

BEIN' CRAZY

By Marc Bagwell

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CAST: *one male*

(The setting is a mental ward. A wheel chair is off to the right; someone comatose is sitting in it. A stand and med tray just off to the left, rows of little white serving cups filled with doses of medicine sitting on top. A real depressing place. TED is dressed in a robe and sitting in a wheel chair. HE comes from off stage and rolls his chair to center stage. Just when we start to think, "Ah, poor guy, can't walk," HE jumps out of the chair and lands on two perfectly good feet.)

TED

(Mad as a hatter; can't stand still for more than two seconds; his hands are always doing something; his speech is like his mind, always jumping from one point to another without any possible connection between)

Hey, what're you in here for? **(pause)** What's that? **(pause)** Don't wanna say, huh? Well don't worry about it. I mean, if you ain't crazy now, you WILL BE by the time you leave this place! **(pause)** What's that? **(pause)** You're just in here on a seven-day evaluation? **(laughs; turns in a complete circle for no reason)** Me too! **(pause)** Ah, I can see you're a skeptic. Everyone is when they come in, but they ain't by the time they leave! I know, because I been in here two years myself. First thing you gotta learn is, don't nobody leave until Doc says so! **(suddenly looks concerned)** Hey, you don't look so good.

(Looks intently at us as if searching for some answer to a question that only HE knows; then HE says)

Hey, they give you a little green pill with a white...***(HE twirls his finger in a circle)*** stripe? Or a white pill with a green...***(twirls his finger the opposite direction)*** stripe? ***(pause)*** I only ask because you look like they give you one of them white pills with the green... ***(twirls his finger)*** stripe. Never, EVER, take a... ***(twirls his finger)*** white pill with a green stripe. Make you feel like that every time! ***(pause)*** Now take it from me, what you want is one of them blue pills. Make all your troubles go away. Make the headaches go away, too.

(TED suddenly turns to his left like someone's calling him. Someone is. It's NURSE MCGREGGOR. TED lowers his head, real humble...almost what you could call brow beat)

(to MCGREGGOR) Yes, Nurse McGreggor. ***(at first HE nods his head, then shakes it.)*** No, no Ma'am. I'm...I'm not bothering him. Honest.

(Puts his arm around our imaginary characters.)

(to MCGREGGOR) I'm just showing Ted here, around. ***(MCGREGGOR leaves and HE takes his arm away)*** What, your name isn't Ted? That's okay. I – I figure...you can use my name until you have one of your own. Okay? ***(pause)*** Great.

(Holds his hand up to his mouth so HE can whisper without MCGREGGOR hearing it)

Whatever you do, don't make McGreggor mad. If you do, she'll give you a brown pill with...***(twirls his finger)*** no stripe. ***(normal)***

voice) And you don't want one of them. Trust me. **(motions toward the comatose guy in the wheel chair)** Or else you'll be like ole Willy there.

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