

# Blood Pressure

by Mark Rogers



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# Notes

## Characters:

ADAM

MICHAEL

## Of The Text:

/ indicates point of interruption

// indicates a simultaneous thought spoken at the same time

capitals don't always mean louder

... indicates something communicated non-verbally

# Blood Pressure

## SCENE 1.

*A hotel bathroom.*

*ADAM vomits into a toilet, MICHAEL waits outside the door. Knock, knock.*

- wait
- I am
- I know just
- been waiting for
- just
- you know I've
- hang on
- ok sure
- christ
- sure
- hanging on
- I'm ok
- just needed to
- ok
- you ok?

- in a bit I reckon
- how soon then?
- a bit
- sorry
- just
- /do you have to wait outside while I'm
- are you sure you're
- yeah
- should be fine
- in a bit
- ok good
- just because I've got to get there early
- yes
- to warm up and
- yes
- just so I can be properly ready since
- I haven't been able to for ages
- and otherwise
- sure
- jesus
- do some scales, go over everything, all this stuff  
takes //time

- //time  
I know  
sorry
- it's ok  
just that  
first time back and  
I want to be properly ready  
/and I still have to shave
- be out soon I reckon  
getting my breath back
- no problem  
wait  
you're  
I thought you were
- what
- shitting
- yeah?
- like a big shit or
- no
- what are you  
you're  
are you ok in there  
what're you?

- just getting my breath back so we can go
- good since we probably should actually  
I'm all jittery  
I'm an awful person when I'm late for things  
my body goes all  
not that we are late  
yet  
but if we were, shit man  
I'm awful
- no arguments here
- you'd know
- you won't be late  
just //getting my breath back
- //getting your breath back
- yeah //sorry
- //sorry  
ok  
getting your breath back like why?  
like  
what  
seriously though  
are you ok in there?
- just wait a sec

*He vomits again.*

- jesus  
      shit hah  
      let me in  
      I thought  
      sorry  
      I thought you  
      you haven't been drinking or
- wait
- can you get to the door
- JUST WAIT PLEASE  
      I'm getting my breath back  
      had to get that out  
      not drinking  
      something was  
      anyway  
      sorry
- yeah
- feeling better I think  
      be ready to go soon
- yep  
      that sounded seriously gross



I can get you something if

water?

— hang on

*He crawls over to the door with some difficulty.*

— I'll get you some water

— hang on

*He reaches to the knob and flicks the lock, pushes open the door, there is no one behind it.*

*Pause.*

fuck's sake

— coming

*[he enters]*

here

I couldn't find the glasses

so this is

no idea where they

so this is from the fridge

we'll probably have to pay ten bucks for it

but it's cold so

and they have this ice machine but

no glasses

so here

here

- ta
- better?
- mm
- I think yeah
- ok
- good because that sounded awful
- made me sick even to
- listen
- are you going to be right to come with me?
- yeah I reckon
- did you eat something sketchy?
- I don't know
- train food
- just a veggie pastry
- they're filthy
- had them heaps of times
- the train kitchen just keeps them in a warming cupboard thing
- coulda been there for ages
- stagnating
- nah
- they change them around
- and they're reheated from frozen anyway

- had them heaps of times
- still  
probably was that  
how're you feeling
- bit fragile  
/I reckon I'll be fine though
- should drink that water  
dehydrates you  
chucking up
- yeah thanks  
tastes fucked
- vomit taste
- just bile  
drinking bile
- good for you though  
good after a spew
- yeah but
- just power through it
- sure  
sorry
- s'ok  
just get it down

- clean my teeth first maybe  
can't drink it when my mouth is all  
like fur
- vomity beard tongue
- you shaving?
- shit, yeah, cheers

*ADAM cleaning his teeth. MICHAEL shaving.*

- what do you want for dinner  
/cos if we leave now we can grab something beforehand
- not such a good time to ask  
dunno
- /heaps of places near
- just something small  
dry toast or
- could get Indian
- yeah rice maybe
- heaps of Vietnamese places
- not really fussed
- we'll find something  
should have time hopefully  
I'll need to eat beforehand to settle my stomach
- you nervous?

- nah  
yeah heaps but  
confident  
nerves are normal
- been a while
- like riding a bike
- not really
- no
- not at all really
- yeah  
it's harder to sight read now  
my hands feel brittle  
like they'll snap off, not enough strength in them  
gotta warm them up for ages  
haven't played this many scales since  
years
- nerves are normal  
you'll be fine
- yeah yeah yeah
- don't worry about it  
seriously  
it's not like riding a bike but

it's quite boring like riding a bike

— get fucked

— are the seats comfy at the concert hall

could catch a snooze

— riding a bike isn't fucking boring and neither am I

going to sit down at the stool

bash out my piece

strong hands

blow minds

— good then

— yeah thanks yeah it'll be fine

*ADAM spits and rinses. MICHAEL finishes and towels his face.*

— what time do you

— soon

now

pretty much

if we wanna eat

but

— right

you're not dressed

— don't want to get sweaty

do it last minute

- jesus christ  
what're you gonna wear?
- black  
all black  
or  
dunno  
two secs

*MICHAEL rushes out of the bathroom and comes back in wearing suit pants. He is holding a suit jacket over his arm and two shirts still on their hangers up to his chest, getting dressed as they talk.*

- see I've got a different shirt to wear
- all black is cool
- I know  
but I have to see how I feel
- the suit?
- no doubt a suit  
that's standard  
everyone will be in suits  
just thinking about the shirt
- tie?
- no tie
- yeah  
wouldn't dream of a wearing a tie

- few buttons undone at the top of the shirt  
way trashy  
but still in the suit so  
classy trashy  
all these other people wearing ties
- looking like chumps
- looking like rich important benefactor patron people look
- like complete chumps
- they look like chumps but they're still important people  
important people for me
- I'm humouring you
- yeah I'm enjoying it

*Beat.*

*MICHAEL is dressed.*

- you look stupid with the buttons undone
- you'd look stupid  
I look trashy  
big difference  
people like looking down their noses at genius
- yeah ok  
sure
- believe it  
you ready?