

THE LAST JOKE

Written by

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Based on a true story

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FADE IN:

INT. THE NEIGHBORHOOD BAR - DAY

We open in a cozy neighborhood bar where Jim, the affable bartender, holds court over his five o'clock after-work regulars. They include: Hughie, Paulie, Doris, Scotty and Tom. They are all laughing and chatting, the camaraderie obvious.

Jim, known for his love of practical jokes, picks up a remote control from behind the bar. Suddenly, he activates it, sending a life-like mechanical rat scurrying across the floor. The regulars jump in surprise, then burst into laughter.

A minute later as the excitement wears off--

HUGHIE

Okay, Jim, where's our reward?

Jim pours a shot glass full of fine liqueur for each regular, as is his custom, for them being such good sports about his never-ending pranks and to cement their bond.

Together, they all raise their glasses toward Jim.

THE REGULARS (IN UNISON)

To Jim, the king of the jokers.

EXT. THE NEIGHBORHOOD BAR - DAY (3 DAYS LATER)

The regulars gather at the bar, this time outside, speaking softly. The mood is somber. They have learned the shocking news that Jim has passed away.

Amidst shared grief, they make a pact to attend Jim's wake together, a testament to their enduring friendship.

INT. FUNERAL HOME- DAY (4 DAYS LATER)

The regulars cluster solemnly in front of Jim's casket, paying their respects. Two kneel in front on the knee bench, the others stand close behind. They all murmur thoughts and prayers. Suddenly, a loud, wet fart emits from Jim's casket. The regulars are stunned. After a long minute, their confusion turns to awareness as they see Jim's three twenty-something children peeking around a corner at them and struggling to control their laughter.

One of the kids holds a remote control. With each press of a button, another loud, juicy fart blows from Jim's casket.

The kids walk up to the regulars, and between belly laughs, explain that Jim left instructions in his will for this hilarious farewell prank. One of the kids produces a paper bag and removes small nip bottles of whiskey and hands one to each of the regulars.

The regulars all raise their tiny bottles in a toast to Jim.

THE REGULARS (IN UNISON)

To Jim, the king of the jokers and
our friend.

They down their drinks and place the empty bottles in the casket with Jim.

FADE OUT

THE END