



*Early A.M. Thursday morning and Steve had wandered out to the mailbox to get the mail and as Steve shuffled through it he noticed the usual smatterings of bills, ads, a letter addressed to occupant and various magazines but then he saw something new. An envelope. Tan in color and the texture of the paper suggested that no expense was spared and as Steve turned it over and saw the return address his eyes widen. Steve stared at it a little longer then he closed the lid to the mailbox and walked back to the house.*

*Steve walked through the living room and back into the kitchen where Robin was pouring two cups of coffee. Steve sat the mail on the counter as Robin handed Steve a cup of coffee and as Robin picked up a magazine and as she watched Steve looking at the envelope.*

*"Looks like the usual stuff." Robin says.*

*"Yeah except for this."*

*Steve said as he held up the envelope up to the light trying to look through it but the envelope was too thick. Robin laughed as she watched Steve turning it this way and that.*

*"Why don't you just open it Steve?"*

*"Oh I already know who sent it. I recognize the address."*

*Steve said as he looked at her and tossed it back onto the counter.*

*"Neal?" Robin asked.*

*"Oh no! It's much worse than that!!"*

*Steve replied as he took a sip of his coffee and looked over the rim of his cup at her.*

*"Oh!" Robin says.*

*"Uh huh!" Steve says back to her.*

*"Well, I have to go. Aren't you going to meet your friends? If you don't go soon you will be late!"*

*Robin says as he looks at her watch and at the same time grabs her briefcase.*

*"Yeah I will be going soon. You have a good day and I'll see you later."*

*Steve says as she walks by and Steve grabs her into a hug and kisses her.*

*"You too and don't let 'that' bother you!"*

*Robin says as she nods in the direction of the invitation on the counter.*

*"Me? No way!"*

*"Uh huh."*

*Robin says as she kisses him and heads towards the living room. Steve waves at her and when he hears the door shut he rests his elbow on the counter and puts his chin in his hand and picks up the envelope and stares at it. Oh yes he knew exactly who it was from but the now the question was why? He has never seen the returned address in years but he still remembered it just like it was yesterday and he also vaguely wondered if the others had gotten one of these.*

*Steve looked up from the envelope to the clock and took a deep breath. He needed to go or he was going to be late. Best leave this for later and it will certainly be here when he returns Steve thought as he tossed it back down onto the counter where it landed with an expensive slap. Steve picked up his car keys and headed out.*

*After breakfast with his friends and some other errands and meetings he had to do he didn't get home until about 1 in the afternoon and soon after returning home he called Robin to see how her day was going and if she was going to be late and what she had planned for dinner. They talked for ten or fifteen minutes and then Steve wandered into the kitchen and to the refrigerator.*

*Steve took his bottled water and that envelope into his office. Steve found the letter opener and he quickly opened the letter. Inside the envelope was a neatly folded invitation and another envelope. Steve opened the invitation and read it.*

**"HEAR YE HEAR YE HEAR YE HEAR YE"**

**"COME ONE! COME ALL!"**

**"YOU! STEPHEN RAY PERRY! ARE CORDIALLY**

**INVITED TO ATTEND A THANKSGIVING DAY JOURNEY!"**

**"NOVEMBER 22, 2001" "AT NOON SHARP"**

**"AT THE HOME OF H. HERBERT"**

**"WE WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS!"**

**"ONE GUEST ALLOWED"**

**"TUX TAILS OPTIONAL"**

**"LEAVE YOUR EGO AT THE DOOR!"**

**"RSVP"**

*Steve had to read it over a couple of times just to make sense of it. Steve was almost always glad that he was blessed with near perfect eyesight but right now was not one of those times. A 'Journey Thanksgiving' well then that certainly meant that Neal and the other guys got invites as well.*

*Did he want to go? He wasn't sure. He needed a day or so to think on it. It said he could bring a guest. Maybe Robin would want to go but then again did he want to subject her to the certain craziness that would probably ensue. If the truth be known, he could not honestly see himself sitting across the table from Herbie. Oh no way and no how. Even when they were on speaking terms he really couldn't stand to sit across the table from Herbie.*

*There had to be only one explanation for this. Herbie had taken that short walk off a long pier, the lights were on but nobody was home and he was one sandwich shy of a picnic! Steve's personal favorite. The man had thrown so many tantrums that he finally worked that last screw loose! Actually, there were a few people he would not mind to see again, Steve Smith being one of them. Neal, Jon and Ross well they weren't too kind after the second version of that BTM episode aired.*

*This reminded Steve of an old movie where this crazy, rich guy invited all of his old friends up to his mansion and they were never heard from again. Yeah most definitely Steve would have to think on this and talk to Robin when she came home tonight. Get her down to earth spin on this. She was always the leveled head one, with her logical approach to everything.*

*"Steve! You must be out of your cotton picking mind?!"*

*Robin said to a surprised Steve that night after she read the invitation.*

*"Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye? What kind of crap is that?"*

*Robin continued on as Steve covered his face with his hands.*

***"It says I can bring a guest."***

***Steve says as he points to the invitation.***

***"Oh no!" Robin says as she backs up waving her hands back and forth and Steve goes up to her and acts like that he is praying.***

***"Please! Please! Go with me! I can't be the only guy there without a girl! I have a reputation to uphold and they will talk badly about me! You know that bad rumor that's been going around lately!"***

***Steve says as he rolls his eyes and Robin laughs.***

***"Alright! You talked me into it. I can't believe that you want to go to this!" Robin says.***

***"Ah why not? For one thing, it won't be boring, and it might be interesting to see who shows!"***

***Steve says as he pulls Robin into a hug.***

***"But on to more important matters! What's for dinner?" Steve asked.***

***"Well how about turkey?!"***

***Robin says as she laughs and Steve makes a face. "You're a cruel woman!"***

***Steve says as he kisses her.***

***The next morning Steve mailed the RSVP for himself and Robin and now all they had to do was wait for the rest of the month to pass.***

***Early on the morning of November 22, Steve and Robin start the drive to Herbie's house. It was a good drive from where Steve lived so they decided to leave early and take their time and stop for coffee and breakfast.***

***By 11:30 they pulled up into the winding drive of Herbie's house where they were immediately stopped at the gate by a uniformed security officer who wanted to see their invitations and Steve handed both of them over and the security officer consulted a clipboard with a sheet of paper on it.***

***"Steve? Steve Augeri?"***

***The security officer asked as Steve looked at Robin.***

***"No! Perry! Steve Perry! The original as opposed to the extra crispy!!"***

***Steve replied back and not too softly and as Robin laughed in the seat next to him.***

***"Oh yeah right! Go ahead you may enter."***

***The guard said as he pushed a button and the gates swung open and Steve drove through. Once inside they drove further up the drive to where there was valet parking.***

***"Valet parking?"***

***Steve couldn't believe the lengths Herbie was going to for this Thanksgiving Day. The valet gave Steve a ticket and Steve handed the keys over to him. There looked like there was quite a crowd by all the cars lined up already at the side of the house. Steve took Robin by the hand as they walked up the sidewalk to the front door and before they got halfway to the door Steve stopped and raised his hand for silence.***

***"Robin! Do you hear that?"***

***"Yeah I do actually! What is that?"***

*Steve looked around and then he looked back at Robin.*

*"Turkeys! That sounds like turkeys!"*

*At that moment, from around the corner of the house, turkeys came into view. A lot of turkeys and all of them were gobbling.*

*"Arrggghhh!"*

*Steve said as he covered his ears and they both walked quickly to the front door and Steve rang the bell and Steve heard the familiar strains of "Wheel In The Sky" start and the maid who soon opened the door was dressed in an Indian costume, complete with feathers and moccasins and they were showed into the living room. Steve takes Robin by the arm and whispers in her ear.*

*"Was she wearing an Indian..?"*

*"Yes she was." Robin says.*

*"Good! For a minute there I thought I was hallucinating."*

*"Oh Sherrie!"*

*Steve heard Ross yell mostly because Robin looked a little something like Sherrie and mostly to get Steve's goat. That is if Steve had a goat to get. Robin turned and looked at Steve and Steve looked back at her and shrugged his shoulders.*

*"No Ross! This is Robin!"*

*"Cool! As in Batman and..?"*

*They heard Jon yell from the kitchen and they all turned to look in that direction. Steve heaved a deep sigh and then he made the introductions. The maid walked through the room carrying a tray of drinks and he and Robin picked a couple. Herbie's house was huge and full of people and the music was coming from every direction it seemed. Across the room Steve saw Neal and Amber by the fireplace, Steve Smith sitting in a chair talking to Ansley Dunbar who was sitting in the chair next to him. Neal turned and saw Steve. Neal took Amber by the elbow and they walked over to Steve and Robin.*

*"Hey Steve! Happy Thanksgiving Man!"*

*Neal said as he shook Steve's hand and then they both laughed and shrugged and they both gave each other a quickie hug.*

*"Amber this is Steve."*

*Amber extended her hand and Steve shook it and then Amber looked at Steve.*

*"Steve? Steve Augeri! I just loved Arrival!"*

*Neal covered his eyes and laughed, as did Robin as Steve glared at Amber.*

*"No! Not Augeri! Perry! I am the original! Not the impostor!"*

*"Hey! Watch it! I heard that!"*

*They heard Steve Augeri yelled from the dining room and this Steve tried his best to ignore him.*

*"Neal. Amber, this is Robin."*

*Steve said as Robin shook their hands and Neal leaned into Steve and said.*

*"Robin? I thought Robin was a guy!"*



***"WWWHHHHHAAAAATTTTTTT!"***

***Steve yelled back to him and Robin and Amber were flabbergasted and if you ever had your flabbergasted then you know how they felt.***

***"Man! How do you do that?" The other Steve said.***

***"Do wwwhhhhhaaaatttt?" Our Steve said.***

***"Take a two syllable word and stretch it into six!" Steve A. said.***

***Our Steve tried his best to ignore the other Steve as he looked at Neal with a look of righteous indignation.***

***"Why in the world would you think that Robin was a guy?"***

***"Well you know those bad rumors that have been going around lately." Neal says.***

***"I would watch it if I were you Neal! They were saying that I had the hots for you!"***

***"Oh!" Neal said.***

***"When do I get my new Barbie?" Amber asked.***

***"Later Amber later." Neal said.***

***At that moment a bell rung and then Herbie came into the living room and it wasn't how he came into the living room it was what he was dressed in, a pilgrim's costume. Everybody was stunned and no one spoke or said anything until Steve started to laugh.***

***"Herbie! I had no idea this was a costume party!"***

***Because Herbie had that costume down to a science, right down to the shoes with the big buckles on his feet. Herbie stood in the living room with his hands on his hips as Steve continued to laugh.***

***"What is %&(\*&#\$\$@ wrong with this! It's to celebrate #%^%@!\* Thanksgiving! By the way find your \$%^#@!\$ places for lunch!"***

***As everybody filed passed Herbie they all looked. Steve was the last one to walk passed and as he did he pointed to Herbie's shoes.***

***"Herbie, I know that you haven't seen your feet in twenty years, so this isn't really your fault!"***

***"Steve Perry! You have been coming in and out of my live since the beginning of time!"***

***"Your shoes are on the wrong feet!!"***

***Steve says as he walks by and laughs and Herbie lifts his feet and tries to see them but he can't so he just shrugs and goes into the dining room. The table was a huge rectangle with a cornucopia as a centerpiece. Everybody wandered about the table looking for their seats and Neal found his right away, right next to Herbie and Amber was sitting next to Neal. Neal sat his drink down and picked up his place card, which was shaped like a guitar, and he looked at it.***

***"Hey Herbie! What's up with this! You spelled my frigging name wrong! I thought I was family!"***

***Neal exclaimed as he looked at the card and his first name was spelled Neil not Neal.***

***"You are like #\$\$^&\*#@ family! I don't spell their names right either!"***

***Herbie says as he laughs and Neal makes a face and he and Amber sit down.***

***As the three Steves mill around at the other end of the table, Robert Fleischman, comes into the dining room and he walks over to Steve. Steve is amazed that Robert is here. Robert and Steve shake hands.***

***"Hey Robert! Long time no see!"***

***"I really enjoyed your Greatest Hits plus Five! Awesome"***

***Robert says as Steve laughs and says.***

***"Don't try and butter me up! Get it! Butter! Fleischman! Ha Ha!"***

***"I thought that was margarine!"***

***Ross says as Steve and Robert turn and look at him. Robert shakes his head as he finds his place next to Amber. In the meantime, Robin found her place on the other side of the table and Steve finds his on the opposite side of the table. Next to Steve is Steve Augeri and next to Steve A. is Smitty.***

***Smitty's place card is shaped like a pair of drumsticks, the kind you used to play the drums with and not the kind you eat. Instead of their first names on their place cards the three Steves only had their last names on them. Smitty picked his up and looked at the other two.***

***"Hey! If you put all of these together they spell SAP!"***

***At that moment Steve A. and Steve P. picked their name cards up and looked at them. The two Steves place cards were shaped like microphones.***

***"Hey Smitty! You know your right! SAP!" Steve P. said.***

***Then Steve A. looked over at Steve P. place card and then he looked back at his. Then he snatched Steve P. from his hand and held them up next to each other to compare them.***

**"Hey!"**

**Steve A. yelled loud enough to stop a small group of people, which he did, because everybody stopped and looked at him, Steve P. included.**

**"That's not fair! Perry's microphone is bigger than mine!"**

**Ross snorted as he said to Neal.**

**"Microphone envy! I thought he was in therapy for that?"**

**Steve P. laughed as he took his place card back and sat down. When everyone was in their places they all noticed that there were three empty places, one, where Jon should be sitting and an empty spot at the end of the table. When everybody was reasonably situated Herbie rang a bell and the kitchen door open and the parade of food began. First, was a huge turkey on a silver platter with the little paper things on the end of the drumsticks which was sat in the middle of the table and then followed a green bean casserole, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, rolls, a Jell-O mold with little marshmallows suspended in it, cranberry sauce, a ham, and a few vegetarian items. A few minutes later the doorbell rang and then Deen ran into the dining room and he ran immediately over to Herbie. Herbie lifted his hand with a ring on it and Deen bowed and kissed his ring.**

**"Oh brother!" Steve P. said.**

**"I am so sorry for being late. I was getting my roots touched up."**

**Deen says as he touched his recently blonde dyed hair and then he found his seat on the opposite side of Neal. A few minutes later the kitchen door once again opened and Jon appeared carrying a smaller silver tray with something that resembled a small hen. Jon walked over to Steve P. and sat it down in front of him and Steve looked from the tray over to Jon and then Steve burst out laughing.**

**"Baaaaa haaaaaa!"**

**"Hey! What's up with that?"**

*Jon asked as he held his arms out to the side. Jon was wearing a long white apron that went down to his knees that had a lot of ruffles around it and a chef's hat. Steve was laughing so hard he could barely see straight.*

*"Look! If it isn't Betty Crocker!" Steve said.*

*"I have been helping in the kitchen!"*

*"What in the world is that?"*

*Steve points to the bird like thing that was sitting in front of him.*

*"Well I know that you're a vegetarian and you don't like turkey, so I made you a Tofu Turkey! It looks like a turkey but it is made out of Tofu!"*

*Steve looks at Jon and then looks back at the fake turkey.*

*"A Tofu Turkey?"*

*"What? Don't you like it? It took me all last night just to get the right shape!"*

*"No, I didn't say that I didn't like it. You are very good at what you do but.."*

*"Well, this is just too heavy! I slave all night and day, mind you, over a hot stove, just to make you something I thought that you would like! But no, Mr. Picky here doesn't like it because it's a fake turkey!"*

*Jon says as he takes his chef's hat off and stomps on it.*

***"It's a bird formerly known as a Turkey!"***

***Ross says as he adds his two cents.***

***"I worked my fingers to the bone! To the bone! And for what! I worked all day to make a turkey!"***

***"Yeah Perry, nobody needs your kind of attitude!" Neal says.***

***"Yeah Steve, your sharp tongue cuts him like a razor!" Ross says.***

***"Hey! No sassy back talk! I don't need sassy back talk!"***

***Steve P. says as he points at Neal and Ross.***

***"Yeah! Lip service gets you nowhere!"***

***Robin suddenly yells at Neal and Ross and Steve look at her from across the table.***

***"No appreciation! Zero love! Do you know how hard it is to find a turkey mold? I had to make all the phone calls! Up to my elbows in Tofu!"***

***Jon continues to rant and rave.***

***"Jon! Jon man calm down! You sound like Amber!"***

***Neal says as Amber slaps him across the arm.***

***"Jon! You and #\$\$%^\$@ Perry stop playing! Sit down \$#%^&\$ damn it! It's time for the blessing!"***

*Herbie yells from his place at the head of the table and Jon takes his seat.*

*"We will go around the table and each of us will say what we are thankful for! Got it! Okay guys! Let's go out there and have a good show!"*

*The three Steves, Neal, Ross and Jon and anybody else that was ever in Journey look at Herbie.*

*"What in the blue blazes are you all looking at? I am thankful that I can fit into this %^\$#@#\$%^ pilgrim outfit! I have been trying for #%^&\*\$#@ three months to lose weight!"*

*Then Herbie points to Neal and Neal says,*

*"I am thankful for Steve.."*

*As Neal pauses Steve P. chimes in and says,*

*"Uh hello! There are three of us here! Which one are you thankful for?"*

*Neal leans back in his chair and crosses his arms over his chest and Neal is playing the room for all it's worth. People's forks are in mid-air with their mouths open and this is a very pregnant pause.*

*"Neal! The fake turkey is melting! Say something!" Ross says.*

*Neal looks across and down the table as he strokes his chin. He is looking at the three Steves. And every one of them is squirming in their seats.*

*"I am thankful for Smitty, because he is an awesome drummer! I am thankful for Mr. Augeri, because he is the best current front man and if I have to be thankful for something where you are concerned Perry, I am thankful that it is Robin who is sharing your 'motor coach' and not Sherrie!"*

*Steve P. rises slightly of his chair and points at Neal.*

***"What was wrong with Sherrie?!"***

***"Well, she should have been gone! Knowing how she made us feel!" Neal says.***

***"Yeah, after all your words of steel!"***

***Jon says as he points his fork at Steve.***

***"Uh hello! Steve, remember the gag order! I have the editorial control here!" As Robin chimes in.***

***Amber, who is young and clueless and in was diapers when all this mayhem occurred, quickly shoves her chair back and stands up with righteous indignation, but what Amber didn't realized when she tucked her napkin in to the waistband of her jeans she also inadvertently tucked part of the tablecloth in as well.***

***"Wait one gosh darn minute! When I was younger..."***

***Amber doesn't finish because Herbie says, "I haven't seen my \$%^&\$#@ feet and that's more years than you have been around!"***

***At that moment Jon raises the tablecloth and peers under the table at Herbie's feet and Jon says,***

***"I think you have very nice shoes Herbie, but I think that they are on the wrong feet!"***

***Herbie rolls his eyes and Steve P. in a very sarcastic tone says,***

***"What's a matter Herbie are you F.O.B.?"***



*Amber, still standing, kicks her chair out of the way as she stamps her feet and pounds on the table with her fist and as the dishes rattle she says,*

*"F.O.B, S.O.B, B.T.M., R.O.R., T.B.F, J.R.N.Y, F.T.L.O.S.M.! Who cares! What does F.O.B. mean anyway?"*

*Amber, by now is livid, five shades of red and she turns quickly to walk off and as she does so she pulls the tablecloth with her and everybody's plates begin to go south.*

*At that moment Jon stands up and points to Amber as he says,*

*"Wait! Teena! Uh, no, Nina, no, uh, damn, uh, Sally? No! Karen? Uh, no, wait a minute! Damn! Oh just forget it! You there! Hey! The present Mrs. Schon! Woohoo! Hey!"*

*By this time Neal, has had enough of Jon's stammering and putting his foot in his mouth, so he stands up and picks up a dinner roll and throws it at him as he says,*

*"Her name is Amber!!"*

*"Leave Jon alone! It's not his fault that you have had more wives than we have been nominated for Grammys!" Steve P. says.*

*Amber hesitates for a minute and she looks at Jon who is waving his arms frantically back and forth trying to remind her name.*

*"Amber! Stop! Come back!" Neal says.*

*"No Neal! Red means stop! Green means go and Amber means use caution!"*

*Steve P. says as he laughs and then Amber replies back to Steve. "Use caution? Isn't that like using a condom?"*

*Everybody is stunned and Neal shakes his head back and forth.*

*"Neal! You were thankful for those guys and not for me! That's not nice! I thought we were family! When we get back home I am packing up my Barbie's dream house and going home to mother!"*

*Right then and there Steve P. slams his hand down on the table to try and stop the slow progresses of the tablecloth and his hand, instead of landing on just the tablecloth, lands square on a spoon. The spoon flies through the air, and it couldn't have been directed better because it hits Neal smack dab in the back of the head. Neal grabs the back of his head as he turns and glares at Jon. Everyone at the table is on their feet and they watch in stunned silence as Neal picks up the Jell-O mold and Neal throws it at Jon. Jon watches as the Jell-O makes contact with his chest and it slides to the floor where it lands with a plop sound.*

*"Hey! You barbarians! Watch out for the %\$#@#\$ rug!"*

*As Herbie yelled Ross noticed a flash of gold in Herbie's mouth.*

*"Herbie! What's up with the gold tooth?"*

*Herbie put his finger up to his tooth.*

*"Oh this! I had the ^%\$#@ Escape Gold album melted down!"*

*"You melted down the Escape album and made a good tooth out of it!"*

*They all yelled back at him. "Yeah! I wanted to put my \$%^&^\$ money where my mouth was!"*

*So then everything that was on the table, food wise, was thrown in Herbie's direction. At that moment Steve chose to leave the house so he ran around the table and grabbed Robin by her hand. As he runs by Amber he stops and say, "Oh Amber, by the way, speaking of condoms. Ask Neal if he has ever seen the serial numbers on them!"*

*Amber then yells at Neal.*

*"Neal! Have you ever seen the serial numbers on a condom?"*

*Neal then turns and looks at Amber.*

*"What? No!"*

*"Oh I guess you don't roll them up that far!!"*

*Steve says as he laughs hysterically.*

*"Perry! You just wait.."*

*Neal yells back at Steve as he takes a couple of steps toward him.*

*"Oh put a sock in it Neal! Oh I forgot you already do!!"*

*Steve laughs and Steve laughs so hard that he doesn't pay any attention to Neal until it is too late and Neal grabs Steve by his arm and drags him over to the table. Neal puts one hand on the back of Steve's head and he is just about to cram Steve's face into the cranberry sauce when...*

*Steve wakes up and sits up in bed and screams. "Aaaarrggghhhh!"*

*Robin comes out of the bathroom and goes over to the bed where Steve is rubbing his eyes.*

*"Steve! Are you alright?"*

*Steve looks up at Robin.*

*"Yeah I just had a bad dream!"*

*"Okay. I am going to go and make coffee. Are you sure that you'll alright?" Robin asks.*

*"Yeah, yeah fine."*

*Robin leaves the room and Steve sits there another minute then he steals a glance at the clock. 5:30. Steve throws the covers back and he gets out of bed and he gets dressed. Steve goes through the living and smells the aroma of coffee. Steve opens the front door and gets the paper and he sets it on the coffee table for Robin and then he heads for the mailbox.*

*Steve wandered out to the mailbox and as Steve shuffled through it he noticed the usual smatterings of bills, ads, and a letter addressed to occupant and various magazines but then he saw something new. An envelope. Tan in color and the texture of the paper suggested that no expense was spared and as Steve turned it over and saw the return address his eyes widen. Steve stared at it a little longer then he closed the lid to the mailbox and he turned and ran up the walkway back to the house.*

*"Robin! Robin! Let's stay home for Thanksgiving! I will even eat turkey!!!"*

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