of my ‘so called’ rare Myers-Briggs**

**I know**

**I am the villain of this piece.**

**Don't be fooled by my vulnerability**

**and the intimacy of my self-disclosures.**

**It’s theatre.**

**It's all just fucking smoking mirrors.**

**It's all just the Little Monster ‘showing off’.**

**Surely**

**there must there be some learning here.**

**Something**

**that makes me ‘a better version of myself’.**

**I know shame is the theme.(Ding)**

**Believe me I can feel shame.**

**I just think shame is a wasted fucking emotion.**

**Is that a Red Flag?**

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

REAL DAVID: (to audience)

**I Message 7th July, 7:00pm**

**Exactly three weeks from my first message.**

Rusty -

I’d like NOT to continue seeing you.

I don’t want to waste your time.

I have sincerely enjoyed our chats.

You are a lovely man, who’s very sweet and kind.

I’m wishing you all the best heart.

David.

(to audience) **Pause for Affect.**

RUSTY: All good. (shut laptop)

**--------------------------------------------- LX 4 DBO**

**------------------------------------ FX 2 Vision DBO**

**---------------------------- SFX 9 Post show Music Go**

**--------------------------------------------- LX 5 Bow state**

**------------------------------------ FX 3 Vision up again**

**Bow**

**Exit**

**--------------------------------------------- LX 5 Bow state down Resume preshow state**